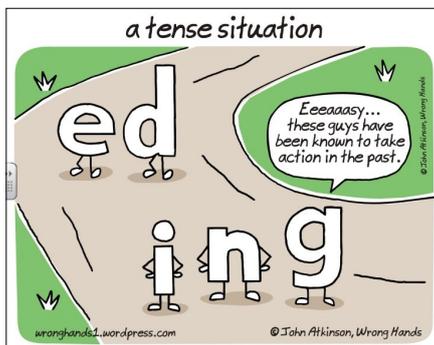


## Grammar Objectives of the Week: Staying in the correct tense and using commas effectively

No, your eyes have not deceived you: we do indeed have two grammar objectives this week – staying in the correct tense and using commas effectively to separate extra information.



It can be easy to muddle up your tenses, especially when writing quickly. Here are a couple of sentences describing the action in William Gold-

ing's "Lord of the Flies." Can you identify the mistake? As Ralph tried to put the fire out, he heard distant splashes. Suddenly, he sees a boat. That's right: "sees" should be in the past tense – "saw." If you switch between tenses, as in this incorrect sentence, then your poor reader will be wondering whether the event you're writing about has already happened, is happening as you speak or is about to happen. So, remember to take care with your tenses and if you start writing in the past, you need to stay in the past.

Our second focus this week is, of course, the use of commas to separate extra information, as in the following sentence: *The students, led by a sixth former, organised a cake sale to raise money for charity.* The extra information is underlined here. Did you notice the commas? You can also add extra information at the beginning or end of a sentence, but in this case you only need one comma. *When they had discussed the issues, the leaders signed the agreement. One leader refused to sign the agreement, which caused a problem.* In all of these examples, the extra information can be removed and the sentences would still make sense.

I hope these two grammar objectives will provide plenty of food for thought for us all this week.

By Mr Harris, Assistant Senior Leader - English

## Year 7 pride of community after canal clear up

My friends and I got to go on the trip to clean the local canal and make it a much better place for everyone. We were all excited to go and wanted



to make it nice for the people who live and go there so people could enjoy it and not worry about it being dirty!

When we arrived we put our gloves on and started to work. We did many things: we picked up rubbish, cleared the grass from the path and cleaned off the graffiti.

The best thing was that we did it as a team and all enjoyed it. I hope that people will keep it nice after our hard work. We all had a lovely experience and I would like to thank the teachers



who came with us and especially Debbie from the Canal and Rivers Trust, who gave her time to come and do the clear up with us.

By Mariam Mahdaoui Year 7

## Message from the Principal, Ms Bora

It is finally the end of Term 5 and, once again, what a successful term! I was delighted to end the term meeting next year's Year 7 students and their parents, and look forward to seeing the Year 6 students in school for their induction day on Friday 26th June. I am sure they are excited about all the opportunities they will be able to access at the Academy but I warned many of them that **reading, revising and practising questions** will also be necessary! The other piece of good news is that the scaffolding will be taken down over the half-term holiday; we have been making use of it to carry out other maintenance work on our beautiful building which is now complete. Finally, have a lovely holiday and have some relaxation even though we will be running interventions for Year 11 and 13 examination students.



## History students meet Holocaust survivors at Jewish Museum

Last month, 50 Year 9 history students (including me) visited the Jewish Museum. Since we are learning about Hitler and his brutal campaign against Europe's Jews, we decided this visit would be worthwhile.

We met a woman who asked us what our definition of the holocaust was. She then helped us produce a really detailed answer: "The attempted extermination of all of Europe's Jews at the hands of the Nazis from the years 1939-1945 through concentration and death camps." Then we heard about Leon Greenman's story; how he was a British survivor of the holocaust and how he'd tell anyone who listened his story. He had set up the holocaust exhibit at the museum and went all over the country and beyond, telling children his story. Then, while half the group went off to the holocaust exhibit, the rest of us gathered in a circle and held up the Star of David that Hitler forced the Jews to embroider on all outer clothing. The star was a sickly yellow, which could mean many things (Jews were a disease, they loved gold etc....), and on it was written



"Jude" in Hebrew font, mocking the sacred font of the Jews.

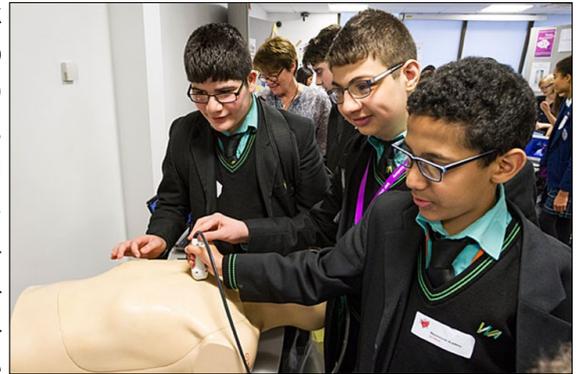
They also showed us Nazi passports which were stamped with a big 'J' for Jew. They were the passports of two women, one called Holly Deutschland and another called Edith. Even though they were completely different people and Holly's family was THAT assimilated that their surname meant "Germany", Hitler was determined to segregate and isolate the Jews. He gave the women the middle name "Sara" and boys "Israel".

After lunch, we met holocaust survivor, Zahava Kanarek. With her daughter, Hephzibah, she went through her book "Fragments of a lost childhood". It chronicles Zahava's childhood, her imprisonment in Bergen-Belsen and how her mother (at her own risk) kept letters, photographs and documents, all well hidden to the extent that they were only discovered in 2001, after her mother's death. Zahava also said about how her brother, Jehudi, at just 16 months old, was taken in by the Dutch Resistance in December 1942 and they never met again until 1946. Finally, she gave away autographed copies of her book, at a bargain price of £8 (believe me, I checked).

By Nadira Kossar, Year 8

## Exploring careers in science at Science for Survival

Last week a group of Year 9 students attended Science for Survival's science conference at the University of Westminster to learn about some of the amazing careers available in the huge field of science.



Students got to try out wheelchairs; look at blood, guts and gore; and battled to be the fastest team to put the organs back into a body (in the correct place!). Well done to Carl and Feysal, the overall winners, who beat a great many contestants from other Westminster schools!

All students were fantastic and asked some great questions. Particular congratulations to Amina, Alejandra, Amer Al Foqahaa, Isir, Laura, Omar, Rayna and Yousif, who worked on a water purification project that was presented during the conference. Amina, Isir, Alejandra, Feysal and Anjum were the brave ones who were then chosen to present, having to talk in a large auditorium in front of four judges, the other competing schools and spectators!

By Miss Bull, Teacher of science

## What's on

**FREE IT classes for parents** -

Thursdays 4 - 6pm; WA Library

**FREE Art classes for parents and community**

**FREE Adult English classes** - every Wednesday

To express interest in any of the above, please email Mr Gothard: [AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:AGothard@westminsteracademy.biz)

**Term 5 ends** - Friday 22 May

**Spring bank holiday** - Monday 25 May

**Staff INSET** - Monday 1 - Tuesday 2 June

**Term 6 begins** - Wednesday 3 June

**Progress Review Day** - Friday 12 June

