Aliens

It was only a dream.

*Only a dream?*

Just a dream.

*About aliens?*

Yes.

*And?*

Well, they landed.

*The aliens?*

Yes.

*The aliens landed?*

Yes.

*Was that it?*

Well, no.

*There was more to it?*

Well, yes.

*Like?*

Well...

*Can you remember it?*

I remember quite a lot.

*Right.*

Quite a lot, anyway.

*Well, how was it?*

My dream?

*Yes.*

Well, it was nice.

*Nice?*

Yes, nice.

*How?*

How?

*Yes. How was it “nice”?*

Well, it just was.

*Nice?*

Yes. Nice.

*But how was it “nice”?*

Well…

*Was it scary?*

Scary?

*Yes.*

No.

*It wasn’t scary?*

No.

*Not at all?*

No. Not at all.

*Oh.*

Why would it be scary?

*Well, with aliens landing.*

They weren’t scary.

*Oh.*

Why would they be scary?

*Well, they’re aliens.*

That doesn’t mean they have to be scary.

*Doesn’t it?*

Why would they be scary?

*Well, they must have come from far away.*

Oh yes. They had.

*Like, really, really far away.*

Yes. They were from a different galaxy.

*So they must be very different from us.*

They were.

*Little green men?*

Well, yes they were little.

*And green?*

Yes, they were.

*Scary!*

Not really.

*Did you see their spaceship?*

Yes.

*What was it like?*

Their spaceship?

*Yes.*

Well, it was round.

*Like a flying saucer?*

More like a sausage, really.

*A sausage?*

Yes.

*Did it have windows?*

Round ones.

*Like portholes?*

Yes. Just like portholes.

*And a door?*

Pardon?

*Did it have a door?*

The spaceship?

*Yes.*

Well, I suppose it did.

*Was that round?*

Sort of.

*OK.*

And the aliens came out of it.

*Little green men.*

Little green people, yes.

*How little?*

Well, about a metre tall, I suppose.

*All of them?*

All the ones I saw, yes.

*Did you speak to them?*

In my dream?

*Yes. Did you speak to them?*

Yes.

*How?*

How?

*How did you speak to them?*

How do you mean?

*Well, did you speak English to them?*

Of course I did!

*Well…*

I don’t speak any other language.

*No, but…*

I spoke to them in English.

*And what did they say?*

Well, they said “Hello”.

*Hello?*

They were very nice.

*And they said “Hello”?*

Yes.

*In English?*

Oh yes, they spoke English.

*How?*

How?

*Yes. How could they speak English?*

Well, just like we do.

*No, I mean they were aliens.*

So?

*So how would they speak English?*

Oh. I see what you mean!

*They’re aliens. How could they speak English?*

The radio.

*The radio?*

Yes.

*How do you mean “the radio”?*

Well, they listened to it.

*Listened to the radio?*

On the way down.

*Our radio?*

Yes.

*Oh.*

The BBC, I think.

*Right.*

They listened to the BBC and learned English.

*On the way down?*

Yes.

*That was quick!*

Yes.

*They must be very clever.*

Well, obviously.

*How do you mean “obviously”?*

Well, to get here from another galaxy.

*I suppose.*

They must be very clever.

*Mmmmm…*

To get all that way.

*Where did they come from?*

I don’t know.

*Oh.*

They never said.

*How far was it to their planet?*

Not sure.

*They never said?*

No.

*A few thousand light years, I expect.*

Yes.

*I wonder how they got here?*

Well, in a spaceship.

*Yes.*

They came in a spaceship.

*I know that.*

You have to travel in a spaceship.

*Of course you do.*

In space.

*Yes, I know, but how did they get here?*

How do you mean?

*How could they travel thousands of light years?*

Oh. I see what you mean.

*It’s impossible to travel faster than light.*

Is it?

*Think so.*

Oh.

*So they must have been thousands of years getting here.*

Suppose so.

*Unless they know how to travel faster than light.*

Well, they were very clever.

*Mmmm…*

They’d have to be.

*Yes.*

To get this far.

*Yes.*

Very clever.

*Did they say anything else?*

Pardon?

