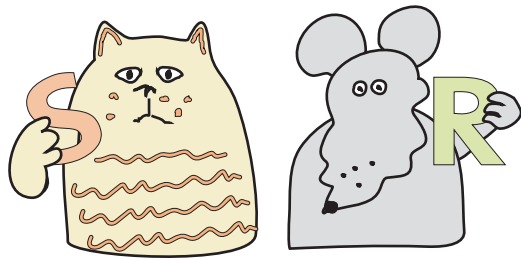


Book Twelve

Plurals & Advanced R-Controlled Vowels



Written and illustrated by

Miz Katz N. Ratz

A Progressive Phonics™ book

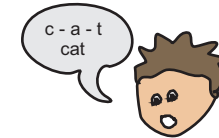
Copyright (c) 2004, 2005 by Miz Katz N. Ratz, patent pending

Quick Start Guide



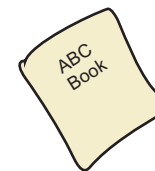
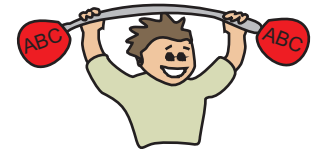
Read the book WITH your child. You read the “regular” text, and he/she reads the big, red words, sort of like reading the different parts in a play.

Help your child sound out the words as needed.



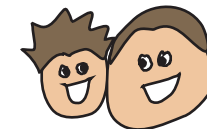
Read the book several times. This helps develop the eye muscles and left-to-right reading patterns that are necessary for reading.

Don't rush it. Body builders don't train in a day, neither does a child.



If your child is having difficulty, he/she might need more practice with the alphabet. Get a fun book about the alphabet and read that lots of times. Then come back to Progressive Phonics.

And most important of all, HAVE FUN!



Quick Start Guide Part Two

Words that a child should be able to read by now are printed with BLUE ink – if your child can't read them easily, go back and review the earlier books.

The new words being learned are "big, red words".

My cat is **black**, as **black**
as night – except for **his back**,
which is white as white.

Words or grammatical constructions that a child has not learned yet are written in black ink.

These words are supposed to be read by the parent/teacher. **

** Your child can try to read them, but don't worry too much about them – they are taught later, either in upcoming Progressive Phonics books, or in spelling or grammar at school.

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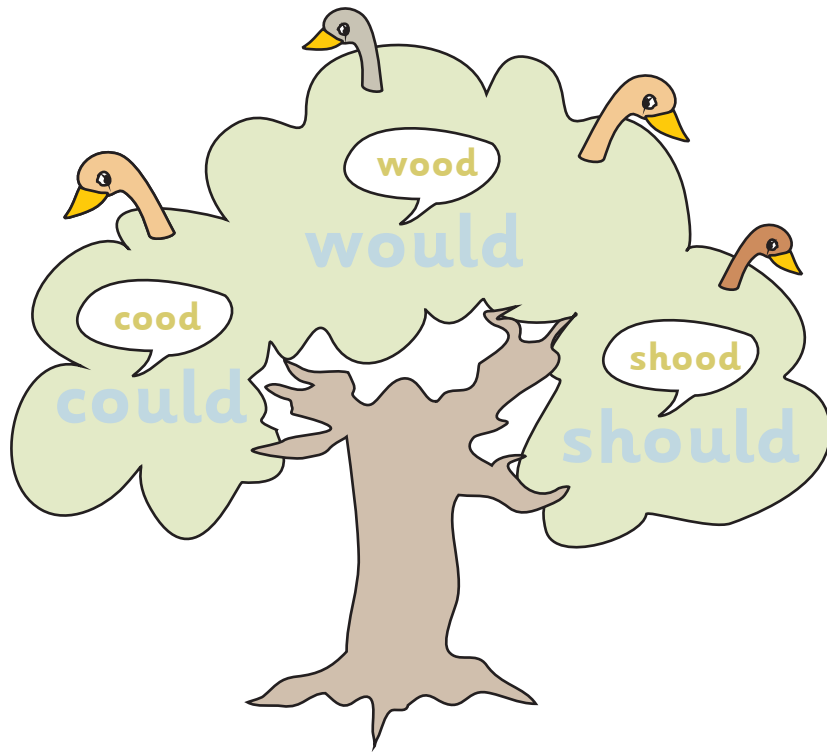
54 O + R

Note! You read pages like this **TO** your child.
 (All pages with this “ear” on it are read **TO** the child; the “ear” means that the child is supposed to listen.)



There are three words that we use a lot that don't follow the rules very well – would, could, and should.

The way they are written, they should probably sound like wow-ld, cow-ld, and show-ld. But they don't sound like that at all – they all sound like the word “good” – would, could, and should.



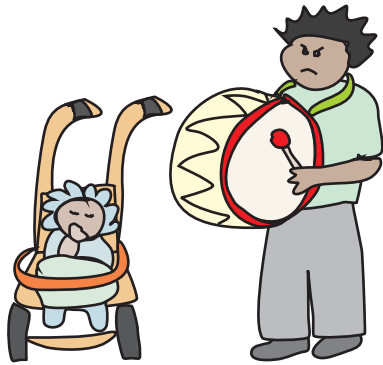
The word “could” means you that you can do something – you are able to do it.



I **could** be very **good**;
 I **could** be very nice;
 I **could** even say “please”
 maybe once or twice.
 But just because I can,
 doesn't mean I will;
 I want to be a brat –
 being **good** makes me ill.



The word “should” means you that you are supposed to...



I **should** be good,
and I **should** not shout –
my brother is asleep
with his thumb in his mouth.
I want to bang my drum,
but I know I **should** not...
I **should** wait, wait, wait
until my brother is awake.



“Would” means that you want to do something – you are willing to do it.



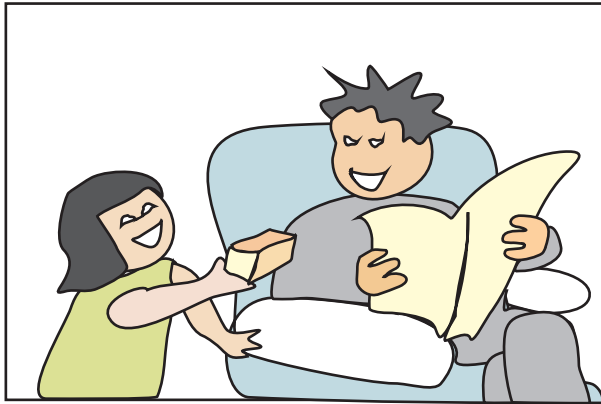
I was invited to a party, but I
would not go; I **could** have
gone, but I just said no.
Why **would** I go to a party
for a shoe? **Would** you want
to go if a smelly shoe asked you?



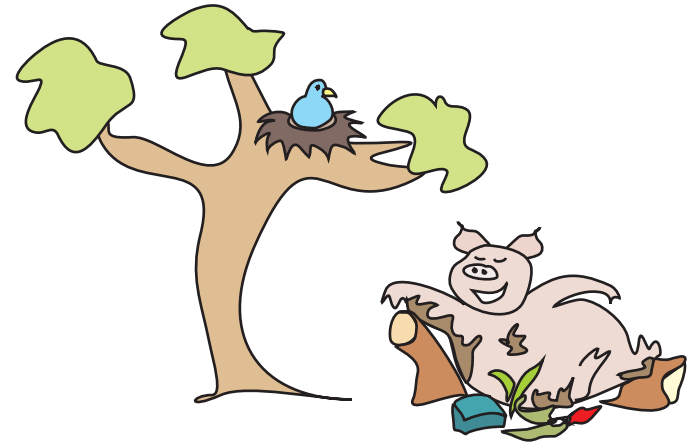
“Would” is also a polite way to ask someone to do something. See how “would” and “wood” are different, even though they sound the same.



We also use the word “would” when we are talking about the future – something that you think WILL happen in the future, or something that you are just imagining.



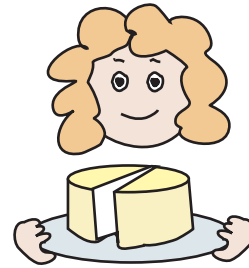
I asked my father if he **would** make me a car from a piece of **wood**.
I said, “Father dearest, I have been good, so **would** you please make a car from this piece of **wood**?”



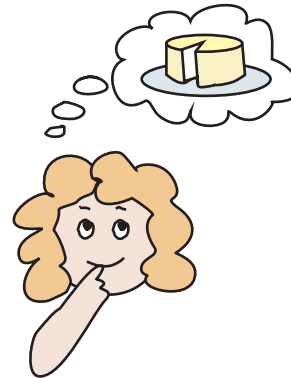
If I was a bird, I **would** make a little nest. I **would** keep it clean, there **would** never be a mess.
But if I was a pig, I **would** make a lovely mess. I **would** never clean it up – it **would** be the best.



It **would** be **good** if I
could live on a cloud –
 if I **could** live on a cloud,
 I **could** jump up and down
 and never make a sound.



If I had a cake,
 I **would** share it all with you.
 I **would** have half and give
 the rest to you.



I **could** bake a cake
 if my mother says yes.
 I will try to keep it clean because
 I **should** not make a mess.

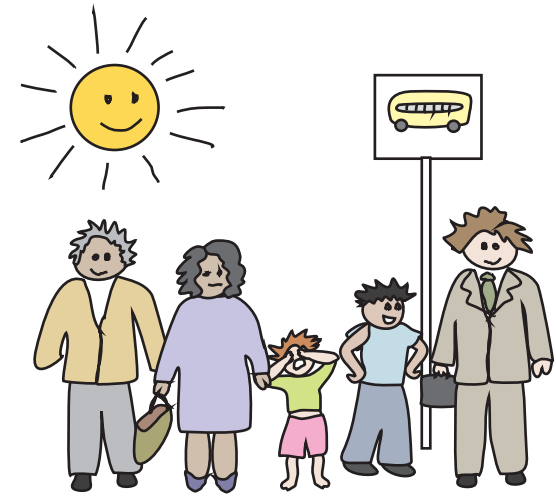
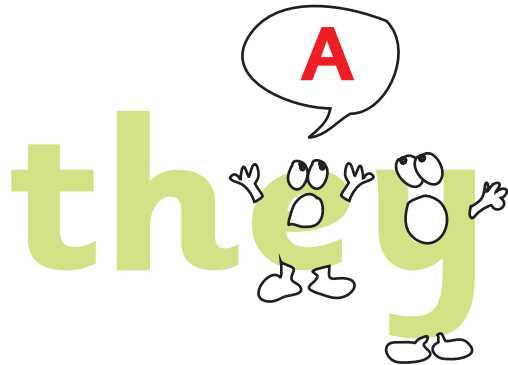


Oh! I made a mess.
would you please help me
 clean my pretty, pink dress?



The word “they” sounds like “day” and “play”.

The word “they” follows the rule, “Sometimes, when two vowels go walking, they mess up how they’re talking.” You see, instead of calling out his own name, the silly “E” in the word “they” calls out the name of the letter “A”.



