

# WHAT'S COMPREHENSION ALL ABOUT?



*"Let's get the dinner on, shall we?" said Matthew's mum.*

*"What are we having, Mum?" Matthew asked her.*

*"Cottage pie and peas," she replied cheerily.*

*Matthew grinned from ear to ear. Mum smiled back at him.*

*"I tell you what," she said, "why don't you go and learn your spellings for twenty minutes before we have dinner?"*

*The smile on Matthew's face disappeared.*

*"Do I have to?" he whined. Matthew thought practising spellings was a bit like watching paint dry.*

## Retrieval of information

Example question: What was Matthew's mum making for dinner?

Answer: Cottage pie and peas.

## Inference

Example question: How does Matthew feel about eating cottage pie and peas? How do you know?

Answer: He loves cottage pie and peas. We know this because he grins from ear to ear when his mum tells him that is what she is making for dinner.

## Deduction

Example question: What do you think Matthew might do next? Explain why you think this.

Answer: There could be several answers to this, but the person marking the text would be looking for the child to have thought about what Matthew might do, based on what they have read. For example: I think Matthew will go and watch TV instead of doing his spellings because he doesn't want to do his spellings.

## Opinion

Example question: Do you think Matthew's mum is a kind person? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answer: Yes, I think Matthew's mum is a kind person because she is cooking his favourite meal. We also know she wants him to do well at school, which is why she asks him to practise his spellings.

## Commenting on effectiveness of language

Example question: 'Matthew thought practising spellings was a bit like watching paint dry.' Why is this a good way to show how Matthew feels about his spellings?

Answer: The author is comparing spelling practice to watching paint dry to show how boring Matthew finds it.

**For a complete guide to all  
the English terms taught  
in school, check out the  
Primary Literacy Glossary**

adjective alliteration blog  
clause connective digraph  
haiku homophone metaphor  
non-fiction noun onomatopoeia  
paragraph prefix pronoun  
recount rhyme sentence synonym  
tense trigraph vowel

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