

Jack's School Journey

The first thing I had to do was find my shoes. They'd last been seen heading out of the back door clamped in the mouth of our spaniel, Sam. As I didn't fancy going to school in my socks, I ventured into the garden to start the search.

Luckily, I fell over the shoes right outside the back door. This was lucky because we were walking today. In fact, Mum had informed me, we would be walking to school every day from now on and 'keeping fit in the process' apparently.

Shoes safely on my feet, I found Mum waiting for me at the front door with an umbrella and two waterproof jackets, 'just in case'. It was a clear, sunny day and boiling hot but as she said, "You never know!" Well, no-one would ever accuse us of not being prepared!

We set off up our street, turned left and then headed towards the hill which leads to school. As we walked along, it was nice to chat to Mum about what I was looking forward to that day and also remember to tell her that I would be staying after school for football practice! I always forgot to mention things when we were in the car because the journey was quick and also Mum couldn't chat very easily when she was driving as she had to concentrate.

A lady was just reaching the other side of the road using the pedestrian crossing when Mum and I got to the kerb. The green man was flashing so we pressed the button again and waited.

"I'm just thinking," said Mum "why don't we have green women? Why just green men? I mean, when you think about it, it's not fair, is it?"

"Errmm..." I said. Luckily I was saved from thinking of an answer because just then my Mum's friend, Mrs Roberts, came out of her house in front of us. We chatted until we went off in different directions; Mum and I to go up the hill that leads to school and Mrs R to her bus stop.

We weren't even halfway up when I noticed two things; we could already hear the shouting and laughing coming from the school yard and also that all the cars on the road alongside us were starting to slow down. As they slowed, I recognised a couple of my friends who lived a bit further down my street, peering out at me and Mum. They waved to us out of the back windows as their cars gradually crept past. About half a minute later, Mum and I caught up again as they were now trapped in a queue of cars crawling towards the school gates.

"Here's a question for you, Jack", said Mum. "When can a walker go faster than a car?"

"I don't know, Mum. When can a walker go faster than a car?"

"When they're on the school run!"

Luckily, I was saved from another joke because just then we reached our lollipop lady, Mrs Barker.

"Hello there, Jack!" she said. "You getting a bit of exercise today then?"

"Hi, Mrs Barker. Yes, we are"

Schools GoSmarter

Mrs Barker put out her lollipop stick and stopped the slow-moving traffic. It looked very busy as we crossed the road. With a worried frown, Mrs Barker carefully watched some children getting out of their cars while they were still waiting in the queue of traffic. She could see that they thought they were going to be late for school. Mum and I could smell the fumes coming from all the exhaust pipes as we crossed the road and could hear yelling coming from a couple of the cars where parents were shouting after their kids, waving forgotten permission slips and packed lunch boxes.

Before I knew it, I was in the school yard. Normally at this time in the morning, Mum would have to drive around the block a few times trying to find a spot to park the car. Sometimes I could even be a bit late for class, so it was great to leave the queue of cars behind, wave to Mum and run through the gates.

A couple of my friends came running, looking surprised to see me.

"How did you get here so fast?"

I laughed as I said, "Because I walked!"



Jack's School Journey - Questions

Section A

1. Where did Jack find his shoes?
2. What did Jack's Mum bring with them on their walk to school?
3. What did Jack think was nice about walking along to school with his Mum?
4. Why was Mrs Barker, the lollipop lady, worried when she helped Jack and his Mum cross the road?
5. What two things did the children getting out of their parents' cars sometimes forget to take with them?

Section B

1. Which verb in the first paragraph means the same as 'headed out'?
2. What did Mum mean in the third paragraph when she said: 'You never know!'?
3. Find three clues in the text that tell us that the traffic wasn't moving at normal speed.
4. What other ways of travelling might Jack choose to make his journey to school?
5. Write a short paragraph to sum up the benefits of walking to school instead of travelling by car.

Write your own version of **Jack's School Journey**, including any adventures you can think of that might happen on the way to or from school. Perhaps you might include something that's happened to you! Remember to say how Jack is travelling, and introduce other characters he meets on the way. Don't forget to include dialogue!