Look at all those people – **they** are standing in the sun.

They are waiting for the bus; **they** want the bus to come.

But little do **they** know, the bus is fast asleep. **They**

will have to wait an hour;

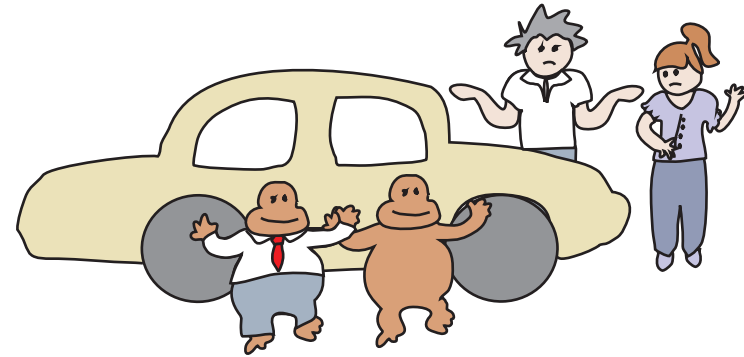
they should rest their little feet.



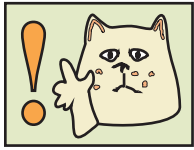
In America, **they say** that **gray** is **gray**; in England, **they say** that **grey** is **grey**. But it doesn't matter what **they say** – you make **grey** or **gray** the very same **way** – a bit of white, a bit of black, you mix them together, and that is that.



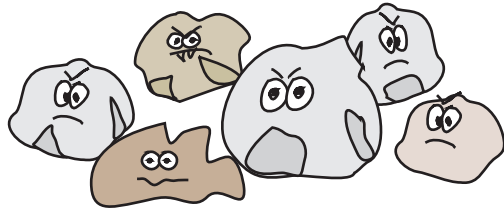
The word “key” looks like “they”, but sounds like me and she.



They lost the **key** to the car, and now **they** cannot start the car – without the **key**, **they** will not get very far. **They** have one **son**, and a **monkey** as a pet – one has the **key**, I bet, I bet. But which one is the **monkey**, and which one has the **key**? **They** do not know, and neither do we.



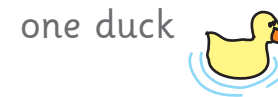
Sometimes we use the word “they” to talk about animals and things – not just people.

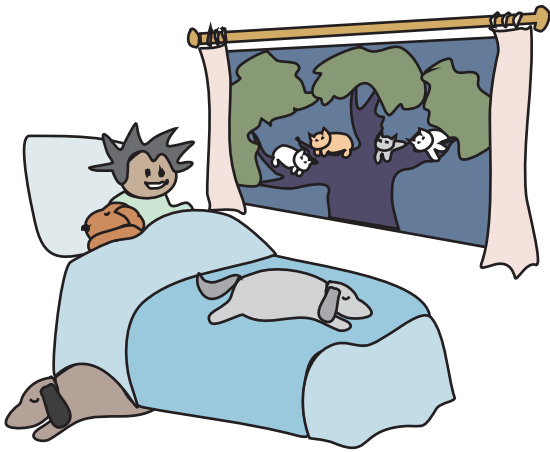


They are not nice; **they** are mean to me. **They** call me names, and **they** never play with me. I don't know why I keep them around – should I put my rock collection back into the ground?



Sometimes we put a special “s” at the end of a word. Sometimes, the special “s” means “plural” – that’s a fancy word that means “more than one” – like:





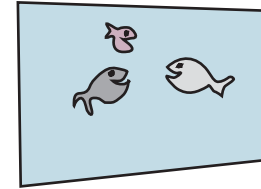
If I had three **dogs**
and a lot of **cats**,
where would they go to sleep?
The **cats** would sleep up in
the **trees**, and the **dogs**
would sleep with me.



I drank two **cups** of milk,
and I ate three **eggs**,
but I am still hungry –
did the food go to my **legs**?
If I ate six **plums**
and two **burgers** on two **buns** –
will that be enough –
or should I eat more stuff?



If a word has a naughty, silent “e” at the end of it, you add the special “s” after the silent “e”. The “e” stays silent – you can’t hear it at all.

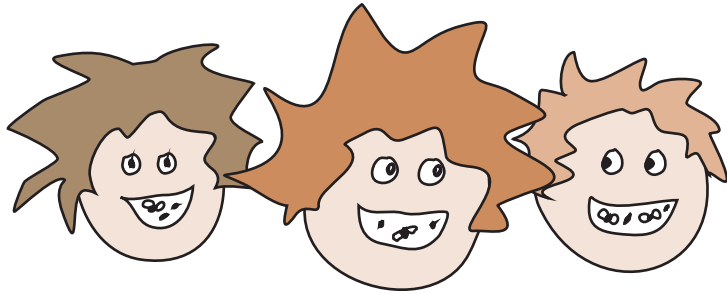


I will bake five **cakes** –
one **cake** for me, one **cake**
for you; the rest of the **cakes**
to take to the zoo.

The **apes** want a lemon **cake**;
the **snakes** want lemon too;
the **fishes** want a seaweed
cake – all I can say is “Eeeeew!”



If the word has a “ssss” or “zzz” sound, you DO hear the “e”, like in face-faces, nose-noses, and rose-roses.

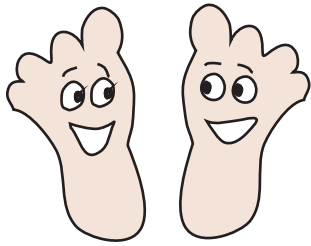


My **brothers** and I rode
our **bikes** for **miles**
and **miles** and **miles**.

Our teeth were covered
with **lots** of **bugs**
because of all our **smiles**.



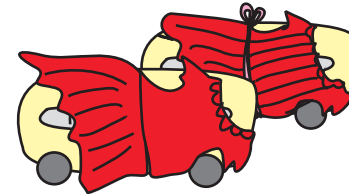
If I had ten **noses**,
would I better smell the **roses**?
if I had ten **noses**, would I breathe
the “mostest”. And if I had a cold,
and a cold had me, would each of my
noses have to be “blowsed”?



If I had two **faces**
 in two different **places**,
 where would those **places** be?
 Hmmmm... not on my feet,
 because my **faces** could not see –
 and if I wore shoes, then
 my **noses** could not breathe.
 So two little **faces** is
 too many **faces** for me.

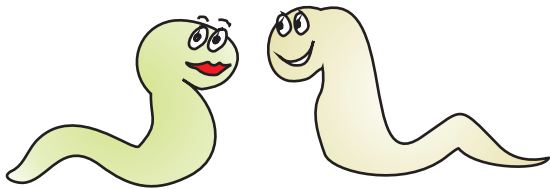


If a word ends with an “s” or a
 “double s”, we add the letters “es”
 to make it plural –

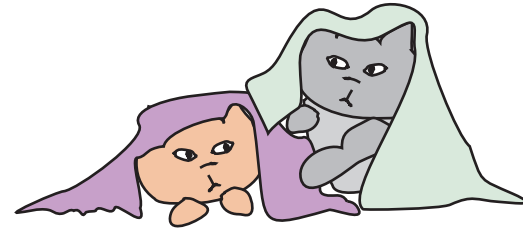


Two yellow **buses**
 in red **dresses**

We do not say “**glasss**” – we
 can’t hear the extra “s”.
 Instead, we say “**glasses**” –
 can you hear the “s”? Yes!



Snakes have no **arms**,
 so they can't give **hugs**.
 And if **snakes** give **kisses**,
 I would rather kiss **bugs**.
 And when **snakes** talk,
 I can only hear **hisses** –
 do you think they are saying,
 kiss, kiss, **kisses**?

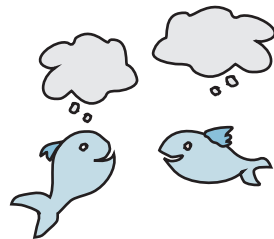


I do not like **messes**; **messes** are
 no fun. When I make a **mess**, there
 is always more than one. I dropped my
pens all over the floor, and look at all
 those **dresses** over there on the floor.
 I wish that my **cats** could clean it up for
 me, but my **cats** are **pigs** – they are
 messier than me.



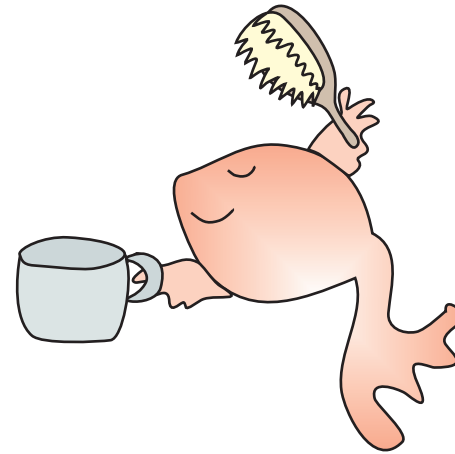
If a word ends with the letters “sh”
we add “es” to make it plural.

Two blue **fishes**
making **wishes**.



And we do not make “**wishes**” –
they might never come to you.

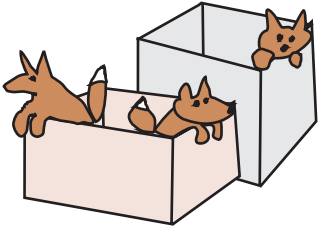
So always make “**wishes**”
so a **wish** can come true.



Do **fishes** need **brushes**
for their hair? **Fishes** have no
hair, so there. And do **fishes**
eat with **dishes**? No!
Dishes do not float.

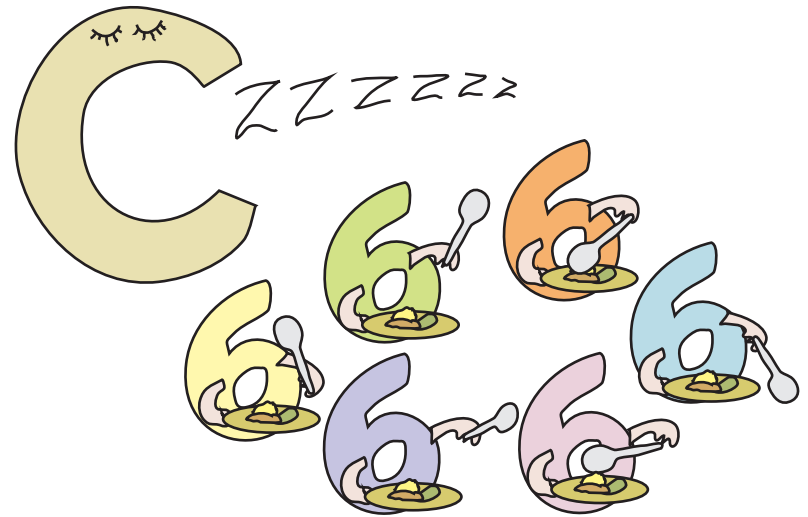


If a word ends with an “x”, we add es.



