

# The Distance Learner

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## Have you heard the cuckoo yet?

For most of us the first sign of summer is when we hear the cuckoo. The cuckoo visits Ireland between the months of April and August each year and then flies off to the warmer climate of Africa for the other eight months of the year. The old poem about the cuckoo tells us this:

In April, come he will.  
In May, he sings all day.  
In June, he changes his tune.  
In July, he prepares to fly.  
In August, go he must.

Although we have all heard the cuckoo, very few of us have seen one. She is quite a big bird with a blue/grey head, black and white striped chest, a long tail and wide pointed wings. However, the most remarkable thing about the cuckoo is that she is in fact very selfish.



A cuckoo never builds her own nest. When the time comes for her to lay her eggs she seeks out other birds' nests, waits for an opportunity when the bird is away from the nest then throws out some of that bird's own eggs and lays her own egg. She will do this in several nests.

The cuckoo tricks the other bird into not only hatching the new baby cuckoos but feeding them as her own. Bird watchers have said that even when the new cuckoos are born they will sometimes push the other baby chicks out of the nest to make more room for themselves.

It has been noted that the cuckoo has become scarce in many parts of Ireland and Britain in

the last few years. Many believe that this is due to the use of insect sprays used in farming and gardening which have killed off many of the insects and caterpillars that the cuckoo feeds on.

## Ireland's floating wind farm

The ESB recently announced that it will invest €5 billion in the building of an off shore floating wind farm to be located on the Atlantic Ocean. Two wind turbines will be situated 16km and 20km off the Clare and Kerry coastlines.

Electricity will be generated by the high wind speeds on the Atlantic and using technology will then be transported and stored in the Clare based Moneypoint station. Moneypoint currently burns coal to provide a quarter of Ireland's electricity supply. The change from coal to wind will greatly reduce Ireland's carbon emissions



and lead to a cleaner environment.

This off-shore wind farm will be the first of its kind to be built on the Atlantic Ocean and will take several years to build. It is expected that by 2028 it will begin production and, in a few years, generate enough electricity to supply one and a half million homes.

In addition to supplying electricity, the wind energy can be used to generate the gas hydrogen which in the future can be used as fuel for buses and lorries. This will again reduce the air emissions from diesel and petrol.

The construction of the wind energy plant will be a huge project and is expected to create several hundred jobs.

## When to use an apostrophe

An apostrophe looks like this ' .

1. We use it to show ownership, (use 's) .

Examples:

Mrs. Browne's cat, Mary's dog, the boy's bike, the doctor's hat.

When using it with plurals, place the apostrophe after the s

Examples: The girls' bikes. My parents' house. The lorries' wheels.

2. We use it in surnames that contain O. O'Brien, O'Donnell

3. We use it when writing the time 3 o'clock, six o'clock

4. We use it to shorten words ( the same way as we say the word)

Remember!

Instead of using 2 words we join the 2 words and use ' instead of the missing letters

did not	didn't
do not	don't
can not	can't
does not	doesn't
could not	couldn't

have not	haven't
had not	hadn't
are not	aren't
is not	isn't
I will not	won't

I am	I'm
you are	you're
we are	we're
they are	they're
you have	you've

I have	I've
he is	he's
It is	it's
we will	we'll
I will	I'll

Shorten these words by placing the apostrophe in the correct place.

(The first one is done for you).

He does not run quickly. doesn't

I did not see him. \_\_\_\_\_

She could not sing. \_\_\_\_\_

He is not happy. \_\_\_\_\_

I will not go there. \_\_\_\_\_

I am a good cook. \_\_\_\_\_

I have a bike. \_\_\_\_\_

We are going out. \_\_\_\_\_

They are drenched. \_\_\_\_\_

Place the apostrophe in the correct place.

1. Johns bike is parked outside.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The mans voice is very loud.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. My car is bigger than Marys.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. All the girls coats are on the floor.

