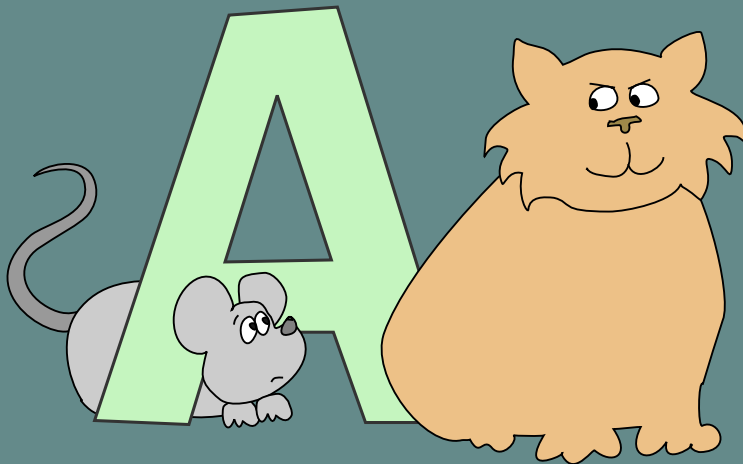


# Progressive PHONICS<sup>TM.</sup>

Beginner  
Book **1**

## Beginner Book #1 Short Vowel "A"



Written and illustrated by  
**Miz Katz N. Ratz<sup>TM.</sup>**

## Acknowledgements:

For my children, Daniel, Alysa  
and Connor. And thanks to my  
Mom, who made it all possible.

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Fifth Edition, 2014

Progressive Phonics LLC  
Los Angeles, CA

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

## Words taught in this book:

at cat hat mat rat sat

am ram Sam

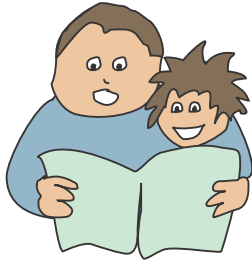
can man ran

## The above list includes the following Dolch\*\* words:

am at can had ran

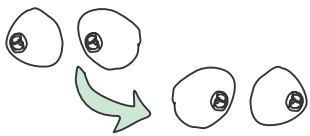
\*\* Dolch words: This is a list of 220 words that comprise 50%—80% of all written texts in English. These words were identified by Edward William Dolch, PhD., in 1948. The theory is that children who can read these words rapidly and without conscious effort will be well on their way to becoming good readers. The “Dolch List” is the backbone of many English reading programs, including Progressive Phonics.

# Quick Start Guide



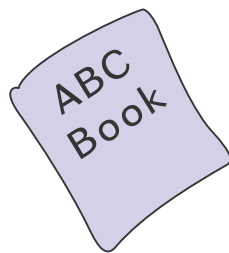
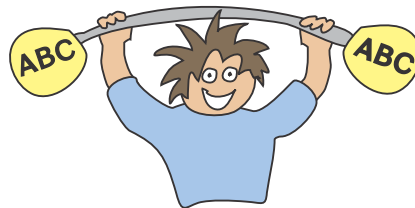
Read the book **WITH** your child. You read the “regular” text, and he/she reads the big, red words, sort of like reading the different parts in a play.

Help your child sound out the words as needed.



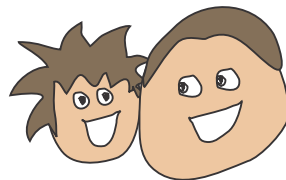
Read the book several times. This helps develop the eye muscles and left-to-right reading patterns that are necessary for reading.

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



If your child is having difficulty, he/she may need more practice with the alphabet. Get some fun books about the alphabet and read them many times. Then come back to Progressive Phonics.

And most important of all, **HAVE FUN!**



Letters:

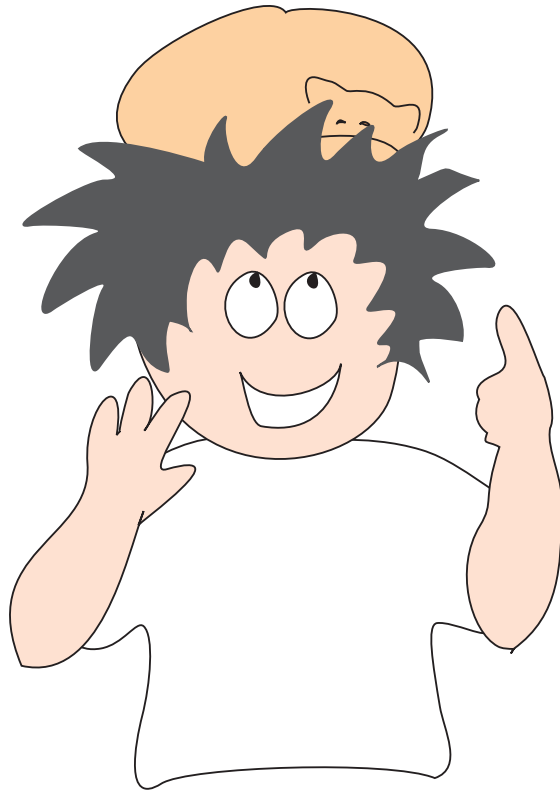
c a t

Words:

at

cat

# Look At My Cat



Look, look,

would you look

**at** that?



That is not  
a hat, that  
is my **cat**.



