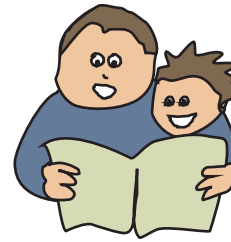


# Book One

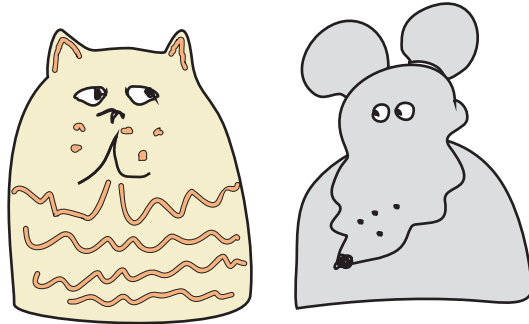
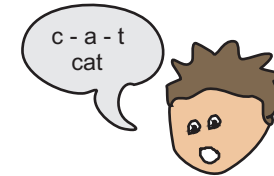
# Quick Start Guide

Short vowel  
**a**



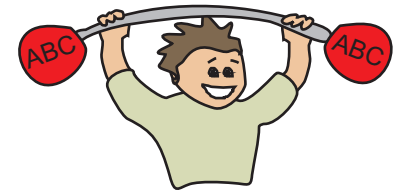
Read the book WITH your child. You read the “regular” text, and he/she reads the big, red words, sort of like reading the different parts in a play.

Help your child sound out the words as needed.



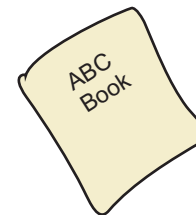
Read the book several times. This helps develop the eye muscles and left-to-right reading patterns that are necessary for reading.

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



Written and illustrated by

Miz Katz N. Ratz

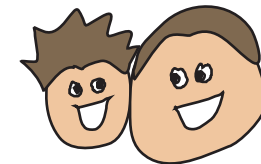


If your child is having difficulty, he/she might need more practice with the alphabet. Get a fun book about the alphabet, and read that lots of times. Then come back to Progressive Phonics.

A Progressive Phonics™ book

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

And most important of all, HAVE FUN!