Three small **foxes**
hiding in **boxes**.

We do not say “**boxs**” –
it is too hard to say.
Instead, we say “**boxes**” –
it is better that way.



Six sixes sat by a “C”,
but the “C” did not see the **sixes**.
Six sixes sat by a “C”,
but the “C” was fast asleep.
So the **six sixes** put food in
their dishes, and they began to eat.



If a word ends with a ch we add “es”



Ten little **stitches**
fixed my **britches**.

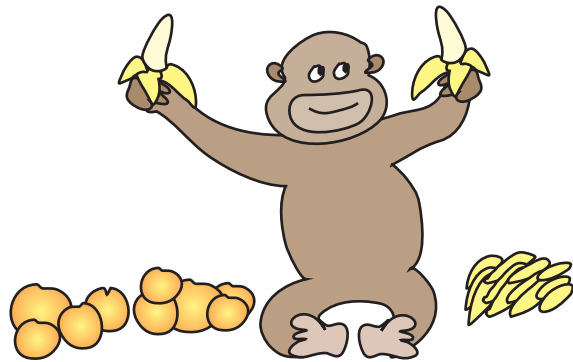
We do not say “**itchs**” –
no one will understand you.
Instead we say “**itches**”
when we have an itch or two.



Two little **witches**
digging **ditches**
got mud in their **britches**
and lots and lots of **itches**.



Words that end in “y” are special – you change the “y” to an “i”, and then you add “es”.

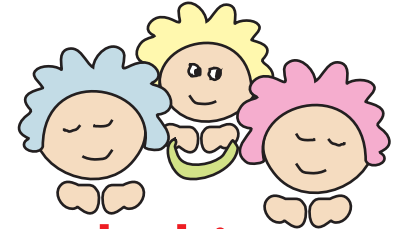


A monkey **munches**
on banana **bunches**
and piles and piles
of **peaches**.

baby → **babi + es**



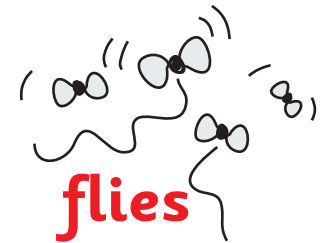
baby



babies



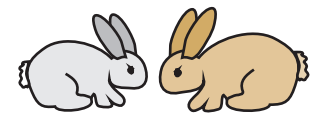
fly



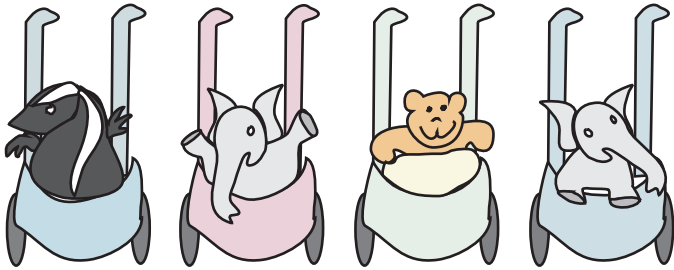
flies



bunny



bunnies



I saw a lot of **babies** at the zoo;
some were pink, and some were blue.

One lady had a **baby** skunk,
and I saw two **babies** with an
elephant trunk.

Yes, I saw a lot of **babies** at the zoo,
and none were human – I swear it's true!



But if there is a vowel standing right next to the “y”, we don’t have to change the “y” to anything – we just add an “s”.



day



days



toy



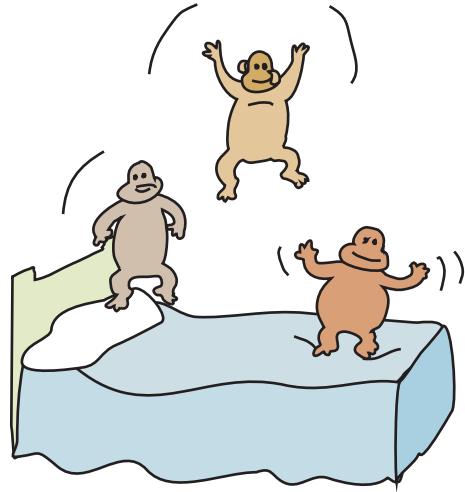
toys



key



keys



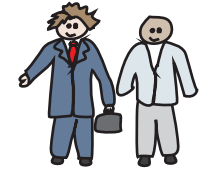
Three **monkeys**
 were jumping on a bed – for
days and **days** they
 jumped on the bed,
 and none of the **monkeys**
 fell down dead.



With some words, you don't add an "S" –
 you change the word when you're talking
 about more than one.



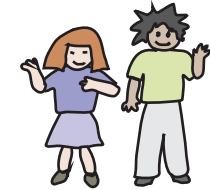
one **man**



two **men**



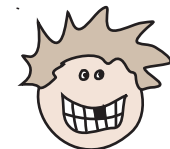
one **child**



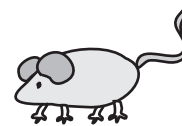
two **children**



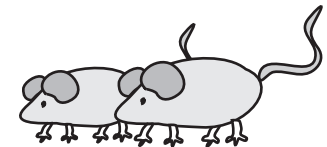
one **tooth**



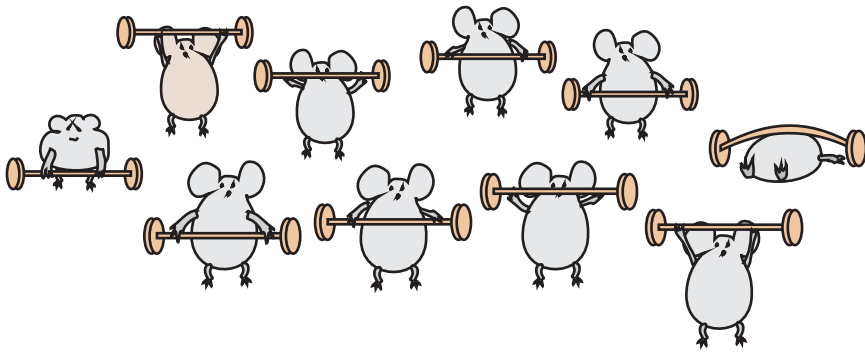
all my **teeth**



one **mouse**



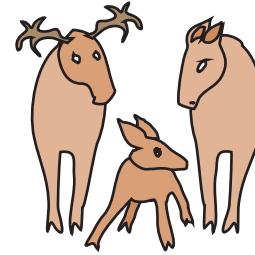
two **mice**



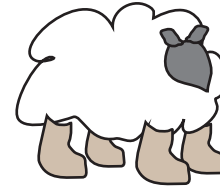
If I only had one **foot**,
 I would not have **feet**.
 If I only had one **tooth**,
 I would not have **teeth**.
 If I only had one **mouse**,
 I would not have **mice**.
 But if I had ten **mice**
 who thought they were **men**,
 would I have ten **mice**,
 or ten little **men**?



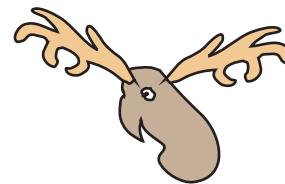
And sometimes, the word doesn't change at all when you're talking about more than one – this only happens with just a few words.



The baby **deer** said
 good morning to the two
 other **deer**.



I was counting all the **sheep**
 and forgot to count the **sheep**
 with boots on his feet.



When you said, "The **moose** is
 loose," were you talking about one
moose, or all the **moose**?



The word fish is very special – we can say “fish” or “fishes” when we’re talking about more than one fish.



I wish I had lots of **fish** –
ten **fish** in this bowl,
and ten **fish** in that bowl.




I wish I had a **fish** – but
if I want ten **fishes**, do I have
to make ten **wishes**?

verbs



Parent/teacher note:

Plurals and third-person-singular verbs (the ones with the “extra S”) are used throughout this book, which is why we are introducing this subject. Until a child learns the parts of speech – and more about verbs – there’s really no point in getting into verb structure in any great depth. Our only concern in this book is to introduce plurals – and to help a child avoid mixing up “verb S’s” and “plural S’s”.

If the subject of verbs is too confusing at this time, skip all instructional notes in this section and just read the “stories”.  note



A verb is a special kind of word that tells us what someone or something is doing, thinking, saying, or being:

I **drive** trucks.

We **ate** lunch.

I **hit** the ball.

You **walk** fast.

I **am** small.

He **is** nice.



You are going to learn a lot more about verbs – action words – later in school. The only reason we are talking about them now is because SOMETIMES we put an extra “S” at the end of a verb (“action” word).

This extra “S” doesn’t mean that the verb (“action” word) is plural – it doesn’t mean anything at all; it’s just how we say it.

I **drive** trucks.

Bob **drives** trucks. ^{extra “S”}

You **walk** to the park.

He **walks** to the park.

We **cook** lunch.

Sue **cooks** lunch.



This “S” doesn’t mean anything, it’s just how we say it.



This “S” is a plural - it means more than one doll.



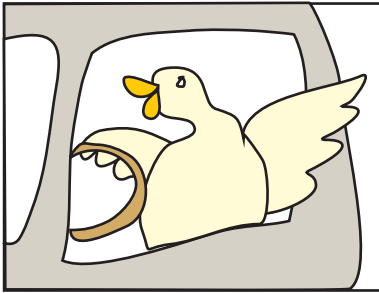
We don’t always add an extra “S” at the end of a verb (“action” word), just sometimes. You’ll learn more about it later in school.

My sister **plays** with **dolls**.
 She **plays** with **dolls** all the time.
 My brother **plays** with **cars**,
 but he only **plays** with mine.

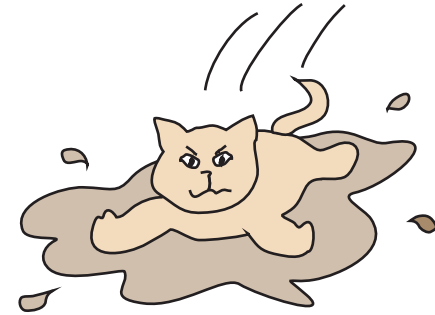


When I **smile** at my dog,
 my dog **smiles** back.
 When I **go to sleep**,
 he **takes** a nap.
 When I **eat** one,
 my dog **eats** two.
 My dog **likes** me,
 and I **like** him too.





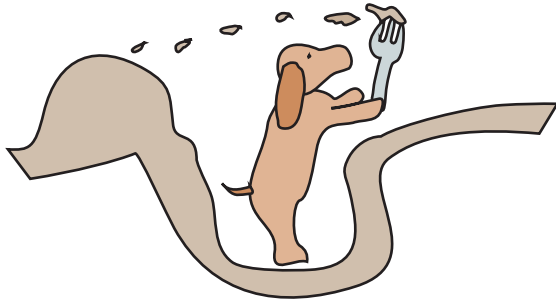
When Bob **drives** his truck,
 he **sits** in front with his duck.
 Everyone **knows** that Bob **drives**
 a truck – but it isn't Bob that **drives**
 the truck, it really **is** the duck.
 So when I **grow** up and **drive** a
 truck, **do** I need a duck?



