

Note to Parents

The activities and games in this book have been designed to give your child a challenging and fun way to learn the parts of speech and simple sentence-building skills. Encourage your child to apply these skills to stories and daily reading and writing by identifying parts of speech, recognizing synonyms and antonyms, and building complete simple sentences with correct punctuation.

Before starting the activities, be sure to go over the directions with your child. Additional sentence building card sets are also available. See the last page for more information.



Ages 6+

Learning to Read is a Snap!™



ACTIVITIES & GAMES GUIDE

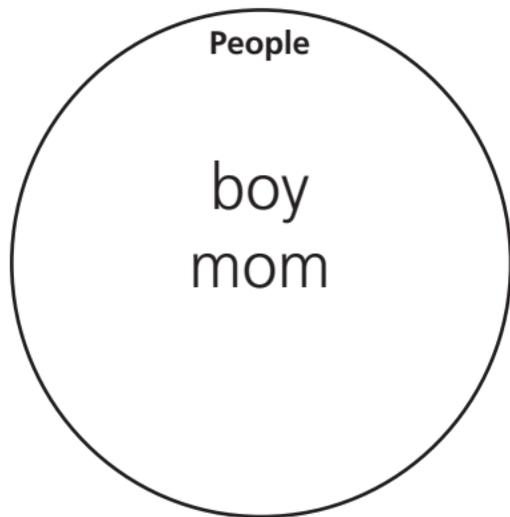


LER 7052

Sentence Building

Nouns All Around!

Draw three big circles on your writing board. Label the circles People, Places, and Things. Find five green noun Rods. Decide if each noun is a person, place, or thing and write it inside the correct circle. Try again with new Rods. Look around you for more names for people, places, and things to write in the circles.



For a challenge, go through the alphabet and think of a noun that starts with each letter!

Places

home

Things

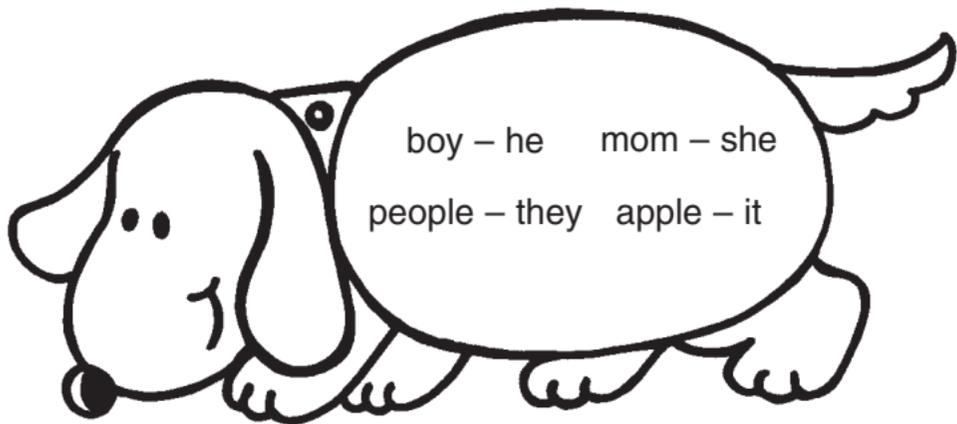
dish

car

Write three sentences using these nouns.

Pronoun Hound

Draw a large hound dog with a circle for its body. See the picture below.



Choose five green nouns. Try to find people, places, and things. Next, find all of the light green pronoun Rods. Match each green noun Rod to a light green pronoun Rod that could take its place

in a sentence. Write the matches you built in the body of the hound dog.

Next, find the green "s" and "es" Rods, and use them to make the nouns plural (more than one person, place, or thing). Match each plural noun with a pronoun that could take its place in a sentence. Write one sentence using a plural noun. Then erase the noun and replace it with the correct pronoun.

Ready, Set, Action!

Play this game with a friend. Choose a yellow verb Rod without letting your friend see it. If you draw an action verb, act it out and have your friend try to guess the word. Give hints to help.

