

# 1 It's a challenge!

## The adventure starts here

### MERRYDOWN AWARD



Students at this school had a great time doing the Merrydown Award last year.

Why don't **YOU** do it this year?  
You'll have fun, make new friends and learn new things.

For more information, come to a meeting with Mr Jackson, 4 September, at 2 pm in Room 2.

#### About you

- 1 Look at the poster.  
What are the people in the pictures doing?  
Which activities would you like to try?  
Which wouldn't you like to try?  
What do you think students have to do on the Merrydown Award?

#### LISTENING

- 2 1.02 You are going to listen to a teacher, Mr Jackson, talking to some students about the Merrydown Award. Which of these words do you think you are going to hear? Listen and check.

business   camp   exercise   hiking  
hobby   homework   money  
science   students   subject   talk

- 3 1.02 Read the information about the award. Then listen again. Write one word in each space.

#### MERRYDOWN AWARD

*The adventure begins here!*

There are (0) four parts to the award:

**Public Speaking** – Choose a subject and talk about it for (1) ..... minutes.

**Fitness** – Choose a kind of exercise to get fit, for example (2) ..... or dance.


**Skills** – Get better at something, for example the (3) ..... or piano, or find out about a job you'd like to do.

**Expedition** – Go camping and (4) ..... in the countryside.


If you want to do the award, write a (5) ..... to Mr Jackson. Describe yourself and say why you want to do it.

READING AND VOCABULARY

4 Read the letters two students wrote to Mr Jackson.



**1** *I'm a friendly person and I'm popular at school. I'm funny – I can make people laugh easily. I usually work hard and I'm polite to the teachers. Music is important to me. I had guitar lessons last year and I'm learning to play the keyboard now. I do a lot of sport. I play hockey twice a week and I go swimming every Tuesday. I'm teaching my little brother to swim at the moment. He's really enjoying it.*



**2** *I love school. Art's my favourite subject. At the moment I'm painting a picture of the sea. I'm really pleased with it. I like to be busy – I'm not a lazy person. I also like helping other people. My neighbour's quite old and I often go shopping with her. She always tells me I'm very kind. She is going to be 85 soon. My mum and I are planning a party for her.*

5 Find the words in the box in the letters. Then use them to complete the sentences.

- busy   friendly   funny   kind   lazy  
pleased   polite   popular

- My brother's very ..... He lies in bed until midday and never does any work.
- I was really ..... when I got a good mark for my maths homework.
- Sonia is very ..... She always thinks of other people and tries to help them.
- Everyone likes Toby. He's the most ..... boy in the school.
- Our teacher is very ..... – she always makes us laugh.
- When I speak to adults I try to be .....
- Sara is very ..... She smiles a lot and she's easy to talk to.
- I'm really ..... at the moment – I've got lots of things to do.

GRAMMAR Present simple and present continuous

6 Complete the table with examples of present simple and continuous from the two letters.

Present simple	Present continuous
I usually work hard.	I'm learning to play the keyboard.

7 Complete the rules.

- 1** We use the present ..... to talk about things happening now, at the moment.

**2** We use the present ..... to talk about things that are always true or happen regularly.

→ Grammar reference page 147

8 Choose the correct form of the verb.

- I *watch* / *am watching* Spartak Moscow play football every week.
- What *do you usually eat* / *are you usually eating* for dinner?
- Sorry, I can't talk now, I'm busy. I'm *practising* / *practise* the piano.
- We learned about rivers last term and now we *learn* / *are learning* about forests.
- I'm quite lazy – I *don't always do* / *I'm not always doing* my homework.
- My dad *is teaching* / *teaches me* how to play tennis at the moment.

**Corpus challenge**

Can you correct the mistake in this sentence?  
*It rains a lot at the moment.*

WRITING

9 Write a paragraph about yourself. Make notes first. Think of some:

- adjectives to describe yourself
- things you like and don't like
- sports and hobbies you usually do
- things you are learning/planning/doing now.



Fill in the form with your details

MERRYDOWN AWARD

Home News Activities Photos Messages Search

Your leader: Mr Jackson

Today you are going to start using the Merrydown Award website. This has all your details on it and it shows the activities you are doing. You can also get news and messages from Mr Jackson here.

What you need to do:

- Fill in the online form with all your details.
- Choose your activities. You have to discuss and agree these with Mr Jackson first.
- When you do your activities, take lots of photos and put them on the website.

When you finish, you can use the information to print a book about your time doing the award. This costs about £20.

PERSONAL DETAILS

FIRST NAME: Gabby  
SURNAME: Hopkins  
GENDER: female  
AGE: 14  
FIRST LANGUAGE: English



CONTACT DETAILS

EMAIL ADDRESS: g.hopkins@topnet.com  
ADDRESS: 44 Meadow Avenue, London N24 6BG  
HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER: 020 7659 2001  
MOBILE NUMBER: 07561 364 883  
SUBJECT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING: not sure yet!

READING

- 1 Read the information from Mr Jackson. Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
- 1 Mr Jackson can put news and messages on the website.
  - 2 Mr Jackson is going to fill in the students' forms.
  - 3 Students need to talk to Mr Jackson before they choose their activities.
  - 4 Students can put information about their activities on the website.
  - 5 Every student gets a free book about their time doing the award.
- 2 Read Gabby's details. Match questions 1–5 to the words from the form a–e.
- 1 What's your family name?
  - 2 How old are you?
  - 3 Are you a girl or a boy?
  - 4 Where do you live?
  - 5 What do you speak at home?
- a Address  
b Gender: male / female  
c First Language  
d Age  
e Surname

VOCABULARY

- 3 1.03 Listen to Gabby's contact details. Then repeat them.
- 1 g.hopkins@topnet.com
  - 2 44 Meadow Avenue, London N24 6BG
  - 3 0207 659 2001
  - 4 07561 364 883
- 4 Ask and answer with these contact details.  
What's your (email address)?  
sam.brown@yahoo.com

STUDENT A

sam.brown@yahoo.com  
89 Sandy Lane, Oxford O22 3PG  
Tel 01865 995478  
Mob 07968 133 254

STUDENT B

jo.marsh@mac.co.uk  
72 Hale Street, Manchester M4 8QT  
Mob 07473 964 443



PRONUNCIATION    The alphabet

5 Practise saying the letters of the alphabet. Which letters sound similar? Complete the table.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

A	B	F	I	O	Q	R
H	C				U	

1.04 Listen and check.

LISTENING

- 6 1.05 Listen to Gabby and Dylan talking to a new student called Finn. Answer the questions.
- 1 What is Gabby’s idea for the public speaking?
  - 2 What is Dylan’s idea?
  - 3 How can Finn help Gabby and Dylan?
- 7 1.05 Listen again to check your answers to Exercise 6. Then complete Finn’s contact details.
- 1 Phone number: .....
  - 2 Email address: .....

SPEAKING

- 8 Work in pairs. Ask and answer to fill in this form for each other. Spell your surnames.
- FIRST NAME:

SURNAME:

AGE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:
- 9 Choose three questions to ask your partner.
- What are your favourite free time activities?
  - What are you learning about at school at the moment?
  - Tell me about your family.
  - What do you like doing on holiday?
  - What’s your favourite food?
  - Tell me about your home town.
- 10 Which questions were easy to answer? Which ones were difficult? Why?