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Opening extract from

Alien Schoolboy's A – Z Guide to Earthlings

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Translated from Alien by
Ros Asquith

ALIEN SCHOOLBOY'S Z-A* GUIDE TO EARTHLINGS

**Editor's note:*
This is incorrect for
Earth alphabet.
Please amend to A–Z.

Piccadilly Press • London

Dear Faathings,

I have recently made several trips to the small spaceblob known as Earth. The dominant inhabitants, known as 'humans' or 'Earthlings', believe they are intelligent life forms, although they have only one brain each.

I've written this simple guide for those of you who visit Earth, to help you avoid making some of the mistakes I made. Although taking *Vom* will give you the physical appearance of a human, you will have to learn to behave like a human too if you want to 'fit in'. Otherwise you will be treated badly because Earthlings don't like people who are different.

I went to Earth with some of my family on the orders of His Holy Rolypoliness, the Emperor of planet Faa. He wanted us to capture Earthlings and bring them back to Faa so we could use them as slaves. In order to achieve this, I was

disguised as an Earth youngling, or 'child'. This guide will therefore be especially useful for those of you who, like me, are disguised as younglings. You will be made to go to school and do all the deplorable things younglings do.

This guide is mainly about the gloomy island called 'Britain' where we stayed. It includes the wet kilty top ('Scotland'), the wet leeky bit to the left ('Wales'), and a drizzly clump in the middle where we were ('England'). However, I made a short trip around the rest of the planet, some of which is drier and more colourful – although the people are univerally drab.

Sadly we did not succeed in our mission. We had no idea how much we would need to Improve Earthlings for them to be of any use to us. Although we built the Improver, a magnificent machine to give Earthlings extra intelligence, heads and obedience, we were unable to bring any specimens home.

While we were there, several species from space – the Threggs, Wiffly Biffly and Squelch – tried to invade. These evil

species broke the Interplanetary Codes of Cooperation (which of course applies even to vastly inferior places such as Earth) and so, as Faathings brave and true, we saw it as our duty to help Earthlings fight off these invaders – which we did. However, they will probably try to invade again.

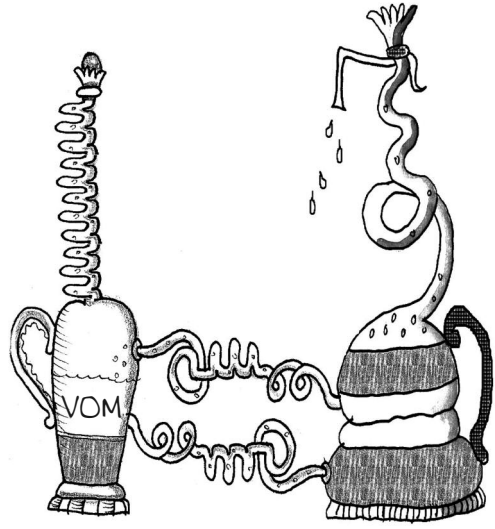
Yours in science,
Flowk

PS: May I apologise for an error in initial translation. The English Earthling alphabet actually runs from A to Z, so the title of this guide is, regrettably, somewhat misleading.

PPS: By the way, my Earthling name is Hoover Bogey Nigel Custard Toilet Hercules Namby Pamby Harmonica Hedgehog Coldplay Bugspray Cro-Magnon Colander Junior. I like it, but Papa told me it would be best if Earthlings just call me 'Nigel'. I advise you to choose a similarly simple name. 'Brian' for a male or 'Pasta' for a female, will do.

What to take to Earth

Carry *Vom* at all times. Earthlings have a sad affliction they call 'stress' which affects 97 per cent of them for 94 per cent of the time. Unfortunately it affects us too and causes our Earth disguises to dissolve. A swig of *Vom* will rectify the situation. It's a good idea to keep it in Earthling cola bottles, like we did, to avoid arousing suspicion.



It is also advisable to bring:

*** INVISIBLE BEAK MUFFLER**

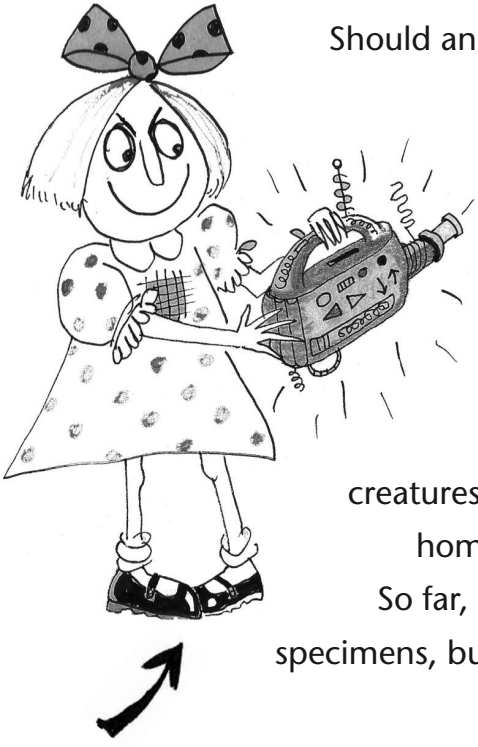
*** INTER-SPECIES TRANSLATOR** to translate all the human and animal languages on Earth.

*** MEMORY BLASTER**

Should an Earthling discover you are an alien, you must use this to erase their memory.

