In this English Learning Pack, you will find five different activities for this week. These activities can be completed in any order. We hope you enjoy them.

1. Reading Comprehension: Pugs of the Frozen North (text, questions and answers)
2. Grammar activity: Modal Verbs (questions and answers)
3. Spelling activity: Prefixes dis-, mis- and un-
4. Writing activities:
   a. Shipwrecked! Instructional writing
   b. Newspaper report
Winter came in the night, like a white sheet laid over the world. It came so cold and so fast that the waves of the ocean froze as they rolled. The good ship \textit{Lucky Star} froze with them, trapped tight in the suddenly solid sea.

Shen the cabin boy, the youngest member of the crew, stirred in his sleep as the sounds of rippling and splashing faded into frozen silence. He snuggled deeper under the covers, trying to keep warm. Into the silence came other noises. First, the creaking of metal as the ice tightened its grip upon the old ship’s sides. Then the voice of Captain Jeggings, bellowing, ‘All hands on deck!’

The crew bumbled blinking from their bunks. Able Seaman Bo, Mungbean the ship’s cook, and Shen. They stumbled out on deck and stared at the frozen waves which reared up all around them, stiff and white as giant meringues.

‘Don’t just stand there!’ shouted Captain Jeggings, hauling on an icy rope. ‘Get us out of here!’

The rope snapped in his hands with a sound like breaking glass. The \textit{Lucky Star} groaned and quivered as the ice clenched tighter.

‘What shall we do?’ asked Shen.

But Captain Jeggings didn’t know. Nor did Able Seaman Bo. Nor did Mungbean. They’d weathered storms and sat out calms, but they’d never seen a sea like this before.

\textit{Creak. Crunch.} Big tusks of ice pushed the planks apart and pierced the \textit{Lucky Star}’s sides. \textit{Slosh. Gurgle.} Cold black water which hadn’t frozen yet came swirling in. The ship sagged, and all the icicles that decked her rigging tinkled cheerfully. But Captain Jeggings couldn’t see anything to be cheerful about.

‘The cargo!’ he shouted. ‘We must save the cargo!’

All summer long, the \textit{Lucky Star} had been cruising from port to port, selling this and buying that. Two thousand chunky-knit jumpers from the Isles of Aran, a second-hand snowmobile—and sixty-six pugs. Captain Jeggings had said those tiny dogs would sell like hot pies. Now, down in the leaking hold, they set up a terrible howling as cold sea sloshed round their paws.
Questions

Read the story on page 1.

1. What do the words ‘suddenly solid sea’ at the end of the first paragraph tell us?
2. Why is the phrase ‘like a white sheet laid over the world’ effective?
3. How do the sounds heard by the cabin boy change overnight?
4. How can the reader tell that the cabin boy does not want to get up?
5. What do the words ‘umbled blinking from their bunks’ suggest about how the crew are feeling? Why are they effective?
6. When the Captain holds the rope, what happens?
7. Describe the appearance of the sea in this passage.
8. What do the words ‘groaned and quivered’ in line 15 show us about the ship?
9. Are the crew used to dealing with this kind of weather? How do you know?
10. What is meant by ‘cargo’?
11. Do you think that this is a well-organized trip? Why?
12. How do you think the Captain is feeling about the situation.
Answers

1. The words ‘suddenly solid sea’ tell us it is frozen.

2. The phrase ‘like a white sheet laid over the world’ is a simile which makes us picture how flat, perfect and vast the settled snow appears.

3. At first, Shen heard gentle sounds of ‘rippling and splashing,’ but these turned into scarier noises during the night – the words ‘creaking metal’ and ‘bellowing’ make us think something serious is happening.

4. Shen didn’t want to get up, so he ‘snuggled deeper under the covers.’

5. This suggests the crew are very tired and a bit disorientated. It is an effective phrase as it is alliterative.

6. ‘The rope snapped in his hands a sound like breaking glass.’

7. The sea is described as having ‘frozen waves’ which are as ‘stiff and white as giant meringues.’ This implies the sea is very cold and imposing, with huge, white waves of frozen water.

8. The words ‘groaned and quivered’ are personification for the ship. They imply the ship is old and being crushed by the ice. The word ‘quivering’ again shows us how cold the ship ‘feels.’

9. No, as ‘they’d never seen a sea like this before.’

10. ‘Cargo’ is the goods/merchandise that is carried on a ship.

11. Yes – they had been sailing for months, trading with no issue – the weather was unprecedented. No – they were ill-equipped for bad weather and didn’t know what to do.

12. Phrases such as ‘don’t just stand there’ and ‘get us out of here’ show the Captain is panicked. He also didn’t know what to do, so probably felt embarrassed and like he had failed his team.
Modal verbs are used with other verbs to describe how likely something is to happen or to show how certain we are of something happening. For example:

One day the girl **might** be Queen.

---

**What are Modal Verbs?**

They are **Auxiliary Verbs** that provide additional and specific meaning to the main verb of the sentence. **Modal verbs** are sometimes referred to as **Modal Auxiliary Verbs** because they help other verbs.

- **CAN** → Ability, doubt, astonishment, permission, polite, request
- **MAY** → Permission, supposition, with doubt, if not prohibition
- **MUST** → Obligation, firm necessity, logical, conclusion, probability
- **SHALL** → Intention, supposition
- **WILL** → Wish, desire, will, confidence, in the future
- **ought to** → Moral duty, insistent advice, strict recommendation
- **NEED** → Necessity
- **have to** → Unwillingness, forced circumstances
- **WOULD** → Wish (wish "to like"), polite request, a habit of the past

[www.englishstudyhere.com](http://www.englishstudyhere.com)
Max Modal

Max Modal is struggling with his homework. He must identify which of the sentences below contain a modal verb. Help Max by ticking the sentences that contain a **modal verb**.