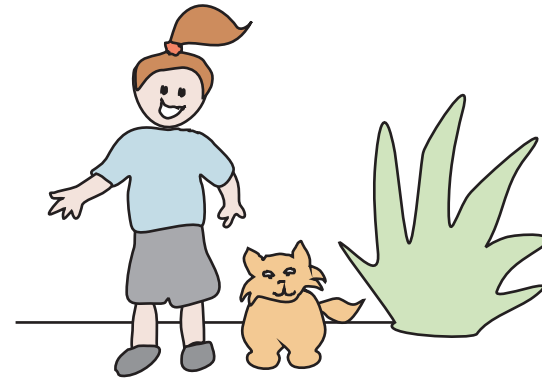
Every day my cat **tries** to **fly** –
 she **wants** to **catch** a bird.
 And every day, when my cat
tries to **fly**, she **falls** down in
 the dirt.



The word “goes” is really the word “go” with an “s” added on. Sometimes we say “go”, and sometimes we say “goes” – you will learn more about it in school.



When I **go** to sleep, my dog **goes** to work. He is digging a tunnel outside in the dirt. The tunnel **goes** all the way under the house, and when my dog **goes** down there, he is quiet as a mouse. I think my dog wants to **go** to New York; it will take a long time – he is digging with a fork.



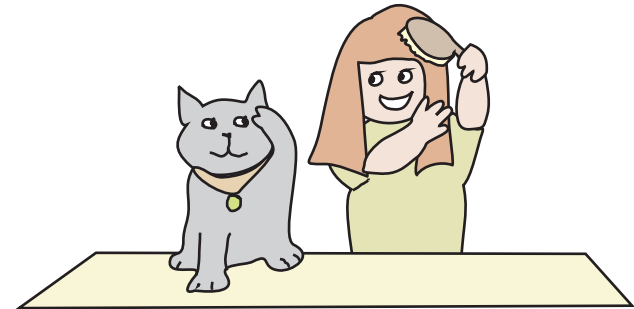
I **go** to sleep in pyjamas;
 my cat **goes** to sleep wearing fur.
 I **go** to school to learn how to read;
 my cat **goes** to school to purr.
 When I **go** outside, my cat comes too –
 she **goes** everywhere I do.



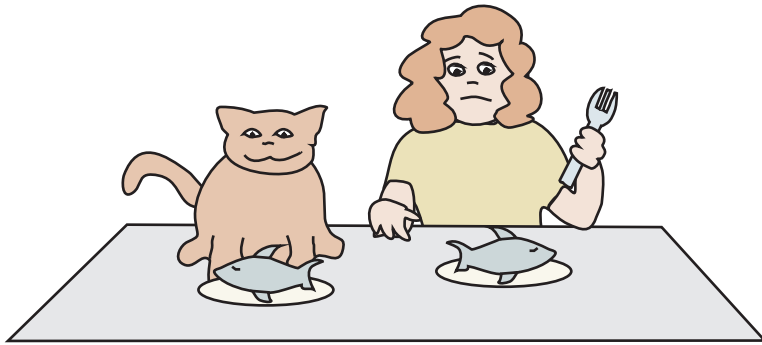
I want to **go** to the bathroom, but my dog got there first. He always takes a long time; he really is the worst. Any other dog **goes** outside when he has to **go**, but not my dog, he **goes** inside, don't you know? He **goes** on the toilet; he doesn't even look. If he can't **go** right away, then he tries to read a book. The problem is, he never lifts the lid, so he **goes** on top, and the mess is always big.



The word “does” is really the word “do” with an “s” added on. Maybe it would be easier to remember if we said “dooze” instead of “duz” – but that’s how we say it – “duz”.



When I **do** my hair, my cat **does** her fur. When I **do** the dishes, my cat **does** hers. When I **do** a dance, she **does** one just like me, and when I **do** nothing, my cat just **goes** to sleep.



Do I like ice cream?

Yes, I **do**.

Does my sister like ice cream?

Yes, she **does**.

Does my cat like ice cream?

No, she **does** not –

but she **does** like fish,

which I **do** not.



When you see an “S” at the end of a word, you have to figure it out –



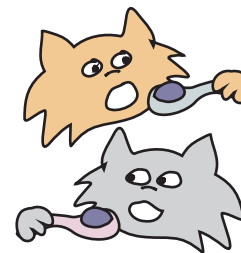
Is the “S” part of the word?
Some words end in one or two “S’s”.



Yes, Tess, you can wear that **dress** when you ride on the **bus** with **us**.



Is the “S” a plural – is it telling you that there is more than one?



Two **cats** with two **spoons** ate a lot of purple **prunes**.



Or is the “S” just there because it’s just how we say it?

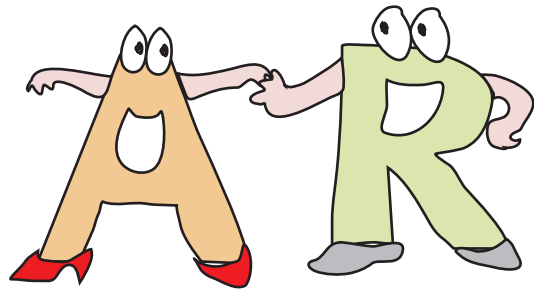


She **likes** ice cream,
and she **eats** it every
day.

Advanced R Controlled Vowels



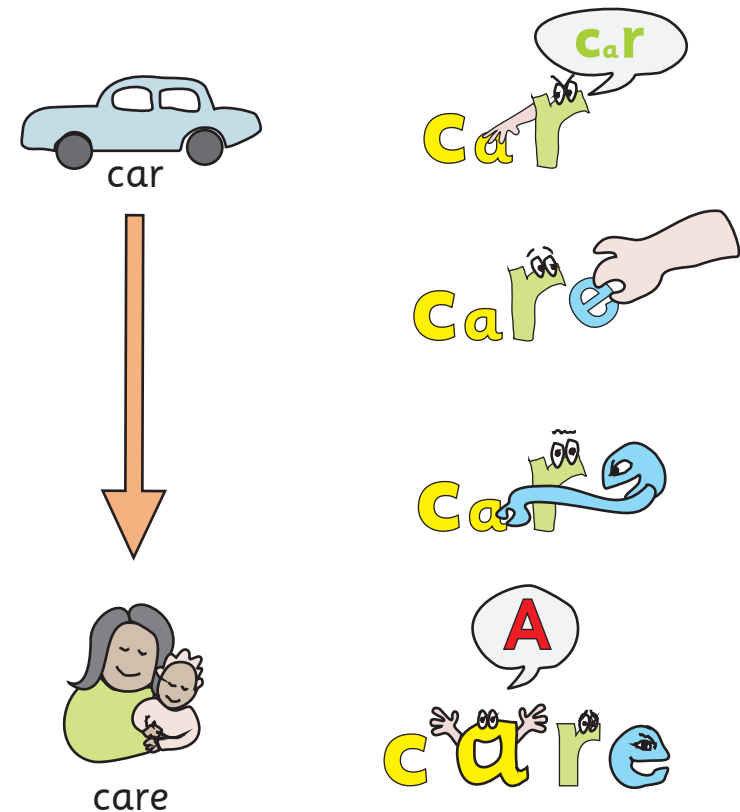
In an earlier book, we learned that the letter “R” likes to change the way vowels sound. In this book, we’re going to learn a little more about this.

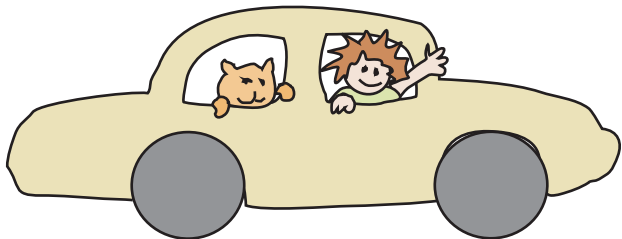


The letter “**R**” likes to be the boss of the letter “**A**” – he likes to change the way the letter “**A**” sounds, like from “**cat**” to “**car**”.



But any time the letter “**A**” calls out her name, she sounds just like herself again, and the letter “**R**” is not the boss anymore.



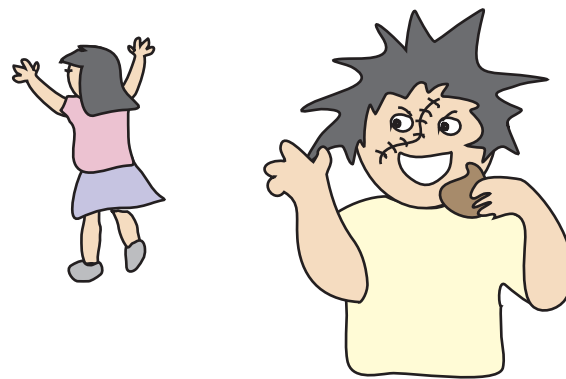


I take good **care** of my **cat**, **Kate**,
when we go for a drive in the **car**.

I take **care** not to drive too fast,

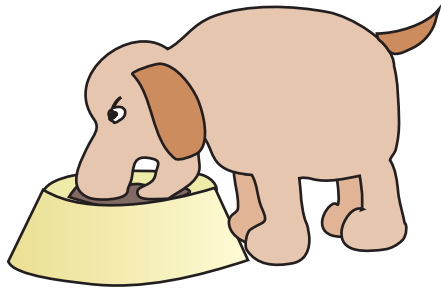
I take **care** not to drive too far.

And when my **cat** doesn't **care**
to drive at all, we get out of the
car and we play ball.



If I had a big **scar** on my face,
then I could **scare** my sister.

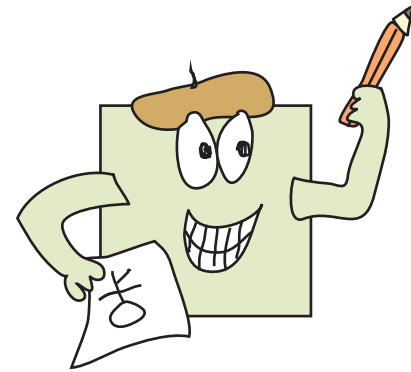
I could show her my **scar** and
scare her so much that she will
run away... and then I get all the
cookies – hooray!



I always **share** my food with my dog,
 but he never **shares** with me.
 Every time he eats, he growls at me –
 he growls and grunts and barks at me.
 So it is a good thing that I do not **care**
 to eat the food that he will not **share**.



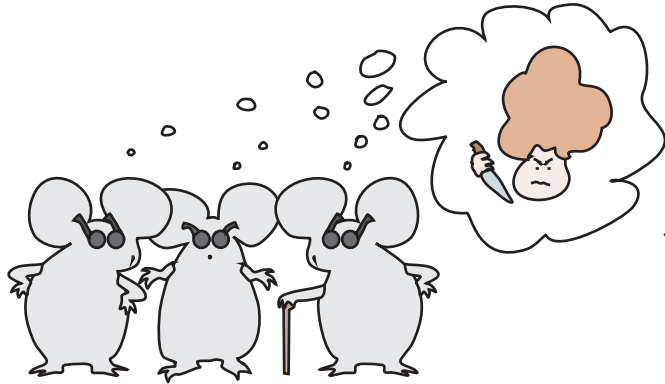
In the word, “square”, the letter “u”
 is silent. We almost always write the
 letter “Q” with a silent “U” sitting
 right next to it.