## Short vowel "a" word list

at bat cat fat hat mat pat rat sat

bad dad had mad sad

cab dab gab

bag gag wag

am ham jam Pam Sam yam

an can Dan man pan ran van

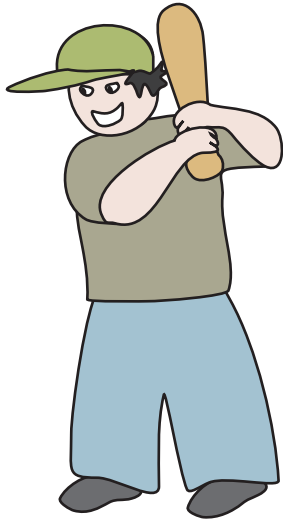
cap lap map nap rap tap yap

has as

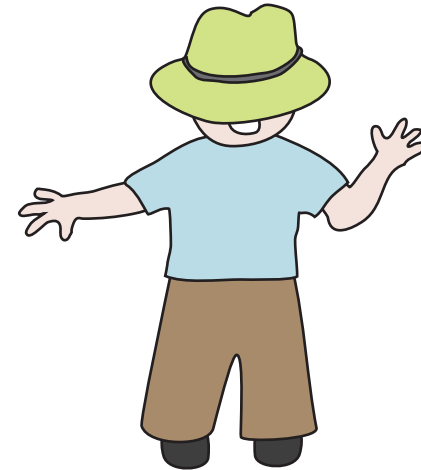
a an



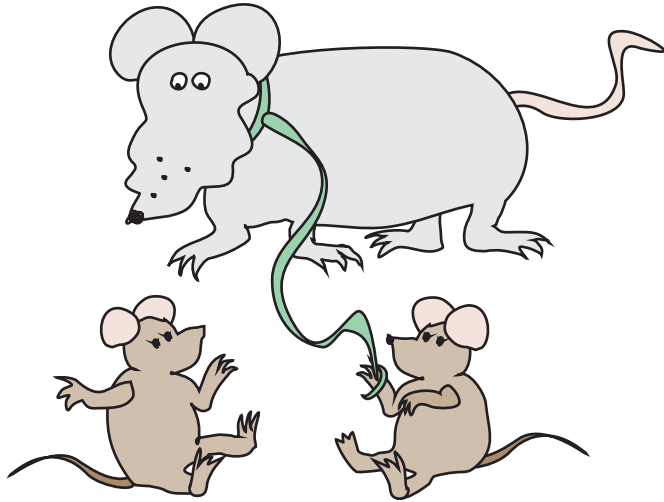
I am looking **at** my little **cat** –  
 she is not the **cat** behind the tree;  
 she is not the **cat**  
 with the cup of tea.  
 I am looking **at** my little **cat** –  
 my **cat** is covered in orange stripes,  
 and my **cat** is wearing ballet tights.



I want to buy a baseball **hat**.  
I want to buy a baseball **bat**.  
I need a **bat** so I can play  
baseball, baseball every day.



Do not throw a ball **at** me –  
because of this **hat**, I cannot see.  
The **hat** is so big it covers my eyes.  
I need a **hat** that's more my size.

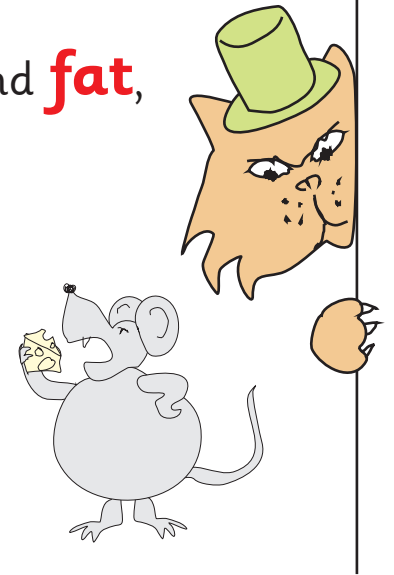


You ask if I want to **pat** your **rat**,  
 but I don't want to **pat** your **rat**.  
 I'm sure your **rat** is very nice,  
 but he's a **rat** and we are mice

My **cat**, so very big and **fat**,  
**sat** upon a big,  
**fat mat**.

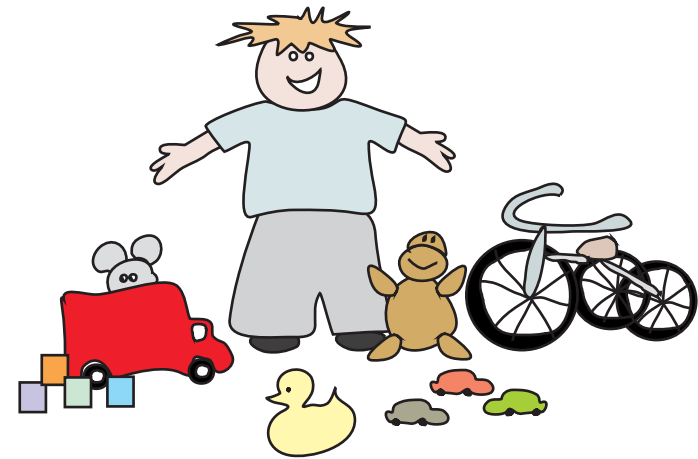
My **fat cat** liked  
 to wear a **hat**,  
 and my **fat cat**  
 liked my brother's **rat**.

Every day my big, **fat cat**  
**sat** beside my brother's **rat**,  
 and smiling with her big, **fat** teeth,  
 she dreamed of the day when she could eat  
 my brother's **rat**, so warm and fuzzy.  
 She wanted to eat the **rat** because he  
 was a **rat** and she was a **cat**,  
 and that was all she thought about that.

