



# THE EDINBURGH EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

## The Snowman

The Snowman was originally a children's picture book by Raymond Briggs. It was published in 1978 and then made in to a 26 minute film in 1982. Both the book and the film have no words. The film was nominated for an Oscar and was a huge success. It's still considered a Christmas classic. Although there is no speaking, there is a famous song called "Walking in the Air" sung by Aled Jones, a Welsh chorister at the time.

*Listen to the song and try to fill in the missing words*

1.  
We're walking in the air  
We're floating in the moonlit .....  
The people far ..... are ..... as  
we fly

2.  
I'm holding very .....  
I'm .....in the midnight blue  
I'm finding I can fly so high ..... with  
you

3.  
Far across the .....  
The villages go by like .....  
The ..... and the hills  
The forests and the streams

4.  
Children gaze open mouth  
Taken by .....  
Nobody down below ..... their eyes

5.  
We're surfing in the .....  
We're swimming in the ..... sky  
We're drifting over icy  
..... floating by

6.  
..... swooping low on an ocean .....  
Arousing of a mighty monster from its  
sleep

7.  
We're walking in the air  
We're floating in the midnight sky  
And ..... who sees us greets us as we  
fly

## THE SNOWMAN - ANSWERS

1.  
We're walking in the air  
We're floating in the moonlit sky  
The people far below are sleeping as we fly

2.  
I'm holding very tight  
I'm riding in the midnight blue  
I'm finding I can fly so high above with you

3.  
Far across the world  
The villages go by like dreams  
The rivers and the hills  
The forests and the streams

4.  
Children gaze open mouth  
Taken by surprise  
Nobody down below believes their eyes

5.  
We're surfing in the air  
We're swimming in the frozen sky  
We're drifting over icy  
Mountain floating by

6.  
Suddenly swooping low on an ocean deep  
Arousing of a mighty monster from its sleep

7.  
We're walking in the air  
We're floating in the midnight sky  
And everyone who sees us greets us as we fly

### Some interesting expressions from the song

- ✚ Take by surprise – when something happens which you don't expect  
e.g. The present took me by surprise, I didn't expect one / He was taken by surprise when we visited  
**\*\*\* NOTE** – *It's often used in the passive. If it's used in an active sentence we need to add an object*
- ✚ I can't believe my eyes! – When you see something amazing or incredible  
e.g. When John arrived in a Ferrari I couldn't believe my eyes!

### Collocations

- ✚ Notice that we use far below and high above

### Vocabulary Building

- ✚ How many verbs can you find which express movement? Translate them
- ✚ Use a dictionary to check any words you're not sure about



## The Irn Bru Snowman

Irn Bru is a soft drink made in Scotland. It's the highest selling soft drink product in the country, and Scotland is one of the few countries in the world where Coke isn't number one. Irn Bru is famous as a hangover cure because of its mix of sugar and caffeine. It is of course very bad for you and should be difficult to sell. However, Irn Bru consistently has amazing advertising campaigns. The campaigns are always very funny, and often ironic or surreal. In 2006, the ad campaign was a Scottish version of The Snowman.

The advert was very funny, but it also won awards for its animation. The lovely thing about the Irn Bru Snowman is that it features many famous places in Scotland.

*Watch the video and listen for the missing words*

**We're walking in the .....**

**I'm sipping on an Irn-Bru**

**My chilly ..... mate**

**Said he ..... like some too.**

**I tell him get your .....**

**He ..... like he is going to cry**

**I tell him once .....**

**The Irn-Bru is .....**

**Now I'm falling ..... the air,**

**I wonder where I'm ..... to land.**

**He nicked my Irn-Bru**

**And let go of my .....**

Glossary

- *Nick – to steal (colloquial)*
- *Chilly – cold*
- *Mate – a friend (informal)*
- *Irn-Bru - a fizzy drink from Scotland*

## THE IRN BRU SNOWMAN Answers

We're walking in the air  
I'm sipping on an Irn-Bru  
My chilly snowman mate  
Said he would like some too.

I tell him get your own  
He looks like he is going to cry  
I tell him once again  
The Irn-Bru is mine.

Now I'm falling through the air,  
I wonder where I'm going to land.  
He nicked my Irn-Bru  
And let go of my hand.

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- ✚ Which video do you prefer?
- ✚ Is the animation better in the original Snowman?
- ✚ What differences are there between the two videos?
- ✚ Are there any traditional Christmas films in your country?
- ✚ What do people traditionally drink at Christmas in your country?
- ✚ Do you think Christmas is too commercial nowadays?
- ✚ Do you enjoy Christmas?
- ✚ People say Christmas is a time for family. Do you agree?
- ✚ Would you like to spend Christmas in a foreign country?
- ✚ What is a typical Christmas like in your house?
- ✚ What do you normally eat at Christmas?
- ✚ It's more fun to give presents than to receive. Do you agree?

Remember to have a look on our blog at [www.theedinburghexperience.com](http://www.theedinburghexperience.com). In our December post you can find links with information to all the famous Scottish locations in the Irn Bru Snowman video. If you go to our December 2012 post you can also find last year's Christmas special which is all about Christmas traditions and phrasal verbs!