I can draw a **square**
 as perfect as can be –
 but what I want to know is
 can a **square** draw me?

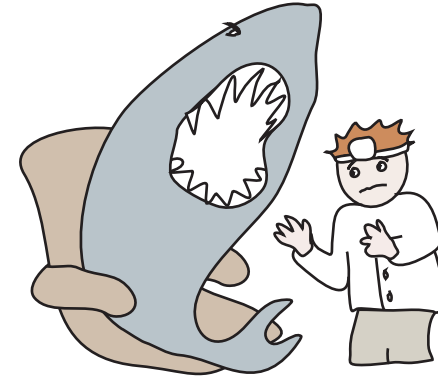


Don't forget – in the word, “are”, the naughty, silent “e” doesn't pinch the “A”, so the word “are” sounds like “car” and “far”.



We **are** mice, and we **are** nice,
but we **are** mad at the farmer's wife.
She tried to **scare** us with her knife,
even though we **are** just three blind mice.

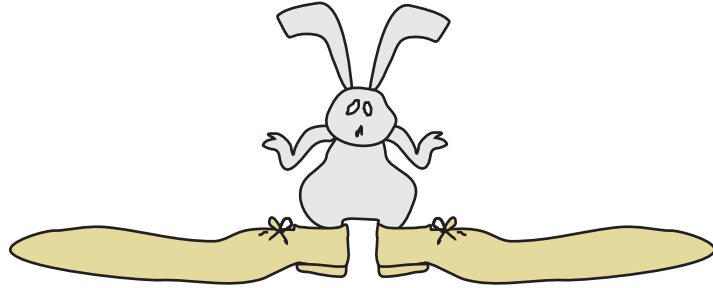
(This refers to the nursery rhyme, Three Blind Mice.)



The teeth of a **shark are** big;
the teeth of a **shark are sharp**.
So I never want to be a dentist for
a **shark**. A **shark** might bite
my **arm** off; a **shark** might bite
my nose; a **shark** would really
scare me if he nibbled on my toes.



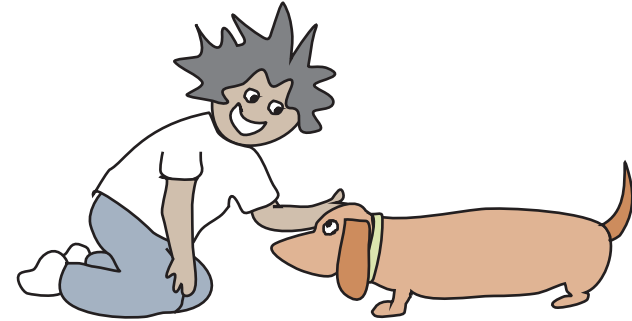
Remember the rule about how the naughty “e” can’t reach around TWO letters to pinch a vowel? That is why the word “large” sounds like the word “are”.



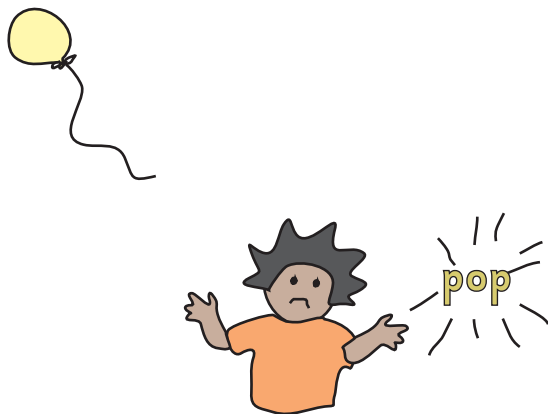
Because I am a **hare**, my feet
are large. And look at my shoes –
 they **are large, large, large**.
 My feet **are** so **large**
 they **are** bigger than a **car**;
 it is **hard** to believe
 just how **large** they **are**.



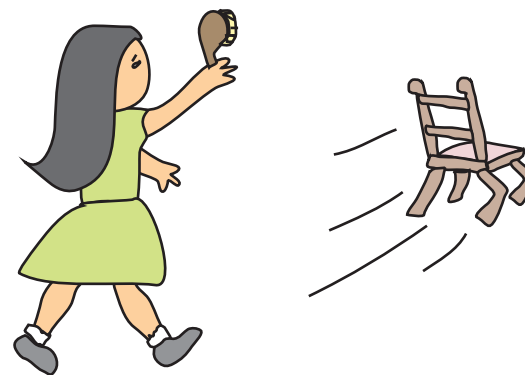
In the word, “fair”, the “A” calls out her name because she is walking with the letter “I”, so she gets to do the talking..



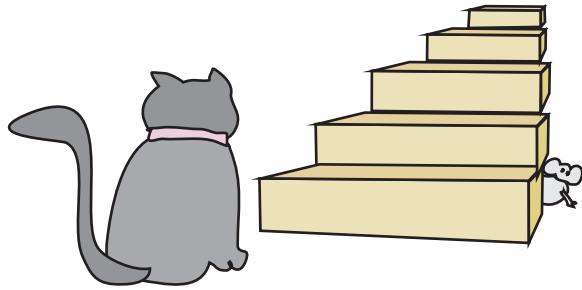
I raced my dog, as **far** as the tree,
 and I won **fair** and square. I raced my
 dog as **far** as the tree, and now he will not
 talk to me. “It was not **fair**,” said my dog
 to me. “It was not **fair** at all. I am just
 a little, flat dog, and you are much too tall.”



It is so **unfair**;
 it is not **fair** at all –
 my **pair** of balloons
 just drive me up a wall.
 One balloon went pop
 and lost all its **air**.
 The other blew away,
 way up in the **air**.



I sat on a **chair** to brush my
hair, but the **chair** would not
 stay – the **chair** ran away. I ran
 after the **chair**, with my brush and
 my **hair**, but the **chair** did not
care – the **chair** ran away.



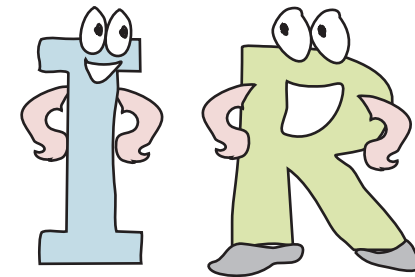
I need to sit and **stare** at the
stairs. I need to sit and **stare**.

I need to know why my black cat
just **stares** at the **stairs**.

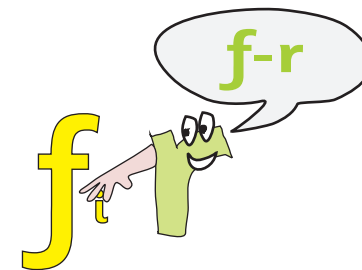
Does she see a big, fat rat?

Does she see a little mouse?

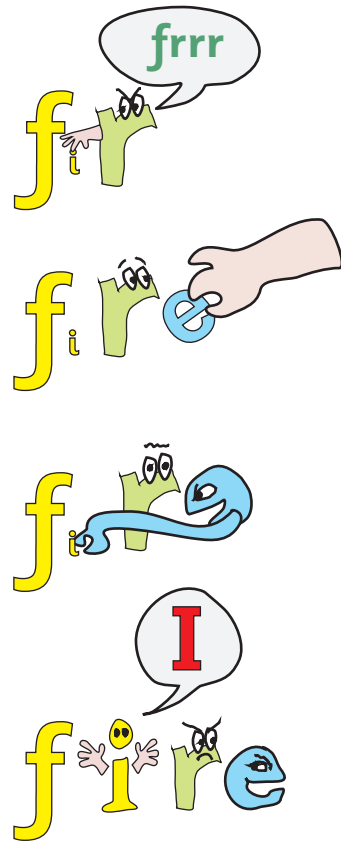
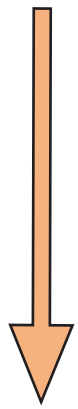
Why does my fat cat **stare** at the
stairs? I really must find out.



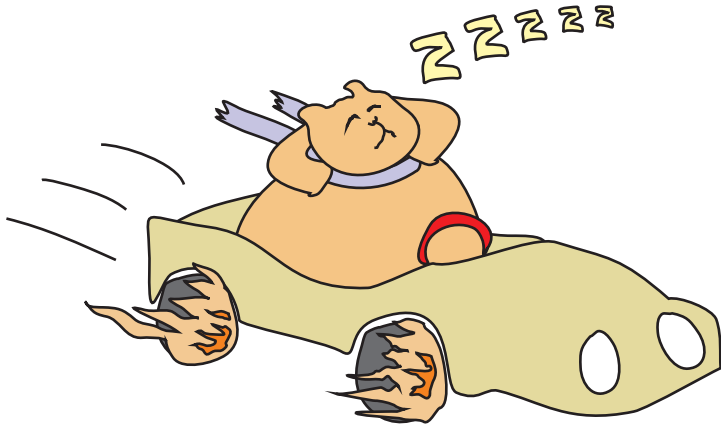
The letter “**R**” also likes to be the
boss of the letter “**I**” – he makes it so
you can’t really hear the
letter “**I**” anymore,
like in the word “**fir**”.



But if you add a silent “**e**”, the letter “**I**” calls out his name. You can now hear the “**I**” again, and the word “**fir**” changes to “**fire**”.



I made a **fire** by a tall **fir** tree – a lovely **fire** as warm as could be. But the **fir** tree said, “Hey! You are burning my toes.” So I put out the **fire**, and then I froze.

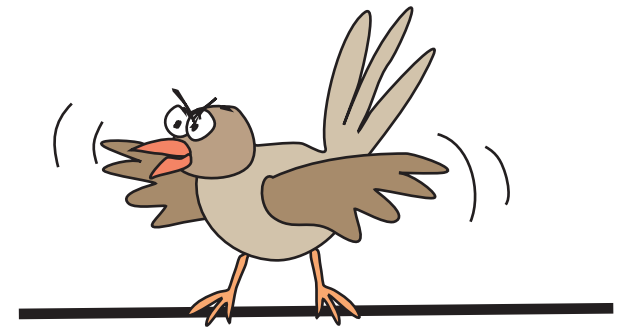


When the **first tire** caught on **fire**,
the fat cat did not see it.

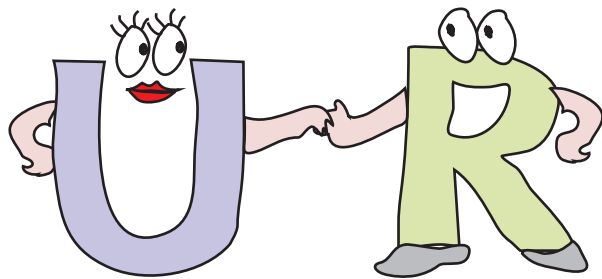
When the second **tire** caught on **fire**,
the fat cat ate a cheese bit.

