

23 Sentences: using adverbs and conjunctions

From *The White Mountains*

**The Tripods have invaded earth!
Henry and Beanpole are trying to
escape from them.**

Seconds later it was in sight, coming round the base of the hill and, unmistakably, climbing towards us. It was some miles away, but coming on fast – much faster, I thought, than its usual rate of progress.

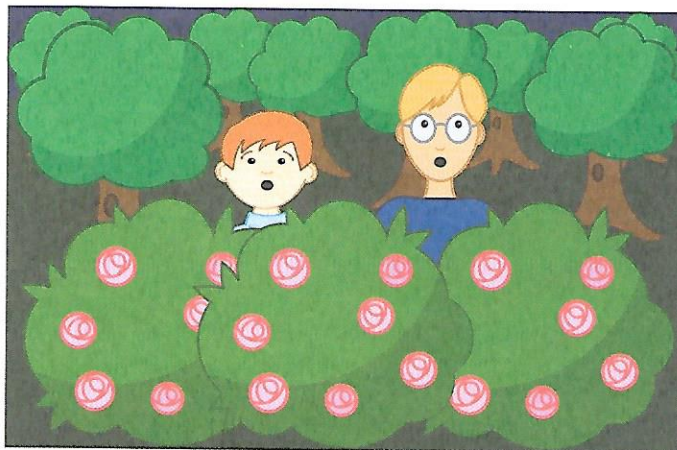
Henry said, 'The bushes ...'

He did not need to say any more; we were all three running. What he had indicated offered one of the few bits of cover on the hillside, the only one within reasonable reach. It was a small thicket of bushes, growing to about shoulder height. We flung ourselves in amongst them, burrowed into the centre, and crouched down there ...

I felt the ground shiver under me, and again and again with still greater force. Then one of the Tripod's legs plunged across the blue, and I saw the hemisphere, black against the arc of the sky, and tried to dig myself down into the earth. At that moment the howling stopped. In the silence, I heard a different, whistling sound of something whipping terribly fast through the air and glancing fearfully, saw two or three bushes uprooted and tossed away.

Beside me, Beanpole said: 'It has us. It knows we are here. It can pull the bushes out until we are plainly seen.'

John Christopher



Chat challenge

What is an adverb? Can you find examples in the passage?

What kind of word does an adverb describe?

What is a conjunction? Find examples in the passage.

How do they help to make your sentences longer and more interesting?



Comprehension

- 1) How far away was the Tripod?
- 2) Where was the only place to hide?
- 3) Describe how they tried to hide themselves in the bushes.
- 4) How can Henry tell that the Tripods were really large from where he was hiding?
- 5) What words tell you that Henry was looking upwards from the bushes at the monster?
- 6) What was making the 'whistling' sound? What was the Tripod trying to do?



Objective focus

- 1) Identify and list the adverbs used in this passage. Which verbs do they describe? What extra information do they add? How would the meaning be different if you took them away?
- 2) Adverbs can show how ideas in paragraphs fit together. Use these in sentences.

Adverbs to show 'where'	Here, there, outside
Adverbs to show 'when'	Now, yesterday, later
Adverbs to show 'time'	Often, never, regularly
- 3) Look carefully at the adverbs in this sentence: 'I heard a different, whistling sound of something whipping terribly fast through the air and glancing fearfully, saw two or three bushes ...' If you took them away, what would be missing about your knowledge of the character?



Links to writing

- 1) Combine these simple sentences to make a more interesting passage. Use conjunctions and then add adverbs to give more detail. Remember, you can change the structure of the sentences to make them more interesting.
The rocket dropped from the clouds. The clouds were thick. They were hovering a few miles from the planet. The rocket gave a jerk. It crashed. It was resting at a dangerous angle over a cliff. Its tail fin was broken.
- 2) Continue with the story of Henry and Beanpole. How do they escape from the Tripods? Make your sentences longer and more interesting by using suitable conjunctions. When you use a verb, think about whether you can add an adverb to provide extra information about a character or what is happening.