*** FARTEETA'S AMAZING SHRINKER**

Built by my sister, Farteeta, this enables you to shrink Earthlings and other creatures so you can easily bring them home to Faa for experimentation. So far, we have failed to capture any specimens, but other missions are planned.



Farteeta in her hideous human disguise.

What to Expect on Arrival

You will arrive on Earth in dreadful weather. H_2O (called 'water') will pour from a grey sky. You will be damp and cold for most of your stay.

Earthlings are uglier than anything on our planet and have only one head. Their skins are brownish, pinkish or yellowish – all hideous – and their intelligence is so limited that it will be tempting for you to treat them as pets, or food. Resist if possible, as they have one or two interesting qualities.

Not to be Missed

I should add that Earthlings do have a few things worth preserving, notably:

- **JOKES**
- **STORIES**

- **CHOCOLATE** and, most importantly,
- **MUSIC** which exists nowhere else in the cosmos.

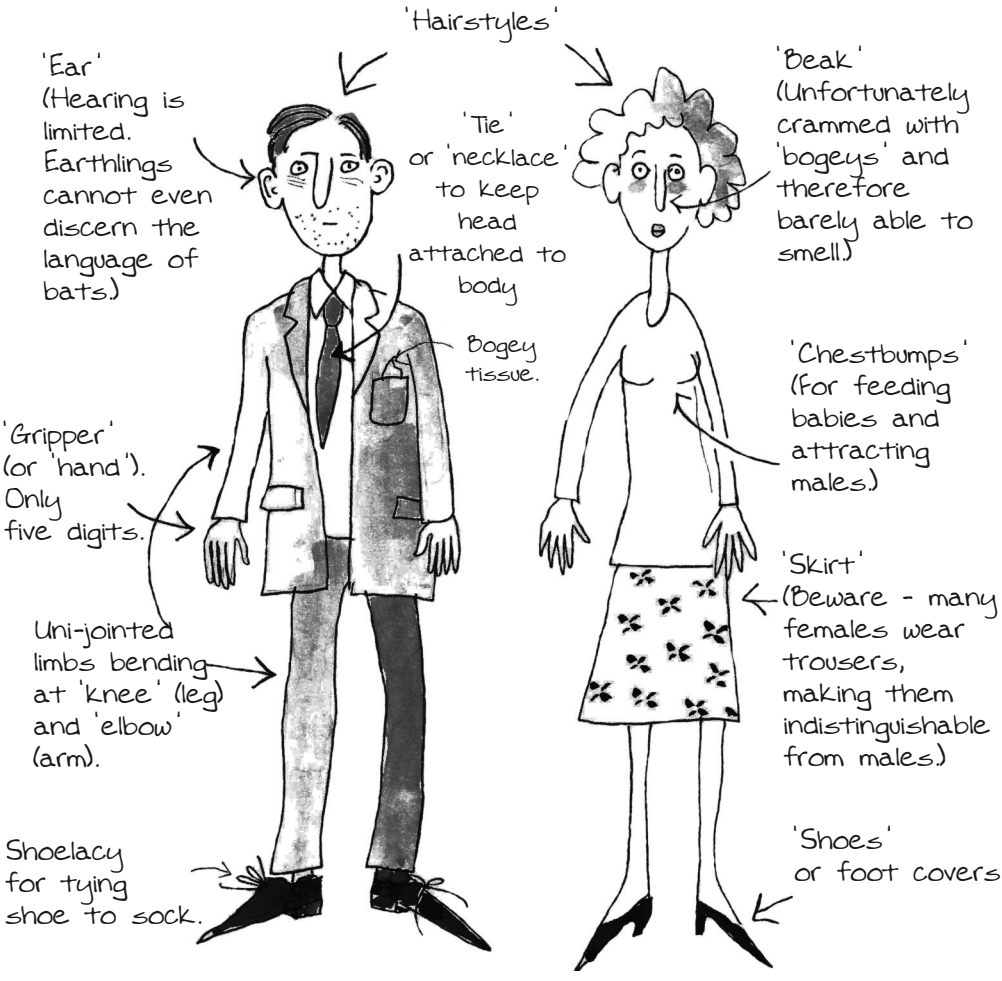
For this reason alone, I am suggesting that Earth be a 'protected planet' under the Interplanetary Code Zx400000097, paragraph 9&&%@f6p>>0.

☆ Earthling Disguise ☆

You must disguise yourself as an Earthling otherwise you'll get locked in a prison or zoo.

You are only allowed four limbs. Two 'arms' ending in grippers or 'hands' are used for lifting, carrying and picking beaks (which are packed with glutinous jelly known as 'bogeys'). The two 'legs' are used for walking, skipping, climbing, jumping, hopping or running. Earthlings have no whirlers, tentacles or aerials so are incapable of flying, zooming, whirling or looping. Their limbs are uni-jointed, therefore only bend one way.

Adult Earthling disguise



Once disguised, you will realise how limiting it is to have only two eyeballs. For some bizarre evolutionary reason, these are placed at the front of their single head, so that Earthlings cannot look behind themselves without turning round!

You must dress yourself in 'clothes' which is the only way to keep warm. On Earth, even beds and tables have clothes. NB: Male and female clothes can be different.

Now my alphabet begins. I hope I have included the main things which will confuse you, although it is tempting to write so much more. For instance, about glue, egg cups, marbles or any of the many curious things that Earthlings think they need.