1. I like chocolate because it tastes nice. [ ]
2. My mum said we might go on holiday at half term. [ ]
3. The plane flew through the sky. [ ]
4. You must finish your work before break. [ ]
5. The special visitor will arrive later today. [ ]
6. After dinner, I finished my homework. [ ]

Now help Max by underlining the modal verb in each sentence below:

1. If she entered the competition, Nicole might win a prize.
2. It would have been great if we won the football match.
3. We will complete the activity if we work together.
4. Lexi's mum said that she should always try her best at school.
5. "Yes you may go to the toilet," the teacher said.
6. Dad thought that he ought to wash the car before going to grandma's house.
7. We could go to the zoo at the weekend or go bowling.
Max Modal

Max Modal is struggling with his homework. He must identify which of the sentences below contain a modal verb. Help Max by ticking the sentences that contain a modal verb.

1. I like chocolate because it tastes nice. □
2. My mum said we might go on holiday at half term. □
3. The plane flew through the sky. □
4. You must finish your work before break. □
5. The special visitor will arrive later today. □
6. After dinner, I finished my homework. □

Now help Max by underlining the modal verb in each sentence below:

1. If she entered the competition, Nicole might win a prize.
2. It would have been great if we won the football match.
3. We will complete the activity if we work together.
4. Lexi’s mum said that she should always try her best at school.
5. “Yes you may go to the toilet,” the teacher said.
6. Dad thought that he ought to wash the car before going to grandma’s house.
7. We could go to the zoo at the weekend or go bowling.
Spelling

A prefix is a group of letters that are placed in front of a root word, that create a new word. For example, the word ‘unhappy’ consists of the prefix ‘un’ and the root word ‘happy.’ It changes the meaning of the root word.

The prefix ‘un’ means ‘not.’ It gives a negative or opposite meaning to the root word.

The prefix ‘dis’ also means ‘not.’ It has a negative or reversing effect on a root word.

The prefix ‘mis’ is also negative and means bad or wrong.

Here are some words which use these prefixes. Can you write a sentence to include each one?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Misbehave</th>
<th>b) Unwell</th>
<th>c) Misheard</th>
<th>d) Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e) Disown</td>
<td>f) Unlucky</td>
<td>g) Uncover</td>
<td>h) Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Misjudge</td>
<td>j) Miscount</td>
<td>k) Discount</td>
<td>l) Unwrap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a)  
b)  
c)  
d)  
e)  
f)  
g)  
h)  
i)  
j)  
k)  
l)  
Writing Activity 1

William has been shipwrecked on a desert island – his boat got smashed to pieces, but he hung onto his suitcase, which contains his clothes, a needle and thread, some scissors and a ball of string.

He needs to get off of the island. Your task is to write a set of instructions for William to be able to build a boat/raft in order to do this. Think about the materials he has in his suitcase, along with what might be available on the island.

Remember to include the features of instructional writing:

• A ‘how to’ title
• List of equipment/materials needed
• Numbered steps
• Fronted adverbials (use a comma afterwards)
• Imperative verbs
• Short, clear sentences
• Diagram

Here is an example of a set of instructions to remind you how to set your work out:
Paper Plate Fish

This should take about 15 minutes

You will need:

- White paper plate or round white card
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colouring pens/pencils

Method:

1. Use a ruler and a pencil to draw a triangle on a paper plate.

2. Cut out a triangle with some scissors.

3. Stick the triangle onto the edge of the plate using some glue, to make a fish shape.

4. Draw some wiggly scales and an eye on the fish, using a black felt tip pen.

5. Decorate the rest of the fish with bright colours.
Writing Activity 2

OMG!!!!! Your favourite celebrity has just been photographed doing something really embarrassing!!! This is good news for you, because you are a newspaper reporter and witnessed the whole thing! You must write an article based on what you have just seen and gather witness statements to include.

Things to think about:

- Who was it?
- Where were they?
- What happened? (Did they fall over? Have their dress tucked in their tights? Did a bird poo on their head? Etc)
- Who saw it?
- What happened next?

Here is an example of a newspaper report to remind you how to structure your own, along with a template to use if you wish:
LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS...
WIN AGAIN!

Reported by Susan Sharp, Media Correspondent, Ports Bay

An incredibly lucky couple have been celebrating this week after winning £800 000 on the lottery ... their second big win in just four years.

Mr and Mrs Mills of Smith Lane, Ports Bay, could be the luckiest couple in the country. William and Betty, who buy a lottery ticket once every month, have been celebrating for the second time in four years.

The couple won £275 000 back in February 2012, having bought their ticket at the last minute. Once they’d recovered from the shock, they gave a large part of their winnings to different charities, as well as making improvements to their home.

On the night of their most recent win, Mr and Mrs Mills had their granddaughter staying with them. Betty told us how it happened, 'The lottery draw was on television and Alisha happened to be watching it. My husband and I were busy doing the dishes in the kitchen so she asked if she could check the numbers for us. In the next moment, she's screaming and shouting the house down! I thought she was joking.' The couple had five matching numbers, winning them a life-changing amount of £800 000. Mr Mills added, 'We were all jumping around and dancing in the living room. We never believed it could happen again.' Alisha commented on the experience, 'I never knew my grandad could move like that!'

When asked about their secret for choosing winning numbers, Mr Mills explained, 'We've always chosen numbers that mean something to us, like family birthdays or house numbers.'

The two winners have revealed that they'll be donating £600 000 of their win to local, national and international charities. 'They need the money more than we do,' stated Mrs Mills, 'we'll treat ourselves to a nice meal out somewhere and give the rest to the family. We have our health and happiness so what more could we ask for?'