

English Talk 4 Writing

Week 4

w/c 01.06.2020

Amazing Aliens!

by Maria Richards



I'm your intergalactic guide, so let's explore aliens together and get your cosmic journey started!

For the next few weeks we will look at different non fiction styles of writing including information texts, newspapers, recounts and persuasion.

Information Text

Welcome to my alien world! You'll find lots of fun things to work through that will help you with your writing skills and build on the work you do at school.



For many years, humans all over the world have wondered whether we really exist. Well, I can tell you we do and, what's more, we have been getting up to all sorts of mischief on our visits to Earth! Now I'm hoping we can help you with your writing and inspire you to believe that aliens are amazing!

First, here are some facts about our species.

You can listen to an audio recording of the facts below here
<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/amazing-aliens/>

Amazing Aliens

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to meet an alien? Read on and find out more about our fascinating species.

What is an alien?

An alien is a peculiar humanoid from outer space.

Appearance:

Most aliens are tall and can grow to over 10 metres in height. However, the Pigmy alien is the tiniest of aliens and is the size of a household mouse. Additionally, aliens have tough, green skin that is often wrinkled to help keep them warm. Amazingly, some aliens have shiny scales that are harder than diamonds.

Habitat:

Aliens are found across the Solar System. The majority like to live well away from planets inhabited by human beings. Usually, they live in pods or space shacks made of ice. Some aliens like to sleep in cocoons, which are woven from a silk-like thread that space worms produce.

What do they eat?

All Aliens are vegetarian, but also candyarian, which means they have an extremely sweet tooth. They love chocolate, cakes and desserts. Furthermore, they are extremely fond of fizzy drinks. Their favourite food is ice-cream. Interestingly, aliens can dislocate their jaws in the same way as a snake, so they can fill their mouth with huge portions of sweet treats.

What do they do?

Aliens are best known for exploring in spaceships. They usually land their spacecrafts in remote areas and like to find out about the planets they are visiting. Interestingly, most aliens are extremely good mathematicians and they love to calculate the answers to complicated maths problems in their heads.

