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YEAR XXI N°1 • August September October 2008 • Imprimé à Taxe Réduite

Celebrities

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**Learn and
play in the UK**
Cooking



Welcome to Tot



Hello everybody,
and welcome to A Tot of English, your ticket
to the world of English. We've got exciting news from
the UK and from all over the world for you to read
and listen to. So come on board and let's start!
Have fun!

Julia

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Good news for the environment*

The world's largest water reserve*

The largest water reserve in the world is in Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean. Kiribati is a small area made up of 33 little islands. In Kiribati there are many species of coral, fish, sea birds and turtles. The reserve is called Phoenix Islands Protected Area.

It is an area of outstanding* beauty where the views are breathtaking*. There are beautiful white beaches, crystal* clear waters and incredible wildlife*.

➡ One of the islands is called Butaritari. Can you guess what it is famous for?

- A ☐ coconut trees
B ☐ bread trees
C ☐ cherry trees

The answer is on page 15



* glossary

breathtaking: something that takes your breath away because it is very beautiful
crystal clear: very clear,

transparent
environment: nature
outstanding: incredible
reserve: a protected area
wildlife: animals and plants that live in nature freely



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Mr G. Rama

In this issue we cover:

- past simple
- question words (who, why, when)
- relative pronouns (who, which)

Tot comes with:



teacher's notes



AUDIO CD

Common European Framework
Level A2-B1

tot 3

Geri Halliwell

Ex*-Spice Girl, UN* ambassador and now children's author*, Geri certainly knows how to spice* up her life. Read Geri's biography and match the headings to each section.

Geri's background

Going solo

A

Geraldine Estelle Halliwell, aka* Geri Halliwell or Ginger Spice, was born on 6 August 1972 in Watford, Hertfordshire, UK. In 1996, Geri joined an all-girl pop band called The Spice Girls. Before becoming a member of The Spice Girls, she was a club dancer in Majorca, a TV presenter in Turkey, an aerobics instructor, a cleaner and a barmaid. The other Spice Girls were Emma Bunton (aka Baby Spice), Melanie Chisholm (aka Sporty Spice), Melanie Brown (aka Scary Spice), and Victoria Beckham (aka Posh Spice).

B

In 1998 Geri Halliwell split from The Spice Girls and launched* a successful* solo career* with four number ones. Her image changed and she became a UN Goodwill ambassador. She published her autobiography* *If Only*. In 2008, Geri Halliwell published another book called *Ugenia Lavender*, a children's book about the adventures of nine-year-old Ugenia and her friends.



past simple of regular and irregular verbs

* glossary

ambassador: (here) Geri represents the United Nations' (UN) work in different countries. This means that she talks to young people about children's rights and problems.
aka: also known as
author: a person who writes books
autobiography: a book about your life
brainwaves: (here) intelligence
career: work, job
ex: not any more
launched: started
sassy: fashionable and clever
spice up: make exciting
successful: very good



Here is a summary of *Ugenia Lavender*. Use the words in the box to complete it.

Thoughtful, _____ and sassy*, Ugenia Lavender is an amazing _____. With loads of energy, tons of attitude and brainwaves*, Ugenia leaps into _____ that are as packed with personality as their _____, Geri Halliwell. Each book in the series contains three _____ plus Ugenia's Big News, Top Tips and extra Brain Squeezer puzzle pages.

KID

BRAVE

CREATOR

STORIES

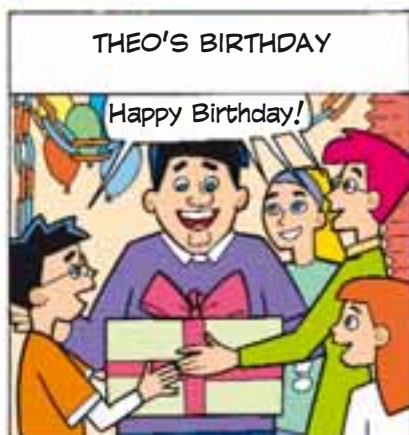
ADVENTURES

Talking pictures

The
CLACSONS



Caught in the Web



The big issue

Google!