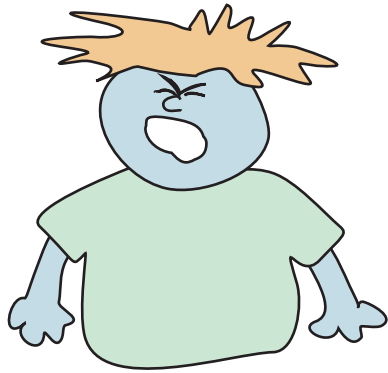




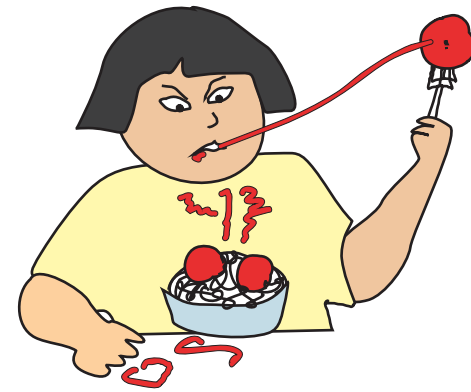
**Pat** mud pies with  
 a baseball **bat** –  
**pat** until they're nice and flat.  
**Pat, pat, pat**  
 with the **bat, bat, bat** –  
**pat** until they're nice and flat



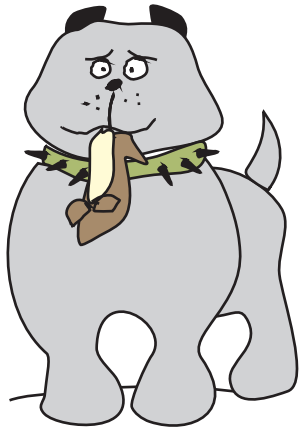
When I was a baby,  
 I **had** a yellow duck.  
 When I was two,  
 I **had** a red truck.  
 When I was three  
 I **had** a chimpanzee –  
 and now that I'm four,  
 I have a lot more.



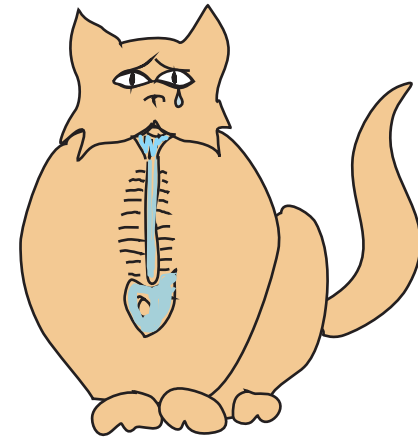
My mother said I **had** to be quiet.  
 My sister said I **had** to go away.  
 My brother said I **had** to share.  
 My other brother said I **had** to stay.  
 Why does everyone tell me what to do?  
 I think I'll scream until I turn blue.



My sister says my manners are **bad**.  
 She says it all the time –  
 it's **bad** to spit, it's **bad** to burp,  
 it's **bad** to run when you're inside.  
 But then she said I **had** no manners,  
 which really made me **mad** –  
 if I have no manners,  
 then how can they be **bad**?



I am **mad** at my dog.  
My dog is **bad**.  
I **had** some shoes –  
now they're doggie chews.

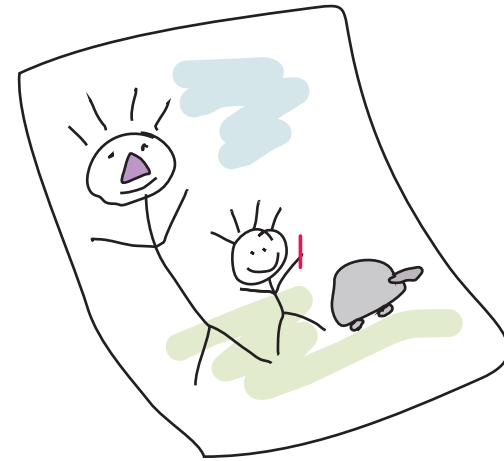


My cat is very **sad** today –  
she is very, very **sad**.  
She is **sad** because  
our fish is gone,  
and she found his bones  
out on the lawn.



My **dad** says he **had** a lot of hair  
when he was really young.  
He says he **had** a nose so funny –  
he also **had** a lot more money.

But then my **dad had** kids,  
and it's really rather **sad**.  
I got the hair, Jim's nose is funny –  
but we want to know,  
who got the money?

