



- 1 Zed was an alien from the planet Zircon.

The first thing you noticed about Zed was his size — he was larger than the largest human. His hair looked like a wide Mohawk that stretched from his brow to the back of his large, lumpy skull. His skin was a pale and sickly green and constantly glistened with wetness. It was also stretched tight over his

head, to the point where he had no wrinkles to give away his age. Zed's wide nose had three gooey nostrils, and almost covered the entire width of his face. His mouth was a wide slit, from which came strange sounds.

- 2 Zed's body was very human-like, with two powerful arms and legs. He also had a body-builder's chest that was covered by a smart red

vest bearing the crest of Zircon. Underneath his vest, he wore a tight-fitting, pale-orange shirt. It looked as though he needed to protect his shoulders because they had dark-green pads on them. On the end of his arms he wore special black gloves that allowed him to pick up Earthly objects without them slipping off his slippery, green skin. Bright-blue metallic tights with gold stripes covered Zed's legs. He also wore tall, black boots that were decorated with a golden Z on each of them. His boots went all the way to his knees. Overall, Zed was an impressive sight.

- 3 Zed was very strong and had never used the small laser gun which was hidden inside his vest. As an agent of Zircon, he had the standard invisible protective shield that could be activated at the blink of his eye. This shield electrocuted anybody who tried to get within five metres of him. He was also able to beam back up to his spaceship in a microsecond if there was an emergency.

- 4 When Zed first landed on Earth, he had a very bizarre effect on its inhabitants. Everywhere he walked, people stopped, frozen to the spot and stared. The mere sight of Zed was enough to make a person forget who they were, for a short time, at least. Strangely, Zed took no notice of this and went about his mission: collecting rocks and plants to take back to Zircon. He made it obvious he was on Earth for peaceful investigation and meant no harm.

This did not make him less fearsome to the spectators who watched his every move in sheer amazement.



- 5 Zed's spaceship was of great interest to observers sent from the government. It was not the usual "flying saucer". Patterned in various tones of green, the ship looked like a fighter jet without any wings. Just above the front tip of the ship was the crest of Zircon on a blue and gold background. Two rudder-like attachments protruded from below, helping to direct the ship when it flew. Whenever Zed was on the ground the spaceship hovered silently above him, waiting to beam him up if there was any problem. A bright-green device, shaped like a crab claw holding a spiky crescent moon, was attached to the front of the ship.

Observers believed this to be some advanced form of radar.

- 6 Without lips or a tongue, Zed could only speak by gurgling. Zed was constantly heard gurgling, the horrible sound dropping and lifting in pitch. It appeared that he was either talking to himself, or perhaps conveying messages to his spaceship.
- 7 Those who witnessed Zed's visit to Earth will never forget the sight of the impressive strong alien. Many have wondered what he is doing now or what the population of Zircon thought about the Earthlings.



We may never know.

Questions

- 1 Zed had skin that was
a constantly wet.
b very dry.
c dark green.
- 2 What type of haircut did Zed have?
a crew cut
b long hair
c Mohawk
- 3 How did Zed make it clear to humans that he meant no harm?
a He performed for them.
b He went about his business of collecting rocks and plants without fuss.
c He intimidated the humans.
- 4 Zed's spaceship looked like
a a flying saucer.
b a passenger plane.
c a fighter jet.
- 5 What could have been the device that stuck out from the front of the space ship?
a a radar
b an antennae
c a rudder
- 6 From reading the description of Zed, which statement below may not be true?
a Zed never clicked his tongue.
b Zed's visit will be forgotten.
c Zed was an impressive figure.

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- 7 A type of haircut (1)
8 To be struck by electricity (3)
9 People or animals that live in a particular area (4)
10 The curved shape of the moon (5)
11 Sending information (6)

Grammar

The words in **BLUE** appear in the text. Match them by writing the correct **synonym** shown in **RED**.

E.g. *under* / *below*

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 12 tight | normal |
| 13 standard | taut |
| 14 bizarre | gathering |
| 15 collecting | weird |

Back To The Text...

- 16 The purpose of this text is
a to persuade. b to describe.
- 17 What would be a good sub-heading for section 3?
a Protection b Communication

- 18 Writers often use descriptive language to inform the reader. Which of the following quotes, from section 1, are descriptive?
a "The first thing you noticed ..."
b "His skin was pale and sickly green ..."

Think About This

- 19 What does the 'Z' on Zed's chest mean?
a Zed b Zircon
- 20 What part of speech is the word *inhabitants* in section 4?
a verb b noun c adjective
- 21 In section 4 the word *bizarre* means
a a market. b fearsome. c peculiar.
- 22 The illustration on the front of the card refers to the text in which of the following sections?
a three b four
c five d six
- 23 Why is it amazing that we know Zed comes from Zircon?
a Zircon is so far away.
b Zed doesn't speak English.

Challenge Option

Design: Design a new uniform for Zed of Zircon. Draw it.