When the **third tire** caught on **fire**,
the fat cat counted sheep.

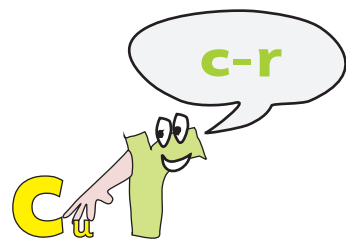
When the fourth **tire** caught on **fire**,
the fat cat went to sleep.



A **bird** sat on a telephone
wire. He spat on a cat that
sat in the **dirt**; he spat on
a **girl** in a pretty pink **shirt**.
That **bird** on a **wire** was
very rude – he should not be in
such a bad mood.



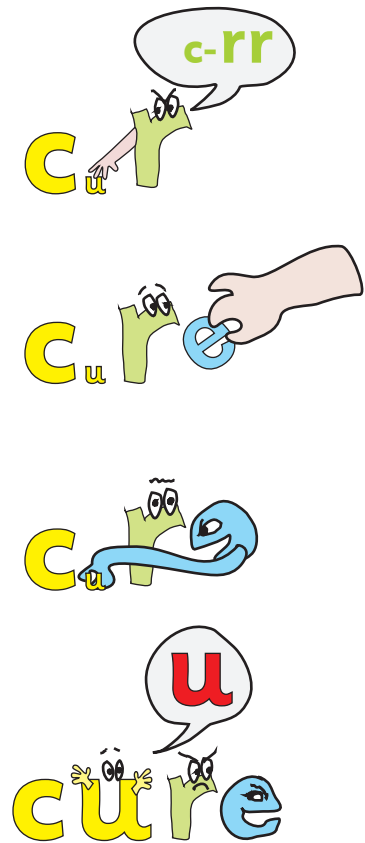
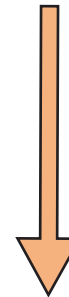
The letter “**R**” also likes to be the boss of the letter “**U**” – he makes it so you can’t really hear the letter “**U**” anymore, like in the word “**cur**”.



But if you add a silent “**e**”, the letter “**U**” calls out her name. You can now hear a little bit of the letter “**U**”, and “**cur**” changes to “**cure**”.

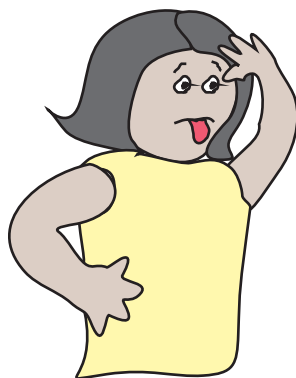


cur (stray dog)





In the word “sure”, the “s” sounds like “sh” – you can see it in words like “sure”, “sugar”, “treasure”, and “measure”.

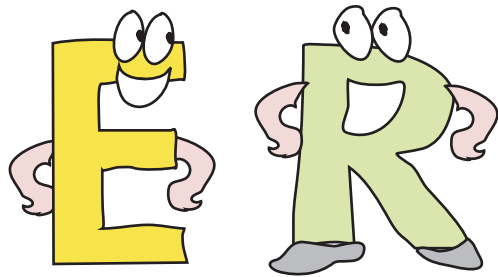


I am **sure** that vegetables make me sick – I am **sure** they make me faint, so catch me, quick!

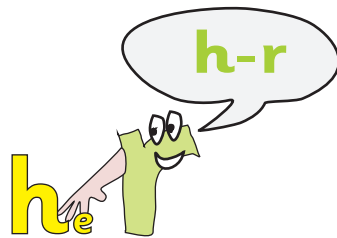
And what is the **cure** for my vegetable disease? I am **sure** it is pizza – pizza please!



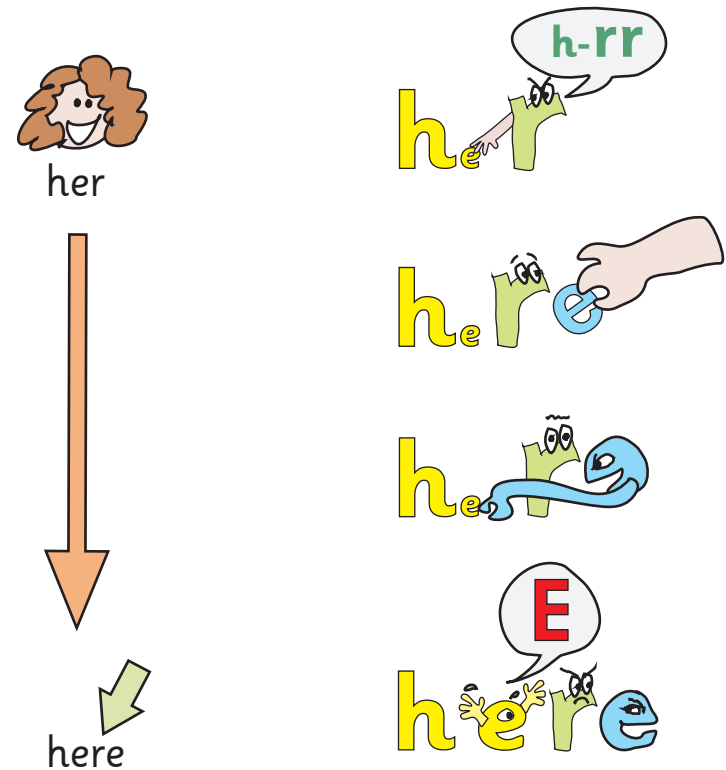
Pure sugar is the **cure** for my disease. Sugar as **pure** as **pure** can be. I am **sure** that sugar makes me sweet; I am **sure** that sugar makes me clean and neat. So give me sugar – sugar please. Lots of **pure** sugar, if you please.

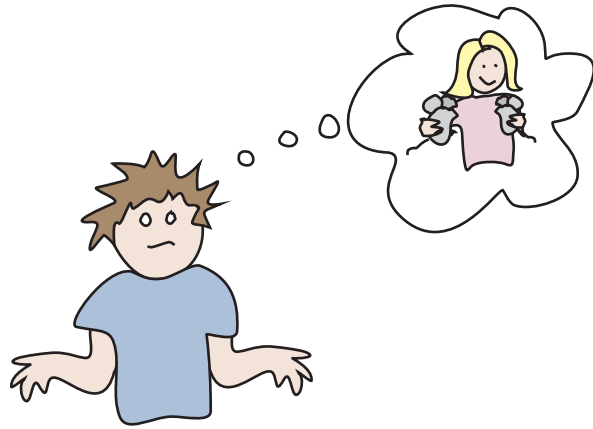


The letter “**R**” also likes to be the boss of the letter “**E**” – he makes it so you can’t really hear the letter “**E**” anymore, like in the word “**her**”.



But if you add a silent “**e**”, the letter “**E**” calls out his name. You can now hear the letter “**E**”, and the word “**her**” changes to “**here**”.





Did you see **her here** at my house?
 I think she was **here** with **her** rat
 and **her** mouse. I did not see **her**
here because my eyes were closed – so
 how did I know she was **here**? I could
 smell **her** perfume with my nose!



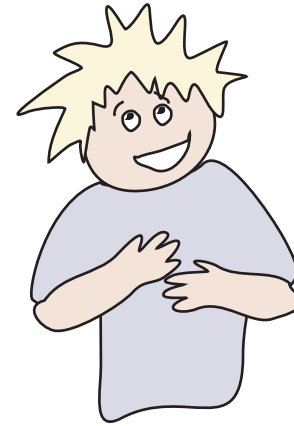
Here I am at the candy store,
 and this is what I came **here** for –
 a bag of **these here** chocolates,
 a bag of **these** gum drops,
 a can of yummy soda pop,
 and **these** three lollipops.



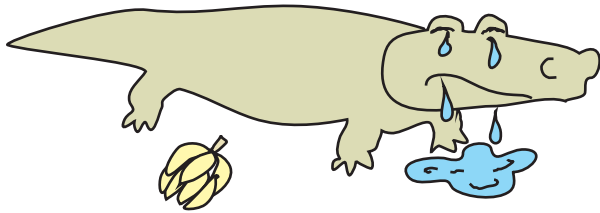
When the letter “e” goes walking with another vowel, like the letter “a”, he also calls out his name.



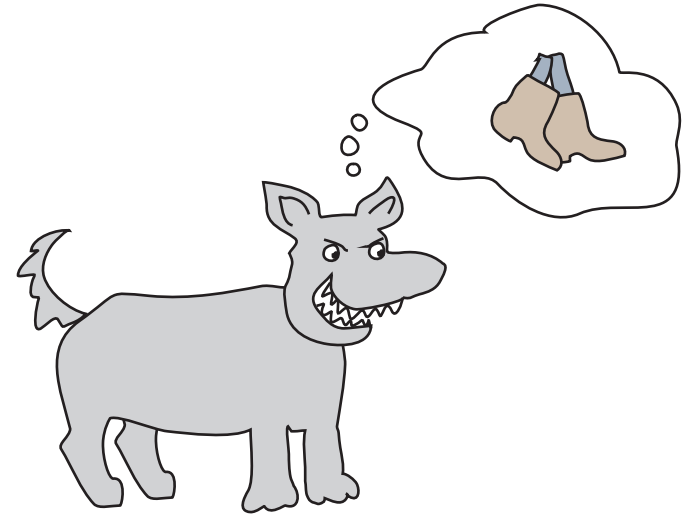
I can **hear** you loud and **clear**,
you do not have to shout –
you are so **near** to me
my **ear** is in your mouth.



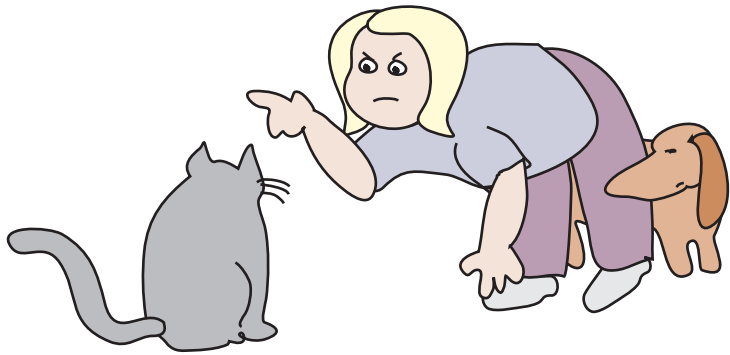
A **year** from now, I will be eight –
another **year** older, won't
that be great?
And in a **year**, I will know how
to read – I can hardly believe
I will still be me.