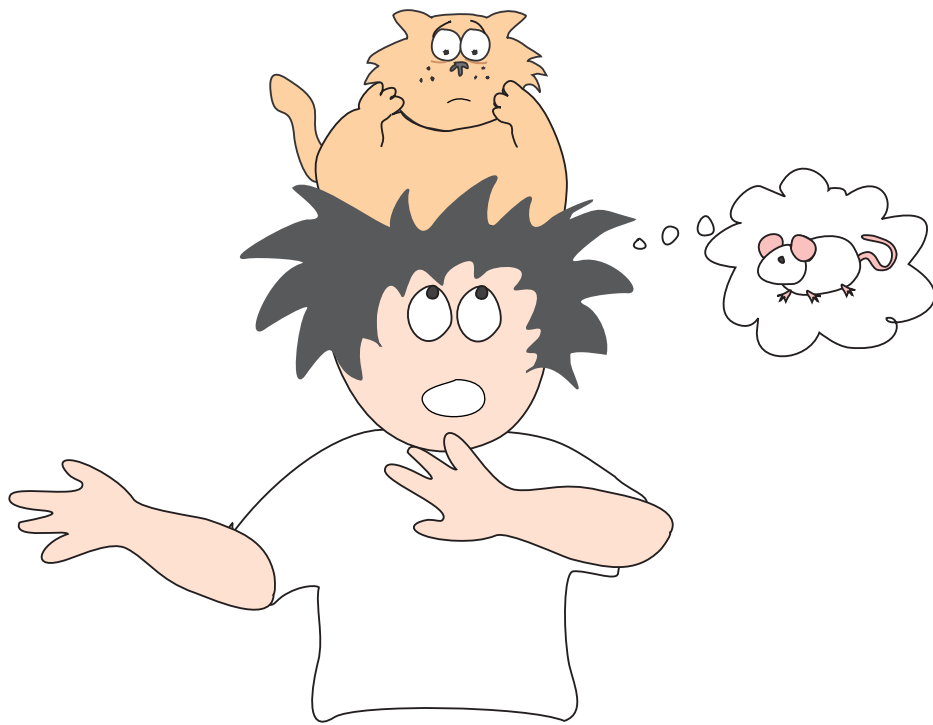
My silly little **cat** is

scared of mice, so

she hides on my head

all day and night.



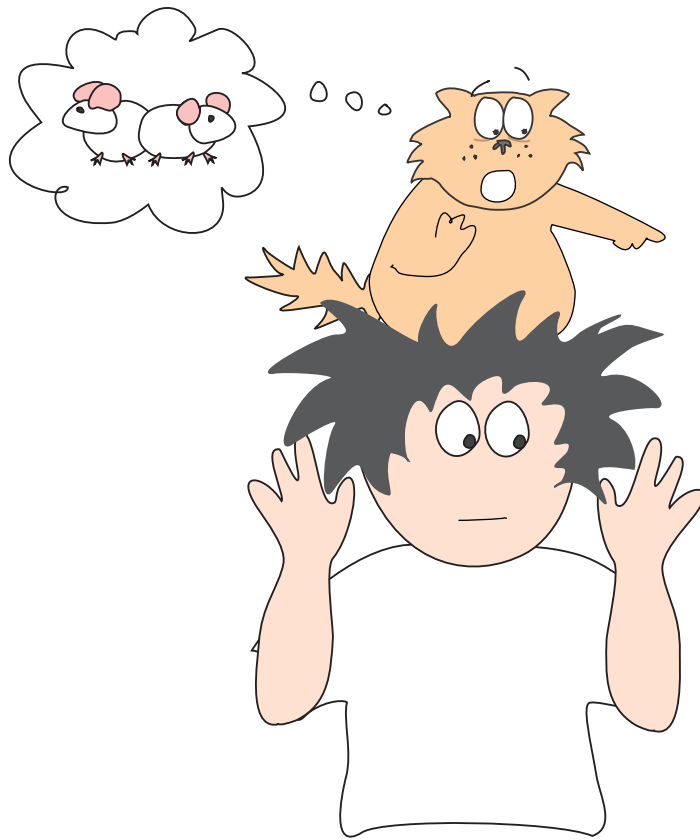


I tell my **cat**,

“Don’t be scared.

Mice can’t catch

you way up there.”



Then one day  
my **cat** said,  
“Mice!”

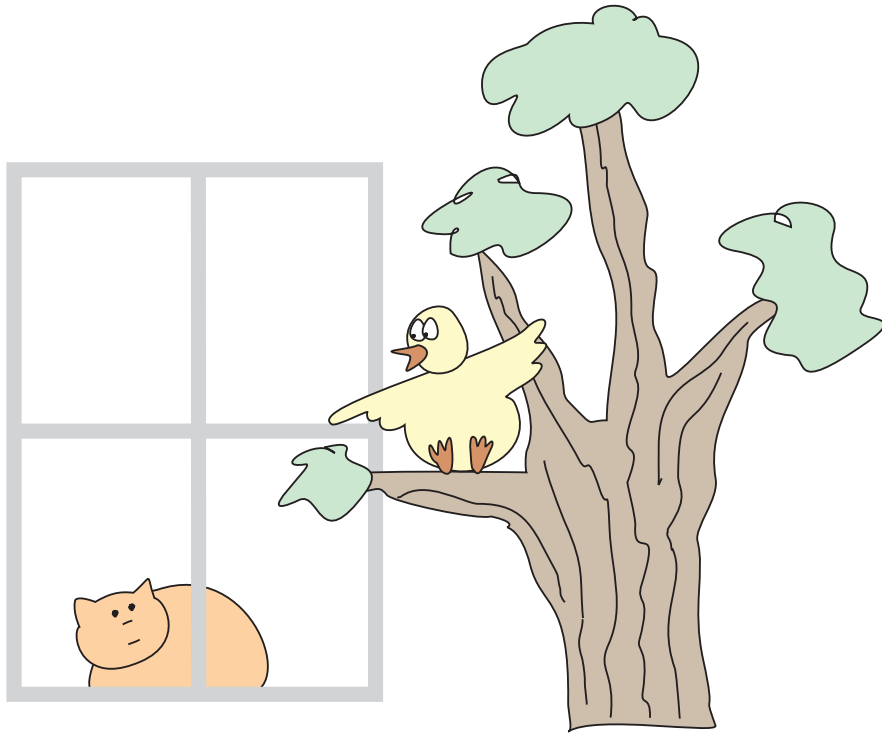


I got so scared that  
I screamed twice.

