

Correction exercise

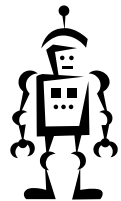
Extract is taken from the Faber 2001 version.

Task

- There are no capital letters, speech marks, full stops or commas in this passage. Can you put these in the right places?
- Can you also show how you would split this passage into four paragraphs (not counting indentations for direct speech)?
- First, put in the missing punctuation and then, with a partner, decide where the paragraphs should go.

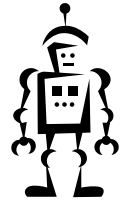


the iron man stood up straight slowly he turned till he was
looking directly at hogarth we're sorry we trapped you and buried
you shouted the little boy we promise we'll not deceive you
again follow us and you can have all the metal you want brass
too aluminium too and lots of chrome follow us the iron man pushed aside
the boughs and came into the lane hogarth joined the farmers slowly they
drove back down the lane and slowly with all his cogs humming the iron
man stepped after them they led through the villages half the people came
out to stare half ran to shut themselves inside bedrooms and kitchens
nobody could believe their eyes when they saw the iron man marching
behind the farmers at last they came to the town and there was a great
scrap-metal yard everything was there old cars by the hundred old trucks
old railway engines old stoves old refrigerators old springs bedsteads
bicycles girders gates pans - all the scrap iron of the region was piled up
there rusting away



Answers

The Iron Man stood up straight. Slowly he turned, till he was looking directly at Hogarth.



“We’re sorry we trapped you and buried you,” shouted the little boy.

“We promise we’ll not deceive you again. Follow us and you can have all the metal you want. Brass too. Aluminium too. And lots of chrome. Follow us.”

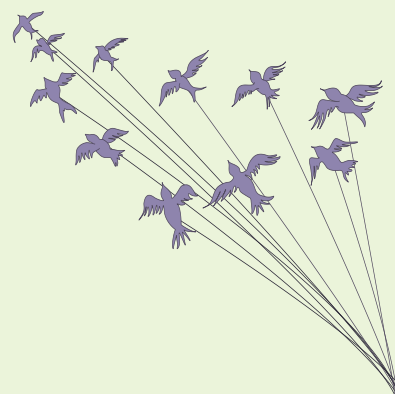
The Iron Man pushed aside the boughs and came into the lane. Hogarth joined the farmers. Slowly they drove back down the lane, and slowly, with all his cogs humming, the Iron Man stepped after them.

They led through the villages. Half the people came out to stare, half ran to shut themselves inside bedrooms and kitchens. Nobody could believe their eyes when they saw the Iron Man marching behind the farmers.

At last they came to the town, and there was a great scrap-metal yard. Everything was there, old cars by the hundred, old trucks, old railway engines, old stoves, old refrigerators, old springs, bedsteads, bicycles, girders, gates, pans - all the scrap iron of the region was piled up there, rusting away.

The Little Prince – extract

So I lived my life alone, without anyone that I could really talk to, until I had an accident with my plane in the Desert of Sahara, six years ago. Something was broken in my engine. And as I had with me neither a mechanic nor any passengers, I set myself to attempt the difficult repairs all alone. It was a question of life or death for me: I had scarcely enough drinking water to last a week.



The first night, then, I went to sleep on the sand, a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean. Thus you can imagine my amazement, at sunrise, when I was awakened by an odd little voice.

It said: “If you please – draw me a sheep!”

“What!”

“Draw me a sheep!”

I jumped to my feet, completely thunderstruck. I blinked my eyes hard. I looked carefully all around me. And I saw a most extraordinary small person, who stood there examining me with great seriousness. Here you may see the best portrait that, later, I was able to make of him. But my drawing is certainly very much less charming than its model.

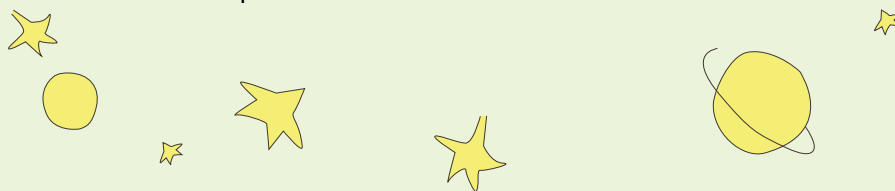
That, however, is not my fault. The grown-ups discouraged me in my painter’s career when I was six years old, and I never learned to draw anything, except boas from the outside and boas from the inside.

Now I stared at this sudden apparition with my eyes fairly starting out of my head in astonishment. Remember, I had crashed in the desert a thousand miles from any inhabited region. And yet my little man seemed neither to be straying uncertainly among the sands, nor to be fainting from fatigue or hunger or thirst or fear. Nothing about him gave any suggestion of a child lost in the middle of the desert, a thousand miles from any human habitation. When at last I was able to speak, I said to him:

“But – what are you doing here?”

And in answer he repeated, very slowly, as if he were speaking of a matter of great consequence:

“If you please – draw me a sheep...”



Comprehension questions

Name:

Date:.....

1. Where in the world did the narrator's accident take place?

.....

2. What job does the narrator of the story have?

Sailor

Artist

Pilot

Shepherd

3. Repairing the plane was a question of life and death for the narrator because:

He only had enough water to last a week

The plane engine was broken

He hadn't got anybody to talk to

He hadn't got a mechanic

4. *'I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean.'*

Circle the word closest in meaning to the word **isolated**.

island

cold

exhausted

alone

5. At what time of day was the narrator woken up by a voice?

.....

6. *'I jumped to my feet, completely thunderstruck.'*

What does the word **thunderstruck** tell you?

.....

.....

7. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'Now I stared ...'*

Find and copy a word which means **wonder**.

.....

8. *"But – what are you doing here?"*

Why was the narrator surprised to find a child talking to him?

.....

.....

Comprehension answers

1. Where in the world did the narrator's accident take place?

The Desert of Sahara.

2. What job does the narrator of the story have?

Sailor

Artist

Pilot

Shepherd

3. Repairing the plane was a question of life and death for the narrator because:

He only had enough water to last a week

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4. *'I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean.'*

Circle the word closest in meaning to the word **isolated**.

island

cold



exhausted

alone

5. At what time of day was the narrator woken up by a voice?

At sunrise

6. *'I jumped to my feet, completely thunderstruck.'*

What does the word **thunderstruck** tell you?

He was very shocked.

7. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'Now I stared ...'*

Find and copy a word which means **wonder**.

Astonishment

8. *"But – what are you doing here?"*

Why was the narrator surprised to find a child talking to him?

Because he is in the middle of the desert, a thousand miles away from other humans.