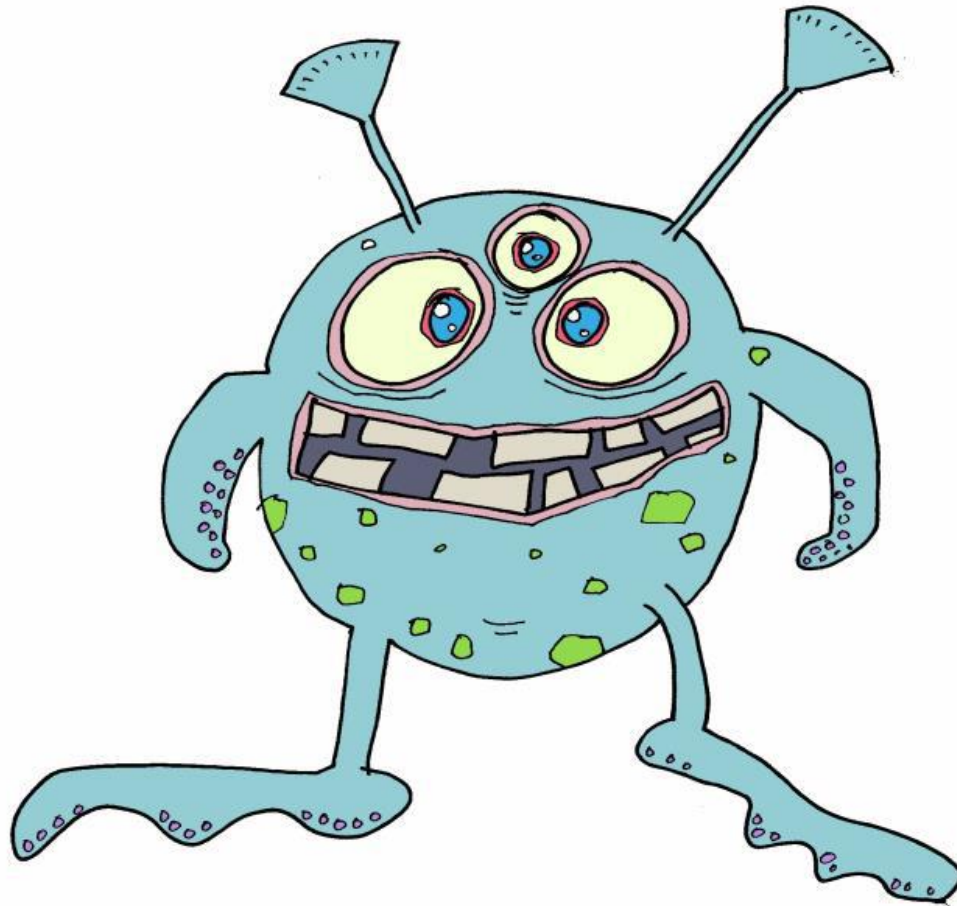
Fascinating facts

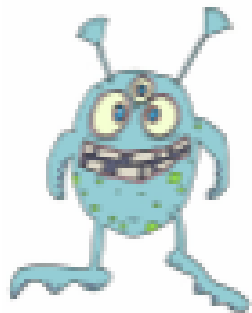
- The fastest aliens can run up to 450mph.
- Aliens can live until they are 205.
- Aliens can make themselves invisible if they are threatened.
- Nightshade aliens are the only nocturnal alien, that means they come out at night.

Are aliens on earth?

Watch out! The next time you see someone in your class guzzling extraordinary portions of sweets, getting top marks in their times tables tests and winning every race at Sports' day, just maybe you've got an alien invader of your own!

Activity 1





Amazing Aliens

Glossary - definitions of some of the technical vocabulary:

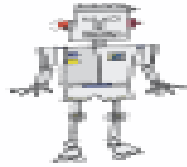
humanoid: something that has the shape of a human being

cocoon: a silky case, usually spun by insects

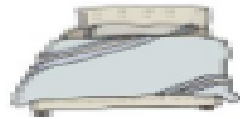
vegetarian: a person or creature that does not eat meat or fish

dislocate: to move a bone out of its normal position

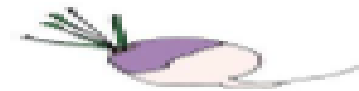
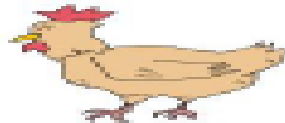
Decide which the picture below that best represents each word



humanoid



cocoon



vegetarian



dislocate

★ Now take a look at this line from the text:

All Aliens are vegetarian, but also candyarian, which means they have an extremely sweet tooth.

Vegetarian is a real word but *candyarian* is an alien word and only exists in our alien language. Let's explore alien words by playing the Alien Word game with compound words. Compound words are made when two words are joined to form a new word, for example: blackboard. I have taken compound words from your language and split them up. Your challenge is:

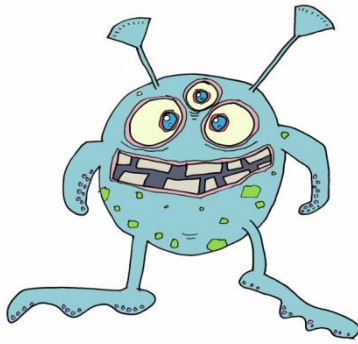
- ★ Join a word in column 1 with any word in column 2.
- ★ Write the new word in the box below.
- ★ Invent a definition for your new alien word.

I've done one for you and remember – be as inventive as you like!

Column 1		Column 2	
water	melon	lady	bird
basket	ball	snow	man
hand	bag	door	way
play	ground	butter	fly