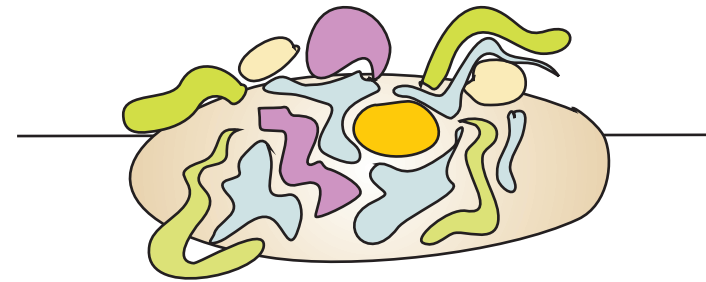


A little **dab** of green,  
a little **dab** of blue –  
I am making a picture  
of me and you.  
  
A little **dab** of grey –  
I think that's a turtle.  
A little **dab** of red –  
and your nose is purple.

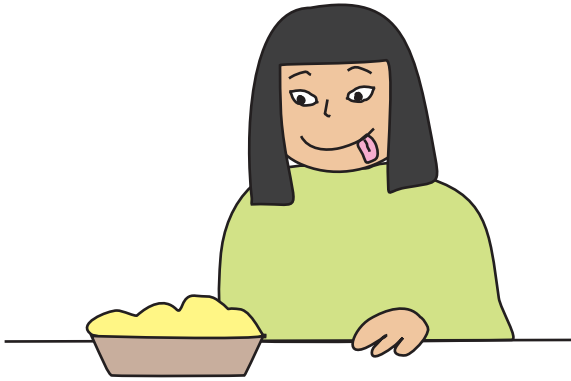




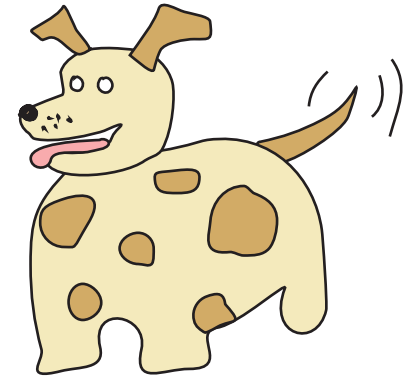
I like to ride in a taxi **cab**.  
 I like it when the driver  
 likes to **gab**.  
 When I grow up,  
 I will drive my own **cab** –  
 I will talk as I drive,  
 I will **gab, gab, gab**



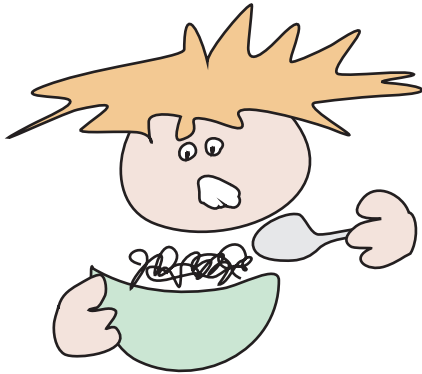
I do not want to eat this stuff –  
 it makes me want to **gag**  
 and throw it up.  
 Let's put it in a garbage **bag** –  
 if I don't see it, I won't **gag**.



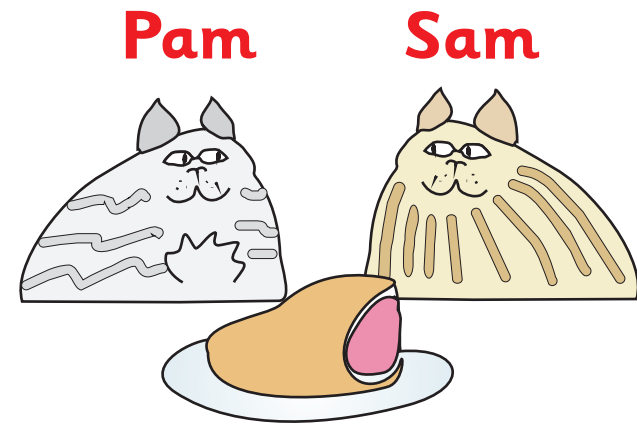
I **gag** when I eat tomatoes.  
I **gag** when I eat French fries.  
I **gag** when I eat most anything,  
except banana pies.



