

## School Fears

My name is Tom.

I didn't learn when I was in school because I didn't think I had to. I was good with my hands and could make money regardless of learning.

How wrong I was. For years I struggled with writing and spelling avoiding it at all costs. In 2014, I made that call to NALA.

My first experience of adult learning was nerve wrecking. Now six months later my fears have reduced. With every week that goes by my confidence has increased. I no longer panic when asked to write my name and address.

My tutor is very patient. All the staff are very understanding. In April 2015 I attended the NALA Student Day. It was a great day. I did learn from the workshops but what I learned most of all is that I am not alone. I have a long road ahead but I am getting there.

Education is so important, don't waste it.

I am happy I made that call to NALA.

Tom

Worksheet

School Fears

Select the correct use of:

Doesn't (Does not) and Don't.(Do not)

Circle the correct word in each sentence below.

1. Education is so important (doesn't, don't) waste it
2. Why (doesn't, don't) Mary have her hair cut?
3. Mary and Jack (doesn't, don't) get on
4. The mat (doesn't, don't) cover the entire floor.
5. Our dog (doesn't, don't) have a tail.
6. (Doesn't, Don't) go into that room.
7. Mr. Murphy likes to play golf, but Mr. Green (doesn't, don't).
8. Helen (doesn't, don't) make friends easily.
9. I (doesn't, don't) know which outfit to wear on Saturday night.
10. Mary said "(doesn't, don't) spend all your money in the one shop".
11. (Doesn't, Don't) mix your drinks when you go out.
12. The boy in the red shirt and blue jeans (doesn't, don't) look old enough to drive.
13. Stuffing (doesn't, don't) agree with me.
14. That shop (doesn't, don't) even sell milk.
15. The Taoiseach and his Ministers (doesn't, don't) meet until tomorrow.
16. Why (doesn't, don't) Dan ring the bell?
17. The children (doesn't, don't) know where to play.
18. That dinner (doesn't, don't) taste good.
19. (Doesn't, Don't) the caretaker of the schools live near by

## The Lost Boy

21 years ago myself and my family went on holiday to Wales Pwllheli. It was like a Butlins camp. My son asked myself and my husband could his friend Ciaran come. We said yes. My sister and a few friends came too. When we got on the boat the kids wanted to go to the games room so we told them to come back in an hour. When they came back Ciaran was not with them. We asked where he was and the boys said they hadn't seen him in a while. I started to panic there and then. The search began.

The captain announced his name over the intercom again and again. Three quarters of an hour later there was still no sign of him. I had visions of going back to his Ma to tell her I had lost her son. I was hysterical. The whole ship was looking for him, including my brother in law, Arthur. Out of the corner of his eye he spotted a movement in a pile of coats. People were sitting on a long bench and had thrown their coats behind them. When he went to investigate he saw a pair of feet sticking out. Panic over. Ciaran was very pale. When I asked him what had happened he said he had felt sick in the games room so he went to look for the toilet. When he couldn't find one he sat down on the bench. That was the last thing, he remembered so I presume he fainted and rolled in behind the bench. People must have thrown their coats behind them without seeing him until he was completely covered. We were all so happy and relieved to see him. We went on to have a fantastic time on holiday. But I would never ever take someone else's child away on holiday with me again.

Joan Geraghty

**Work Sheets**

**The Lost Boy**

Using      Too

Two      To

Too

If you know when to use **too** it will make things easier for you.

**Too meaning:**    also   besides    excessively    extra

'She felt awful too (also)' or 'I can see you too (also)'.

The weather is very cold and it is raining too.

I have eaten too much

**Two meaning    the number**

You have two sisters, Mary and Ann.

Will you get two tickets for the cinema later?

There are two buses leaving at the same time.

**Now the most common to.**

To    Can be used before a verb or about places

I am bringing your sister to the show.

Will we go to the shopping centre.

How far is it to the school?

**Work Sheets**

**The Lost Boy**

Circle the correct word in the following sentences:

I would like (to,too,two) go on holiday (to,too,two) America

There are (to,too,two) people going by train, will you be going (to,too,two)?.

Where will that path lead you (to,too,two)?

If John is going (to,too,two) the show you will need (to,too,two) more tickets.

Mary asked (to,too,two) people (to,too,two) go (to,too,two).

