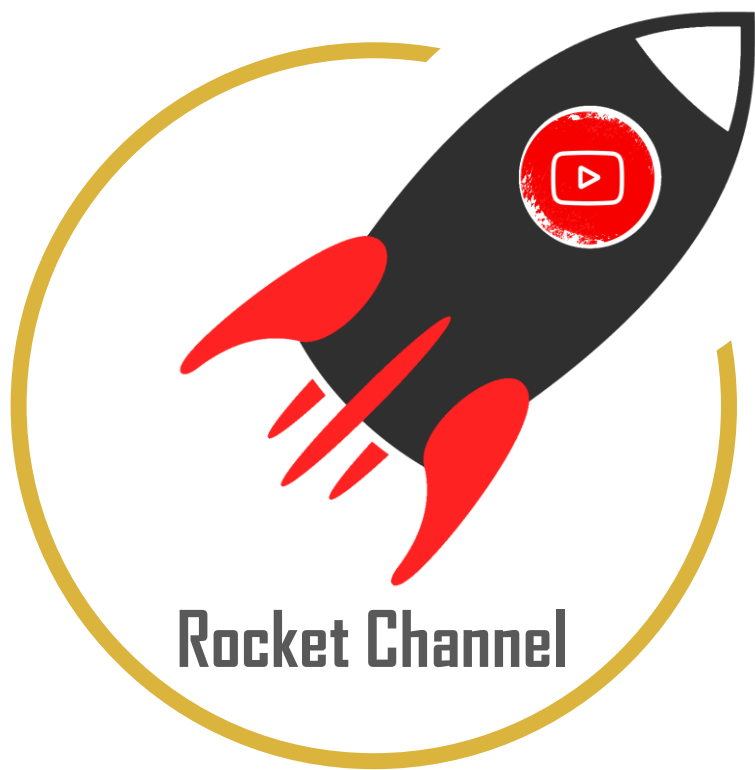




a play by Arnaud Cramoisan



Classroom Pack



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# vocabulary exercises

## A. Complete the sentences with the appropriate word(s)

1. I think I will buy Brian a ..... because he took care of my cat while I was on holiday.
2. John had always had great ideas. Today he is the ..... of an association which organizes activities for elderly people.
3. The plane was about to ..... when the pilot realized there was a problem with one of the engines.
4. Solving a math problem is extremely difficult for me but for Rachel, it's a .....  
..... .
5. You can be sure that if you cheat, Louise will ..... you ..... to the teacher.

## B. Link the questions from the first column to their convenient answer in the second column

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What does Spud look like?                 | a. Very determined to catch the alien.      |
| 2. What do Commando and Square like?         | b. He is small, green and has 5 eyes.       |
| 3. What is the Very Very Special Agent like? | c. Breaking records and making the buzz.    |
| 4. What would Spud like to do?               | d. Much better now he's back on his planet. |
| 5. How is Spud?                              | e. Find potatoes to go back to his planet.  |

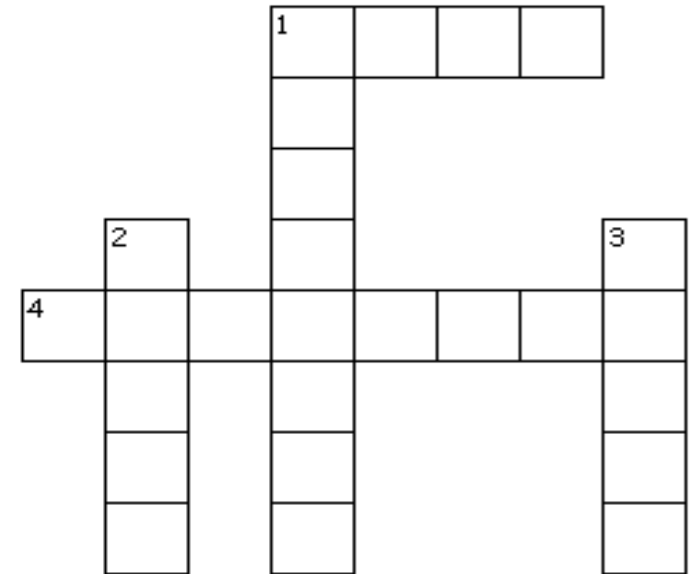
## C. Complete the crossword thanks to the clues