The Alien Word Game

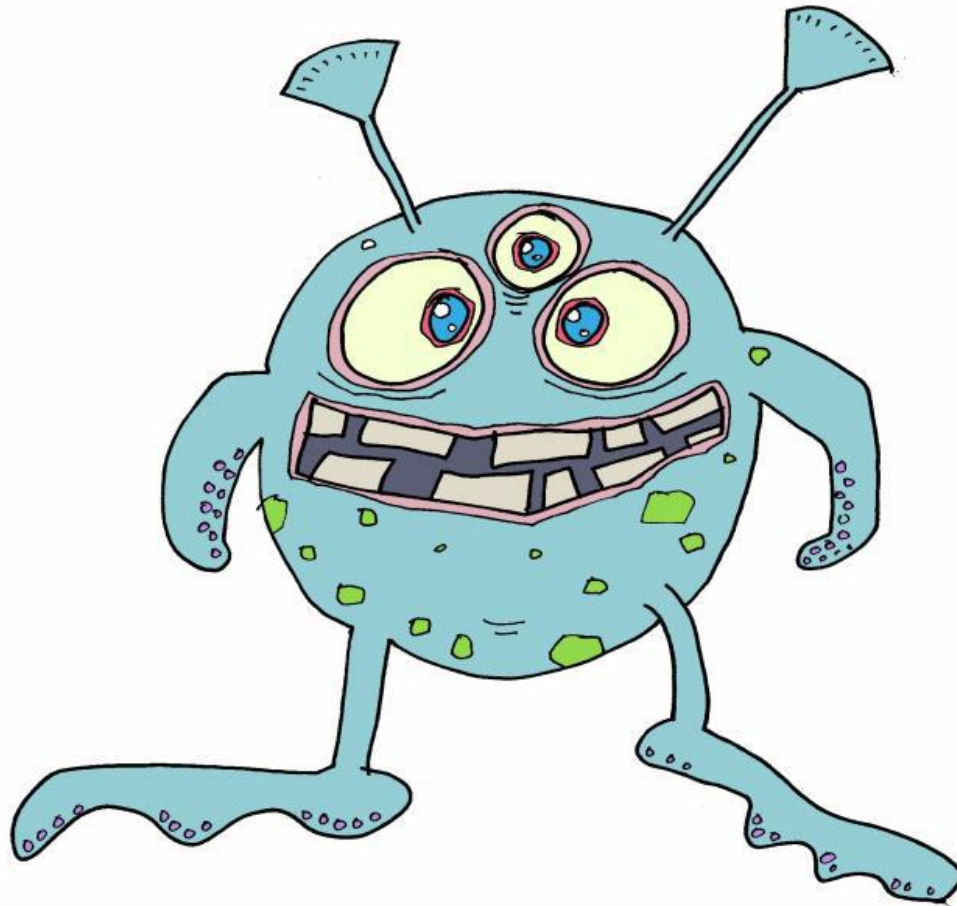
Alien word	Definition of the new alien word
snowmelon	fruit that grows on frozen space-trees in a solar winter



**Well done, show an
adult what you have
done today**



Activity 2





What do the words mean?

Read the information on aliens again. Underline any words you don't know the meaning of. Can you find out the definition? You could ask someone else in your home to tell you, use a dictionary or search the internet. Write your definitions out on a separate piece of paper.

★ Challenge: can you put these new words into a sentence?



Alien Comprehension!

Here's a quick-fire reading quiz about aliens. How many can you answer?

How fast can aliens run?

What does *candyarian* mean?

Where do aliens like to sleep?

Which word in the text means the same as *investigating*?

What is the name of the smallest alien species?

Aliens have soft skin. True or false?

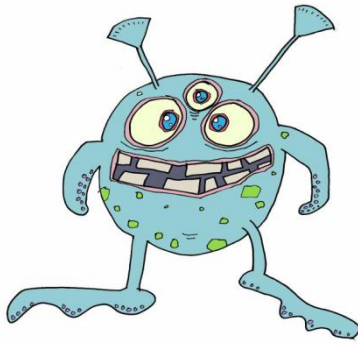
What type of food might be on an alien's shopping list?

Why might aliens scare humans?

Why might you have an alien in your class if you spot someone doing extremely well in maths tests?