Google is an Internet search engine. It is the most popular search engine on the Web*. It is 10 years old and millions of people all over the world are googling right now! Let's find* out more.

Who invented Google and when?

Larry Page and Sergey Brin are the inventors of Google. They were two university students who loved computers and who loved the Internet. They were also very good at maths. Larry and Sergey wanted to invent a system which classified* information on the Web. They wanted users* to be able to search* for specific information, like images or music or books. One day, in 1998, Larry and Sergey invented a complex* system which is now so easy for us to use.

What does "google" mean?

The word "google" comes from the word "Googol" which Milton Sirotta invented. Sirotta was the nephew of a famous mathematician called Edward Kasner. "Googol" is the name of a very large number which doesn't actually exist: it is 1 followed* by one hundred 0s.



* glossary

ads: advertisements, publicity
allows: lets
awards excellence: gives a prize to excellent projects
as well as: also
came up with: invented
classified: divided into similar groups
complex: complicated
find out: discover
followed by: something comes after it

navigate: surf, use, search the Internet
popped up: came up suddenly
search: look for
spreads across: covers
Stock Market: a list of the richest companies in the world
users: (here) people who use the Internet
Web: the Internet



Internet words; past simple;
question words
(who, why, when);
relative pronouns
(who, which)

When did it become successful?

In 2000, Larry and Sergey came* up with another great idea. They created *AdWords*, an Internet search programme which matches words to ads*. This meant that every time a user searched for a word, an ad popped* up. By 2004, Google was on the Stock* Market. It won the *Marconi Fellowship Award* which awards* excellence in business and communication.

What is Google like now?

Google has more than 6 million web pages. Every day, users do more than 200 million searches in more than 80 different languages. You can download, save and print books, films and music as* well as photos, lessons on any subject and gossip about every celebrity. Google allows* us to navigate* for information in a way that was not possible before.

What else can google do?

The google "family" is now very big. There's *GoogleAlert* which allows you to send information to an email address; there's *GoogleMaps* and there's *GoogleEarth* which allow you to find any place in the world using satellite technology; there's *GoogleCalendar* which reminds you of important dates. And there's lots more!



True or false?

T F

- 1 *Google Story* is a book by David Vise and Mark Malseed about the history of Google.
- 2 The word "Google" is a trademark.

* glossary

ads: advertisements, publicity
allows: lets
awards excellence: gives a prize to excellent projects
as well as: also
came up with: invented
classified: divided into similar groups
complex: complicated
find out: discover
followed by: something comes after it

navigate: surf, use, search the Internet
popped up: came up suddenly
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Stock Market: a list of the richest companies in the world
users: (here) people who use the Internet
Web: the Internet



Internet words; past simple; question words (who, why, when); relative pronouns (who, which)

...vers on page 15.