*Did they say anything else?*

The aliens?

*Yes.*

Um…

*Did they just say “Hello”?*

Oh no.

*Well, what did they say?*

They asked who I was.

*Right.*

And where I came from.

*And what did you say?*

I told them who I was.

*OK.*

And where I come from.

*Where did you say you came from?*

Church Lane. Number 24.

*Church Lane?*

Yes.

*They don’t know where Church Lane is!*

Yes, they do.

*How?*

What do you mean “how”?

*Well, how would they know about Church Lane?*

Um...

*But they did?*

Yes.

*Right.*

They knew about Church Lane.

*That’s very clever of them.*

Well, they are very clever.

*So it seems.*

And nice.

*So you said.*

Very nice.

*Did you say anything?*

Say anything?

*Yes. Did you say anything?*

To the aliens?

*Yes.*

Apart from where I live?

*Did you ask where they came from?*

Yes.

*And?*

They told me.

*Oh.*

They told me where they came from.

*And where was that?*

I don’t remember.

*But it was in the Milky Way?*

No. Another galaxy.

*Another galaxy?*

Think so.

*Did they say anything else?*

They asked whether I wanted to come back with them.

*Back to their planet?*

Yes.

*In their spaceship?*

Yes.

*Did you want to go?*

Part of me did.

*I don’t think I would.*

Why not?

*Well, I’d be scared.*

Scared?

*Yes.*

What of?

*Well, going away with aliens.*

They were really nice.

*Did they have guns?*

No.

*Oh.*

They were really nice.

*But you’d think they’d have guns.*

Why?

*Just in case.*

In case of what?

*In case they met any baddies.*

They don’t.

*Why not?*

Not at home, anyway.

*Did they say so?*

They didn’t need to.

*Why not?*

I think they are all really nice.

*Everybody on their planet?*

Yes.

*How come?*

Well, they must be really clever to get all the way here.

*From thousands of light years away, yes.*

From another galaxy.

*Yes.*

So if they weren’t really nice they couldn’t do that.

*How do you work that out?*

Because they’re so clever.

*Mmmm?*

Well, they must be able to invent really amazing weapons.

*I suppose they must.*

Much more amazing than our weapons.

*I suppose so.*

And they’d have killed each other long ago.

*Um...*

Unless they were really nice.

*I hadn’t thought of that.*

Being so very clever.

*I hadn’t thought of it that way.*

So I wasn’t scared of them.

*No.*

No need.

*So would you go away with an alien?*

I might.

*In real life?*

Yes.

*I’m not sure I would.*

It would be interesting.

*Well, yes.*

It would be very interesting!

*Well, yes.*

They could tell you lots of things.

*How to travel so fast, for one thing.*

Faster than the speed of light.

*Exactly!*

Do you think we will ever see any?

*Aliens?*

Yes.

*No.*

Pity!

*Yes.*

And there’s one funny thing.

*Is there?*

Yes.

*Which is…?*

Well, you know we are based on Carbon?

*Based on Carbon?*

Life on Earth is based on Carbon atoms.

*I suppose I did know that.*

The Carbon atom is wonderful.

*Is it? Why/*

It can form lots of different shaped molecules.

*Which is why life is based on carbon, I suppose.*

Well, yes, and the fact that there’s a lot of it about.

*And?*

Well, the next atom which is like that is called Boron.

*Boron?*

It’s very like Carbon, but heavier.

*Heavier?*

Much heavier.

*And?*

And it tends to make molecules which are green.

*Right.*

So if there was another planet with a lot of Boron on it…

*Life on that planet might be based on it!*

And it would be heavier.

*Because Boron is heavier than Carbon.*

Exactly!

*And because Boron is heavier than Carbon…*

The molecules it makes would be heavier.

*So everything would probably have to be smaller.*

And green.

*Green?*

Most molecules made with Boron are green.

*Oh yes. You said.*

So aliens from a planet with lots of Boron…

*Would probably be green.*

And little.

*Little green men!*

Little green people.

*Something like us, maybe.*

But smaller.

*Yes.*

And green.

*Just like your aliens.*

Yes. Just like my aliens.