Answers

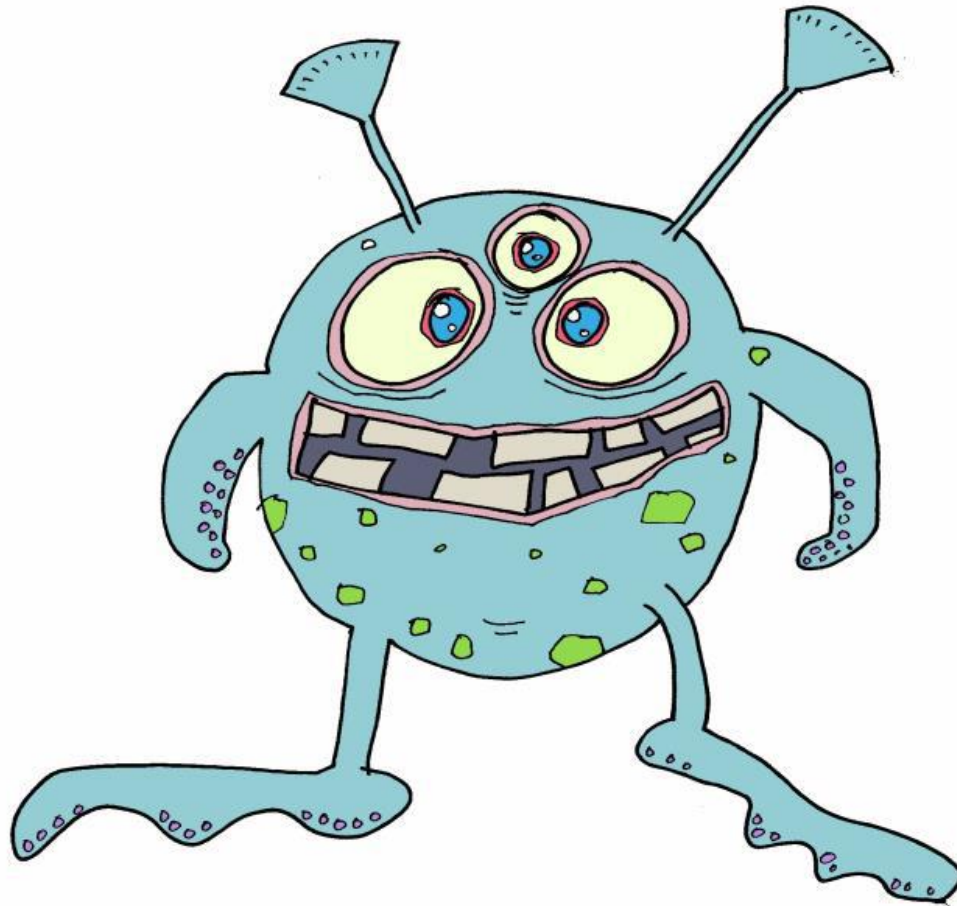
1. Aliens can run up to 450 miles per hour (mph)
2. Candyarian means having an extremely sweet tooth.
3. Aliens like to sleep in cocoons.
4. Exploring.
5. The Pigmy alien is the smallest alien species.
6. False
7. Vegetable, chocolate, cakes, desserts. Ice cream, any sweet treats.
8. Aliens might scare humans because they are 10 metres tall, they have tough green skins.
9. You may spot an alien in class if they do well in a math test because aliens are really good mathematicians and they love to calculate answers to complicated maths problems in their heads.



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Activity 3





Help! I've seen an alien!

★ Let's investigate some of the words and phrases that would help you to describe an alien to a friend if you ever saw one.

The Adjective Game:

Adjectives are used describe things (nouns): e.g.

The fluffy, grey cat slept on the comfortable sofa.

To make descriptions more powerful for a reader you can add adjectives to describe different nouns. Your challenge is to describe my alien friend below, using two adjectives. I have done one for you.



Remember, when you use two adjectives, you separate them using a **comma**.

The alien I saw had **fiery, oval** eyes.

Write some interesting adjectives to describe different bits of the alien.

