Extra tasks

Extra tasks: Levels 3–6

In this section, you will find extra activities you can do at home with your child to extend learning related to the merit card activity. The extra tasks will help your child to put what they have learnt in English class into the context of their everyday life. By asking them to use English to talk about themselves, their interests and their activities, your child is encouraged to make a connection between English and their world. The aim of these tasks is to foster that connection so that your child finds English enjoyable and begins to understand the value of English.

'By sharing, parents can not only bring their child's language and activities into family life, but can also influence children's attitudes to language learning and other cultures.'

Opal Dunn, educational consultant and author

The tasks are designed to be accessible to all children, no matter their level, and we encourage all parents to support their child in doing the extra task. The tasks should be carried out by your child after they have completed the merit card. Tasks have been written in your child's first language so that you and your child are able to discuss the activity together. We advise you to read through the activity together and discuss each stage. Allow your child the time to complete the task in Stage 2 independently.

Stage 1: Ask your child to look back at the activity from the merit card and reflect on it. Ask them to tell you about the activity in their first language.

Stage 2: Your child is asked to carry out a short creative task, such as making a poster or writing a story, in English. This task follows on from the merit card task and encourages your child to relate more to the English material. Encourage your child to use their *English World* dictionaries and Pupil's Books for reference.

Stage 3: Ask your child to share the task with you. Encourage them to speak about it in English, even if you don't speak English, and then give you a short summary in their first language.

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Tips for parents:

- Don't worry if your child does not remember all the vocabulary from the unit. The aim of these tasks is not to test them! Vocabulary and grammar structures are reviewed and recycled regularly throughout *English World*, so your child will come across the language again in future units.
- Encourage your child to use any English they know, not just what is presented on the merit cards. The activity is about personalising English and building a connection to your child's life, so allow them to use dictionaries or other resources to find the words and phrases they need.
- Don't speak English? You can still support your child while they do the tasks. Refer to the word lists on the *English World* parent's website (http://macmillanyounglearners.com/englishworld/parent) for translations of the unit vocabulary and remind your child to refer to both the merit card and their Pupil's Book if they are unsure. Encourage your child to teach you a few words or phrases and turn the activity into joint learning time!

References

How young children learn English as another language
Dunn, O.

http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/parents/articles/how-young-children-learn-english-another-language

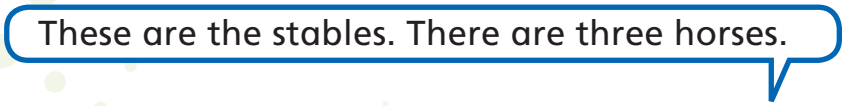
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Level 3

Unit 1: What lessons did you have at school yesterday?
Write about the lessons you had.
What time did each lesson start?
Was the lesson interesting, easy, exciting or fun?

Example: At quarter past eight we had Science.
It was very interesting.

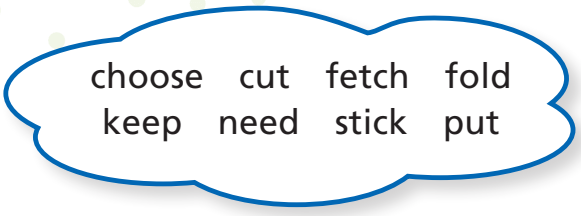
Unit 2: Look at your advertisement for Pear Tree Farm on your merit card. Draw a map of the farm for visitors to use. Label the plan. Talk about it.



Unit 3: Make a jobs poster.
Find three pictures of different people at work.
Cut them out. Stick them on paper. Write about each job.

Example: This doctor works in a hospital. She wears a white coat.

Unit 4: Look at your design again on your merit card.
How do you build the pet house?
Write instructions. Use the words in the ideas cloud to help you.
Number the instructions.



Example: 1. Find a strong box. Draw the shape for the door.

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Unit 5: Find out about an old machine.
Choose one of the machines in the cloud or your own idea.
Look in a book or ask someone in your family.
Draw the machine and write information.

phonograph gramophone
black and white television
black and white camera
black and white film
music box

Example: A gramophone played songs.
Usually there was one singer.

Unit 6: Look at your survey on the merit card again.
Which sports did lots of people like watching?
What other sports do people like, and why?
Write about it.

Example: Lots of people liked cycling. It's very fast.

Unit 7: Write a story about an exciting train journey.
Use all of the words in the word box.
Use the words in the cloud to help you or your own ideas.

wait hurry run pull
sleep hungry surprised
exciting angry

passengers	station	train	platform	suitcase	ticket

Example: There were lots of passengers waiting on the platform.

Unit 8: Find a big piece of paper.
Draw three or four shops in a shopping mall.
Find pictures of things you can buy.
Cut them out and stick them in the right shop.
Imagine that you went shopping in the mall.
Talk about what you bought.

Example: I went to the clothes shop.
I bought a pink scarf and a red jacket.

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Unit 9: Write the first part of a play for the puppets you drew on the merit card. What are the puppets saying? Write questions and answers.

