

Proof Reading Activities

Activity One

First identify the type of mistake in the passage, then correct the 4 mistakes.

Russell groaned his mum shouted up the stairs; "Russell, get up now or you'll be late – again!"

"Riiiiight." he called back wearily. "It's always the same," he thought, "Just when you are warm, comfy and having a fabulous dre – what was that?" Russell's train of thought was interrupted by a small figure running along the top of the skirting boards. It was only there for a second, but he was sure he'd seen. Russell shook his head in an effort to 'reboot' his vision. But no, there it was again, this time climbing up the leg his desk. A small person, no more than six inches high, scaling the telegraph pole upright.

Russell felt no fear, only curiosity. It occurred to him that maybe he was a) dreaming or b) going slightly mad but he decided that having an imp or a pixie in his room was far more interesting than getting dressed, whatever the reason for its appearance. He approached slowly, much like when he was trying to catch his rabbit to put it to bed, "Mustn't spook it," he whispered himself.

"Oi, who are you calling it?" said a tiny voice.

Activity Two

First identify the type of mistake in the passage, then correct the 11 mistakes.

He wasn't exacly dressed like an elf, come to think of it. The boy (Russell was farely sure this was a boy now) had thick, dark hair which he war long and free, "Like a girl," Russell though. He wore an all-in-one suit made out of what seemed to be a flexible, smooth tweed. Russell wondered if it was itchy. He had a utility belt holding tinny tools; a hammer, pliers, a screwdriver and a quantity of wire ties. All perfect, miniscule replicas of fermiliar items in Russell's dad's tool box. On his back was a rucksack with, Russell presumed, his climbing geer inside it. On his feet were a pair of chocolate brown boots which looked like leather gloves, but for feet. There was a seperate section for each toe. "Five toes through," Russell noted, "same as me." The eyes that were now looking at Russell expectently were deep brown, almost black and the elf's skin was shiny, soft-looking and a deep mahogany colour.

Activity Three

First identify the type of mistake in the passage, then correct the 10 mistakes.

Russell blanched for a moment. "I, Im so sorry," he stammered. "I didn't mean to offend, its just I've never seen an elf before." At this, the little person (Russell had not yet decided if it was male or female) guffawed with laughter.

"An elf? An elf? That's rich coming from a giant!! Im no elf, Im a human."

"But so am I!" exclaimed Russell. He was in quite a state of excitement. This was the best Monday morning he'd had in years. "I'm a human being for definite. So how can you be one as well?"

The elf looked at him disdainfully, "Oh yes, well if you're human, why are you so massive? Its well known that Earths gravity would prevent anyone from growing as tall as you and its far more efficient to be my size; regular human size."

Russell was baffled. First of all, he was taken aback that he had a six-inch visitor, then to be told that six inches was 'regular size' and he was a giant; that took some digesting. Then there was the suggestion that he didnt live on Earth. After all, there was apparently a problem with gravity. This was a lot to take in first thing on a Monday morning.

"Why dont you come down from that table leg and well talk properly?" he said eventually "Would you like me to help you?"

"Certainly not!" said the elf. "I'm one of the best climbers of my generation, I can get down by myself perfectly well, thanks."

And with that, the tiny human began to let out some rope and abseil back down the leg of the desk. He soon trotted across the carpet and Russell sat down on the floor in order to look at him properly.

Questions for further assessment:

1. Which one did you find the easiest?
2. Which one did you find the hardest?

Tip: The one you found the hardest highlights the type of mistakes you may miss when proofreading your own work. That means you should practise with similar activities as often as you can. You should also take special care to check this aspect when proof reading your own work.



Proof Reading Activities Answers

Activity One

Type of mistake: words missing.

Russell groaned **as** his mum shouted up the stairs; "Russell, get up now or you'll be late – again!"

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Russell felt no fear, only curiosity. It occurred to him that maybe he was a) dreaming or b) going slightly mad but he decided that having an imp or a pixie in his room was far more interesting than getting dressed, whatever the reason for its appearance. He approached slowly, much like when he was trying to catch his rabbit to put it to bed, "Mustn't spook it," he whispered **to** himself.

"Oi, who are you calling it?" said a tiny voice.

Activity Two

Type of mistake: spelling including homophones and commonly misspelled words.

He wasn't **exactly** dressed like an elf, come to think of it. The boy (Russell was **fairly** sure this was a boy now) had thick, dark hair which he **wore** long and free, "Like a girl." Russell **thought**. He wore an all-in-one suit made out of what seemed to be a **flexible**, smooth tweed. Russell wondered if it was itchy. He had a utility belt holding **tiny** tools; a hammer, pliers, a screwdriver and a quantity of wire ties. All perfect, miniscule replicas of **familiar** items in Russell's dad's tool box. On his back was a rucksack with, Russell presumed, his climbing **gear** inside it. On his feet were a pair of chocolate brown boots which looked like leather gloves, but for feet. There was a **separate** section for each toe. "Five toes **though**," Russell noted, "same as me." The eyes that were now looking at Russell **expectantly** were deep brown, almost black and the elf's skin was shiny, soft-looking and a deep mahogany colour.

Activity Three

Type of mistake: apostrophes missing.

Russell blanched for a moment. “I, **I'm** so sorry,” he stammered. “I didn't mean to offend, **it's** just I've never seen an elf before.” At this, the little person (Russell had not yet decided if it was male or female) guffawed with laughter.

“An elf? An elf? That's rich coming from a giant!! **I'm** no elf, **I'm** a human.”

“But so am I!” exclaimed Russell. He was in quite a state of excitement. This was the best Monday morning he'd had in years. “I'm a human being for definite. So how can you be one as well?”

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