



# Year 6 Winter English Activity Booklet

**Answers**

## Winter Words

Can you match the winter words to their more ambitious synonyms? Write a list for each word:



chilly

gusty

drizzly

icy

blustery

showery

biting

draughty

inclement

inclement

squally

glacial

turbulent

Could you use some of the words in winter-themed sentences with two independent clauses (separated with a colon, semi-colon or dash)?

**Example sentences:**

**This winter saw the most glacial temperatures for the past five years: the frosty blizzards were some of the worst we'd ever seen.**

**Inclement weather is often experienced at this time of year; icy, squally winds are common.**

**I live in a draughty old house – on winter evenings it can be bitingly cold!**

# PICTURE-BOOKS IN WINTER

## by Robert Louis Stevenson

Summer fading, winter **comes**—  
Frosty mornings, tingling **thumbs**,  
Window robins, winter **rooks**,  
And the picture story-**books**.

Water now is turned to **stone**  
Nurse and I can walk **upon**;  
Still we find the flowing **brooks**  
In the picture story-**books**.

All the pretty things put **by**,  
Wait upon the children's **eye**,  
Sheep and shepherds, trees and **crooks**,  
In the picture story-**books**.

We may see how all things **are**,  
Seas and cities, near and **far**,  
And the flying fairies' **looks**,  
In the picture story-**books**.

How am I to sing your **praise**,  
Happy chimney-corner **days**,  
Sitting safe in nursery **nooks**,  
Reading picture story-**books**?

## Questions

1. Highlight all the rhyming words. Can you describe the rhyming pattern in this poem?

**Each stanza has the rhyming pattern AABB, although in the second stanza the first two lines are near-rhymes. Lines three and four of each stanza are -ooks words.**

2. Find two words or phrases which tell you that the poem is set in winter.

**Possible answers include:**

- summer fading, winter comes
- frosty mornings
- tingling thumbs
- winter rooks
- water now is turned to stone

3. What does the author mean by 'Water now is turned to stone'?

**The water (of ponds or lakes maybe) has turned to ice.**

4. Tick the word closest in meaning to **nooks**.

opening  chairs  **corners**  beds

5. Is this a modern or traditional poem?  
Find evidence in the text.

**This is a traditional poem.**

**Evidence in the text includes:**

- nurse (old fashioned name for a nanny)
- crooks (shepherds' tool)
- nursery (old fashioned children's room)

6. Try writing another stanza that fits with the poem.

**Accept any stanza that fits with the theme and style of this poem, e.g.**

**Bedtime means warm eiderdown;  
And now it's time to don my gown  
Hanging on the bedroom hooks,  
Reading picture story-books.**

In my last competition, I achieved seventy six out of a possible hundred points, which pleased me.

**In my last competition, I achieved seventy-six out of a possible hundred points, which pleased me.**



I'm a self confessed show off, but that is helpful during competitions where I have to perform in front of large, noisy crowds.

**I'm a self-confessed show off, but that is helpful during competitions where I have to perform in front of large, noisy crowds.**



With some commands I have to use a sing song voice, which ensures that the dogs know I am asking them to do something important.

**With some commands I have to use a sing-song voice, which ensures that the dogs know I am asking them to do something important.**



Can you use some of the altered words in winter sentences of your own?

**Example sentences include:**

**I slipped when I was racing for the ice-hockey puck with my friends but managed to recover myself quickly.**

**My brother made seventy-six snowballs for our snowball fight; I'm a self-confessed scaredy-cat so I'm hiding away!**

## Hapless Hyphens

These winter sports players have been writing about their sporting achievements but have forgotten how to use hyphens. Can you correct the mistakes?

I've had my ice hockey stick since I was nine years old.

**I've had my ice-hockey stick since I was nine years old.**



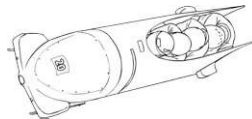
Whenever I fall, I try to re-cover myself as quickly as possible.

**Whenever I fall, I try to recover myself as quickly as possible.**



Our death defying run down the track felt like blasting off in a rocket.

**Our death-defying run down the track felt like blasting off in a rocket.**



## Super Sentences

Use your super sentence writing skills to create **passive sentences**. Look at the image, then create a **passive sentence** that makes sense.