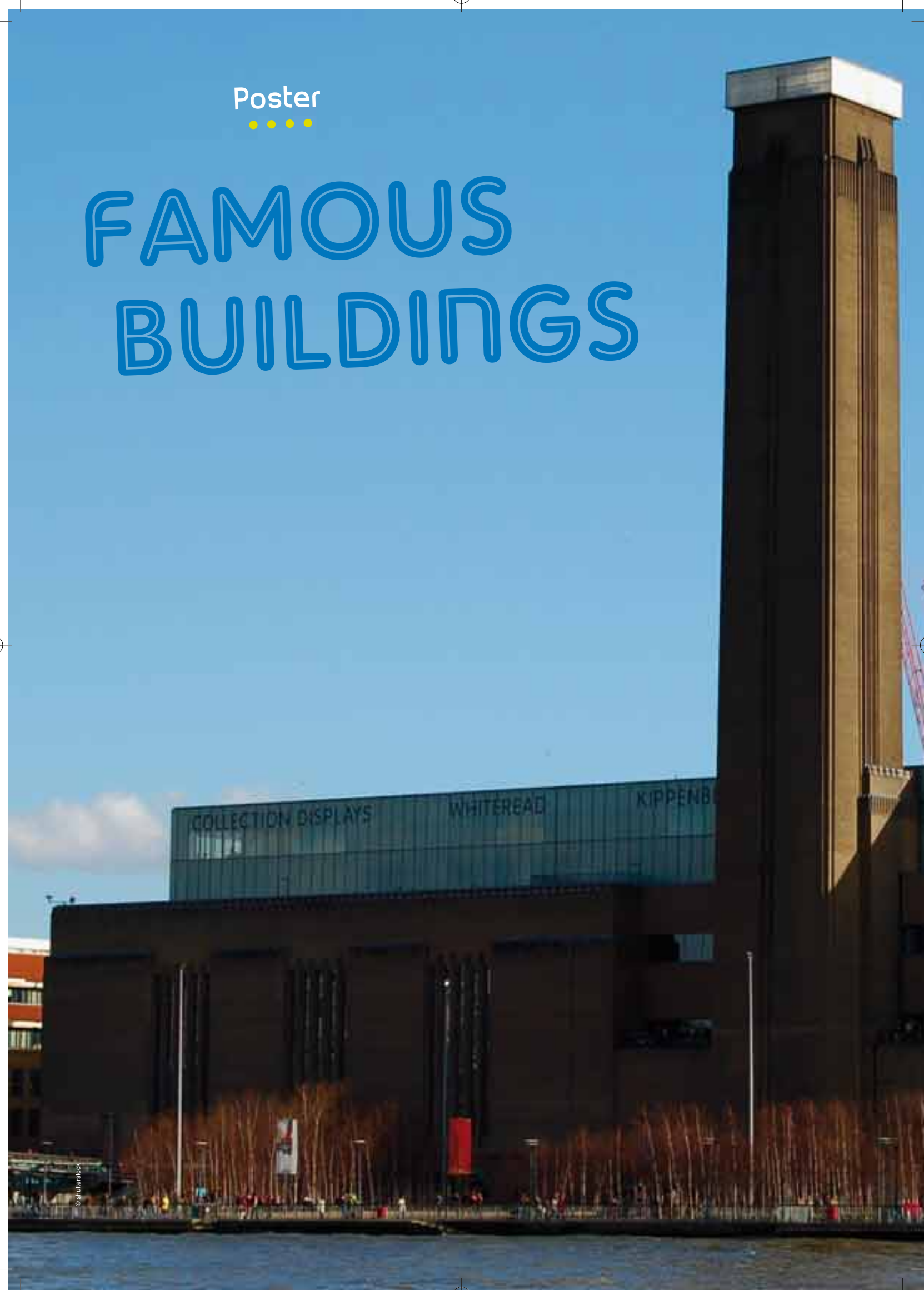
tot

?

Poster



FAMOUS BUILDINGS



Can you guess what this building is?

It is London's national gallery of international modern art. It is located on Bankside, on the River Thames. It is one of a family of four galleries. The other galleries are in Liverpool, St Ives and another one in London. This famous gallery was created in the year 2000 from a disused power station in the heart of London. Now, millions of people from all over the world visit it

every day. It contains art from the 1900s to the present day. It has a permanent art collection which includes these very famous European artists: Picasso, Matisse, Rothko, Warhol, Magritte and Dali. You can walk from here to St Paul's Cathedral over the Millennium Bridge.

Write the answer here:

.....

The answer is on page 15



You've got mail!

It's that time of year again when we all have to go back to school. Some of us don't like going back because we dread* certain subjects and can't* face our teachers and our friends. We are publishing Simon's letter because we are sure that many of you feel the same way as him.

Back to school

Dear Simon,
what you feel is not nice, but it is something that most of us feel at some point in our lives. Art, like music, is very hard when you are not particularly artistic: some people seem* to be able to draw anything, quickly and accurately; others take* ages to draw simple shapes! Your teacher doesn't want you to feel like this and is probably trying to give you new things to try and improve*. Why don't you find out about the history of art? You can read about some famous artists that you like. Your teacher will appreciate this and you can begin to enjoy art in your own way. Good luck,

Tot

Dear Tot,
my name is Simon and I'm 13 years old. I'm writing to you because I am dreading going back to school. The reason is that I absolutely hate art. I can't draw and every time our teacher gives us homework, I just stare* at the blank* sheet of paper and freeze*. The worst thing is that I've got loads of ideas, it's just that I can't draw. Our teacher is also giving us more and more complicated things to draw and I am getting* left behind. Please, please give me some advice!