I've got a **bag** of candy.  
I've got a **bag** of treats.  
And if my dog can **wag** his tail,  
he'll get the **bag** to eat.  
But if I had no **bag** of candy,  
and nothing else to eat,  
my dog would still  
**wag** his tail –  
he does it in his sleep.



I **am** Sam.  
 I **am** five years old.  
 I **am** very, very glad  
 that I **am** eating from this bowl.  
 After I have eaten,  
 I **am** going to brush my teeth.  
 But now,  
 I **am** much too hungry  
 to do anything but eat.



My name is **Pam**.  
 I **am** a cat. I **am** glad  
 I **am** so nice and fat.  
 I have a friend, his name  
 is **Sam**, he eats a lot of  
 honey **ham**. **Sam** likes  
 to share his **ham** with me.  
 He says, "**Pam**, have  
 some **ham** – it is so yummy"



My brother, **Dan**,  
**can** read this book.

I **can** too –

**Dan** let me look.

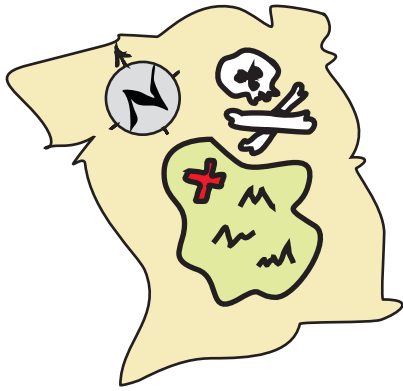
**Dan** and I

**can** read very well.

**Dan can** also  
write and spell.



A **man ran** down the road.  
A dog **ran** too, but **man**  
said, “No.” The **man ran** as  
fast as he could. The dog **ran**  
faster – boy, he was good.  
“Go away,” said the **man**  
as he **ran** out of breath.  
But the dog didn’t listen –  
the dog was deaf.



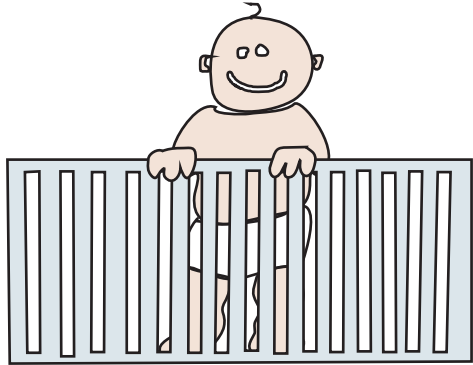
This **map** shows where treasure is buried. I got the **map** from someone scary. I asked my mom to help me with the **map** – she said it was time to take my **nap**. Oh, it’s hard to be a pirate when you’re only three. It’s hard to use a **map** when you can’t even read. It’s hard to take a **nap** when you’re never sleepy. I don’t know what to do – being me isn’t easy.



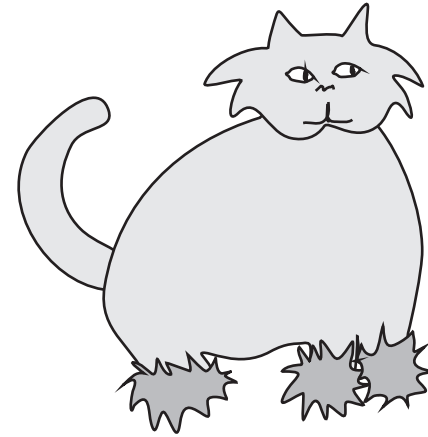
I always wear my favorite baseball **cap**. I never take it off, not even for a **nap**. One day the wind blew off my **cap** – I did not know, I was taking a **nap**. When I went outside, my friends all screamed. They were really scared, or so it seemed. “Put your **cap** back on,” they begged for hours – where the **cap** once was I was growing flowers.