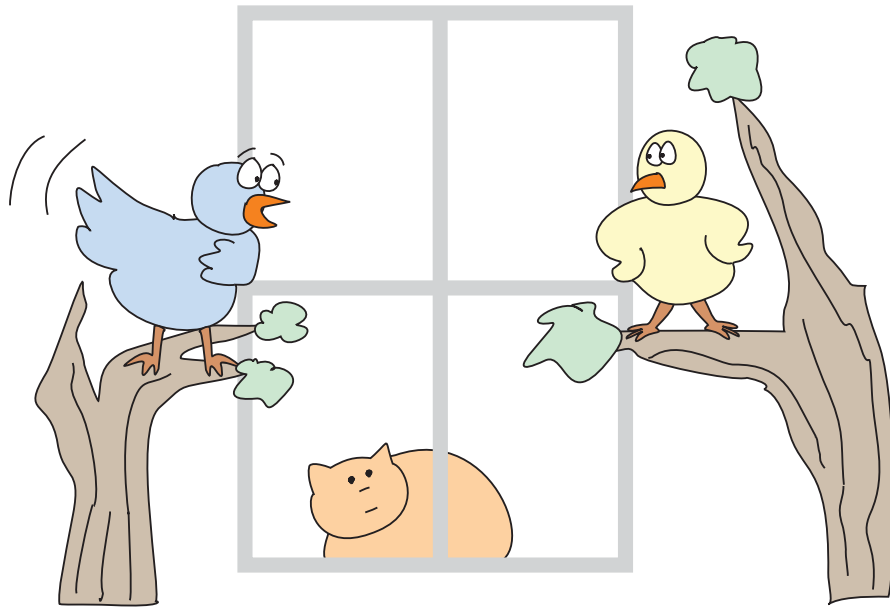
New letter: **S**

Words: **sat**

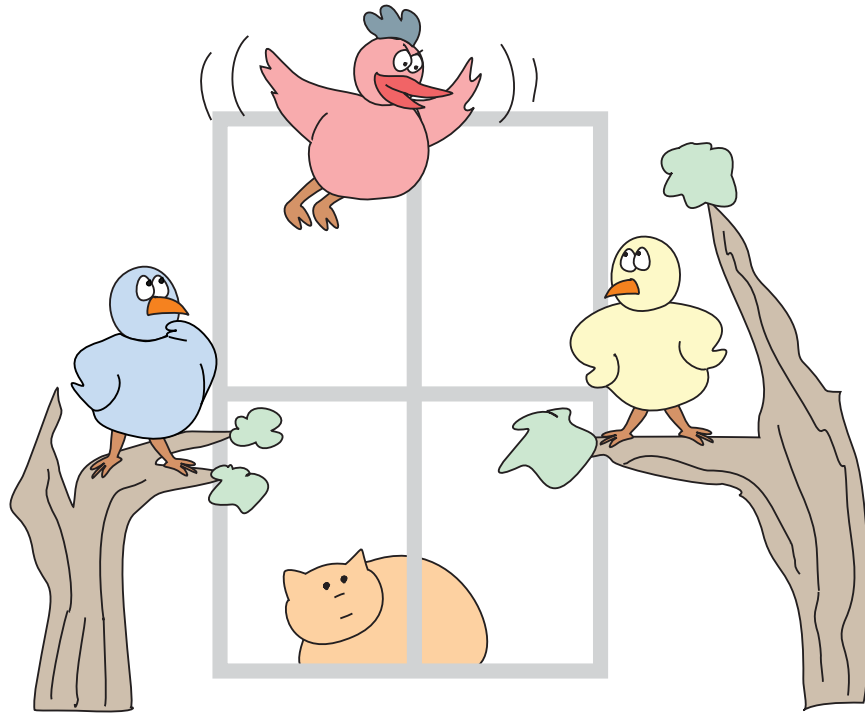
## The Cat in the Window



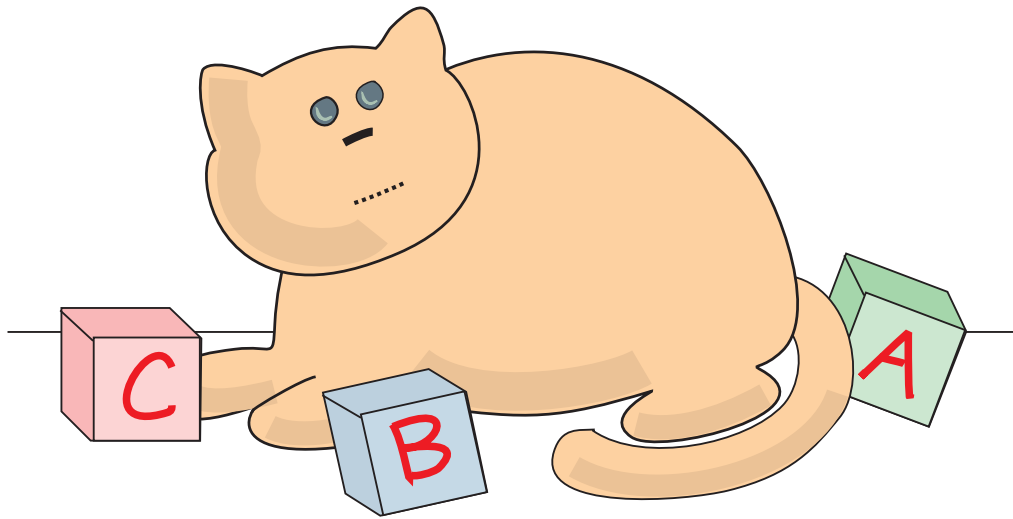
“The **cat** in the window  
is looking **at** me,” said  
a bird who **sat** on the  
branch of a tree.



“No, no, no!” a second  
bird said. “The **cat**  
is looking **at** me  
instead.”



“The **cat** looks **at**  
me because I am better,”  
said bird number three  
with the flick of a feather.



But the **cat** was a toy,  
with glass eyes and stuffing,  
so the **cat** in the window  
was looking **at** nothing.