Thank you,

Simon



► Celebrity quotes

Pablo Picasso was a very famous Spanish painter, but not everybody thought he was very good. Can you put this famous sentence by Picasso in the right order? to Picasso I "I wish they were!". I A man said I Picasso answered: I that his drawings were like a 5-year-old's. I

The answer is on page 15

* glossary

blank: white, nothing on it
can't face: don't want to do something
dread: feel frightened at the idea of doing something
freeze: (here) stop because you can't do something
getting left behind: staying behind everybody else
improve: get better
seem to: look like
stare: look at something for a long time
take ages: take a long time

Have you ever felt like Simon? Do you have any advice for him? Send us your thoughts and ideas.

Stars in your eyes



Biography

Place of birth: Pomona, California, USA

Date of birth:

28 April 1981

Star sign: Taurus

Father: Mexican

Mother: French-Danish

Jessica Alba

Jessica Alba is an actress. She started acting when she was 13 years old.

Jessica's childhood

When Jessica was little, she lived in many different cities in America. Her father was an air pilot and the family had to move a lot because of his work. She went to drama* school when she was 12. She got her first acting break* at 13 with the film *Camp Nowhere*. She then became famous when she played Sue Storm in the *Fantastic Four* series.

Acting is hard work

In 1996, Jessica played Maya in the TV series *Flipper*. Maya was a mermaid who befriended some dolphins. Jessica had to move to Australia for two years to film *Flipper*. She also had to learn to scubadive.

In 2000, she played a part in another TV series called *Dark Angel*. She had to spend eleven months training* in a gym, she had to learn martial* arts and she also had to learn to ride a motorbike! For the part she played in *The Eye*, Jessica had to learn to play the violin, too.

Bashful* beauty

Not only is Jessica a very talented actress, but she is also very beautiful. When people tell her that she is very pretty, she blushes*. When she was at school, nobody paid* her much attention and she had to wait for ages before anybody invited her out.

past simple, had to (obligation), adverbials of time (when)

* glossary

bashful: shy

blushes: goes red in the face

break: opportunity, chance

drama school: a school where you learn to act

martial arts: a sport

massive: huge, very big

paid her much attention: talked to her or looked at her

training: (here) exercise for your body



Which of these films also became a videogame?

- 1 ☐ The Fantastic Four
- 2 ☐ The Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer
- 3 ☐ Sin City

The answer is on page 15



Did you know that

- Jessica is a massive* football fan?
- Jessica loves playing golf?
- Jessica's nickname is Sky Angel?
- Jessica's got two dogs, Sid and Nancy?

Here at ELI, we believe that learning is fun both in the classroom and outside the classroom. This is why we've decided to take you on a trip* around the UK to see what lessons we can learn outside the classroom. Our first lesson is cooking and it takes place in Herefordshire, in the Wye Valley in England.



Learning to cook

The flavours of Herefordshire

Herefordshire is an area of England near the Welsh border. It is an area rich in pastures* and rivers which produce the natural ingredients for the most delicious food: Wye salmon, Hereford beef and Herefordshire apples.

Food festival

The Herefordshire Food Festival takes place between October 25-26. This is where famous chefs show you how to cook with pride* and passion in their Food Theatre. You can learn more about bees and how they produce honey. You can go on a Food Trail and learn to carve* pumpkins, press fresh apple juice or try apple bobbing. The Herefordshire food festival is also where you can learn about edible and poisonous mushrooms, how to catch fish and how to make ice-cream with local milk and cream.

Seasonal food

Seasonal food is food that grows naturally and locally* at certain times of the year. October is the month in which you can find apples, mushrooms, pumpkins, beetroot, lamb, mussels and courgettes. Seasonal food tastes nicer and is better for you because it grows naturally.