“We don’t need (to,too,two) buy that right now”

I have (to,too,two) hands and (to,too,two) feet

## Irish Football

I played and followed football for a long time. I followed Drumcondra in the League of Ireland and went to all the International Matches. I was always hoping one day Ireland would qualify for the World Cup.

In the 1982 World Cup Ireland lost to Spain in a playoff, In 1987 Jack Charlton became the manager of Ireland. Charlton had been manager of Middlesbrough and Sheffield Wednesday. In 1988 we qualified for the European Championship. We were drawn with England, Holland and Russia,. We beat England 1-0, we drew with Russia and we lost to Holland. Ireland qualified for the World Cup in Italy in 1990 in the group we were drawn with Holland, England again and Egypt. We drew the three games and qualified for the last 16 in the tournament.

The next match was drawn with Romania. We beat them 5-4 on penalties. Up next was Italy and we lost 1-0. Ireland qualified for the 1994 World Cup. We got drawn with Norway, Mexico and Italy. We beat Italy, lost to Mexico and drew with Norway and qualified for the last sixteen, where we lost to Holland.

I never liked the style of football played by Ireland under Charlton, but you could not argue with the results he got.

Tony

Work Sheet

Irish Football

Q1 How many countries are named in the passage?

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Q2 What League of Ireland team did Tony follow?

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Q3 In what year did Jack Charlton become manager of Ireland?

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Q4 What did Ireland qualify for in 1990?

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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Alphabetical Order

In the story Tony tells us about many countries. Select the countries from the piece, write them out and then put them into alphabetical order.

### **My Dublin in the 50's**

At the start of the fifties I was going to school. I left school in October 1952.

I lived in Cabra West on the north side of Dublin. We could play football on the road because there were no cars on the road. I would go into town on the bus with my mother, and then we would get the tram up to Mount Street to see her brother.

On Fridays we would leave school and go to the Plaza to see a film. It was only 4d in. When the picture was over we would walk home, up through Phibsborough and up the Cabra Road.

One summer I went on a tour. I got a train from Dublin to Galway. In Galway we got a bus tour to Connemara. We also went to a place called Cong in Co. Mayo where the film "The Quiet Man" was filmed. The film was made around Ashford Castle.

In the 50's you could go to the Metropole and see a film, afterwards you could go for tea in the restaurant and then you could dance the night away in the ballroom, all under the one roof.

On Saturday we would go to the Theatre Royal and see a variety show and a film. You could also have a beer in the bar. The Royal was one of the best theatres in Europe.

Tony



Word Search My Dublin in the 50s

U C K D S E R T A E H T J K R  
S K F U S S B P S L O D K M E  
E K M O O R L L A B V Z R A H  
T K V A N J L Y D A Y I H S T  
I V A R I E T Y I A F A D N O  
F P C S J J F O O T B A L L M  
I L T E P Y S F B R Q X V Y X  
F A W C G Z G I C A W Y O L M  
R Z X O K E M L P M L V K B C  
L A V L L X S M U U B G Z Y X  
W B C R E S T A U R A N T C I  
B C K C O C V G F U T B R Q N  
X R O O F X N R Q Y H A K Q V  
P Z A Q I H M A W G P E I N P  
N F N H J Z D K D L A Y M D Z

BALLROOM  
DANCE  
FIFITES  
FILM  
FOOTBALL  
MOTHER  
PLAZA  
RESTAURANT  
ROOF  
THEATRES  
TRAM  
VARIETY

## A Trip to Liverpool

I am going on a trip to Liverpool on the 18th June for a week. I am flying with Ryanair and I am looking forward to the flight.

My brother lives over there so I am looking forward to seeing him. I am going on an Open Top Bus Tour of Liverpool and also hoping to go on the ferry across the Mersey.

The highlight of my trip will be a tour of Anfield, the home of Liverpool my favourite team.

David Gerehty

### Worksheet                      A Trip to Liverpool

When is David going on his trip? \_\_\_\_\_

Will David be flying with Aer Lingus or Ryan Aer \_\_\_\_\_

What relation of David's lives in Liverpool? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is he planning on visiting while there? \_\_\_\_\_

What is Anfield? \_\_\_\_\_

## My First Job

My father died 1945. I was only 10 years of age and I was the eldest. When I was 14 I had to go to work to help my mother out. My first two jobs were not very well paid so I only stayed in them for a year or so. The first job I got that I felt I had prospects, was in a saw mills. I was led to believe that I could be a sawyer, (a person who cuts wood) or a woodcutting machinist.

