

# Wallace and Gromit Shopper 13 Writing Sequence

Year 5/6

HIAS English Team  
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Final version

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# Using the Home Learning Materials

## The materials

- Each writing booklet contains a sequence of 5 lessons.
- You should set aside time to complete each of the lessons in order.
- Each lesson will take no more than 30 mins to complete.

## How to use

- Read the instructions carefully before you start a task.
- Each lesson has a simple explanation and examples to get you started.

## How can parents, carers and siblings help?

- Read the extracts aloud with your child
- Collect interesting words and phrases on paper / post-its as they read
- Talk to your children about their ideas before they write
- Adapt any of the resources and materials as you feel necessary to support your child's needs

## 5 day writing sequence

This sequence is developed around an episode of Wallace and Gromit Cracking Contraptions. The episode can be found on YouTube using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB1dXzHcuQg>

### Teaching sequence:

- 1) Response to Reading
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Exploring the Writing
- 4) Grammar Practice and Play
- 5) Writing Challenges

## 1 – Response to Reading

Watch the Cracking Contraptions episode – Shopper 13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB1dXzHcuQg>

Read part 1 of the ‘General Description’ of Shopper 13

(available for printing on page 11)

**As you read make notes:**

- How is the text different to a story?
- Is there any vocabulary you don't understand and need to look up? – Is the voice formal or informal? How do you know?
- Do you have any questions?

**Answer the following questions:**

1) What has been added to the shopping trolley? (list 5 things) 2)

How are the panels removed on either side?

3) Where is mission control?

## **Lesson 2 – Vocabulary**

This information text uses lots of precise, technical language as it is an explanation. It is important to check we understand the vocabulary being used. Look at each of the highlighted words and think carefully about what the writer is trying to explain.

Write what you think it means before checking in a dictionary / online dictionary.

Vocabulary in context	What I think it means	Dictionary Definition
a <b>conventional</b> shopping trolley		
two <b>articulated</b> arms		
the cheese is <b>stowed</b> in the main trolley compartment		
used to <b>stabilise</b> the shopper		
while <b>scaling</b> the doorstep		

# Lesson 3- Exploring the Writing

Read the complete 'General Description' (pg 11 and 12)

The purpose of the writing is to inform.

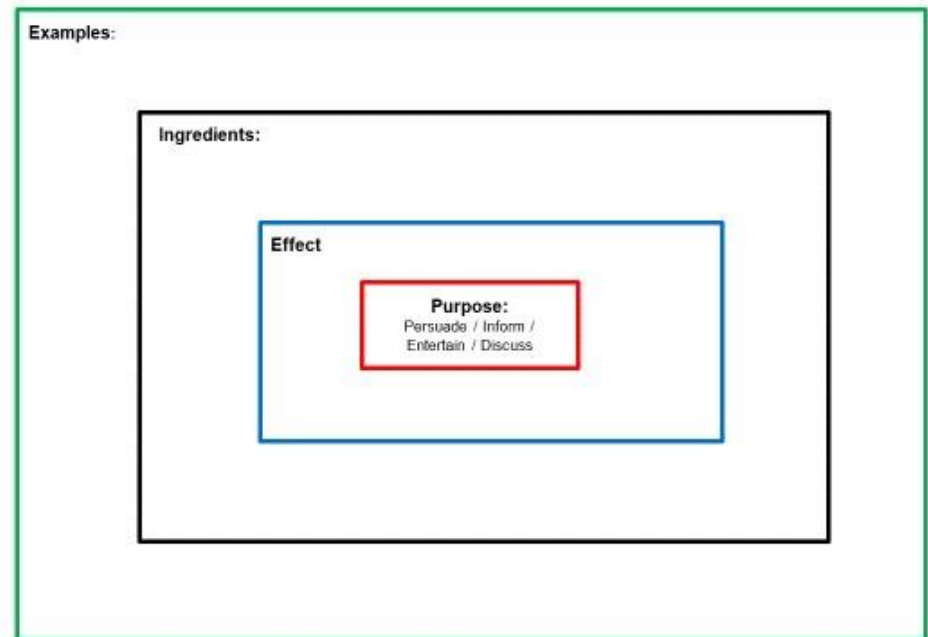
How does the writer clearly explain how the contraption works?