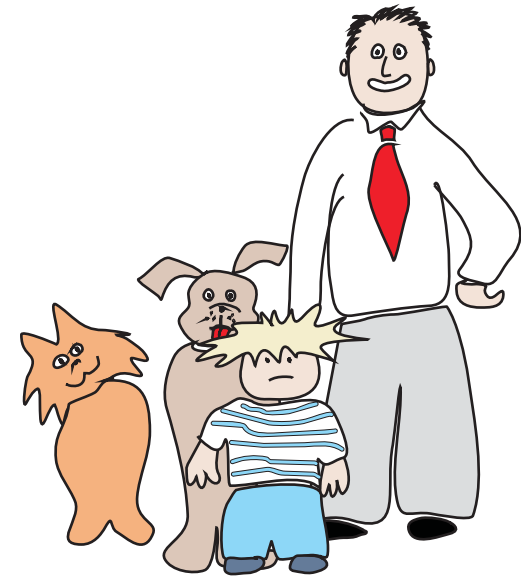
Sometimes an “s” at the end of a word sounds like “zzz” like in buzz, fuzz and was. Let’s try it...



My brother **has** a lot of toys,  
 so why does he play with mine?  
 My brother **has** a lot of books,  
 so why does he chew on mine?  
 I am glad my brother **has** a cage –  
 I can’t wait until he’s more my age.

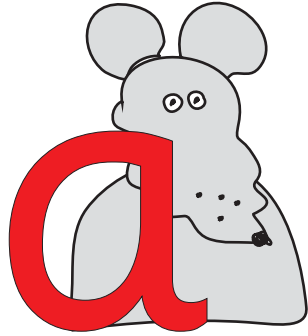


My cat **has** eyes.  
 My cat **has** teeth.  
 My cat **has** a name –  
 Miss Furry Feet.



Johnny **has** to wash his face.  
 Johnny **has** to brush his teeth.  
 Johnny **has** to go to say goodnight,  
 and Johnny **has** to go to sleep.

My cat is **as** big **as** a dog.  
 My dog is **as** big **as** a wall.  
 My dad is **as** big **as** a tree,  
 and I'm smaller than them all.



When you're reading, and you see an "A" all by itself, it usually means ONE of something.

Like.... a dog, a mouse, a car, a house....

This kind of "a" doesn't sound like other A sounds... it usually sounds like this...

"uh" dog, "uh" mouse, "uh" car, "uh" house....

You try...

**A man**

**a cat**

**A cap**

**a rat**

**A pan**

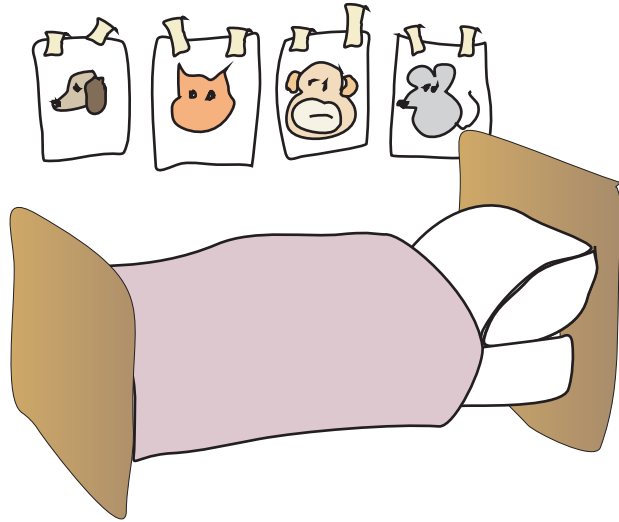
**a bat**



I like to play **a** silly game – the game is so silly it doesn't have **a** name.

You climb **a** tree,  
you pretend you're **a** bird,  
you eat **a** lot of worms  
that you dig from the dirt.  
Just kidding!





I wish I had **a** puppy.

I wish I had **a cat**.

I wish I had **a** monkey.

I wish I had **a rat**.

But where would I keep them?

My room is very small.

So I drew **a** picture of them all,  
and I put the pictures on the wall.



The word “an” is sometimes used instead of the word “a.”

When a word starts with a letter “a,” we don’t say “a apple” – we say, “an apple.”

**an** airplane    an **ant**

**an** alligator    **an** animal

When a word starts with a letter “e,” we don’t say “a elephant” – we say “an elephant.”