I started to work in the saw mills. There were a lot of men working there and a lot of machines. It was a very noisy place there were no ear muffs then so when I got home after a day's work I could not hear anything. To this day I think I suffer from bad hearing but the money was good and jobs were hard to find so I stayed working there.

I learned a lot about the different types of timber and what it was used for. I was put working with a man named John. He worked the kiln were we dried all the hard woods. It wasn't noisy there and John was very good to work with, I learned a lot from him, I suppose I just settled down working in this part of the mill. When I enquired about an apprenticeship I found out I would lose a lot of money by doing it so I was not prepared to do this, (silly me), I stayed where I was and this was a big mistake. I was getting older and they would not leave two men working the kiln. I was moved back to the mill. I now worked on a conveyer belt at the back of a six cutter machine making floor boards. This machine worked nonstop, it was very hard work. When I was 21 years old there was no room for me so I was let go.

When I was let go from the mill I had to sign on at the labour exchange, It was my first time on the labour and it was a big shock to see so many men looking for work. It was a terrible place. I hoped I was not going to be there for long but I didn't hold out a lot of hope. I was there for about a month when I got a letter from my old boss to come down to see him. They had a new yard and

they were going to be importing a lot of timber. They were taking on a gang of temporary labourers to work there so I had a job if I wanted it.

I started in the new yard. The men who were working with me had worked as temporary labourers for many years and they knew all about carrying and piling timber. It was very hard work but when I got my wages at the end of the week I could not believe what I got, I never had so much money before.

While carrying timber your shoulder would be cut to bits and you went home every day just ready to fall into bed but after a week you got used to it. One of the men taught me how to pile the wood, it was still hard work and a lot better than carrying timber. It was winter and very cold standing on top of a pile of timber but it had to be done.

After working in the yard for about two months, the yard foreman said I was to start working with a checker down on the docks. One of the men I was working with said I was to jump at the chance of getting out of the yard as they were all going to be knocked off soon. This was good advice, a week later they were all let go. This was the way casual workers lived, moving from job to job, maybe that's why they got so well paid and before I left they told me to make sure I got cargo money. When I got my wages I thought Christmas had come early, those men knew all the tricks!!

The following Monday I arrived in Alexandra Basin. I had never been there before. The harbour police had to check me in and told me where to find Patty B. I was told to go down to the Ocean Pier where he was working. When I did find him he was working. After work I found him in a checker's hut and would you believe it he was brewing up a pot of tea! We became friends straight away. Pat was in the docks to check all timber cargo coming in for the company. There were ships bringing in timber from all over the world, a lot of them from Russia with such big cargoes that their decks were under the sea. The big blue funnel ships with part cargoes of hard woods had to be unloaded by the dockers and put into compounds from where it had to be checked and

sorted into sizes and types before being loaded and sent off to the mills and timber yards. I spent almost a year working with Pat on Ocean Pier.

Ocean Pier was a very busy place with cranes unloading ships and dockers moving cargo on trolleys on the dock side. This was the early 50's and there were no containers and no roll on/roll off ferries, the dockers 'were all powerful'!! Pat advised me about a few things while I was working down there, I had to become like the three brass monkeys, hear, see and say nothing and that's just the way it was. I did my job and kept my nose out of everything that did not concern me. In time I was accepted. I soon found I could buy or get many things like boots, clothes, food, drink and many other things. Now it was winter and it was no place for the brass monkey to be, it was freezing! There was a canteen for dock workers, it was run by two women and you could get a lovely mug of hot soup there, just the thing on a cold day.

Remember I said it could be dangerous working in the Basin, well the company rented a small compound in the docks. This was used for holding timber before it could be loaded and sent to the mill. This compound was jammed between a power station on one side and huge petrol tanks on the other side and the Calor Gas Plant on another side. If anything had happened I don't know how we would have got away. As spring arrived it was getting a little warmer. The docks were a lot busier, more ships and more cargo. I began to learn a lot about Pat and his life style, he was only 30 years old, he was not married and he lived on his own. He had worked for the company since he was a boy. Every year he went off on holidays to a different country in Europe, he was a well-travelled man and he had seen quite a lot of Europe. I also found out he had a degree from UCD, at that time this was some achievement, he told me he had been a shop steward and that the union had paid his college fees, how lucky was he! Pat also said he was not going to stay in this job, as soon as his papers were fixed up he would be going to America. Pat suggested that I would be mad to stay in this job and I should go back to school and get a better education. I just didn't listen, I leaned after just how right Pat had been but for now I was working and making a lot of money.