### Across

1. Synonym of "very small"
4. Informal name chosen for someone according to their (first)name or personality

### Down

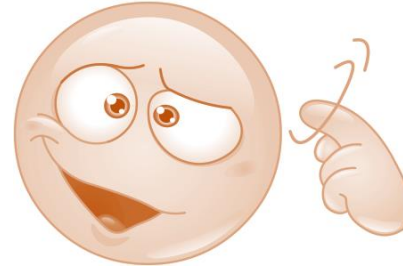
1. Synonym of "to invent"
2. Adjective to describe something which gets popular very quickly
3. Synonym of unusual, strange



# vocabulary exercises

## D. Match the idioms with the corresponding images

1. Daredevil
2. To be grounded
3. Not to be right in the head
4. The reward
5. To take the statement



C



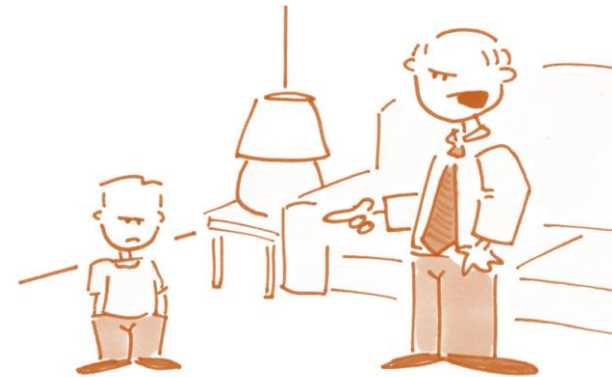
D



A



B



E

# vocabulary exercises

## E. Describing people

In order to talk about someone ... or an alien's personality, physical appearance, health or to describe a place for example, the following structures will be useful.

Have a look at the question words and the verbs used.

TO TALK ABOUT	WE USE THE VERB	WE USE THE QUESTION WORD(S)
General information	TO BE LIKE	<b>WHAT</b> <b>What is your new job like?</b> It's a bit stressful but very interesting. <b>What is your house like?</b> It has two bedrooms and a huge garden. <b>What is your sister like?</b> She is always in a good mood.
Health	TO BE	<b>HOW</b> <b>How is your grandmother?</b> She's still in hospital unfortunately. <b>How are you?</b> I'm much better, thank you.

TO TALK ABOUT	WE USE THE VERB	WE USE THE QUESTION WORD(S)
Physical appearance	TO LOOK LIKE	<b>WHAT</b> <b>What does your brother look like?</b> He is tall and has brown eyes. <b>What did you look like when you were a teenager?</b> I was thin and had long blonde hair <b>WHO</b> <b>Who do you look like?</b> I really look like my mother: we have the same eyes and smile.
Hobbies	TO LIKE	<b>WHAT</b> <b>What (sport) do you like?</b> I like playing football. <b>What does she like?</b> She loves spaghettis.
Projects / preferences	WOULD LIKE TO + inf	<b>WHAT</b> <b>What would you like to do?</b> I would like to play a game with you. <b>WHO</b> <b>Who would you like to meet one day?</b> I would like to meet Ariana Grande. <b>WHERE</b> <b>Where would you like to go?</b> I would like to go to the cinema.

# multiple choice

## Description

You have now discovered the plot of the play Hot Spud and its different protagonists.  
Let's see what you remember.

## Task

Read the sentences and mark the correct answer.

### 1. When weird noises are heard, Square and Commando are

- ☐ Visiting the Potato Museum of Rocket Hill
- ☐ Grounded after a failed attempt to reach fame

### 2. The two teenagers are trying to go viral thanks to their Tick Tock performances

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

### 3. The extra-terrestrial's name is chosen in reference to

- ☐ His interests in potatoes
- ☐ His love for karaoke

### 4. Square and Commando are the only ones interested in Spud.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

### 5. Commando's first reaction when realizing Spud is an alien is

- ☐ To dream about all the scientific research that will be done thanks to their discovery
- ☐ To think that he has finally found the way to make the buzz

### 6. The two teenagers want to help Spud go back home because of the villagers' reaction

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

### 7. Spud can't go back on his planet as quickly as he hoped because

- ☐ He has been caught by the Very Very Special Agent
- ☐ The fuel tank of his spaceship is empty

### 8. Square and Commando have known each other since they were kids.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

### 9. Square got his nickname because

- ☐ He is a fan of mathematics
- ☐ He is a bit old-fashioned and prefers intellectual activities rather than crazy adventures

### 10. Very Very Special Agent can easily communicate with everyone as he speaks 18 different languages

- ☐ True
- ☐ False



# oral expression

## Context

You have always known that extraterrestrials existed. After learning about Square and Commando's adventures, you have decided to move to Rock Hill hoping to meet Spud or any other alien. And today is your lucky day: an extra-terrestrial, a real one, is there in the middle of your garden and guess what? He/she speaks English!!!!

