



'What else have you got in your backpack, Earth Boy?' the alien asked.

William showed it his pair of scissors. The alien touched them carefully with its long fingers. 'What do you use these for?' it asked.

William looked for something that he could cut. He saw a square piece of gold and silver paper next to the spaceship's computer screen. It had lots of stripes and spots on it.

'For cutting,' William said, and started cutting the paper in half. The spaceship suddenly stopped moving.



'Stop! That was my most important space map!' the alien said. It looked really angry.

'Wow!' thought William. 'I've got a really big problem now. Without a map, it might take much more time to get to school.'



Then the alien saw William's glue and ball of wool. It picked them up but the glue fell through its fingers and dropped on the floor. The top came off and the glue came out. It went all over the space alien's feet.

'Do you drink this or wash in it?' the alien asked.

'Jump in it and see!' William answered.



The alien jumped into the glue and tried to jump out again, but it couldn't. It threw the ball of wool in the air, and when it started waving its arms round and round, the wool went round and round its elbows, hands, knees and feet. Soon the alien couldn't move at all.



'^^&%> my ship!' it shouted. (It was forgetting its English words.) 'I've got a horrible headache because I'm >^((* your strange language. You've broken my space ^^<* and now I can't move my *)>!/ or my arms! I'm sending you home instead! Go away!'

'Oh, OK ... Never mind,' William said. He was quite enjoying the adventure.

Suddenly, William was on the ground outside the empty school playground again. It was five past nine. He ran into his classroom and said, 'I'm sorry I'm late. You see, I was in a spaceship and I couldn't get away. An alien ate my dictionary. Then I cut up the space map, so the spaceship couldn't move. Then I glued the alien's feet to the floor and my wool went all around its elbows and knees, which made it really angry. But everything's OK now! And hey! Travelling in space is amazing!'



William's classmates couldn't stop laughing.

'William,' the teacher said, 'that's the strangest story you've ever told me. I don't believe any of it!'

William smiled and looked inside his empty backpack. 'Oh well, never mind!' he thought. 'I know all of it really happened.'

