

How to Use This Book . . .

The activities in this book provide an excellent source of reading and writing practice for elementary students. The pages can be used as drill reinforcement or as independent instructional material and are designed to help motivate students to learn through a variety of exercises. The activities in this book are grouped by skill; these skills may overlap more than one grade level and should be used in ways that best meet each student's needs. The reproducibles are created so that a student can work with a minimum of supervision in a classroom or at home. Answer keys have been provided in the back of the book.



EXTRA! EXTRA! When you see this symbol, be sure to check out the "extra" extension activity provided.

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Key Words

curious
snoopy
nosy

Mother Mouse said to Matt Mouse, "Don't go into the kitchen tonight."

"Why?" asked Matt, but Mother didn't answer.



This made Matt more **curious**. As soon as he could, Matt slipped into the kitchen. He was a **nosy** mouse, and he looked in every nook and cranny. Poking around a corner, **snoopy** Matt saw two huge, yellow, shiny things. Now, the little mouse was scared. He turned and ran back into his home.

A. Read the story. Then fill in the missing words

1. "Why?" asked Matt. He was _____.
2. The _____ little mouse saw two yellow things.
3. The _____ mouse looked in every nook and cranny.

B. Write the key words.

1. Write the words that rhyme

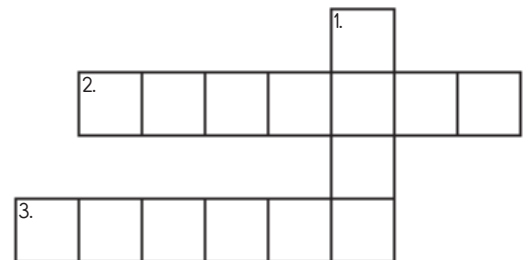
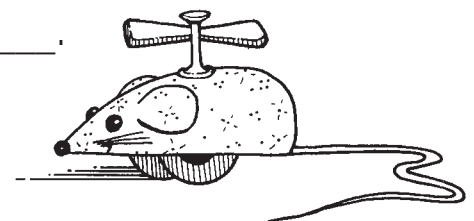
cozy _____ **furious** _____

droopy _____

2. When you wonder about something, you are _____.

3. To be snoopy is to be _____.

4. Put the key words in alphabetical order.
Then write them in the puzzle.



On another sheet of paper, write the next paragraph in the story. What are the huge, shiny, yellow things that Matt sees?

Homophones: Same Sound, Different Spellings and Meanings

steak—stake
hair—hare
mail—male
waste—waist
son—sun

Words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings are called **homophones**. These words make a picture in your mind. If you think of the wrong meaning, you will get a funny picture.

A. Write the homophone that makes the sentence correct.

1. Mother fixed a _____ for dinner.
2. His head was covered with _____.
3. She put the _____ into the box.
4. Jo put a belt around her _____.
5. The _____ was shining in the sky.

B. Write the correct word in each blank.

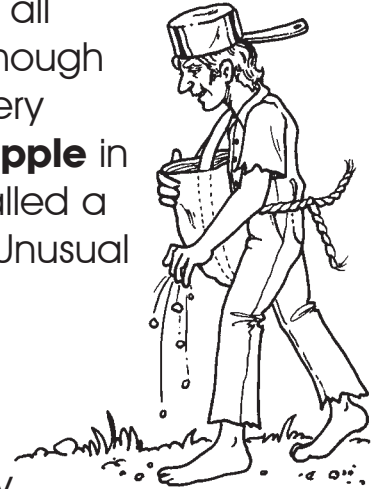
1. **steak stake** We bought _____ at the store. The _____ was in the ground.
2. **hair hare** A _____ is very much like a rabbit. Please comb your _____!
3. **mail male** A letter came in the _____. The opposite of female is _____.
4. **waste waist** Empty the _____ basket. A belt goes around your _____.
5. **son sun** The _____ shines brightly. Father said, "Tom is my _____."



Draw a picture that shows one set of homophones. For example, you could draw a man carrying some letters to show **male** and **mail**.

Figures of Speech

An old story says that long ago Johnny Appleseed went all over the American countryside planting apple trees. Even though the story may not be true, nutritious apples seem to be a very American fruit. People have many sayings using the word **apple** in different ways. A word or phrase used in a special way is called a **figure of speech**. Watch for colorful ways of saying things. Unusual phrases can make reading and speaking more fun!



A. Read these figures of speech. Can you add to the list?

1. You're the **apple of my eye**.—my favorite
2. There's **always a bad apple in every barrel**.—in any group of things, some will be less than good.
3. That's **as American as apple pie**.—anything common and popular in the United States
4. She was an **apple-cheeked** child.—round and rosy cheeks
5. He's an **apple polisher**.—flatterer, one who shines the apple to make it look better than it is
6. **An apple a day keeps the doctor away**.—Regular use of something good makes for health.

B. Write the figure of speech that fits each sentence.

1. She is my best girl.

2. Try to keep from becoming sick.

3. Everybody uses these sayings.

4. In a crowd, some strangers could be bad.



Write two figures of speech that you have heard. Write what each figure of speech really means.