## Task

**Student A** (the human being) and **student B** (the alien) are having a conversation.

Both of you are going to ask questions to know what the partner's life is like.

You want to know about:

- One another's name, age and family
- The way people live on Earth and on the far away planet
- The way people look on the different planets: if all aliens have 3 arms, what the different hair colour are, how we recognize an elderly person, the special abilities of girls/female aliens, ...
- The place they live: describe your planet: landscapes, technologies, means of transport, ... and your accommodation.
- Any other idea you have...

# written expression

## Context

You are an exceptional person: you have developed a unique talent. Just like Square and Commando, you dream to become famous. You have heard about the Guinness World Records and would like to apply for recognition. This bestselling reference book publishes every year world records both of human achievements and the extraordinary creatures of nature, from the largest human mattress dominoes (2.019 people in Brazil, August 2019) to the tallest man living (Sultan Kösen who measures 2m51).

## Task

Write an article explaining what your record is, how you had the idea to achieve this goal, how long you have been practising and how, what are your ambitions, the reactions of friends and family etc.

It may be accepted and published in the famous bestseller. Fingers crossed 😊!

In order to have a chance to be recognized as a record holder, make sure to give as much information as possible. The Guinness World Records accepts all kinds of challenges (physical characteristic, sport performance, ...) so don't hesitate to propose your idea even if it sounds completely crazy.

If you need any idea about what has already been done, visit the Guinness World Records:

<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/>



# culture

## Description

In seek of adventures, Commando and Square, two teenagers living in the tiny village of Rock Hill, Ireland create videos to present their interests and records to their followers. But one day, everything changed when they met Spud, an extra-terrestrial who ended up in Square's basement. That was certainly an adventure worth telling the whole world. Spud has left now but might come back soon. Waiting for that exciting day, the two teenagers have made some research about why and how space has always fascinated people. Here are the results of their findings.

## Task

Have a look at the different documents with your team, take some notes if necessary and be ready to answer your teacher's questions.





## A. Reading comprehension: myths and legends

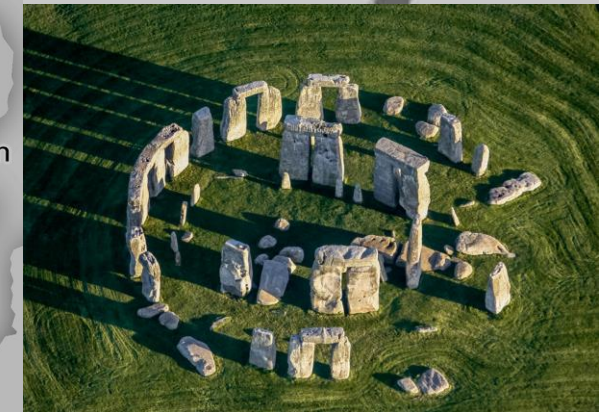
You have probably heard about Spud, the extra-terrestrial of Rock Hill: this is not a myth, it is a true fact. As we, Commando and Square, are now experts, we have had a look at other alien stories and will try to distinguish between truth and falsehood.

Please post your comments and share your experiences below!

You might have thought theories about aliens were a recent phenomenon, but actually extra-terrestrials and spacecrafts have always fascinated people.

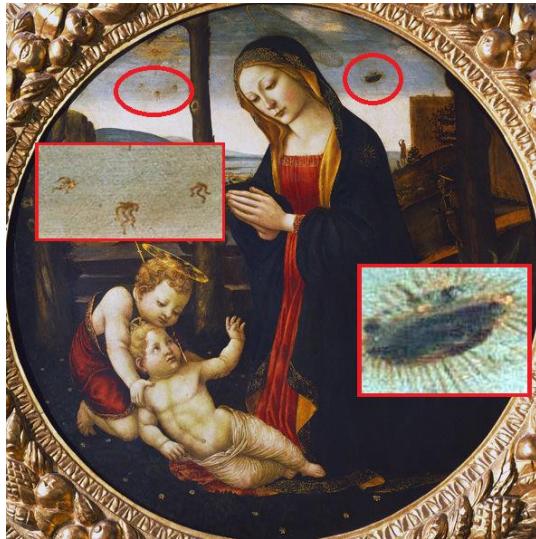
Many ancient pieces of art or architectural masterpieces have been analysed with an odd perspective to prove aliens have existed for a long time.

