



# Year 5 Winter English Activity Booklet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Winter in the Village**

**(Taken from Heidi by Johanna Spyri)**

The snow lay so deep around the Alm-hut that the windows seemed to stand level with the ground and the house-door had entirely disappeared. Round Peter's hut it was the same. When the boy went out to shovel the snow, he had to creep through the window; then he would sink deep into the soft snow and kick with arms and legs to get free. Taking a broom, the boy would have to clear away the snow from the door to prevent its falling into the hut.

The uncle had kept his word; when the first snow had fallen, he had moved down to the village with Heidi and his goats. Near the church and the parish house lay an old ruin that once had been a spacious building. A brave soldier had lived there in days gone by; he had fought in the Spanish war, and coming back with many riches, had built himself a splendid house. But having lived too long in the noisy world to be able to stand the monotonous life in the little town, he soon went away, never to come back. After his death, many years later, though the house was already beginning to decay, a distant relation of his took possession of it. The new owner did not want to build it up again, so poor people moved in. They had to pay little rent for the house, which was gradually crumbling and falling to pieces. Years ago, when the uncle had come to the village with Tobias, he had lived there. Most of the time it had been empty, for the winter lasted long, and cold winds would blow through the chinks in the walls. When poor people lived there, their candles

would be blown out and they would shiver with cold in the dark. But the uncle, had known how to help himself. In the fall, as soon as he had resolved to live in the village, he came down frequently, fitting up the place as best he could.

On approaching the house from the back, one entered an open room, where nearly all the walls lay in ruins. On one side the remains of a chapel could be seen, now covered with the thickest ivy. A large hall came next, with a beautiful stone floor and grass growing in the crevices. Most of the walls were gone and part of the ceiling also. If a few thick pillars had not been left supporting the rest, it would undoubtedly have tumbled down. The uncle had made a wooden partition here for the goats, and covered the floor with straw. Several corridors, most of them half decayed, led finally to a chamber with a heavy iron door. This room was still in good condition and had dark wood panelling on the four firm walls. In one corner was an enormous stove, which nearly reached up to the ceiling. On the white tiles were painted blue pictures of old towers surrounded by high trees, and of hunters with their hounds. There also was a scene with a quiet lake, where, under shady oak-trees, a fisherman was sitting. Around the stove a bench was placed. Heidi loved to sit there, and as soon as she had entered their new abode, she began to examine the pictures. Arriving at the end of the bench, she discovered a bed, which was placed between the wall and the stove. "Oh grandfather, I have found my bed-room," exclaimed the little girl. "Oh, how fine it is! Where are you going to sleep?"

“Your bed must be near the stove, to keep you warm,” said the old man. “Now come and look at mine.”

### Questions

1. Find two words or phrases in the text that tell you it has been snowing a lot.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What had the uncle promised to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Where did Heidi love to sit?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In the second paragraph, find a word or phrase which tells you that the house is:

big \_\_\_\_\_

beautiful \_\_\_\_\_

old \_\_\_\_\_

broken down \_\_\_\_\_

5. ‘...she had entered their new abode...’ Tick the word closest in meaning to **abode**.

village     home     city     farm

Use some of your words in winter-themed sentences.

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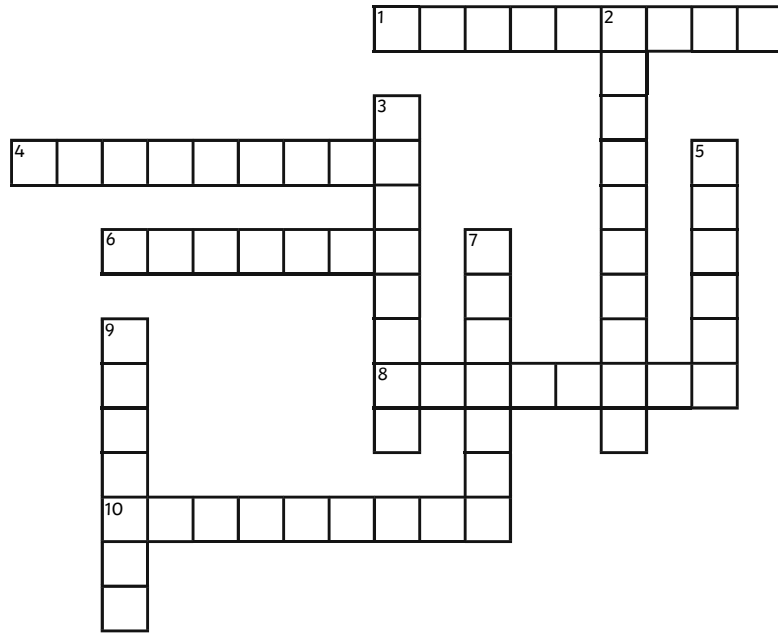
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# Winter Crossword