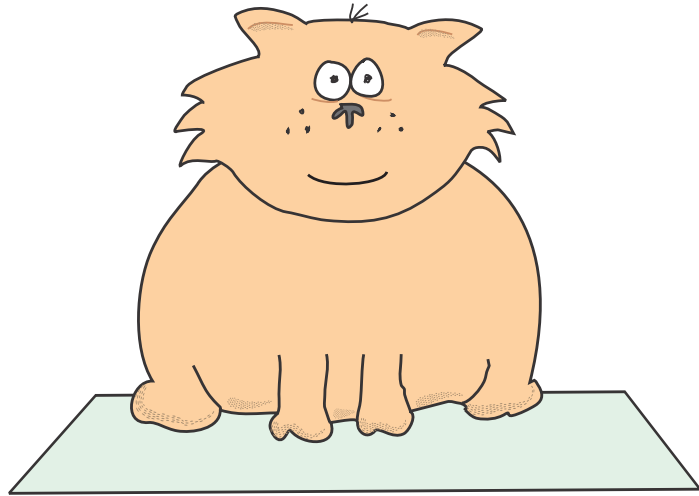
New letters: m r

Words: mat  
rat

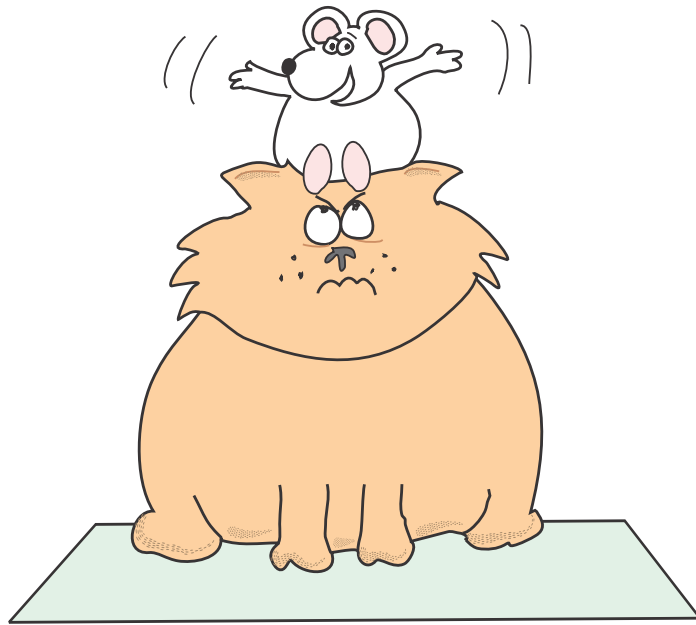
# Mat Sat



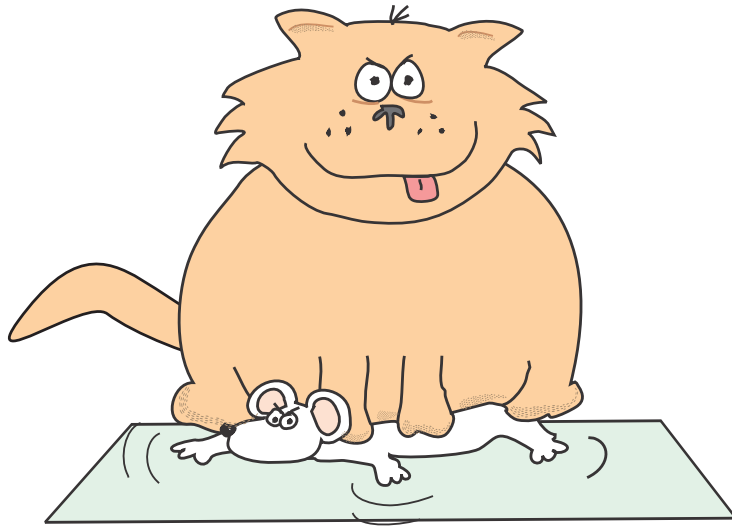
This is a **mat**.



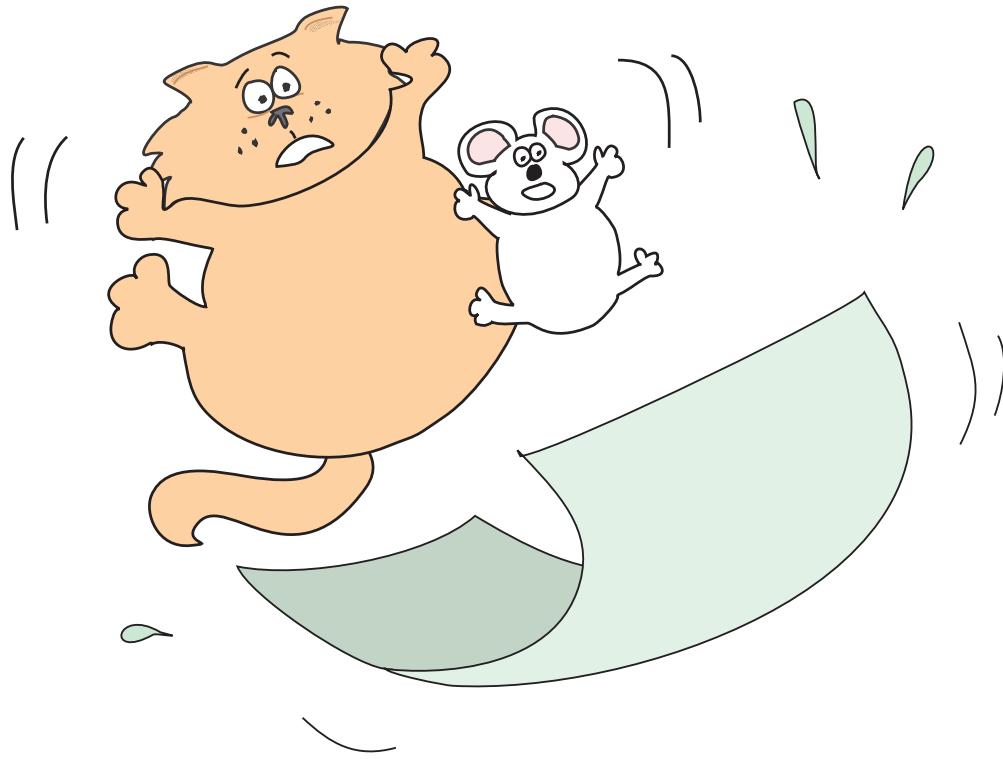
A **cat** sat  
on the **mat**.



Then a **rat**  
**sat** on the  
**cat**.



Then the **cat**  
**sat** on the  
**rat**.