Some people consider ancient monuments such as the Egyptian pyramids, the monolithic statues of the Easter Island, the Inca city of the Machu Picchu or even the English site of Stonehenge as evidence of the existence of aliens. It is believed that extra-terrestrials built those sites or at least shared their knowledge and materials to help humans accomplish the task. Indeed, those structures are made of extremely heavy stones, the manipulation of those would, according to those astronaut theorists, have been impossible for human beings without the help of supernatural forces.



## B. Reading comprehension: Aliens and spacecrafts in art

As for the ancient monuments, some religious paintings have been analysed into details to see unidentified flying objects (UFO) appear. Among others, Filippino Lippi's *Madonna and Child with the Infant St John* (16th century) and Aert De Gelder, *Baptism of Christ* (18th century).



*Madonna and Child with the Infant St John*



Aert De Gelder's *Baptism of Christ*, 1710

Obviously, as space and extra-terrestrials have captivated the world for ever, these themes are recurrent ones in movies and songs.

Despite the fact that aliens are generally presented as dangerous colonizers and enemies to the Earth inhabitants, there are a few examples of movies where extra-terrestrials are harmless creatures, just like Spud actually.



The best classical example of this is of course **Steven Spielberg's** 1982 science fiction film *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. This blockbuster tells the story of E.T., an alien left behind by his fellows as they were leaving Earth hastily in the fear of being discovered. The nice unexpected guest meets 10-year-old Elliott and his brother and sister. After a series of adventures and lots of emotional moments, E.T. finally succeeds in leaving Earth marking his new friends forever.



Another movie which proposed a perspective on aliens as threatened rather than dangerous creatures is *District 9*. This 2009 science fiction action film produced by **Peter Jackson** (The Lord of The Rings – The Hobbit) and **Carolynne Cunningham** mixes fictional interviews, news footage and videos from surveillance cameras. It tells about the arrival of a spacecraft in Johannesburg, South Africa with on board, some weak and malnourished aliens.

The South African government confines them to an internment camp called District 9. Twenty years later, one of the confined aliens named Christopher Johnson, tries to escape from Earth with his son and return home but things won't go as planned. The title of *District 9* was inspired by events in Cape Town's District Six, during the apartheid era. At that time, the sixth district was considered to be a whites-only area. Consequently, Black people were forced to leave.

Thanks to its original plot, *District 9* deals with themes such as social segregation, xenophobia and humanity.

To have an idea, watch the trailer of *District 9*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyLUwOcR5pk>

Keep in mind that this movie won't be as peaceful as E.T., that there is much action and a more realistic dimension than in the 1982 movie.



QR code District 9



QR code Avatar

We can also mention *Avatar* (2009) in which the ones colonizing the others are not aliens but humans.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ziBFh3V1aM>

Space fascination has also led to the success of many songs like Elton John's *Rocket Man* (1972) which Spud gladly discovers while participating in a karaoke.

There are many other examples in the artistic and ancient historical

domains but as we are teenagers of the 21st century and want evidence, we need to listen to some contemporary people who have lived or witnessed very strange phenomena in reality and not in fictional worlds.



### C. Video watching: Crop circles

#### Context

When mentioning sites with an alien origin, we cannot but mention the famous crop circles. These strange generally geometrical patterns have been observed in fields in various countries mainly from the 1970s to present days. Many different explanations have been given to explain this phenomenon and the question hasn't been answered with certainty so far: are those drawings man-made, consequences of natural forces or ... the marks of an UFO landing?

#### Task

Watch the video and be ready to answer your teacher's question:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=207UI1FQTiA>



QR code Crop circles



### D. Reading comprehension: Roswell and Area



When talking about UFOs or Alien abductions, the military forces are regularly mentioned especially in the USA.