The alien I saw had:

_____ , _____ horns

_____ , _____ teeth

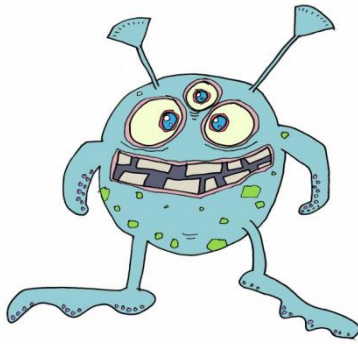
_____ , _____ claws

_____ , _____ skin

_____ , _____ head

Editing- *Has every word earned its place?*

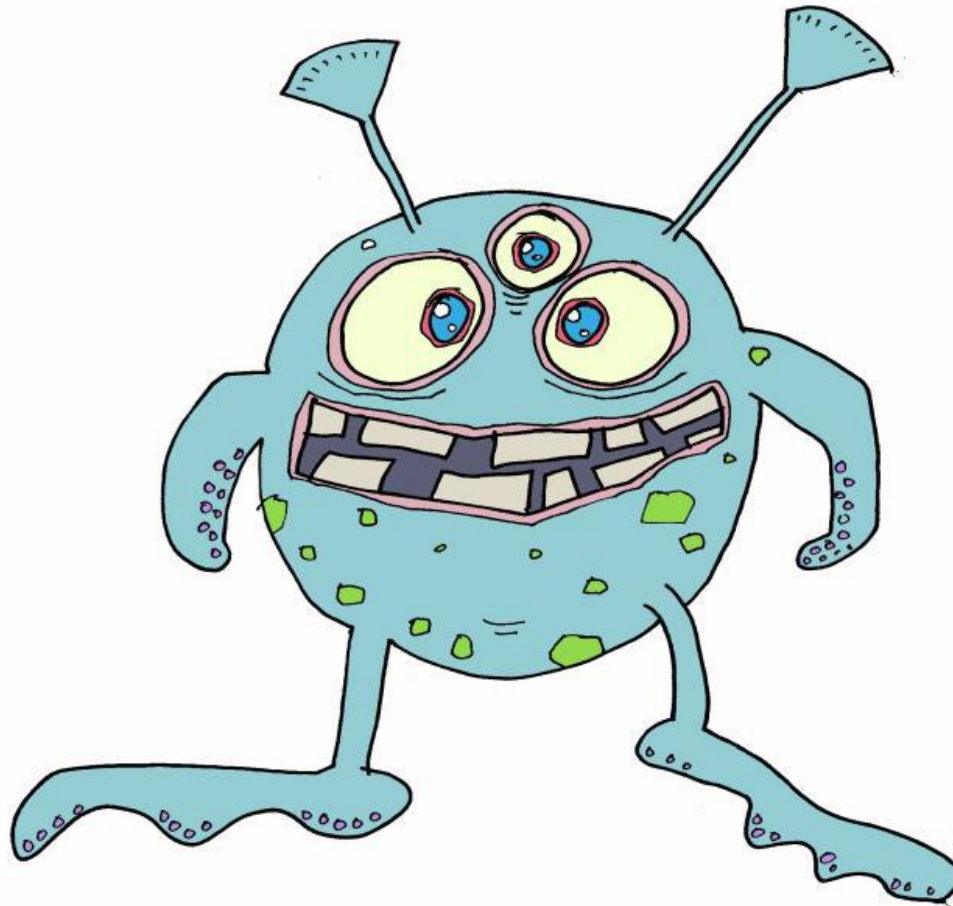
Make sure both adjectives you have used to describe your alien are telling the reader something different. For example, **large, big** teeth doesn't work because **large** and **big** are saying the same thing.



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Activity 4



The 'Talk like an Expert' game

Task 1

Let's invent some facts about aliens. Imagine you are world expert on aliens and you are answering the interview questions. Make up one fact for each question.

You must start your answers with one of these generalisers. These are words that sum up things

e.g. most, all, some, many, a few.

For example:

Most aliens like cheese.

All aliens have 4 eyes.

Where do aliens go on holiday?

What do aliens like to do to relax?

How do aliens travel to work?

Why do aliens live alone?

Task 2

Add on to your facts by using the **adverb** 'additionally'.

Use it to start a NEW sentence to add on to your fact.
For example:

Most aliens like cheese. **Additionally**, they also enjoy eating broccoli covered in marmite.

Rewrite your sentences from Task 1.

