

The Wexbridge Crier

BRAVE YANK FLIES TO THE RESCUE

19th October 1943

Pigeon Powers Through

At just after 9 am yesterday, an American soldier flew to the rescue of hundreds of British soldiers. G.I. Joe, a homing pigeon trained by the Signal Pigeon Corps in the USA, was responsible for one of the most daring, last-minute rescues ever seen.

Acting on earlier orders, the 169th Brigade had stormed the Italian village of Calvi Vecchia. Their target was the remaining German soldiers who still held it in a tentative grip. To aid their mission, air-support was to be provided by the US Air Force.

It came as quite a shock when the Allied troops were able to take back the town far ahead of schedule. However, what should have been a time for muted celebration quickly turned to one of panic.

"We knew the Yanks were on their way to us, but the damned radio had packed in. We had no way of letting them know we had taken the city. No way to stop them sending their bombers," Private J.L Pickard said on his return to base.

With hundreds of villages and nearly a thousand soldiers now at risk of being bombed by their allies, thoughts quickly turned to how else to solve the problem.

Fortunately, cool heads prevailed and the brave pigeon was called upon. A message was dispatched to the air base 20 miles away. In the end, G.I. Joe covered the distance in 20 minutes, flying at an amazing 60mph.



G.I. Joe: The USA's new hero.

It was almost too late. It was only as the planes were warming up that the news arrived. Luckily it was joyously received, and the raid cancelled.

We reached out to the general in charge at the time. He said that with radios constantly in and out of service, pigeons like G.I Joe are often the most essential form of communication. This isn't the first time that a pigeon has saved the lives of men.

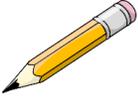
Last year, a stricken RAF bomber ditched into the freezing waters of the North Sea. With their plane's radio damaged, the men resorted to the homing pigeon that they carried aboard for such an eventuality.

That time, it was a bird named Winkie who flew over 120 miles to her home loft. There, the RAF was able to use the time taken from the plane ditching to her arrival to rescue the pilots within 15 minutes!

At the Wexbridge Crier, we'd love to hear about any animals that you know of that have helped with the war effort. Send your information to PO Box 42, Wexbridge, Leicestershire.

By M. Withers - War Correspondent

1.	Reporter (Retrieval)	What date was the newspaper written?
2.		How many soldiers were saved by G.I. Joe?
3.		Why did they have no way of letting the Yanks (Americans) know they had taken the town?
4.		How long did it take to rescue the pilots after Winkie's message?
5.		Where did the RAF bomber crash?

5.	Editor (Summarise) 	How did the soldiers feel when they first took back Calvi Vecchia? How did this change?
6.	Translator (Vocabulary) 	Which word explains that the news arriving at the air base was good news?
7.	Reporter (Retrieval) 	Explain how the problem at Calvi Vecchia was solved.
8.	Weather Forecaster (Prediction) 	How else do you think animals might have been used to save people in World War II?
9.	Translator (Vocabulary) 	What are "allies"?

Matching the verb to the subject

Learn

The **verb** in a sentence is the word that shows **action** or **being**.

The **subject** of a sentence is the person or thing that's **doing** the action, or **being** something.

For example:

Maya kicks the ball.

In this sentence, the **subject** is Maya and the **verb** is kicks.

[If you have access to a computer, watch this video to hear teacher Mrs Shaukat explain more about matching the subject to the verb in a sentence.](#)

Top tip!

When the subject and the verb match, we say they **agree**.

When the subject of a sentence is **singular**, that means there is only **one** person or thing doing the action or being something.

You need to choose a **singular form** of the verb to match the singular subject.

Look at the table below to see how play is used with different subjects. Most verbs follow the same pattern as this verb.

Singular (one person or thing)	Plural (more than one person or thing)
I play	we play
you play	you play
she, he, it plays	they play

Look at the verb next to 'she, he, it' in the table: plays. This has the letter s at the end.

When you are writing about **one person** or **thing** doing an action, (to talk about 'she', 'he' or 'it' only) your verb should end with the letter s.

For example:

The girl plays basketball every weekend.

This radio station plays great music!

When the subject of a sentence is **plural**, that means **more than one** person or thing is doing the action or being something. In this case, you need to choose a plural form of the verb to match the plural subject.

For example:

The boys play hockey every weekend.

If you have access to a computer, watch [this video](#) now for a recap on how verbs are used in sentences. This will help you to prepare more for the activities on subjects and verbs.

Complete these activities

If you have access to a computer complete all the activities below. Otherwise, complete Activity 2 and 4.

Activity 1

First, have a go at the fun quiz to test your understanding so far!

Click on the correct word each time to identify the subject or the verb.

I scored: ____ / 6

Activity 2

Look at the table below that shows the verb **be** being used with the subjects you met earlier in the lesson.

Singular (one person or thing)	Plural (more than one person or thing)
I am	we are
you are	you are
she, he, it is	they are

Sometimes we use **am**, **is** or **are** with another word that ends in **-ing**.

For example:

I am working on the tower.

The crane is working on the tower.

They are working on the tower.

Fill the gaps in the sentences below with **am**, **is** or **are**.

Make the verb agree with the subject by adding the right word. One has been done for you.

1. The gorilla-monster **is** climbing higher and higher.
2. Down in the street, the people ____ pointing up at the gorilla-monster.
3. I ____ pointing up at the gorilla-monster too!
4. The builders ____ yelling at each other.
5. The plane ____ flying around the tower.
6. 'I ____ roaring!' roars the gorilla-monster.

Activity 3

So far, you have looked at verbs in the **present tense** - this is when something is happening **now**, or regularly. When you're using the **past tense**, for things that have already happened, the verbs **was** and **were** can be used. These are also from the verb **be** and are matched to a subject, like **am**, **is** and **are**.

Singular (one person or thing)	Plural (more than one person or thing)
I was	we were
you were	you were
she, he, it was	they were

Test your understanding of using **was** and **were** correctly with the next quiz!
Choose the right option each time to fill in the gaps in the sentences.

I scored: ____ / 6

Activity 4

A TV news reporter sees the gorilla-monster but he's so scared, he gets his verbs mixed up! Look at his report below. You need to find all the incorrect verbs and re-write them, so that they agree with their subjects.

For example:

'It were an ordinary day on the building site' contains an incorrect verb.

This should be 'It was an ordinary day on the building site'.

There are **17** other verb mistakes to find! Colour them and rewrite them below.



It were an ordinary day on the building site. The builders was working hard on a new tower. Suddenly, a huge gorilla-monster were climbing up it! I are standing in the street right now. And all around me, people is pointing up at the gorilla-monster. The gorilla-monster are nearly at the top. One of the builders yell at us to stay back. The other builders hides. Cars, buses and trucks all stands still in the street. We all waits, silent and afraid. The gorilla-monster sit on top of the tower. It wave its hairy arms. It eat the bricks. The tower shake and shudder. No one know what will happen next. But I can hears the gorilla-monster roaring and I are terrified!

Top tip!

Once you've finished spotting the verb mistakes, read the sentences out loud with your corrections - do they sound right and make sense?