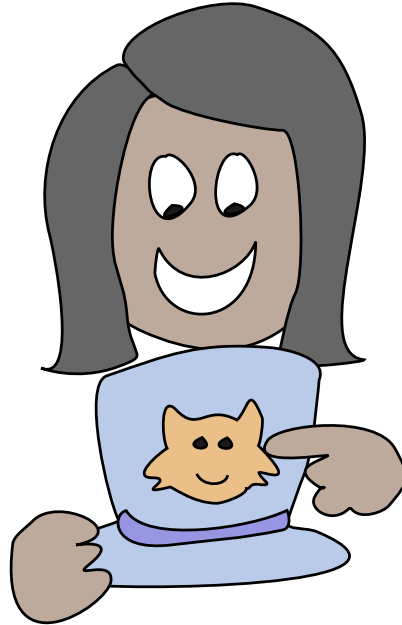
And then the  
**mat** said,

“Stop it!”

New letter: **h**

Words: **hat**

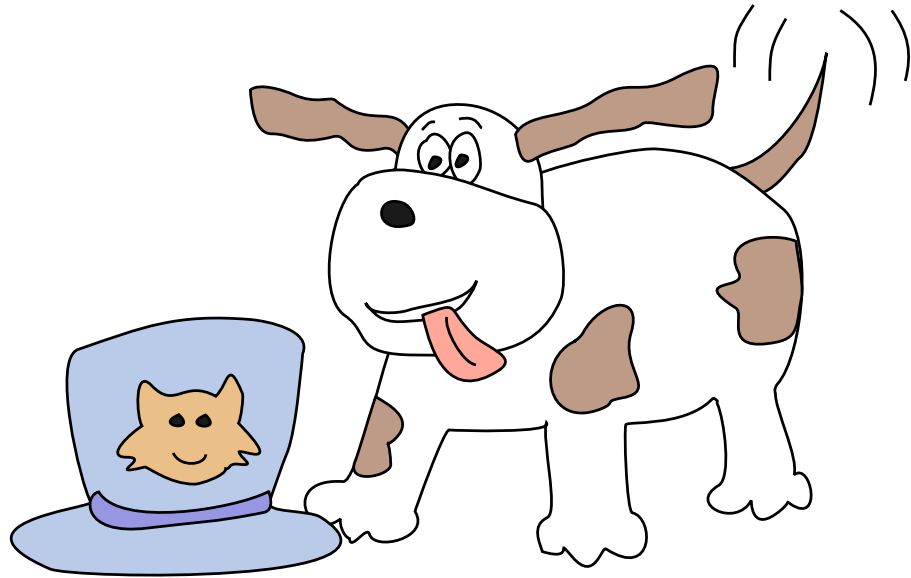
# My Hat



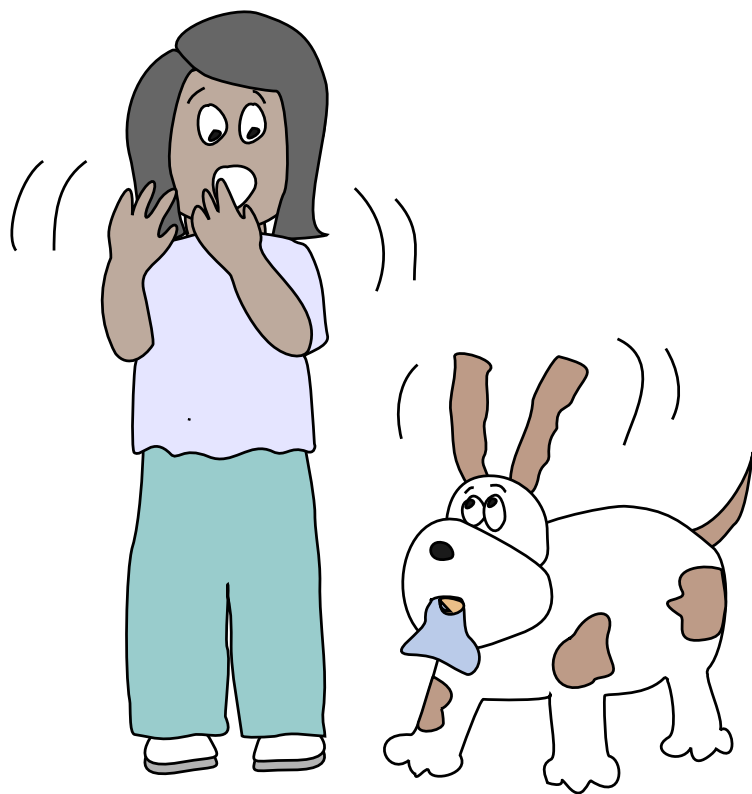
Look **at**  
my little **hat**.

On my **hat**  
is a little **cat**.





Oh, no! My dog  
thought the **cat**  
on the **hat**  
was real.

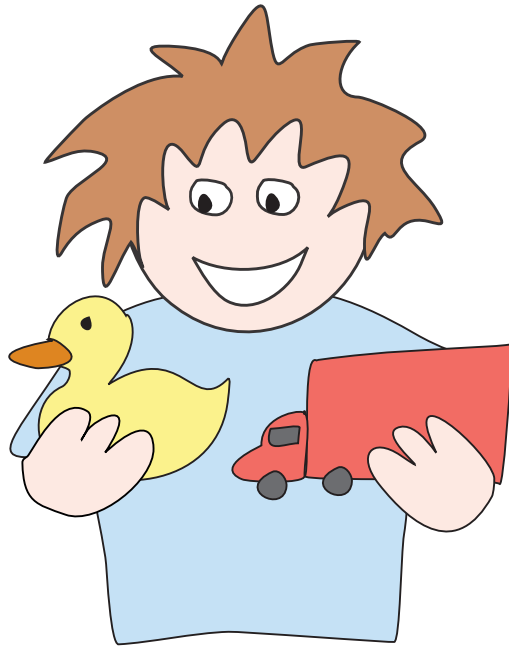


So my naughty,  
little dog had a  
**cat hat** meal.