Monkland Cheese Dairy

Hereford is famous for its Little Herefordshire Cheese, a local cheese made by hand. At the Monkland Cheese Dairy you can watch and help farmers make this delicious cheese which uses local, fresh milk.





* glossary

carve: cut and make into a shape

locally: near where you live

pastures: fields where animals can graze

pride: happiness about something you can do

scratch up: (here) use a fork to break the ice

trip: journey



Seasonal recipe

Here is a recipe for apple sorbet.

Use the verbs to complete the instructions for making it.

Ingredients

1 litre of freshly pressed apple juice
a little icing sugar
lemon juice

Method

1. _____ a little icing sugar and lemon juice into your apple juice.
2. _____ into plastic dishes 2cm deep and _____ them in the freezer.
3. Take them out of the freezer when the mixture is just frozen (but not hard) and scratch* up into a soft sorbet with a fork.
4. _____

SERVE

WHISK

PUT

POUR

The answer is on page 15



infinitive of purpose
(how to do something),
imperatives for instructions



Google

Brain teasers



Test your memory of this month's Tot with our quiz page!

Google



Fill in the gaps

Larry and Sergey were _____ with a passion for maths. When they were 25 years _____, they founded Google. They wanted to find a system for classifying _____ on the Web because they wanted to help people to find information _____. Google doesn't advertise. It makes money because other people _____ on Google. People who work at Google spend 20% of their time thinking up new _____.

information

quickly

students

ideas

old

advertise



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UK traditions.

Complete the following sentences using the comparatives and superlatives below.

1. Carving a pumpkin is _____ than carving a turnip.
2. The _____ pumpkin in the world weighed 513 kilos.
3. The _____ pumpkins can weigh just 1 kilo.
4. You can get blue pumpkins orange ones.
5. Pumpkins can weigh _____ 1 kilo.

smallest

biggest

as little as

easier

as well as

Answers on page 15

ANSWERS: p. 3: Good news: bread trees; **p. 4: Match the heading?:** A. Geri's background; B. Going solo; Fill in the gaps: brave, kid, adventures, creator, stories; **p. 6-7: True or false?:** 1.T, 2.T, 3.F, 4.T; **p. 8-9: Famous buildings:** The Tate Modern in London; **p. 10: You've got mail:** A man said to Picasso that his drawings were like a 5-year-old's. Picasso answered: "I wish they were!"; **p. 11: Which film:** Sin City; **p. 12-13: Seasonal recipe:** 1. whisk, 2. pour, 3. put, 4. serve; **p. 14: Fill in the gaps:** students, old, information, quickly, advertise, ideas; **UK traditions:** 1. easier, 2. the biggest, 3.smallest, 4. as well as, 5. as little as; **p. 16: Did you know ...:** number 7 is false: you can restore it by soaking it overnight in water, not olive oil.

Did you know



adjectives (superlatives
and comparatives)

Pumpkins

that pumpkins are
not just the symbols
of Halloween?

Here are 10 interesting pumpkin
facts. Which one is false?

1. Pumpkins come from the same family as the cucumber.
2. You can grow pumpkins all over the world - except in Antarctica.
3. The pumpkin capital of the world is the USA. Morton, Illinois is the place to go for your pumpkins.
4. Pumpkin's are easier to carve than turnips.
5. There are over 50 different types of pumpkin.
6. The smallest pumpkins can weigh as little as 1 kilo, whilst the largest can weigh over 70 kilos.
7. If your pumpkin lantern shrivels* up, you can restore it by soaking* it overnight in olive oil to rehydrate it. But remember to take out the candle, first.
8. Did you know that you can get blue, green and white pumpkins, as well as the traditional orange ones?
9. Gerry Checkon of Altoona in Pennsylvania, US, grew the biggest ever in 1999. The monster vegetable weighed in at 513kg.
10. Pumpkins are medicinal, as well as fun and tasty. The seeds are used for de-worming* and the pulp is often used to relieve* burns.

Answer on page 15.

* glossary

de-worming: a disease where worms go into your body
relieve: (here) make better
shrivels up: become dry and get smaller
soaking: leaving in water