**Across**

- 1. A strong desire to know or learn something.
- 4. An act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering a possession as an offering to a deity.
- 6. Time when one is not working or occupied; free time.
- 8. A person or thing causing inconvenience or annoyance.
- 10. Go somewhere with (someone) as a companion or escort.

**Down**

- 2. Enough; adequate.
- 3. Closely connected or appropriate to what is being done or considered.
- 5. A band or bundle of fibrous tissue in a human or animal body that has the ability to contract, producing movement in or maintaining the position of parts of the body.
- 7. The quality or state of being different or diverse.
- 9. A thing bought or offered for sale much more cheaply than is usual or expected.

6. What do you think the uncle's bedroom was like?

Use the text to support your answer.

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## Snowman Suffixes!

Can you draw lines to match each adjective to the correct snowman suffix to give each snowman a hat and make them into a verb?



This time, use your super sentence writing skills to write sentences, with parenthesis, for these pictures.




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## Perfect Parenthesis

Read these sentences and decide where the parenthesis punctuation has been missed. You can decide whether to use brackets, dashes or commas.

The first one has been done for you.

1. **My sister (the one who lives in Spain) is excited to be coming over this winter.**
2. Simone the captain of the team is a very skilful ice-hockey player.
3. We are lucky to get a robin Britain's favourite bird visiting our garden regularly.
4. During the winter months, it is important to feed the birds bread is not good for them though.
5. Every winter my cousin goes skiing I wish we could go too.

Could you use some of the words in winter-themed sentences?

Don't forget that in some cases the root word needs to change before adding the suffix.

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## Winter Sport by Rufus Merrill

Down, down the hill how swift I go!  
Over the ice, and over the snow;  
A horse or cart I do not fear.  
For past them both my sled I steer.

Hurra! my boy! I'm going down,  
While you toil up; but never frown;  
The far hill-top you soon will gain,  
And then, with all your might and main,

You'll dash by me; while, full of glee,  
I'll up again to dash by thee!  
So on we glide—O, life of joy;  
What pleasure has the glad school-boy!

1. Highlight all the rhyming words. Can you describe the rhyming pattern in this poem?

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2. What is the winter sport the title of this poem is referring to?

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3. Which word is closest in meaning to **swift**?

slow     happy     fast     sad

Sentence 4: Include a modal verb.

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Sentence 5: Use an adverb of possibility.

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## Winter Wanderers

Use this picture as inspiration to carefully think and write a short paragraph.



Sentence 1: Use a comma following a fronted adverbial.

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Sentence 2: Include a relative clause.

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Sentence 3: Use dashes to indicate parenthesis.

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4. Is this a modern or traditional poem? Find words or phrases in the text that support your answer.

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5. Do you think that the boy enjoys winter? Why?

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6. Try writing another stanza that fits with this poem.

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## Super Sentences

Use your super sentence writing skills to extend these sentences with a relative clause. Read the sentence, then add an appropriate relative clause using a relative pronoun from the list below so that it makes sense. The first one is done for you as an example.

**Relative pronouns:**  
who, which, whom, whose, that, where, when

1. During the winter, I always wear my hat, which has a big bobble on top.
2. I enjoy ice-skating \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The icy weather always gives me a cold nose \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. High over the snowdrifts fly the snowboarders \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. We spend hours making snowmen \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This time, use your super sentence writing skills to create sentences with an **embedded relative clause**.



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