Summer had arrived and between the sun and the wind you could get a lovely sun tan on Ocean Pier. Along with the many cargo ships there were some visiting naval ships and if we had time we could go aboard. Pat could speak some Spanish so he could talk to some of the crew. They asked if we would like to come aboard but we had a lot of work to do. The ship was going to be there for three days and one evening we went aboard. We got a tour of the ship and Pat made a lot of friends. When we came into work the next morning the ship was gone but I did see her many years later when Nellie, my wife and I were going to Wales on holiday. The captain of the ship we were on announced that if we would like to see something special to come on deck. There she was, under full sail, beautiful and lovely to see. What a memory to have.

After nine months I was back where I had started. I didn't like it but that was how it was. All the men were back. The timber Pat and I had sent to the mill was to be machined into tongued and grooved flooring and we had to take it from the back of the machine and pile it into the shed to dry. It took us about a week to pile the lot and then we were told they were letting us go. So it was back to the labour exchange again, I spent two months there and I never saw Alexandra Basin or worked with timber again. Pat, being a permanent worker was not let go with the rest of us. He did go away to America and I used to write to him every now and then, he got married over there and when I did see him many years later he had a big job in a phone company.

That was one year in my life.

Noel Green

**Word Search**

**My First Job**

X S X E S T X H M L N U L U M  
R G I S U I M E L W E X Y U F  
U H A H Y C T P V A F M S M S  
O R N N V E V O O M B P U F H  
B A Q I T H G R U O B A L A W  
R C I S B E U N C U N D L U R  
A L X A X B J B A L P E N S N  
H O P B H L T E A H X W I Z N  
R C I U O A B S H A C O E W D  
R E T B N I Y U N R Y X I E Q  
E A V L Q H L D I D Z A E G F  
C N M F E B R Q X K X L F L E  
W F X D L A Y E F E C I L O P  
S K J M O N K E Y B P G L A W  
U W J F G P Y O J B Y R Y A D

ALEXANDRA  
EXCHANGE  
BASIN  
BRASS  
HARBOUR  
LABOUR  
MONKEY  
OCEAN  
POLICE

**Work Sheets**

**My First Job**

Making smaller words out of a bigger word

How many small words of two or more letters can you make out of the following pairs of words?

Ocean Pier

Alexandra Basin



**Work Sheets**

**My First Job**

Using the letters in this word, APPRENTICESHIP can you find the answers to each clue?

(Hint, the number of letters in each word is in the brackets at the end of each clue)

A P P R E N T I C E S H I P

You can sail in this (4) \_\_\_\_\_

You pay this if you are in a flat (4) \_\_\_\_\_

A seed in an apple is called a (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Twinkle twinkle little (4) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you sit on? (5) \_\_\_\_\_

To catch a mouse you set a (4) \_\_\_\_\_

You can slip on this (3) \_\_\_\_\_

A type of hat (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Another word for money (4) \_\_\_\_\_

You can drive this (3) \_\_\_\_\_

This animal lays eggs (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Put the following words into alphabetical order**

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

yard      dockers      mills      timber

gas      cranes      salmon      basin

**My name is Thomas Murphy**

I was born in Dublin.

I have three children.

Their ages are ten, seventeen and twenty four.

I like fishing.

I walk a lot.

I started school in September. I come to class twice a week on my bike.

I have my coffee before I come to class.

I have made friends.

In school I am doing very well in class and enjoy it very much.

Thomas Murphy

Work Sheet

My Name is Thomas Murphy

My name is Thomas Murphy

Cloze Exercise: Fill in the missing words from the following words

fishing	friends	September	three	walk
Dublin	school	coffee	seventeen	class

I was born in \_\_\_\_\_.

I have \_\_\_\_\_ children.

Their ages are ten, \_\_\_\_\_ and twenty four.

I like \_\_\_\_\_.

I \_\_\_\_\_ a lot.

I started school in \_\_\_\_\_. I come to class twice a week on my bike.

I have my \_\_\_\_\_ before I come to class.

I have made \_\_\_\_\_.

In \_\_\_\_\_ I am doing very well in \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoy it very much.