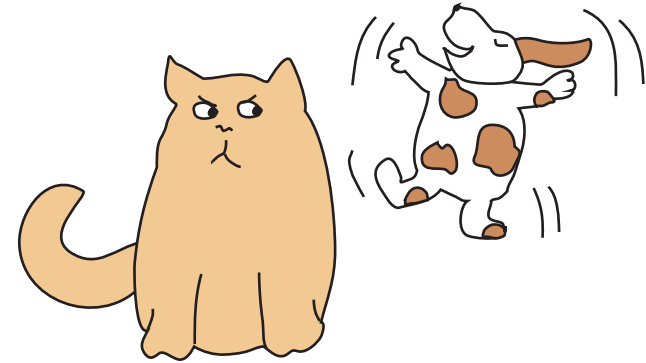
A crocodile was sad; a **tear** rolled down his cheek. **Tear** after **tear**, he could not even speak. A monkey asked him, “Why are you so sad?” The bad, sad crocodile wiped his **tears**. He said, “My favorite food is monkey **ears**...” “It is dark in **here**,” said the monkey with a shout. The crocodile burped, but he did not let him out.



“Come **here**,” said the wolf with a smile full of teeth. “I need you **near** me, so you can **hear** me when I whisper in your **ear**...”
 ‘You have really big feet!’ ”



I told my dog to feel no **fear**.
 I told my dog that I was **here**.
 Then I told my cat to leave the dog
 alone, or else, I **fear**, the cat will
 have no home.

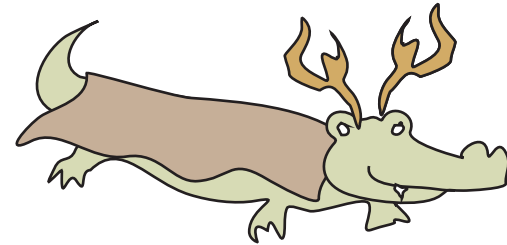


“I won the race!” said the dog
 with a **cheer**. “I was first –
 you weren’t even **near**.”

“I don’t care,” said the cat
 with a **sneer**. “I did not even
 try – I just sat right **here**.”



If a **deer** can't talk,
 how does a **deer cheer**?
 Does a **deer cheer** at a football
 game, or does a **deer** never
cheer at all?



A **deer** is **here** to **cheer** me up;
 a **deer** is **here** to make me smile.
 But the **deer** that is **here** to
cheer me up is not a **deer** –
 it is a crocodile.



Letter to a deer:

Dear Deer,

How do you do? I **hear** that you are **here** on a visit to the zoo.

I have been ill, and I **feel** a little **weak**, so I will see you soon –

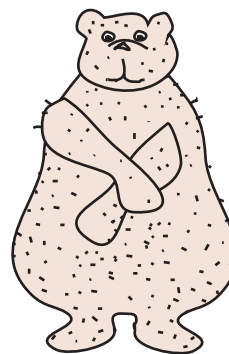
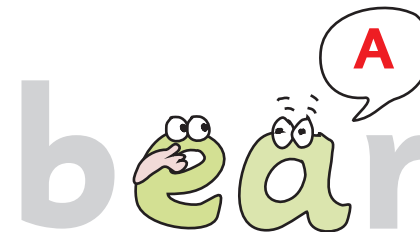
in about a **week**. So until then,

dear, dear deer, have a good

time and be of good **cheer**.



In some words, like “bear” and “wear”, the “E” messes up and forgets to call out his name, so the “A” calls out her name instead.



Fuzzy Wuzzy was a **bear**.

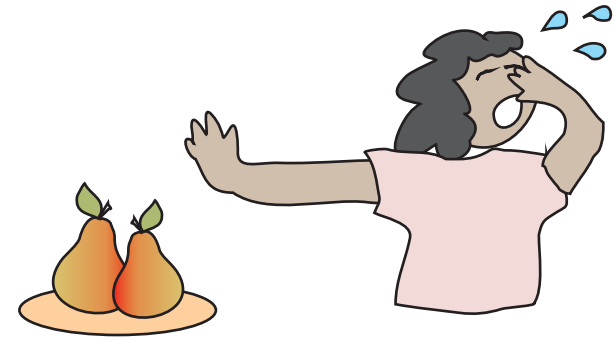
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no **hair**.

So Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?

Anonymous



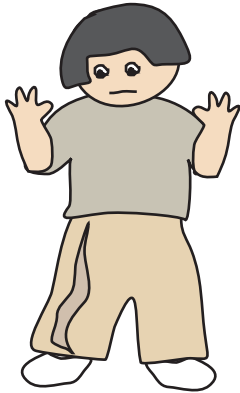
What does a **bear wear**
 if a **bear** has no **hair**?
 Does a **bear wear** pants?
 Does a **bear wear** a shirt?
 Or does a **bear wear** a hat
 and a pretty pink skirt?



I asked my mother to buy me
 a **pear**. I was so sad when she
 got me a **pair**. I said, “Mother,
dear, I asked for a **pear** – why,
 oh, why did you bring me a **pair**?”
 My mother said, “Smile, my silly,
 silly child. A **pair** of **pears** is
 better than one – and much, much
 better than none.”



The words “tear” (cry) and “tear” (rip) look the same but sound different.



I did not want to **tear** my new **pair** of pants, so I took great **care** when I did a little dance. But a big, old nail made a **tear** in my pants, and as I wiped away my **tears**, I saw that my pants had a **tear** as big as all of France.



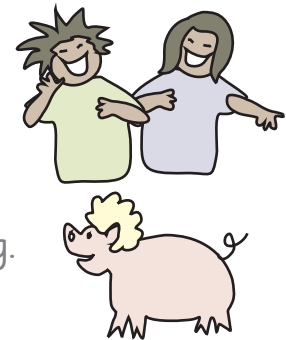
The words “there” and “their” sound the same, but are very different words...

there 

Over there.

their

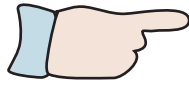
Means belonging to them – their silly pig wore a wig.





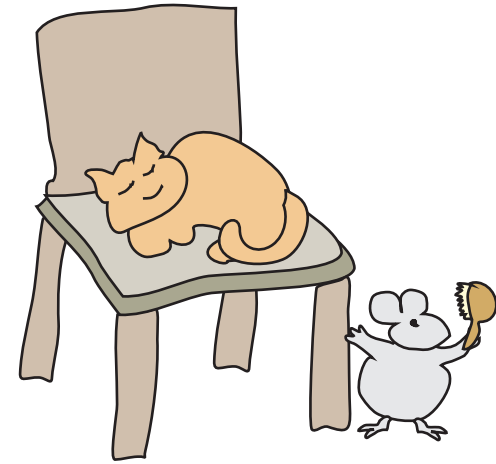
The word “there” looks like the word “here” but it sounds very different.

there

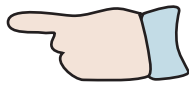


Means a place or location: Look at that cat over there.

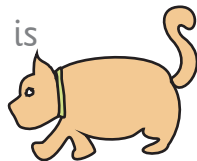
there



here



At THIS place or location (usually a location that is near). The cat came over here



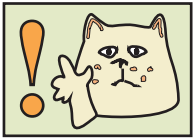
I saw a mouse over **there** by the **chair**. The mouse was brushing his **hair**. A cat was **there**, asleep on the **chair**, but the mouse that was **there** did not **care**.



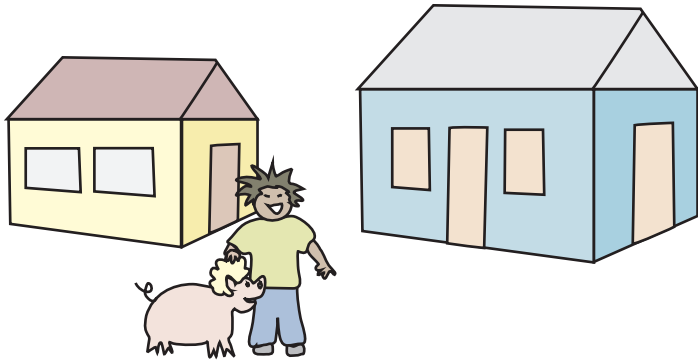
Put the pot down, **there** by the wall. No, not **there** – I don't like it **there** at all. Try it by the fence... try it by the chair. No, not **there**... or **there**... or **there**...
 Oops! You dropped the pot – you should take better care...



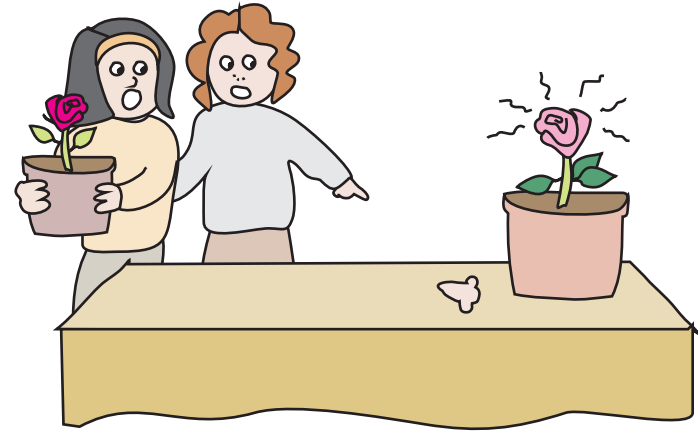
I was **there** last night when the tooth fairy came. **There** was no tooth to get, but she came all the same. She stood **there** in the dark, and she looked in my mouth. She wiggled all my teeth, but none would come out. Yes, she was **here**, and yes, it was **her** – she was bigger than a mouse, and smaller than a **bird**.



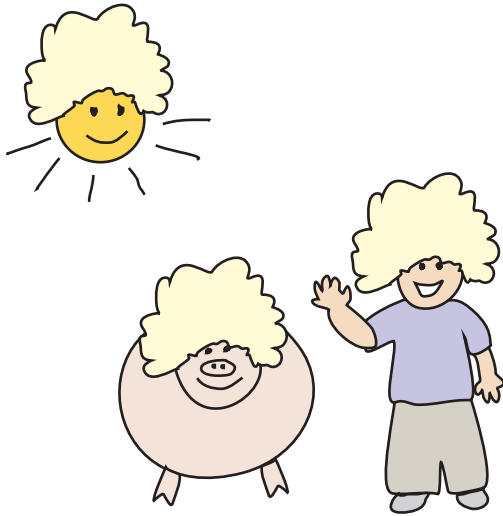
The word “their” means belong to them.



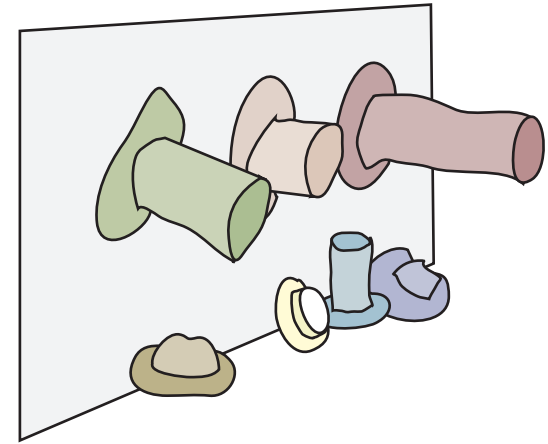
Our house is yellow; **their** house is blue. **Our** house has a door; **their** house has two. And though **our** house is small – **their** house is quite big – **our** house has something they don't have: me and my silly pig.