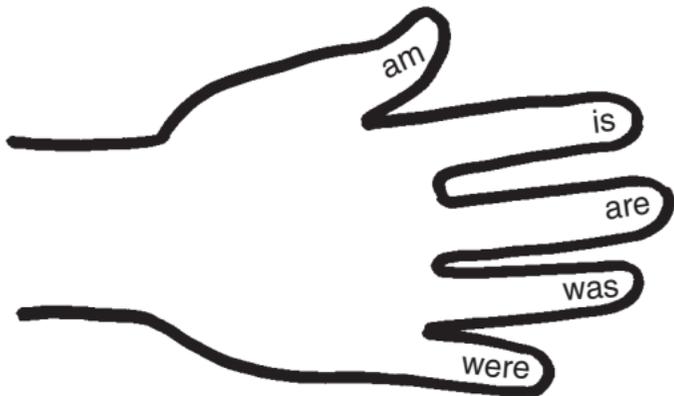
If you draw a linking (being) verb, show the Rod to your friend and make sure to agree that it is not an action verb. Work together to think of a sentence that uses the linking verb but does NOT show action.

I	am	happy	.
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The	girl	was	smart	.
-----	------	-----	-------	---

A Helping Hand

Trace the outline of your hand on your writing board. Write the helping verbs on each finger as shown:



Find the yellow Rods for each of these helping verbs and "ing." Find a yellow Rod with an action verb and connect it with a helping verb to build phrases like this:

am	walk	ing
----	------	-----

was	learn	ing
-----	-------	-----

Write sentences using the phrases you built. Circle the helping verb and underline the action verb in each sentence.

Silly Sentences

Pick five red adjective Rods, five green noun Rods, and find the green

s

 and

es

 Rods.

Match adjective and noun Rods to make word phrases. Add "s" or "es" if you need to make a noun plural. Make sure the adjectives describe the nouns, like this:

six	horse	s
-----	-------	---

pretty	doll
--------	------

small	ant
-------	-----

If you can't find a match that makes sense, choose new noun or adjective Rods.

Next, using animals for nouns, think of new adjective-noun matches that have both words starting with the same letter. Write the pairs on your writing board.

Examples:

What kind?

brown bear

red rooster

Which one?

fuzzy fox

grumpy goat

How many?

seven swan s

eight eagle s

Now write sentences using the pairs you made. Try to use the same beginning letters for most of the words in your sentences.

Example:

Four fuzzy foxes fell five feet.

Where is it?

Make a chart on your writing board using three prepositions from the blue Rods. Write word phrases using the prepositions you have chosen. Follow the examples below.

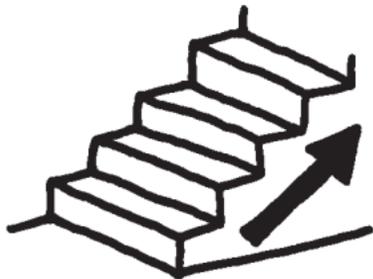
up	off	out
up the stairs	off the porch	out the door
up the tree	off the couch	out the window

Challenge!

Play this game with a friend. Hide a small object, then write directions for your friend to follow to find it. Use prepositions in your directions. See if your friend can find the hidden object. Example:

1. Walk out the door.
2. Climb up the steps.
3. Look in the desk.

Circle the prepositions you use in your directions.



Antonym Ant

Build a short sentence using a red adjective Rod to describe a noun by answering the question "What kind?" or "Which one?" Examples:

The	boy	is	happy	.
-----	-----	----	-------	---

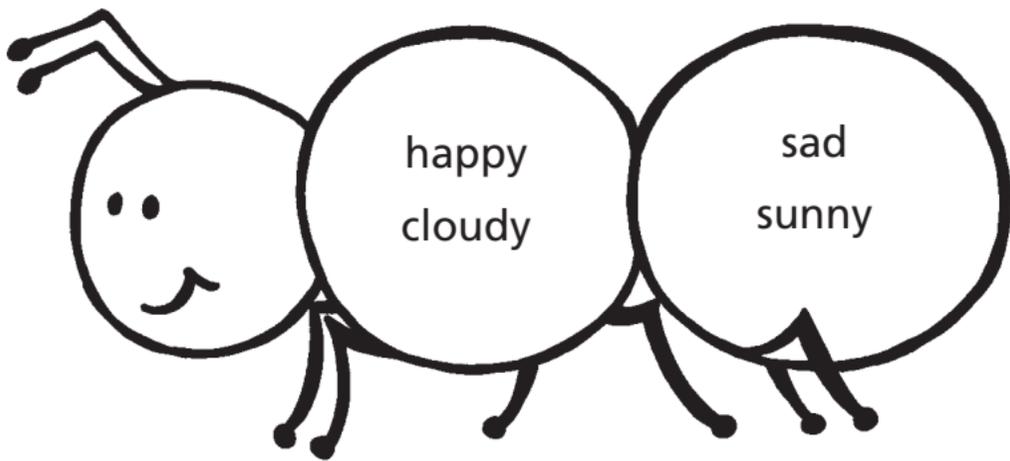
Today	is	sunny	.
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Now write a sentence, but replace the adjective with an antonym (opposite word). Examples:

The boy is sad.

Today is cloudy.

Draw an ant with a big body made of circles. Write adjectives in one circle and their antonyms in the other circle as shown:

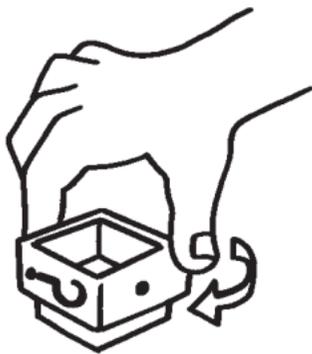


Think of more adjectives and antonyms to add to your Antonym Ant. Now try it again using synonym word pairs like this:

happy – glad sad – unhappy large – big

Spin a Sentence

Play this game with a friend. Place Rods in a pile. Choose one green, yellow, or red Rod. Then take one white punctuation Rod and gently spin it on its top like this:



Say a sentence aloud using one of the words on the Rod you chose with the ending punctuation mark that is facing you. (Note: If the  mark is facing you, spin again.)

Tell what type of sentence you just made.

Sentences ending in **.** are **declarative** and must tell information or make a statement. Example: She likes apples.

Sentences ending in **?** are **interrogatory** and must ask a question. Example: Do you like apples?

Sentences using **!** are **exclamatory** and must show strong emotion. Example: I love apples!

If all players agree the sentence is complete and correctly identified, you may keep the word Rod. If you are incorrect, return the word Rod to the pile. It is now the next player's turn.

Be the first player to collect one red, yellow, and green Rod and win!

Parts of Speech Glossary

Nouns – These words name people, places, and things.

Examples: woman, city, cars

Pronouns – These words take the place of nouns.

Examples: he, she, it, they, their, our, my

Adjectives – These words describe or tell about nouns.

Examples: happy, fuzzy, little, red, two, five

Articles – These special adjectives include *a*, *an*, and *the*.

Action Verbs – These words name actions.

Examples: ran, laughed, climbing, rides

Helping Verbs – These words help the main verb express a difference in time or mood. Examples: am, is, are, was, were

Adverbs – These words are used to describe verbs by telling when, where, or how an action happens.

Examples: quickly, happily, today, again

Conjunctions – These words join other words, phrases, or sentences together.

Examples: and, or, nor, for, but, yet, so, because, while

Prepositions – These words show how two words or ideas in a sentence are connected to each other. Also, these words can tell about an object's place or position.

Examples: to, around, up, in, down, with, off, out

Interjections – These words show strong feelings or emotions.

An exclamation point is used for punctuation with an interjection.

Examples: Wow! Hey! Look!

Take the next step in Sentence Building with these additional Rod and card sets:

- Sentence Building Rods - (LER 7108)
- Sentence Building Activity Cards - Set of 24 (LER 7112)
- Sentence Building Card Set 2 - Set of 48 (LER 7164)

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