New letter: **d**

New words: **had**

# Had

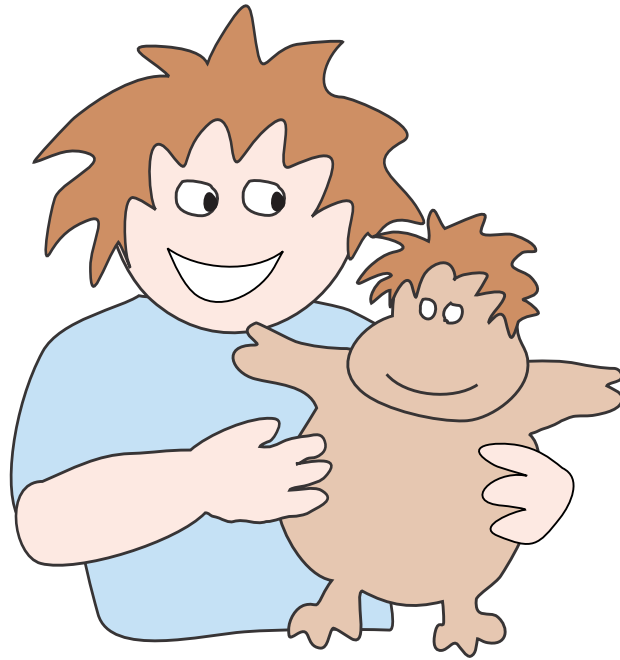


When I was a baby,

I **had** a yellow duck.

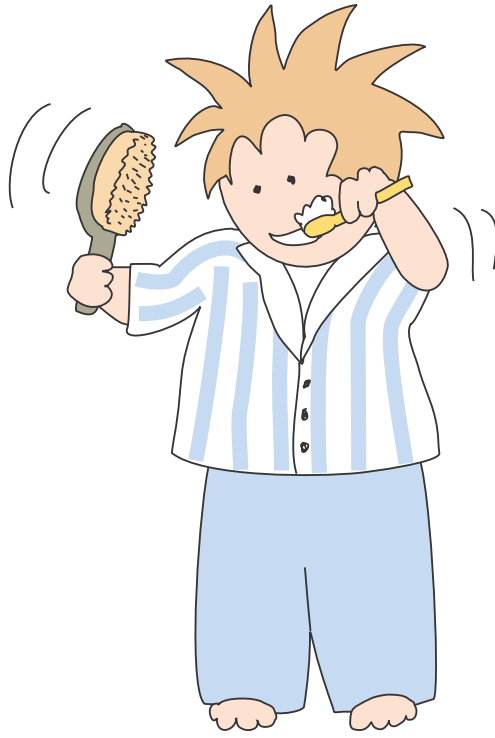
When I was two, I

**had** a red truck.

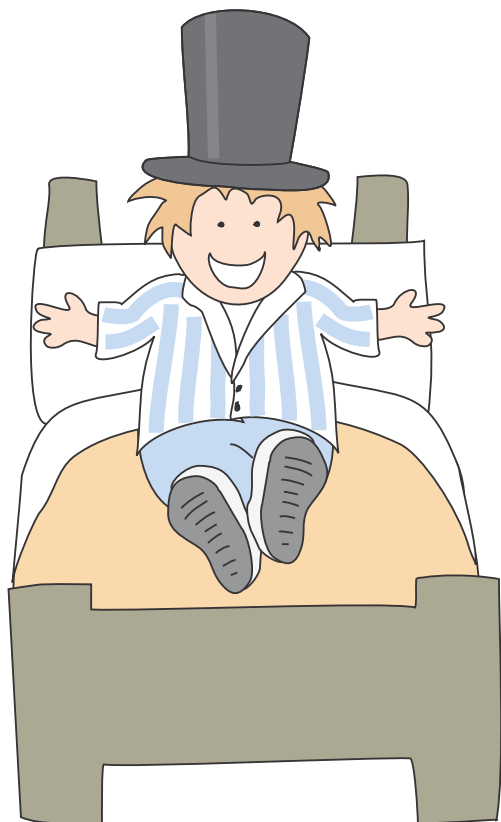


When I was three, I  
**had** a chimpanzee..  
look **at** him, he looks  
like me!

## Had To



I **had** to brush my hair,  
and I **had** to brush my  
teeth. Then I **had** to put  
socks and shoes on my feet.



Then I **had** to put a  
**hat** on top of my head.

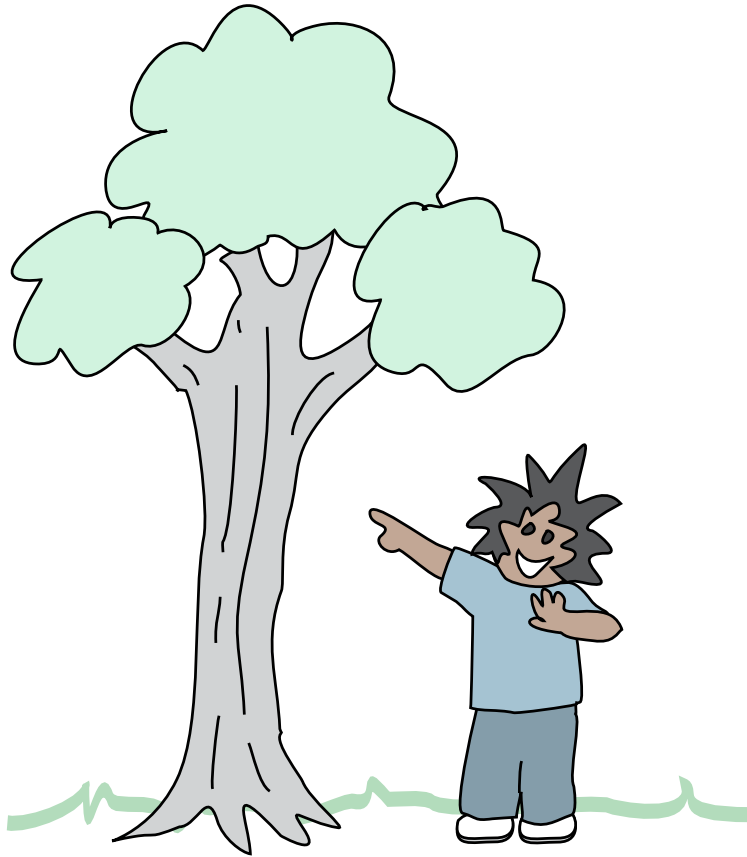
Is this what you wear  
when you go to bed?