\_\_\_\_\_

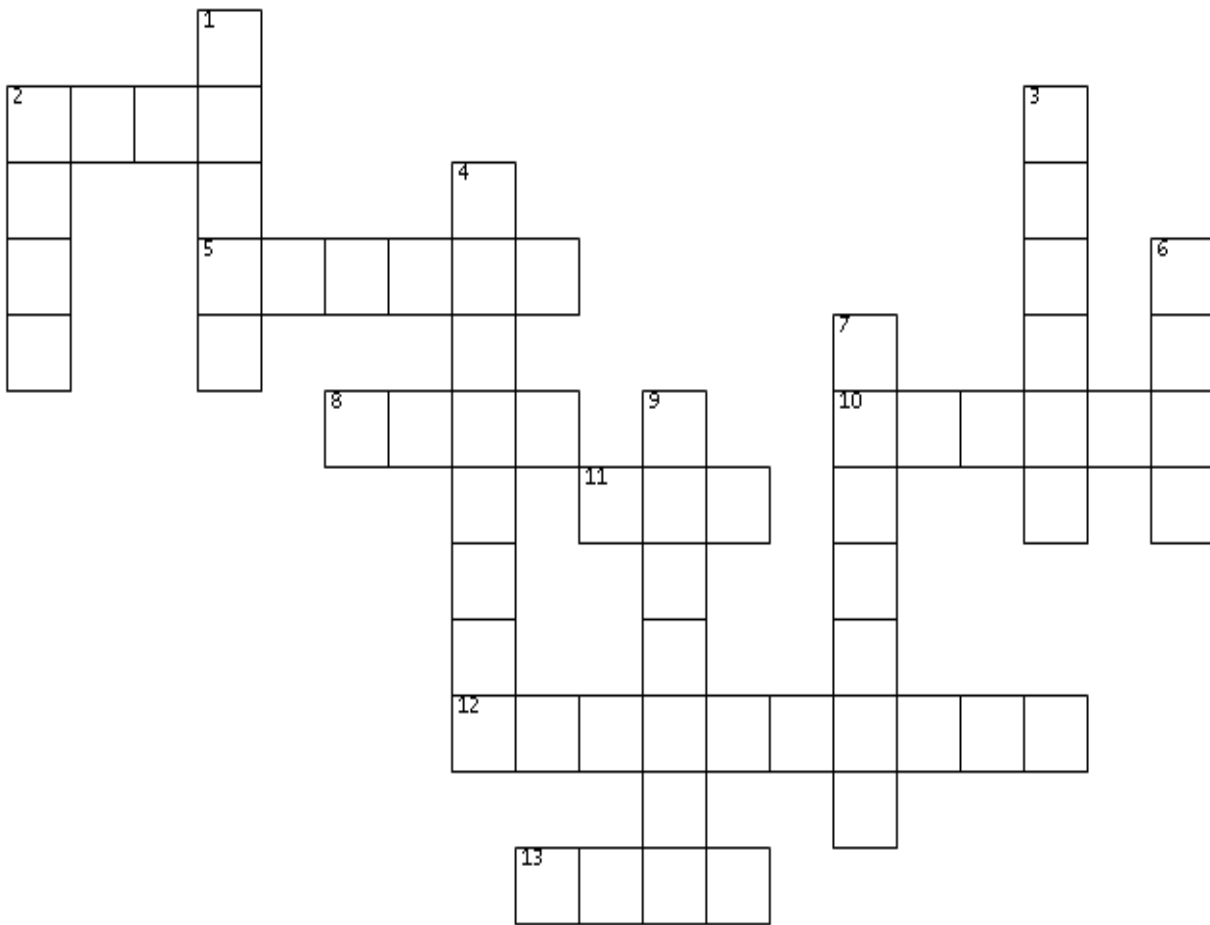
5. All the lorries tyres are new.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The Murphys house is for sale.

\_\_\_\_\_

Crossword  
All the answers are about summer



ACROSS

2. The longest day of the year is in this summer month (4)
5. You only hear this bird in the summer (6)
8. We like to do this in the sea (4)
10. Sun tan \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
11. Farmers make this from grass in summer (3)
12. A popular summer fruit (10)
13. A sweet smelling flower we see in many gardens in summertime (4)

DOWN

1. People like to visit here for sea and sun (5)
2. May, June and \_\_\_\_\_ are the summer months (4)
3. An outdoor meal p\_ \_ n\_ \_ (6)
4. We like to take 2 weeks of these in the summer (8)
6. Children make castles out of this on the beach (4)
7. Don't forget your sun \_\_\_\_\_ to protect your eyes (7)
9. People like to wear these on their feet in the summer (7)

# Maths



Steak € 12 per kg



Apples  
6 for € 2.40



Bananas  
€ 3.60 per kg



Tomatoes  
€ 2.40 per kg



Salmon fillet € 2.50 each  
Buy one get 1 free



Bread rolls  
3 for €1.50



Low fat milk  
1 litre € 1.60



3litre bottle €3.00



Ham  
€ 6.40 per kg



potatoes  
5kg bag for € 5.20  
1 kg for €1.50



yogurt 6 pack €4.20  
or 80c each



Grapes  
€6.20 per kg

## Work out the cost of this family shopping list

3 kg steak \_\_\_\_\_

1 dozen apples \_\_\_\_\_

7kg potatoes \_\_\_\_\_

3 x 3 litres milk \_\_\_\_\_

12 yogurts \_\_\_\_\_

2 x 1 litre low fat milk \_\_\_\_\_

1 ½ kg ham \_\_\_\_\_

1¾ kg Tomatoes \_\_\_\_\_

½ kg grapes \_\_\_\_\_

12 bread rolls \_\_\_\_\_

¾ kg bananas \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

6 salmon fillets \_\_\_\_\_

answer

€102.70