Example: Princess: What are you doing?
Clown: I'm standing on my hands!
Princess: Why?

Unit 10: Read the postcard you wrote on the merit card about a trip to London.
Draw pictures, showing a place you visited on your trip.
Write a description.

Example: This is the London Eye. It's very high!

Unit 11: Draw your festival poster from the merit card on a large sheet of paper. Colour the pictures. Add some sentences to describe the festival.

Example: Come to the winter festival!
The fireworks are fantastic!

Unit 12: Choose one of the cities in the table you completed on the merit card.
Find some information about the city. Ask your friend or family member, or look in books, magazines or on the internet.
Write three interesting facts about the city.

Example: Dubai has some amazing new buildings.

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Level 4

Unit 1: Think of a new school club. What will you do there?
Design a logo for it. Draw and colour a picture of a T-shirt with the logo on the front.
Write a short description of your logo.

Example: My school club is Garden Club. We grow plants.
My logo has the letters GC. It has a red rose.

Unit 2: Read what you wrote on the merit card. Where did it happen? Who was there and how did they feel?
Draw the setting and write labels and speech bubbles.

Unit 3: Draw or find pictures of three different birds or animals.
If you use pictures, stick them on a piece of paper.
Write a few sentences to compare them.
Use the adjectives in the cloud or your own ideas.

beautiful clever
fast dangerous
graceful ridiculous
slow small tall

Example: The goose is more beautiful than the duck, but the swan is the most beautiful.

Unit 4: Write instructions for how to make something. Draw diagrams.
Use one of the suggestions in the cloud or your own idea.

a paper plane
a birthday card
a pencil pot paper dolls
a clay pot basket
a candle

Example: 1. Take a big piece of coloured paper.

Unit 5: Look at the ticket you designed on the merit card.
Imagine you went to the school play. Who did you go with? What happened? Did you like the show? Write about it.

Example: Last night my grandma took me to the school play. It was excellent.

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Unit 6: Take a big piece of paper and draw a large egg shape.
Cut round it.
Find pictures of different living things that hatch from eggs.
Cut and stick them on the egg. Label. Talk about your picture.

Example: This is a red and black snake.
Most snakes hatch from eggs.

Unit 7: Give three pieces of advice about travelling in the desert.
Use *should* or *shouldn't*.

Example: You should drink lots of water in the desert.

Unit 8: Draw the Inca prince wearing the headdress you designed on the merit card.
Label the different parts of the headdress and the rest of his outfit. Write about it.

Example: There are beautiful jewels and lots of colourful feathers.

Unit 9: Write three sentences to say what will happen if people use the machine you designed on the merit card.
What other fun inventions can you think of?

Example: If you use the treasure-finding machine, you will be rich.

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Unit 10: Look at the key dates for astronauts in the Pupil's Book again.
What important things have happened in your life?
Write key dates and events.
Use the words in the cloud or your own ideas. Talk about your life.

born
started school
joined a club
sister or brother born
learnt to walk
won a prize
moved house

My brother was born in May 2013.

Unit 11: Plan a short story set in your community.
Draw three pictures to show what happens. Talk about them.
What happens at the beginning of the story?
What happens in the middle of the story?
What happens at the end? Is your story happy or sad?

Example: Next, the Sami family goes on a long journey. They are looking for their lost reindeer.

Unit 12: Make an information poster for tourists about the rainforest.
Include general information, advice and a list of what to take.

Example: There are lots of amazing animals and beautiful plants. You shouldn't touch them.

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Level 5

Unit 1: Write the first chapter of the story you planned on the merit card.
Think about the things in the cloud as you write. Give your story a title.
Read your story to friends or family.
Do they like it? Tell them what happens next.

interesting characters
description of setting
exciting events
a surprise
spelling and punctuation

Unit 2: Now draw a poster of the most beautiful place in your country.
Include some sentences about it.

Example: Switzerland is fantastic for a mountain holiday.
The waterfalls are incredible!

Unit 3: Find pictures of two or three different bridges.
Cut and stick them onto a large piece of paper, or copy the pictures and colour them.
Write about the bridges, answering some of the questions in the cloud.

What kind of bridge is this?
What is it made of?
Is it old or new?
What goes across the bridge (people, traffic or trains)?
How long is it?

Example: The bridge is made of stone.

Unit 4: Look at the table on your merit card.
Choose a place you have never visited.
Do some research. Ask your friend or family member about the place. Look in books or on the internet.
Write some notes about what you can do there.
Talk about the place.

Example: I've never been to Paris. It sounds great!
There are beautiful buildings and great restaurants.

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Unit 5: Look at your survey and the pie chart you drew on the merit card.
Write a short report saying what you found out about people's favourite heroes and superheroes.

Example: The most popular hero is Superman.
Five people said he was their favourite.

Unit 6: Think of a traditional story or legend that is different from the one you learnt about in English class.
Research the story in books or on the internet.
Draw the main events of the story in three or four pictures, and write notes under the pictures. Tell the story to your friends or family.

