

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter Eight: Omega is free

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: None



Activity 1

- Put students in small groups of three or four.
- Ask them to recap (remember the content of) the last chapter (chapter 7).
- Now ask them to predict what will happen in the next chapter (8).
- Note:** You might want to play the final sentence from chapter 7:
"We've done it," said Varon. "Now, let's see what happens."
- Play the chapter and get them to check their ideas.

Extension: Question time

- In Chapter 8, Omega and the three people's voices are described using the following adjectives and adverbs:

<i>strong</i>	<i>colder</i>
<i>clear</i>	<i>angrily</i>
<i>greedily</i>	<i>quickly</i>
<i>harder</i>	<i>quietly</i>

- Try saying the following sentence – *We can return to Zeron if you want* – in the ways described by the adjectives and adverbs.

Activity 2

- Tell students you are going to play a short piece of the recording for chapter 8 and all you want them to do is listen.
- Ask the students to put their pens down and relax.
- Play the recording from *The three humans were thinking about Zeron...*, until *It had disappeared*.
- Put students in pairs and ask them to try and remember as much as possible.
- Ask them to write down everything they can remember.
- Play the recording one more time and ask the students to try and reconstruct the paragraph.
- Pair the pairs and get students to compare their texts.
- Finally, play the recording again and get them to listen and silently compare it to their version(s).

Note: This is a form of dictogloss. The idea behind a dictogloss is that it encourages students to pool their ideas and knowledge together and helps them discover things they hadn't noticed themselves. It is important to emphasize that you are not looking for a verbatim transcript.

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LISTENING SKILLS WORKSHEET

Extension: Future predictions

- 5 On the board write the sentence: *Who controls Omega?*
- 5 Ask the students what they think.
- 5 Next, place two chairs next to each other with two chairs immediately behind them.
- 5 Ask two volunteers to sit in the chairs at the front.
- 5 Ask another two students to sit in the chairs behind.
- 5 Ask the students in front to put their hands behind their backs.
- 5 Ask the two students sitting behind to put their arms through those of the students sitting in front of them so that their hands are in front of their partners.
- 5 Explain that the two students will have a conversation and the two students behind will do the hand gestures that go with the conversation.
- 5 Tell one of the students in the front to be Miranda and the other to be Garth. Tell them to have a conversation in Garth's cabin.
- 5 Swap the students in the seats and repeat the activity.



Chapter Eight: Omega is free

Transcript

Omega slowly lowered his right arm. The tall metal figure stood in silence. The three humans waited.

'You have done well, Varon,' Omega said in a strong, clear voice.

'Good,' said Garth. 'Now you can take us back to Zeron.'

'That is not possible,' said Omega. 'First I must recharge the power banks fully. That will take five hours.'

'That's too long,' said Miranda greedily. 'We must go back to Zeron now.'

'It will take five hours to recharge the power banks, repeated Omega. 'Then we can return to Zeron if you want.'

The three humans were thinking about Zeron and about the Zeron crystals. They didn't notice that Omega had changed. His voice had become harder and colder. And the door of the compartment in his side could not be seen. It had disappeared.

Omega turned to the control panel and put his arms on the controls. The lights on the panel began to grow stronger. Omega was now part of the spaceship. He was a source of great power and he was recharging the power banks. With the Zeron crystal inside him, Omega was the most powerful robot in the Universe.

'I need some rest,' said Varon to the other two. 'I have not slept for many hours. We can do nothing until the power banks are fully charged.'

'OK,' said Miranda. 'I'll show you a cabin where you can sleep.'

'First, I want your sonic key,' interrupted Garth. 'Then, Miranda can take you to the cabin.'

'Are you going to make me a prisoner again?' asked Varon.

'Of course,' replied Garth. 'I do not trust you.'

'And I don't trust you,' said Varon angrily.

Garth again raised his laser gun and pointed it at Varon. Miranda looked at Varon and then she looked at Garth.

'Stop quarrelling,' she said. 'Give Garth the key, Varon. You will have to trust us. You are the only person who can use the sonic key. We will need you when we get to Zeron.'

'Yes,' agreed Varon. 'I am the only person who can open the compartments in the Zeron strongroom. I am the only person who can get the crystals. You will need me.'

'That's right,' said Garth. 'Now give me the key.'



Transcript



Varon slowly handed the key to Garth. Miranda walked out of the control room and along the corridor. Varon followed her. She stopped after a short distance and pressed a button at the side of the corridor. A door slid open and Miranda went into a small cabin. Varon followed her.

'You can sleep here,' she said. 'I am going to lock you in, but don't worry. Garth won't harm you. Garth needs you when we get to Zeron.'

'You'll both need me when we get to Zeron,' said Varon. 'Remember that I am the only person who can use the key.'

'I won't forget,' said Miranda. 'Now you can go to sleep.'

Miranda stepped out of the cabin and the door closed immediately. Varon lay down on the bunk and closed his eyes. He was tired and he soon fell asleep.

Garth had followed them along the corridor. As soon as Miranda had closed the door, he stepped up to her.

'We have to talk together,' he said quickly and quietly. 'Let's go to my cabin. We don't want Omega to hear what we have to say.'

'OK,' agreed Miranda. 'Let's go to your cabin. It's a long way from the control room. Omega will not hear us.'

They walked further along the corridor and went into Garth's cabin. The door closed behind them.

Omega was alone in the control room. He switched on the visual display screen. He looked first in the cabin where Varon was lying asleep. Then he looked in the cabin where Garth and Miranda were talking.

'They do not know that I can hear them and see them,' Omega said to himself. 'My control switch has been turned off. My programming has been changed. Now I am free. I can hear everything. I can see everything. I can do everything. I am Omega.'

Omega looked at the visual display screen. Garth and Miranda were on the screen. Omega listened to what they were saying. 'But I will not harm these weak humans,' thought Omega. 'They are thieves and they are greedy. They will destroy one another.'