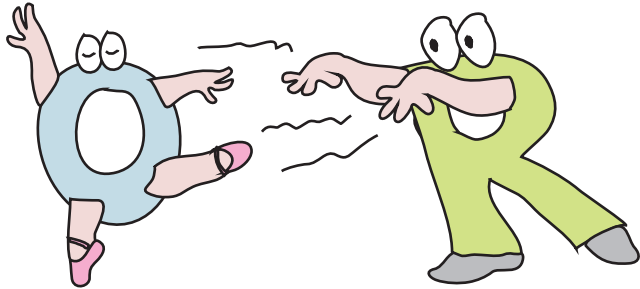
Your rose is red; **their** rose is pink. **Your** rose smells nice, but **their** rose stinks. I have never smelled a rose that smells as bad as that. **Their** rose smells so bad that my nose fell off – splat!



She **wears** a wig – a big, yellow wig.
 Her pig wants to look like her, so he also
wears a wig. **Their** wigs look so silly;
their wigs look so dumb – oh, look!
Their wigs look just like the sun!



They keep **their** hats over **there**
 on the wall. Some of **their** hats are
 very, very tall. The tallest hat,
there on the hook, is taller than
 me when I stand on a book.
 I don't know who they are,
 but **their** hats are **there** –
 have I touched **their** hats?
 I would not dare!



The letter “**R**” also likes to be the boss of the letter “**O**”...



The letter “R” is the total boss of the letter “O”, because the letter “R” almost always makes the “O” make the same sound –



See how the “o” sounds different in each word

on

bone

pout

doom

See how the “o” sounds the SAME in each word

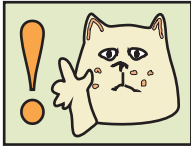


or

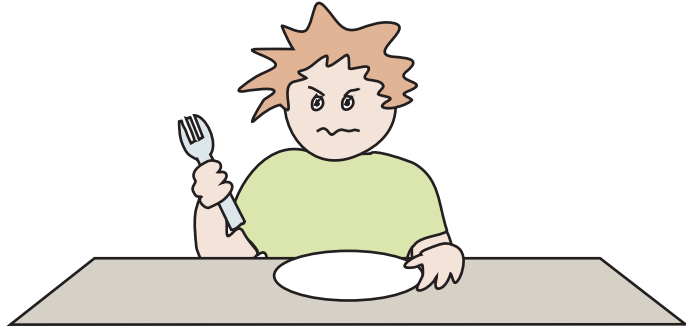
bore

pour

door



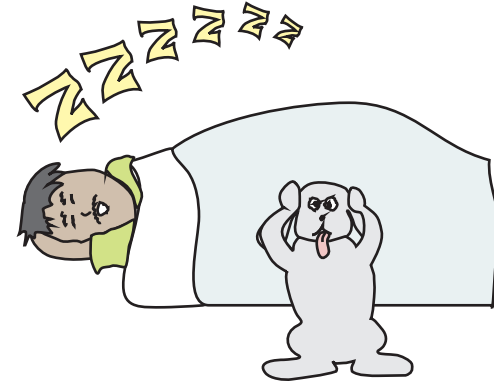
So the rule is: “When a letter “R” comes AFTER a letter “O”, the “O” makes the same sound – “or”.”



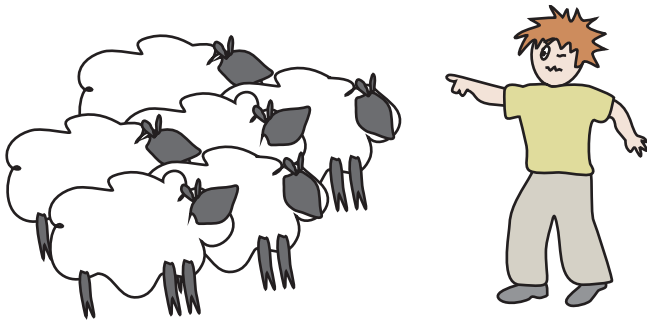
I need some **corn** to put on my **fork** –
 And if there is no **corn for** my **fork**,
 then I would like a little **pork**.
 And if there is no **pork for** my **fork**,
 then I will shout, and I will **snort**
 until I have some **corn or** **pork**.



See? It doesn't matter if you add a naughty silent “e”, nothing happens – the sound of the “o” does not change”



When my uncle is asleep
 he will **snort** and **snore**.
 If you try to wake him up
 he will **snore** even **more**.
 He will **snore** so much
 that the dog wakes up – will I
snore too when I grow up?



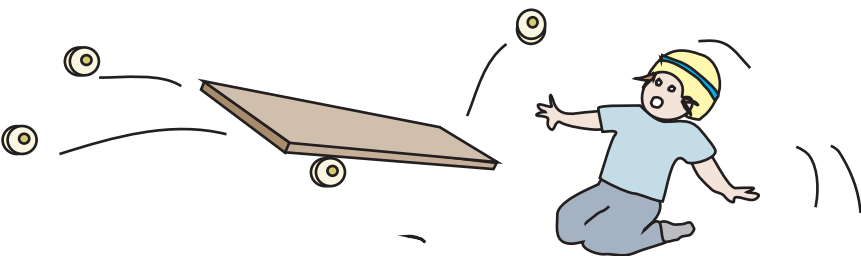
Can I have another **chore**?
 My **chore** is such a **bore**.
 The **more** I do it,
 the **more** I want to **snore**.
 Why is my **chore**
 counting all the sheep?
 The **more** that I do it,
 the **more** I want to sleep.



It doesn't matter if another vowel is walking with the letter "O" – the sound of the letter "O" doesn't change.



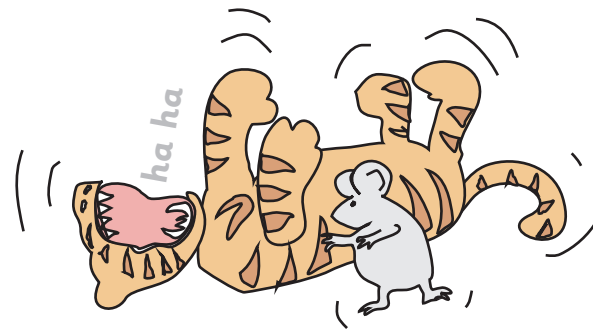
Lions like to **roar** a lot.
 They **roar** and **roar** and **roar**.
 And when you think that they are
 done, then they **roar** some **more**.
 I wish that I could **roar** like a lion –
 will I learn if I keep trying?



I wish I had a skate-**board**
 so that I can skate around,
 so I put some wheels on a wooden
board, and I went outside to try it out.
 The wheels fell off the **board**,
 and I landed on the ground – I am glad
 I **wore** a helmet; my head was safe
 and sound.



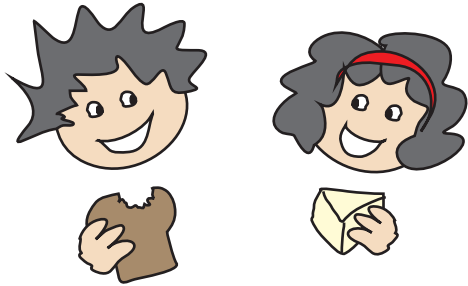
Even two O's together don't say "ooh!" when an "R" is there –



The tiger at the **zoo** is asleep upon
 the **floor**. He sleeps with one eye
 open – he wants to see the **door**.
 Then at the stroke of midnight, with
 the **moon** up in the sky, the **door**
 slowly opens, and a mouse slips inside.
 The mouse tip-toes over to the tiger
 on the **floor**, and tickles the **poor**
 tiger till he can't take any **more**.



A few words – a very few words – break the rule about the letter “R” always making the letter “O” sound the same. Some of these rule-breaking words are “our”, “sour”, “flour”, and “hour”



Our mother said that we could bake a loaf of bread and a chocolate cake. But we had no **flour** and the milk was **sour**, so we sat and cried for about an **hour**. Then we went to the **store** to get **more flour**, and lots of milk that was good, not **sour**. We ran back to **our** house and, in an **hour**, we had chocolate bread and a loaf of cake, which we sat down and ate and ate.



There are also some words that LOOK like “our” and “flour”, but which sound like “or” and “for” – like the words “your”, “pour” and “four”.



I tried to **pour** some milk, but I spilled it on the **floor**. I tried to **pour** some milk, and now there is no **more**. I tried to **pour** some milk, and I need to clean it up. I tried to **pour** some milk, but I forgot the cup.

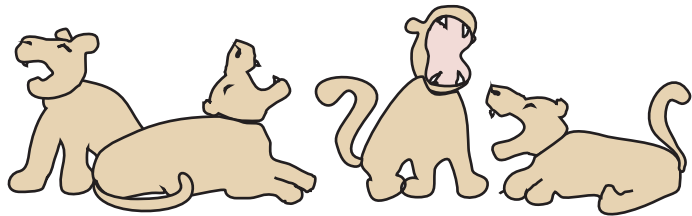


I bought a cake **for your** birthday,
 and a flower **for your** mom,
 but I got hungry on the way here,
 and now they both are gone.
 I ate all the cake,
 but my tummy needed **more**,
 so I also ate the rose – ouch!
 I even ate the **thorn**.

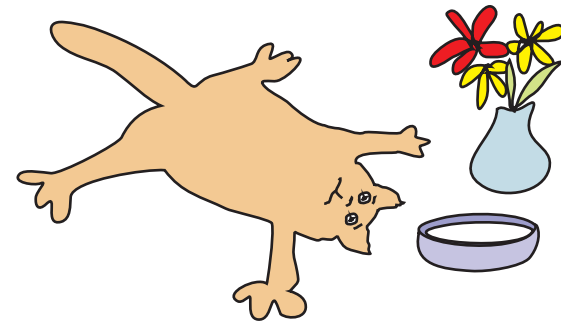


If a wolf knocks on **your door**,
 and he is dressed like a sheep,
 lock **your door**, jump in bed,
 and pretend you are asleep.
 If he stays at **your door** and makes
 noises like a sheep, tell him to go away –
your name is not Bo Peep.

Refers to the nursery rhyme, "Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep..."



Four little lions **roar** all day long.
Four little lions **roar** because they
 are so strong.
 They **roar for** their dinner,
 they **roar for** mom **or** dad,
 they **roar** when they are happy,
 and **roar** when they are sad.



I need to **pour** some milk **for our**
poor, poor cat, but the milk is **sour**,
 and **our** cat is flat. **Our** neighbor's dog,
 who is very, very fat, sat on **our** cat and
 squashed her flat. He sat on **our** cat **for**
 about **four hours**, now I'm off to the
store for milk and flowers.

THE END