

On Monday morning Sam, Ben, Nina and Tilly were at school. At nine o'clock they had an English lesson with their teacher, Miss Plum. They walked to her classroom but they did not go inside. There was a sign on the door. 'That's very strange,' said Tilly. 'What is Miss Plum doing in there?'

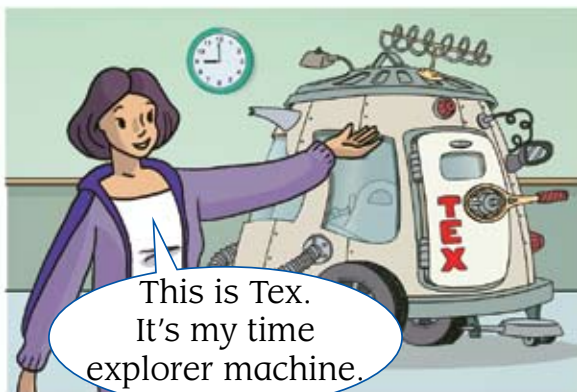
Ben and Nina jumped up and down. They tried to look into the room. Sam and Mobi listened at the door. What were those strange noises? What was in the room?














1 This is Tex










Miss Plum opened the classroom door and the children went inside. There was a strange machine in the classroom. What was it?

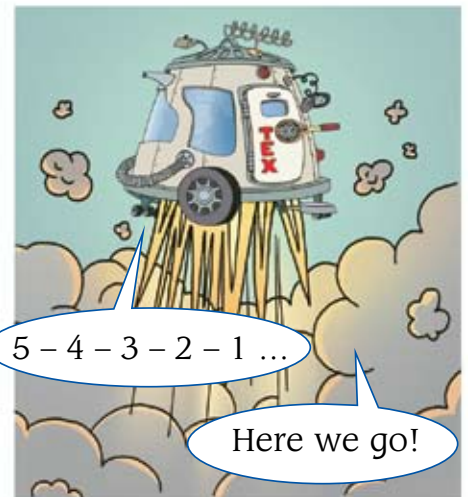


Outside the time machine looked very small. Inside it was very big!

-  Welcome to Tex!
-  Wow!
-  It's huge!
-  Look at all these lights!
-  Look at all these buttons and dials!
-  Look at the handle and the switches!
-  They are the controls. Don't touch them!
-  What's this, Miss Plum?
-  This is the computer.



-  Look! There's a message on the screen.
-  What does it say?
-  It says: 'Help! Help!'
- 'I am Princess Starlight from planet Smilo.'
- 'Please, please, help me!'
-  Come on, children. Take your seats!
We're going to planet Smilo!
-  Now?
-  Now.
-  Wow!





2 Up in space









The children and Miss Plum were in Tex, the time explorer machine. Soon they were high above the earth. They looked out of the windows. They saw stars and planets.



They saw some strange creatures too. One creature had two heads with horns and long purple arms. Another creature had huge orange wings and green paws with claws. Another creature had one large red eye, a big mouth, sharp teeth and scales.












Suddenly they heard a strange noise. It was the computer.

-  Look! There's a picture on the screen.
-  I think it's Princess Starlight.
-  There's a message too.
-  What does it say? Can you read it?
-  It says: 'The children on planet Smilo were very happy.'
-  'They played games and laughed all day long.'
-  'Yesterday Gloomdrop came to our planet'.
-  'He's a very bad creature.'

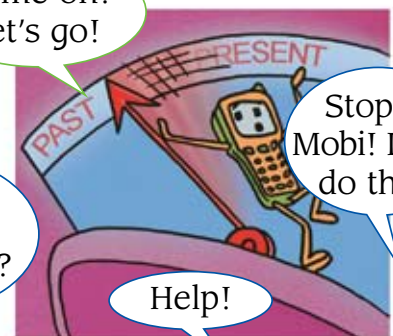
10 **He took ... They saw ... It had ... They heard ... He hid ...**



-  'Here is his photo.' Oooh!
-  'He took the laughter from the children.'
-  'He put it in a big box.'
-  'He locked the box with nine keys.'
-  'Then he hid the keys in different places and times.'
-  'Now the children can't laugh.'
-  'They are sad all day long.'
-  'You have a time machine.'
-  'Please help us to find the keys.'



Come on!
Let's go!



Oh, no!
What's
happening?

Stop it,
Mobi! Don't
do that!

Help!