This was the case in the famous incident of *Roswell*, New Mexico. In 1947, people mentioned having seen a "flying disc" crashing near a ranch. The United States Army Air Forces claimed that it was only a conventional weather balloon. People progressively forgot about the incident but in the 1970s, different conspiracy theories were promoted by ufologists alleging that alien spacecrafts had crashed in the area and that their extra-terrestrial passengers had been hidden by the American army in order to keep their discovery secret.

Twenty years later, the US army admitted they indeed needed to conceal the truth about what happened back in 1947. If the “flying disk” was not a weather balloon, it was not a UFO either but a nuclear test surveillance balloon. This should have discredited ufologists and made the myth of Roswell alien spacecrafts disappear ... but it didn't.

This incident has helped the touristic development of the American city with thematic shops and attractions such as the UFO international museum, the UFO festival and Galacticon and SciFi film festivals.

Some 1300 kilometres away from Roswell is **Area 51**. This highly classified United States military installation in Nevada has often been associated with alien



conspiracy theories. The legend says the site would be hiding the aliens and the spacecraft which had allegedly crashed in Roswell in the 40s.

In spite of some information about the real nature of the military activities being revealed, people seem to prefer the entertaining alien version. This enthusiasm even led to the creation of a Facebook event "*Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us*" in September 2019. The announced objective was to enter the site in a search for extra-terrestrial life. More than 2 million people responded "going" and 1.5 million "interested" on the page of the event! The man at the origin of this initiative later declared that it was of course a joke and that he wouldn't be responsible of any consequences in case people decide not to respect the prohibition to enter the site. On the day of the event, only about 150 people actually stood at the entrance of Area 51 but didn't go further than the warning signs informing no one will be tolerated on the site.

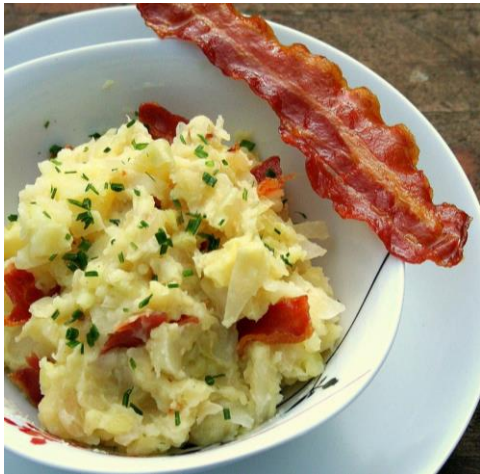
Two music festivals were planned on the same day not far from the military base: *Alienstock* in Rachel, Nevada, and *Storm Area 51 Basecamp* in Hiko, Nevada. Unsurprisingly, the two events were a success!

Officially, Area 51 is an aircraft testing and development facility, but who knows...?



## E. Reading comprehension: Ireland and its potatoes

It seems that aliens have visited many places in the world: England, the USA, the Easter Island, Australia, ... it was only fair that Ireland would be the next step. Spud, the new spokesman of the alien delegation, chose the emerald island for many different reasons. Of course, it's an amazing country with astonishing landscapes and cultural events but it's also a nation which is very familiar with... potatoes. These being indispensable for Spud's spacecraft fuel, it was logical to end up in Ireland. The potato is a staple food in Ireland and is one of the key ingredients of many of Irish specialties such as the colcannon, as an accompaniment to an Irish Stew, fish and chips, ....



Colcannon



Irish stew

The potato arrived in Ireland in the 16th century after its discovery in Peru. At first, people considered this as a second-zone aliment only good enough for pigs. However, progressively, people realized that it was cheap and easy to grow and very nourishing.

The 19th century was a difficult period for the Irish as they were strongly impacted by the British policies. Irish people lived in poverty and lower classes people and peasants could only survive thanks to the crops of potatoes. Unfortunately, all Europe was struck by a parasite, the late blight, which devastated all potato production. As Ireland depended highly on the tuber, the consequences were terrible, and a period known as the *Great Famine* (1845-1849) led to the starvation and death of around 1 million people. The reaction of the British government only made things worse and Irish people didn't have many choices. Many stayed on the island and died, those who had the possibility emigrated to the USA. This event marked Irish history forever.

Fortunately, technologies and advances in research make potato production safer today and the tuber is to stay in Ireland.

Definitely a great place for an alien using potatoes as fuel!

Did you like these articles? Have you ever seen a UFO?  
Ever heard of another alien myth? Please let us know .