**an** egg    **an** elevator    **an** elbow

And same with words that start with the letters “i,” “o” and “u” –

wrong

**a** animal

**a** elephant

**a** idea

**a** orange

**a** umbrella

right

**an** animal

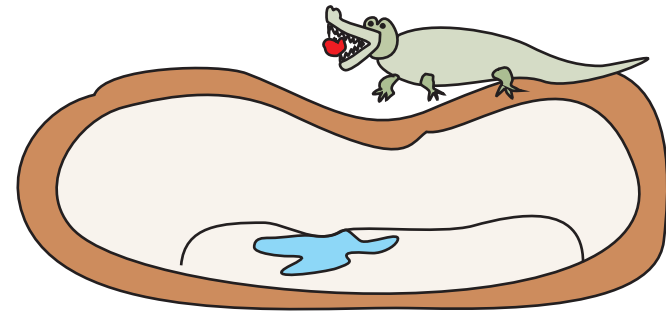
**an** elephant

**an** idea

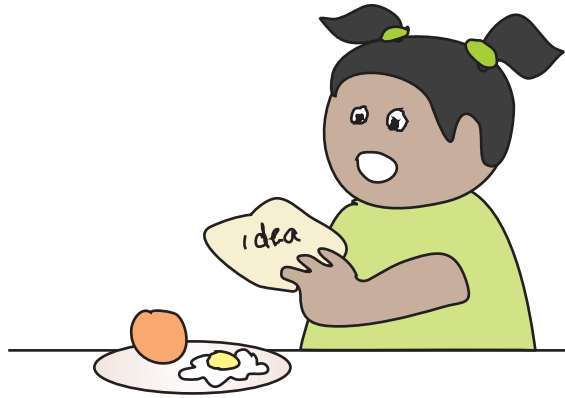
**an** orange

**an** umbrella

Let's practice...



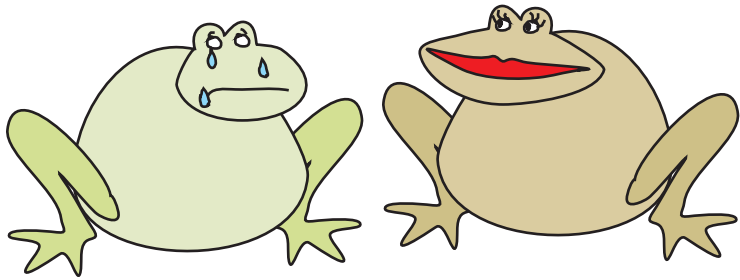
I saw **an** alligator eat  
**an** apple as he sat  
 by **an** empty pool.  
 The alligator laughed  
 and didn't jump in –  
 he needs **an** awful lot  
 of water to swim.



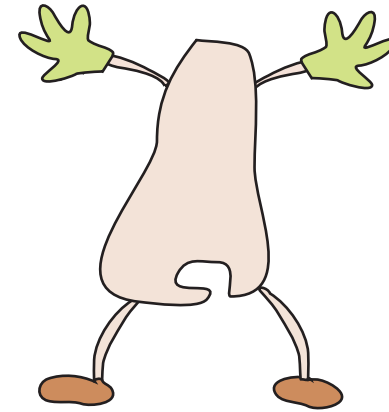
I had **an** idea –  
**an** awful idea –  
 stuck inside my head.  
 So I put the idea  
 on **a** piece of bread,  
 and I swallowed it down  
 with **an** orange and **an** egg.

Mix it  
 up

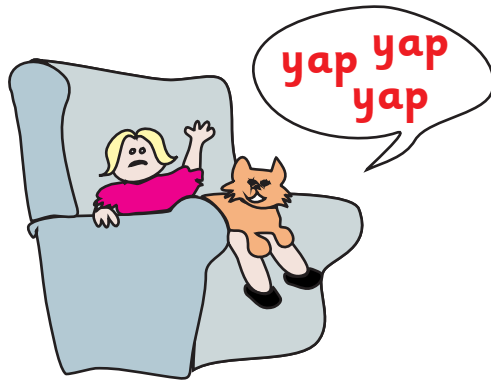
When a child is comfortable reading the “big red words” in this book, he/she is ready for “Mix It Up” – the part of the book where the child practices reading a variety of short vowel “a” words.



