



Level: A1

CRAZY EMAIL

Teaching Point: Reading

Theme: Holidays

Activity: Reading to find contradictions

PROCEDURE

1. Have a class brainstorm. Tell them: "Imagine you are away on holiday and you are contacting a friend or relative back home. What kinds of thing do you tell them about your holiday?"

(Suggested answers: information about the weather, the food, the place you're staying, what you're doing, the people you meet...)

2. Write the following lines from the song "Oh Susanna" on the board:

It rained all day the night I left
The weather was so dry

Ask students to say why these lines do not make sense.

(Suggested answer: In the first line, there seems to be a contradiction because it says it rains all day but it was night. In the second line, there seems to be a contradiction because it says the weather was dry, but in the previous line it says it rained all day)

3. Give out the worksheet. Ask students to identify contradictions similar to the ones in the lines from Clementine. They should circle the examples they find.
You could either do this with the students reading in silence, or play the **audio** and ask them to read along as they listen.
4. Go through the answers. Elicit why the information is impossible.

Suggested answers:

- The date: There is no 32 of August
- To: It says Mrs (woman), but the first line of the email is Hi Dad (man)
- Weather: It says it is hot, but also there is snow.
- Food: It mentions English food, but the examples are all food from other places
- Hotel: It says he's staying at an expensive hotel because he hasn't got much money.
- View: It says the rook has a view, but it hasn't got any windows.
- Beach: It says he went to the beach because it was rainy – not a reason to go to the beach! Then, later, he says it was sunny on the beach.
- Traffic: It says his train journey was slow because of traffic – but traffic normally refers to roads, not railways.
- Swim: He says he went for a swim because the water was ice-cold – not normally a reason for wanting to swim!



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- Boat: It says he went on a boat trip to the top of a mountain.
- Museum: It says he went to a museum to see a film – a cinema would be more normal.
- Romantic: It says the film was romantic, but according to the description, it wasn't.
- Dinner: It says he went to the cinema for dinner – a restaurant, surely!
- Alone: It says he was alone, but also with a group of friends.
- Cards: It says he went to a nightclub for a quiet game of cards – not quiet in nightclubs.
- Sleep: It says he slept under the stars, but he was indoors.
- Fog: It says he went sightseeing because it was foggy – not good for sightseeing!
- Motorbike: It says he's sitting on a motorbike to write – not a good place to write!
- Slowly: It says he's writing slowly because his dad doesn't read fast – but the speed of writing doesn't affect this.
- If you don't get this email: If dad doesn't get the email, he won't be able to read this message.
- Uncle Ben: He says he is Uncle Ben, but he can't be an uncle to his own dad!

EXTENSION

Ask your students to write their own holiday emails. Tell them to include some nonsense information like the one they've just read.

CRAZY EMAIL

Read this email. What is wrong? Draw a circle around pieces of information which are impossible. Suggest possible alternatives.

From:	Uncle Ben
Date:	32 August
To:	Mrs Rizla
About:	Holiday greetings

Hi Dad

I'm having a great holiday here in England. The weather is hot and there is snow in the streets. English food is great, lots of wonderful pizzas, curry, shushi and other things. I am at a very expensive hotel because I haven't got a lot of money. The room hasn't got any windows, but the view is wonderful.

Yesterday it was rainy so I went to the beach. I went by train but it was slow because of the traffic. All the people were on the beach in the sun. The sea was ice-cold, so I went for a swim. Then I went on a boat trip to the top of the mountain.

Last night I went to a museum to see a film. It was a lovely romantic film about aliens killing people. Then I went to a cinema for dinner. I went alone, with a group of friends. Finally, we went to a nightclub for a quiet game of cards. Then I went back to the hotel and went to sleep under the stars.

This morning, it was very foggy so I went to see Big Ben. Now I'm sitting on a motorbike, writing an email to you. I'm writing it slowly because I know you don't read very fast. If you don't get this email, don't worry. See you soon

Best wishes
Uncle Ben