New letter: **n**

New words: **can**  
**man**  
**ran**



## Can I?



**Can** I jump

higher than a tree?

**Can** I? **Can** I?

Little, tiny me?



Yes, I **can** jump

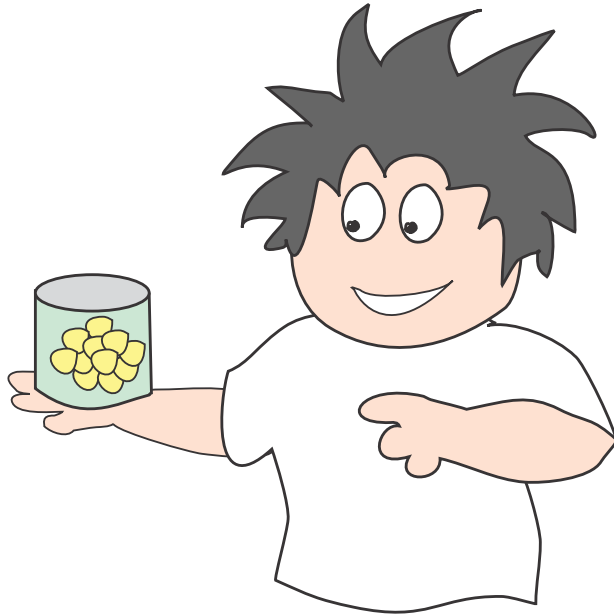
higher than a tree.

A tree can't jump,

tee, hee, hee!

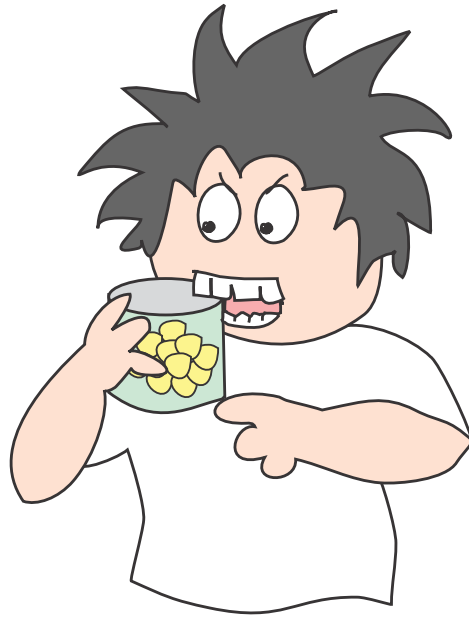
Tee, hee, hee is a silly way of laughing.

## Can Of Carrots



See this **can** of  
corn in my hand?

I **can** eat it all,  
oh, yes, I **can**.



But a **can** of corn  
doesn't taste very good,  
and a **can** of corn is  
as hard as wood.

## A Man Ran



A pair of shoes **ran**

down the street. A

**man ran** too,

but he **had** bare feet.



“Come back to me!” said  
the **man** as he **ran**.

“Wash your feet,” said the  
shoes, “then we **can**!”

New letters: none

New words: am  
ram  
Sam

# I Am Sam



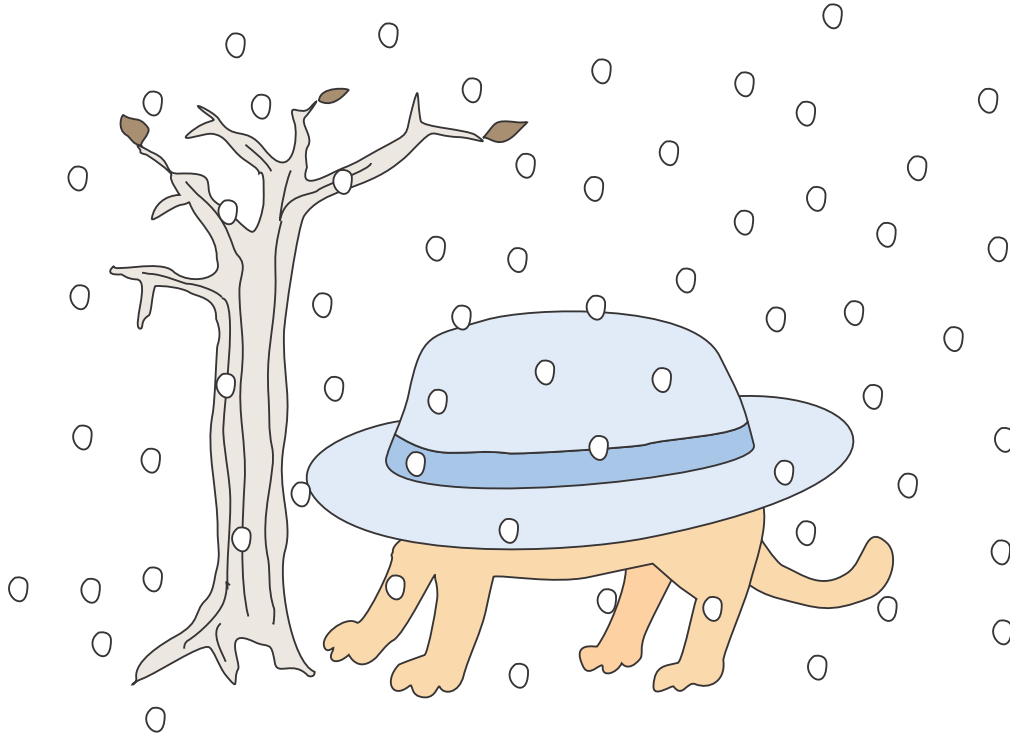
I **am** Sam.