Think about the effect of:

- Sentence structure
- Vocabulary choice
- Voice

Identify key ingredients the writer used to achieve this.

Collect examples from the text.



## Lesson 4 – Grammar Practice and Play

Shortly after the Shopper sets out on a trip (or 'mission'), compressed air expressed through nozzles is used to jettison a panel on either side of the main compartment. This allows for the deployment of two fully articulated arms and hands, which are controlled through a set of gears, pulleys and actuators on either side. Overall navigation and command is performed by remote from 'mission control' (the cellar of 62 West Wallaby Street).

# Lesson 4 – Grammar Practice and Play

Explain the authors use of:

- Causal connectives / conjunctions
- Brackets for parenthesis



Change the underlined sections:

- Replace the phrase with an alternative technical description



Create your own:

- Imitate the author's style
- Rewrite the first two sentences for a remote-control car with wings

## Lesson 5 – Writing Challenges

Using what you have learnt so far, choose one of the following three challenges to complete:

- 1) Write a set of instructions to help your parents use the SHOPPER 13 to collect the weekly shop.
- 2) Use the cutaway diagram (printable on pg. 13) to create a technical manual or user guide.
- 3) Write a letter from Wallace to the Prime Minister recommending the distribution of the SHOPPER 13 to all households.

## **General Description (part 1)**

Wallace's 'Shopper' is a remote-controlled, automated shopping device comprising a conventional shopping trolley to which has been added a motor driving the two rear wheels, a front wheel for steering, a video camera, two articulated arms and associated control components and wiring. The model shown here is 'Shopper 13', this being the device's 13th trip to the shops.

Shortly after the Shopper sets out on a trip (or 'mission'), compressed air expressed through nozzles is used to jettison a panel on either side of the main compartment. This allows for the deployment of two fully articulated arms and hands, which are controlled through a set of gears, pulleys and actuators on either side. Overall navigation and command is performed by remote from 'mission control' (the cellar of 62 West Wallaby Street).