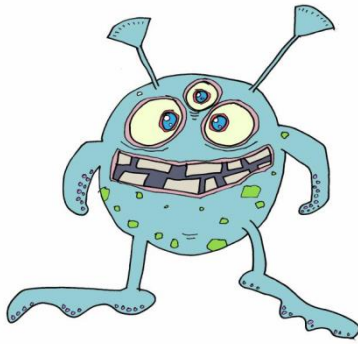
Remember to use a capital letter to start, a comma after additionally and a full stop at the end of your sentences. Check you have two sentences.

Template

_____ *Additionally,* _____.



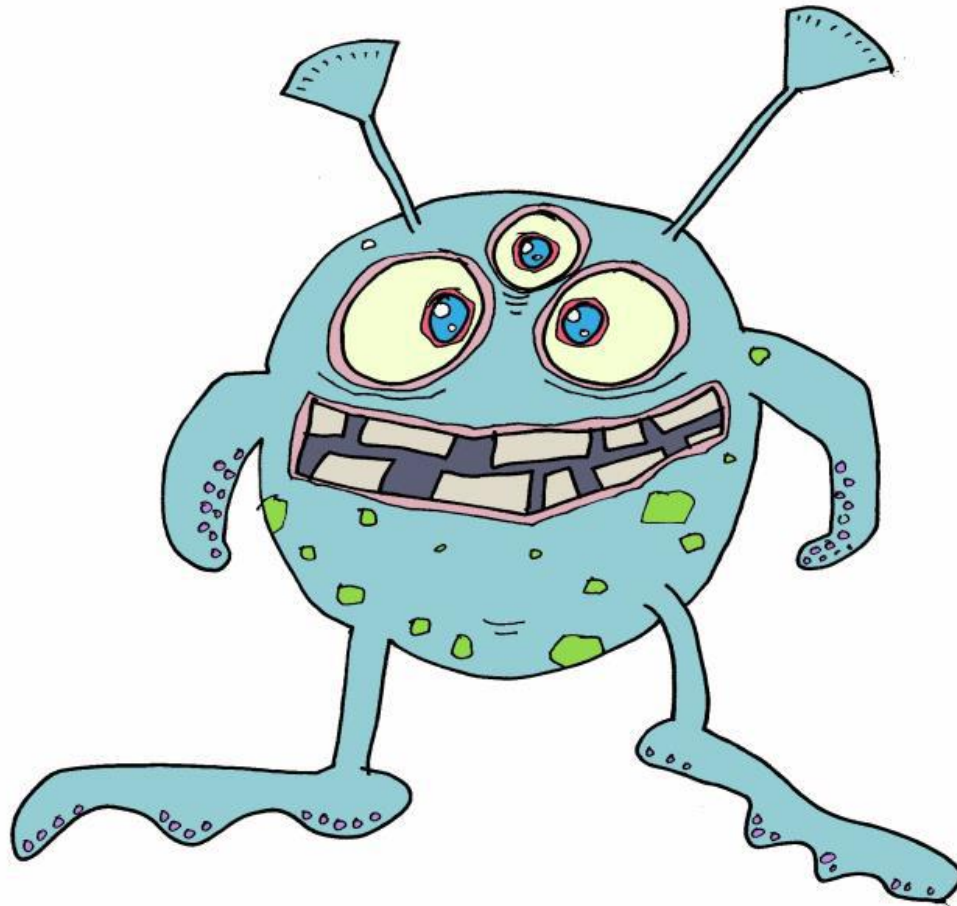




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Activity 5



Question Time!

Write your own questions to ask an alien.

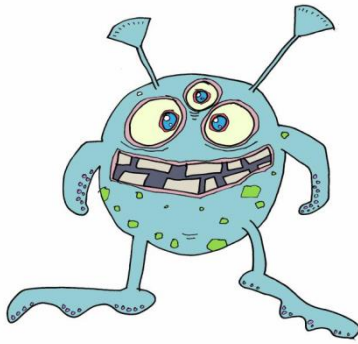
Use the question words: *who*, *what*, *when*, *where* and *how*.

Don't forget to end your sentence with a question mark.

Creative challenge

On a piece of paper, create your own alien.
How many eyes will it have?

- How many legs?
- What colour will its skin be?
- What special powers will it have?
- Label your alien to show what it can do e.g. *laser eyes for fighting enemies.*



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