**Icicles were formed by the freezing conditions.**



**Luckily, the rabbit is camouflaged by its white fur so the fox can't see it.**



**Icy mountains are bathed by the warm glow of the sunset.**

Now, use your super sentence writing skills to create **active sentences**. Look at the image, then create an **active sentence** that makes sense.



**As the huskies pull the sled, the musher shouts completed commands.**



**Ice-skating with my brother is so much fun.**



**The champion snowboarder won the competition with the highest possible score.**

## Winter Wonderland

Use this picture as inspiration to carefully think about and write a short paragraph.



Sentence 1: Use a dash/dashes to indicate parenthesis.

**Every winter, my family visits a ski resort – in Germany - for our holidays.**

Sentence 2: Include a relative clause.

**We always stay in a log cabin, which is extremely warm despite the freezing temperatures outside.**

Sentence 3: Use a semi-colon to mark the boundary between related independent clauses.

**My dad and sister love skiing; my mum and I prefer the hot chocolate at the end!**

## Super Sentences

Use your super sentence writing skills to create **formal sentences**. Look at the image, then write a **formal sentence** that makes sense. You could use the subjunctive form.



**Pushing through the snow, the snowbells appeared gradually.**



**As the clouds lifted, the mountains became visible: it was a spectacular view.**



**Clara suggests that everyone should listen to relaxing music whatever the weather.**

Now, use your super sentence writing skills to create **informal sentences**. Look at the image, then write an **informal sentence** that makes sense. You could end with a question tag.



**The tiny fox should've stayed in the den – it's freezing out here.**



**My little sister always slips over on the ice when she rushes.**



**You aren't wearing that hat out, are you Dad?**

## My Fact Sheet About Robins



Sentence 4: Use a passive sentence.

**The warm, gooey drink is enjoyed by all of us.**

Sentence 5: Start with a fronted adverbial.

**Although we all enjoy skiing, we might try snowboarding next year instead.**

## Winter Word Scramble

Unscramble these statutory spelling words. Then use the numbered letters to create one last word.

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**Accept any answer that refers to them being common/ tame/the epitome of winter/a symbol for Christmas and all things festive.**

b) Are they your favourite bird? Why?

**Accept any answer that gives a relevant reason.**

7. Can you rewrite the information in a fact sheet including:

- headings;
- sub-headings;
- bullet points;
- a table?

**Accept any fact sheet including relevant information with a sensible layout.**



## Robins Questions

1. Name two habitats for robins.

**Accept any of the following:**

**gardens, parks, woodlands, hedgerows.**

2. What is meant when the author states that robins are 'the epitome of winter'?

**They are the perfect example/symbol of winter.**

3. Tick the word closest in meaning to migrants.

inhabitants  locals  **visitors**  birds

4. Which of these colours is not found on a robin's body?

white  red

brown  grey

**black**  orange

5. Find two things that male robins do to mark out their territories.

1. **sing loudly**

2. **fight each other if their territories are threatened**

6. a) Why do you think that robins are the UK's favourite bird?

Use some of your words in winter-themed sentences including modal verbs.

**Example sentences include:**

**The temperature will increase as we get closer to spring.**

**You must try your hardest to win the ice-dancing competition this year.**

**Despite his best efforts, you might not recognise the identity of Samil's snowman**

## Robins

Recently voted Britain's national bird, robins are for many people the epitome of winter. They are regularly used as a symbol for Christmas and all things festive. Robins are a common breeding bird but in winter the resident population is joined by European migrants.

### Which Countries Do They Live In?

Robins can be found in most countries all over Europe, although they do not live on the Mediterranean coast or in northern Scandinavia.



They can also be found in some parts of northern Africa, central Russia, the Azores and the Canary Islands.

### Where Are Their Habitats?

Robins live in gardens, parks, woodlands and hedgerows.

They are known for how tame they can be and can often be seen feeding on bird tables during winter months.

### Appearance

Robins have a red/orange face and breast, which has a grey border around it. Their back and wings are brown but the rest of their body is white.

### What Types of Foods Do They Eat?

Robins feast on berries, seeds, insects and worms.

### Territories

Robins are very territorial and the male bird marks out his territory by singing loudly, particularly in springtime. Males can be seen fighting each other if their territories are threatened. These fights can be brutal and can result in death.