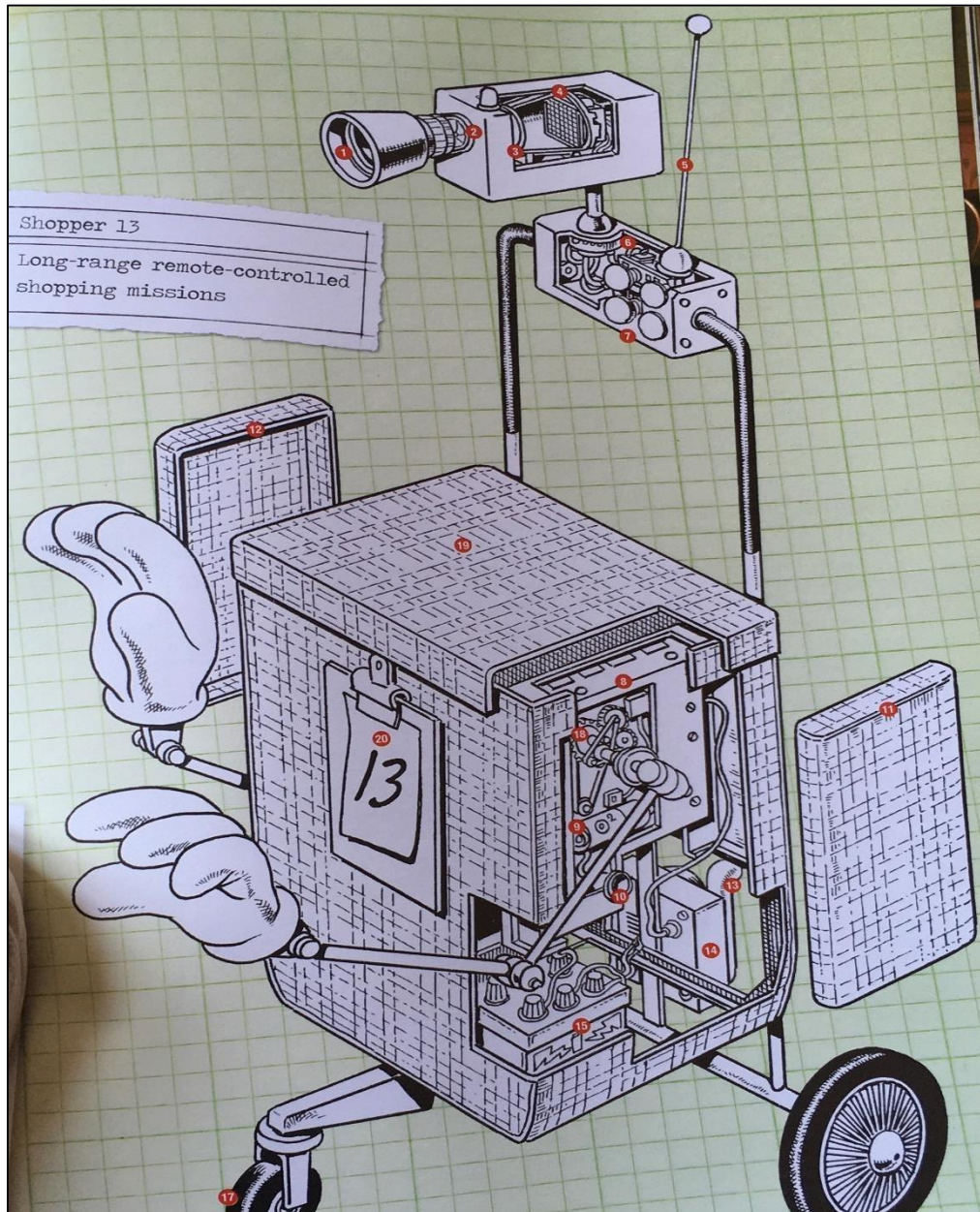
## **General Description (part 2)**

On arrival at the shops, Shopper 13's mission is to locate and retrieve the 'big cheese', and this is achieved using the on-board video camera (for target identification) and the articulated arms and hands. Once safely grasped, the cheese is stowed in the main trolley compartment for the return journey.

Unfortunately, during the mission not everything goes according to plan. The cheese (a large edam) proves too heavy; the Shopper's frame starts to buckle under the load and one of the rear driving wheels falls off. The one remaining driving wheel causes the Shopper to circle helplessly in the middle of the shopping aisle. However, following some quick thinking back at mission control, a quickly extended arm grabs a nearby French stick, and uses it to stabilise the Shopper. The mission is able to continue with the Shopper using the French stick as a crutch in place of the missing wheel.

After hobbling back to West Wallaby Street, 're-entry' appears to be successful, but while scaling the doorstep to the house the Shopper becomes unstable and falls over, causing the cheese to roll out of the main trolley compartment and back down the path towards the gate.

With the edam now stranded, Wallace (as mission director) has one last option and he launches the 'probe' to try and retrieve it.



- 1) Lens reception antenna
- 2) Iris
- 3) Focus lens
- 4) Charge-coupled device
- 5) Remote-control command
- 6) Control systems computer and
- 7) Camera and programming
- 8) Are motor box
- 9) Compressed air cylinder
- 10) Gas jet nozzle
- 11) Left side panel
- 12) Right side panel
- 13) Exhaust pipe
- 14) Motor
- 15) Battery
- 16) Battery cover
- 17) Forward steering wheel
- 18) Left arm gearing, pulleys and
- 19) Trolley lid
- 20) Clipboard for mission number