## My Kitchen

In December 2014 I decided to treat myself to a new kitchen. I had been planning this for some time as I wanted to get one of the new kitchens with modern perspex walls. The planning was done and I had picked out my presses and colour scheme. I was really looking forward to getting the work done.

Over the weeks the job seemed to drag on and on, my old kitchen had been taken out and the walls were tiled. I could see the transformation and it was looking well. After Christmas the job slowed down a lot. The workers were in my home less and less and the job was at a standstill. I was very disappointed. I had my new table and chairs still in the plastic coverings leaning up against the sitting room wall.

It is now May and my new kitchen is still not finished, this as I am sure you can understand is very inconvenient for me and my family. I enjoy having my children and grandchildren around for dinner on Sundays. My favourite time of day is when I am relaxing in my kitchen on my own having a nice cup of coffee thinking about things I am planning to do.

Ann

**Worksheet**

**My Kitchen**

Put the following words into sentences:

Treat

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---

Scheme

---

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Transformation

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Standstill

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Disappointed

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## The Garden

This morning I went out the front door and I noticed the tree outside was starting to bloom, at last spring is here. I have not been out in the garden since last year, there are a lot of jobs I will have to do now. I love gardening and Nell and I spent hours digging and planting flowers. This time of the year we would go out to the nursery to look for new plants but it's not eh same any more with Nell not being here. I don't have the heart for the garden now. My daughter said to me the other day how about us going out to look for some bulbs to plant in the garden, I am still thinking about it, she said by this time next week it might be too late. You know she is probably right so maybe I should get on with it, but it's very hard.

Well I did make an effort to go out into the garden last week. I can see that there is a lot of work to be done. The first thing I must do is to cut the grass. I will have to see if I will need new blades for the lawn mower. It's still very cold and the grass is very wet, so I think I will just prune the roses and any other plants that need to be pruned.

In the past two years the end of the garden has gone wild. I will have to do more cutting back than I thought. I began to cut here and there when one of the black birds flew out of the bush, they must be nesting there, so I think I will leave the bushes for another day!

Noel

## Work Sheet

## The Garden

Rewrite this passage putting in the missing words:

Well I did make an \_\_\_\_\_ to go out into the \_\_\_\_\_ last week. I can see that \_\_\_\_\_ is a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to be done. The first thing I must \_\_\_\_\_ is to cut the grass. I \_\_\_\_\_ have to see if I will \_\_\_\_\_ new blades for the lawn \_\_\_\_\_. It's still very cold and the \_\_\_\_\_ is very wet, so I think I will just \_\_\_\_\_ the roses and any other \_\_\_\_\_ that need to be pruned.

### **My Portuguese Holiday**

I will never forget Friday the 14th March 2015. It was eleven o'clock in the morning when my mobile rang. It was my friend Glen. "Hi Teddy," he said. "Why do you ask I said." It's Eric's stag weekend, it's in Portugal and before you answer, you are all paid for. All you need is your spending money. The boys have all chipped in for you." What could I say to that only a great "Yes!" It was for four days from Friday to Monday. I was very happy with that.

There were thirty two guys altogether. They had hired a minibus and they called to my house at 5 a.m. There were loud cheers from all the boys on arrival at the airport. We checked in our bags, ready to set off. We were all in high spirits and the flight time seemed to pass in minutes rather than hours. We travelled in two separate groups.

On arrival in Portugal we checked in at the hotel, dropped our bags and headed for the Lord Nelson Pub where we arranged to meet the other boys. When we got there we realised that something was wrong as the other boys looked upset. Eric told us what had happened. The day before, they had met some girls from the North of Ireland, one of whom was the daughter of a well-known Republican Politician who shall remain anonymous. The girls were all very friendly and polite so they decided to go to a disco where they really enjoyed themselves.

The boys left the girls home and then returned to their own hotel and that's where the fun started! The boys began to settle down for the night in their separate rooms when they were disturbed by loud banging on all their doors. It was the Portuguese Special Branch police. The boys had obviously been under surveillance because of their association with the girls from Northern Ireland. All hell broke loose! The boys were all lined up in the corridor. Their baggage scattered to the four winds. They were all questioned very aggressively as to the female company they had been keeping. No prizes for knowing who! Apparently they were looking for firearms or any other paraphernalia of a subversive kind. Thankfully nothing was found and after two hours questioning they were allowed to go.