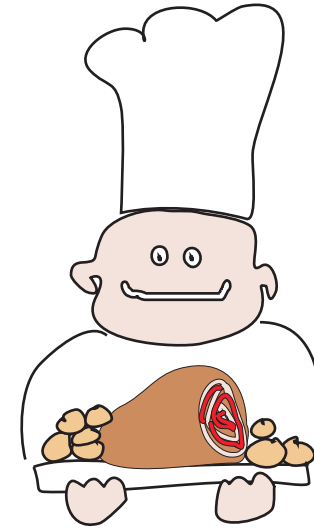
“I **am an** ugly toad,”  
 said the toad to his wife.  
 “I **am an** ugly, ugly toad.”  
 His wife gave **a** smile  
**as** wide **as a** mile –  
 “You’re not ugly **at** all,  
 you’re snuggly!”



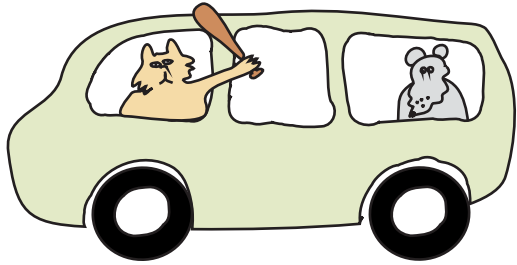
I **can** run **as** fast  
**as** your little feet.  
 I have two little holes  
 so that you **can** breathe.  
 I **can** smell **as** good  
**as** your little toes –  
**Can** you guess what I **am**?  
 I **am** your nose!



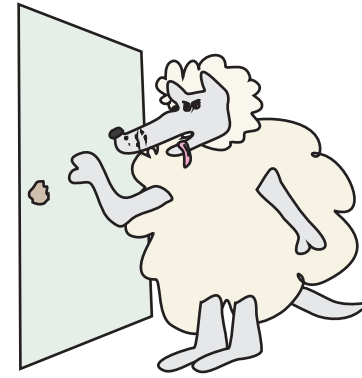
I **sat** down to take **a nap**.  
 I **had** my **cat** and my teddy bear in my **lap**. I took off my **hat** and closed my eyes – then the **cat** began to **yap**, oh, big surprise. I told my **cat** he **had** to be quiet. He talked, **yap**, **yap**, about the food in his diet. I told my **cat** he **had** to stop the **yap**, so he closed his mouth and took his **nap**.



Put the **ham** in the **pan** with some of that **yam**.  
 Add **a** little **pat** of butter,  
**a** little **pat** of **jam** –  
**Am** I **a** good cook?  
 Oh, yes I **am** !



I **am mad at** my **cat**.  
 I **am mad at** my **rat**.  
 They **ran** away with my  
 baseball **bat**. They were told  
 to take **a nap**, but instead  
 they took the **van** – they  
 took **a can** of peas, and they  
 took **a can** of **ham**. So if you  
 see **a cat** and **a** big, **fat rat**,  
 driving in **a van** with **a** baseball  
**bat**, tell them, please, to hurry  
 back – or I'll have to tell my **dad**  
 that they've been **bad**.



**A** little **cat** was taking **a nap**  
 when someone **at** the door went  
**rap, tap, tap**. “Who’s there?”  
 said the **cat**, still half asleep.  
 “**A** big, **bad** wolf dressed up  
**as a** sheep.”  
 “Go away,” said the **cat**, “I **am**  
 taking **a nap**.” But still the wolf  
 went **rap, tap, tap**.



“Go away,” said the **cat**,  
 “I **am** in the shower.”  
 But the wolf went **rap, tap,**  
**tap** for **an** hour.  
 Finally the **cat** dialed 911 –  
 “There’s **a** wolf **at** my door,  
 and it isn’t any fun.”  
 When the police showed up,  
 no wolf was there –  
 just the **cat** and his **nap**,  
 snoring on a stair.

## The end

### Don't forget!

If you have a moment (and if you are willing), email us with your comments. Thanks!

[Feedback@ProgressivePhonics.com](mailto:Feedback@ProgressivePhonics.com)

## NEXT



Book 2: Short Vowel E

[www.ProgressivePhonics.com](http://www.ProgressivePhonics.com)

A progressive phonics book

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