Example: This is a story about Robin Hood.
One day, when Robin was walking in the forest ...

Unit 7: Choose a story from your front page (on your merit card) and write the article.
You could also ask your family and friends what they think of your headline. Can you improve it?

Example: TOP SPORTSWOMAN VISITS SCHOOL
Students at Hilltop School were excited this week.
An Olympic champion visited the school!

Unit 8: Write a review of a favourite television programme.
Include all the information you noted on the merit card and some of the adjectives from the cloud.
Don't forget to name the programme at the beginning. Give your review a title.



Example: THE BEST PROGRAMME ON TV
'Freddy's Fascinating Facts' is such a good programme that I never miss it.

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Unit 9: Choose a deep sea animal and find out more about it.
Look in books and magazines or on the internet.
Draw and label a picture of the animal and write some interesting facts about it.

Example: The box jellyfish is the most poisonous creature in the world.

Unit 10: Imagine you are interviewing a deep sea explorer.
Write four questions you want to ask him or her and write the explorer's answers.
Use some of the questions in the cloud and your own ideas.

At work, what do you enjoy doing?
What do you hate doing?
What are you looking forward to doing in the future?

Example: Interviewer: What do you like about your work?
Explorer: I love seeing the strange plants and animals.

Unit 11: Use your notes on your merit card to help you write an article about a person who helps other people.
Don't forget to write a title.
At the beginning of the article, say why you chose that person.

Example: My Aunt Amelia is a doctor.
She helps people who have been hurt in accidents.

Unit 12: Imagine that you are on a trip in the Arctic. Write a diary telling what happens for three days of your trip.

Example: Tuesday 21st July
Today it was bright and sunny.
Our vehicle travelled fast across the ice.

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Level 6

Unit 1: Make a leaflet about the activities you described on the merit card. Draw and write.
Remember to include comments from travellers.

Example: 'The hot springs are spectacular!'

Unit 2: Choose one of the types of energy from the table you completed on the merit card.
Write a short interview with a scientist, asking and answering questions about the type of energy.
Use the ideas in the cloud.
Talk about what the scientist said.

Where does it come from?
What is it used for?
Is it cheap or expensive?
Does it run out?

Please note that in this situation reported speech keeps the present tense.

Example: Dan: Is solar power renewable?
Dr Green: Yes, it is. It never runs out.

Dr Green said that solar power never runs out.

Unit 3: Draw a storyboard of your favourite mystery story.
Write a description under each picture.
Show your storyboard to a friend or family member.
Tell them what happens.

Example: This is my favourite mystery story.
The main character is Professor Bright.

Unit 4: Find pictures of endangered animals.
Cut and stick them onto a large piece of paper, or copy the pictures and colour them.
Write about how we can protect the animals.

Example: Don't cut down the trees. Plant new forests.
Don't hunt wild animals.

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Unit 5: Find out about a pattern from another country.
Fold a piece of card in half to make a card.
Copy the pattern onto the front of the card and colour it.
Inside the card, write a message to a friend or family member and tell them something about the pattern.
Give them the card.

Example: Dear Mum, I copied this pattern from Mexico that I found in a magazine. Do you like the colours?

Unit 6: Research the origins of some traditional clothes from your country. Write about it.

Example: The kilt is the national dress of Scotland. It came from the Scottish Highlands.

Unit 7: Find a holiday advertisement in a magazine.
Cut it out and stick it onto a sheet of paper.
Imagine you went on holiday. Write what happened.

Example: We went on a boat trip.
A young man showed us the islands.

Unit 8: Imagine you have made a film of the story of Deganawida and Hiawatha.
Write the script for a radio advertisement for the film.
In the script, two people are discussing the film.
Use some of the phrases in the cloud.

I like I enjoy I think
So do I. Me too. I agree.
How about you?
What do you think?

Example: Boy: I think it's a fantastic film.
Girl: So do I. I like it a lot.

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Unit 9: Find out some more information about doctors and medicine in the past. Write five quiz questions for your family or friends to answer. Make it a multiple–choice quiz.
Write the answers on a separate piece of paper.
Ask the questions.

Example: Where were the first hospitals in the world?
What did doctors use a microscope for?

Unit 10: Imagine you have made a bottle of medicine from the plant you drew on your merit card.
Draw the medicine bottle.
Design the label and write on it.
Include the things in the cloud.
Talk about your medicine.

the name of the medicine
what the medicine does
how the medicine should be taken
a picture of the flower or plant it comes from
warnings about who should not take the medicine

My medicine is called 'Blackberry syrup'.
It's good for curing coughs.

Unit 11: Make a poster to give information about the new sport you have invented on the merit card.
Try to persuade people to come and try your sport.
Draw and write.

Example: Try new Megaboarding.
It's exciting. It's not expensive.
You'll love it!

Unit 12: Write a short story in the sports setting that you wrote about on the merit card. Use the questions in the cloud to help you.

Who was there? What happened?
Who are the characters in your story?
How do your characters speak to each other (are they polite, happy, angry)?
Does your story have a happy ending?

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