I **am** a **cat**,

and I **am** stuck

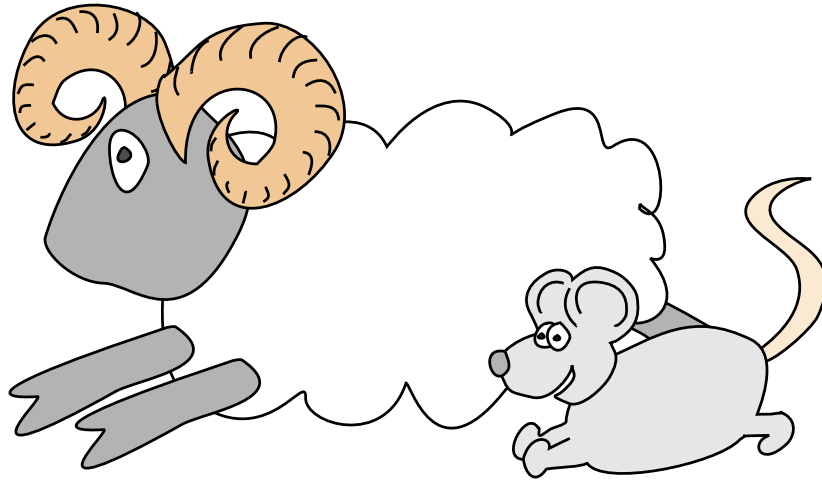
inside a **hat**.





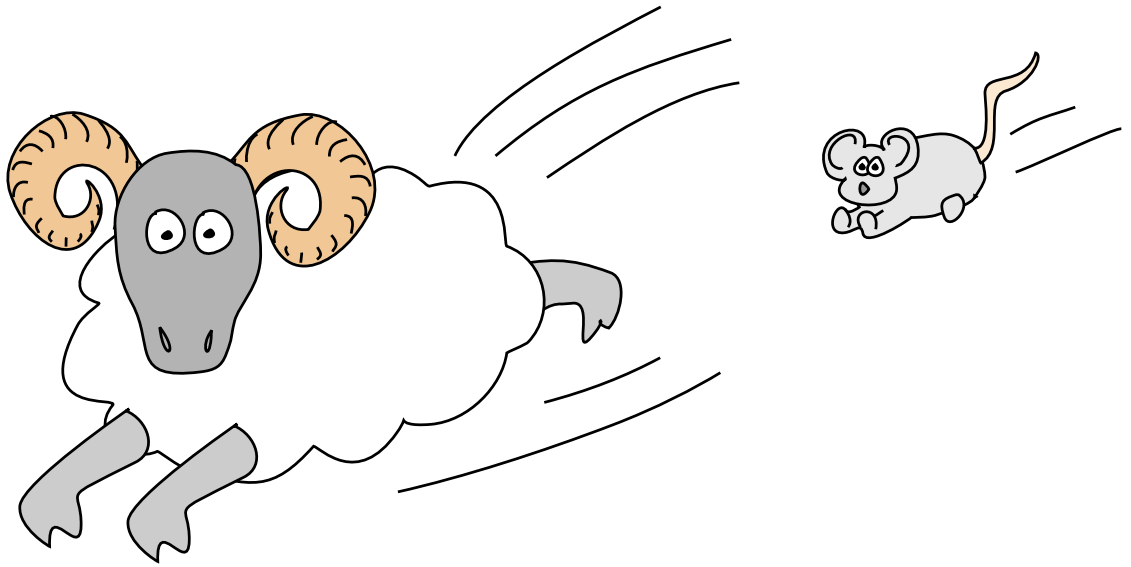
The **hat** is nice  
when it is snowing,  
but I can't see where  
I **am** going.

# The Ram And The Rat

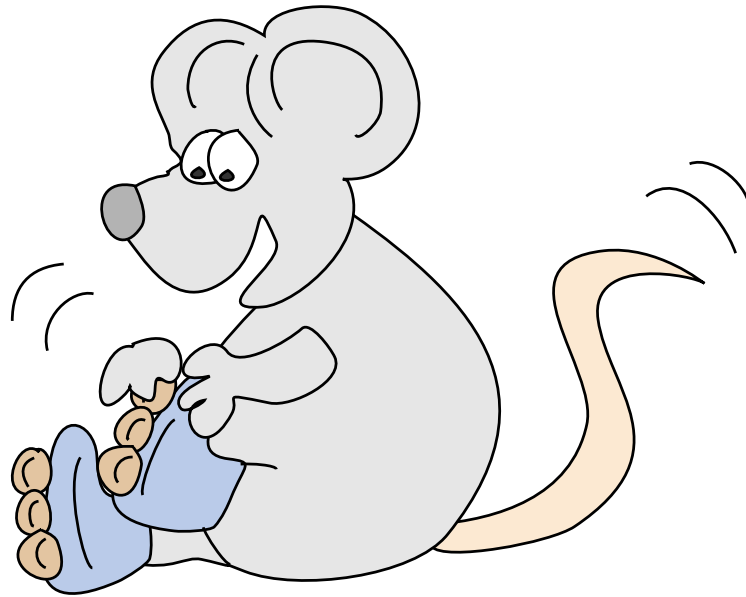


A **rat** and a  
**ram ran**  
a race.

A ram is a boy sheep.



The **ram ran**  
faster..



...so the **rat** put  
on skates.



“Cheater!” said the

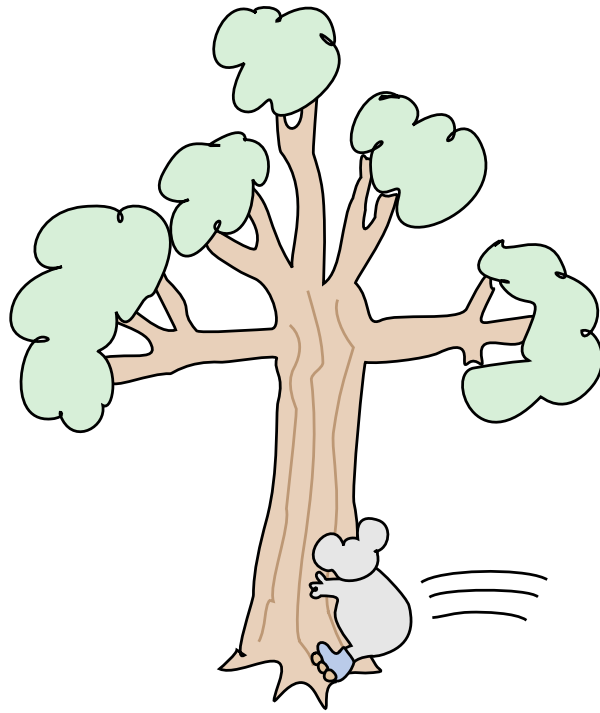
**ram** as the **rat**

rolled by.

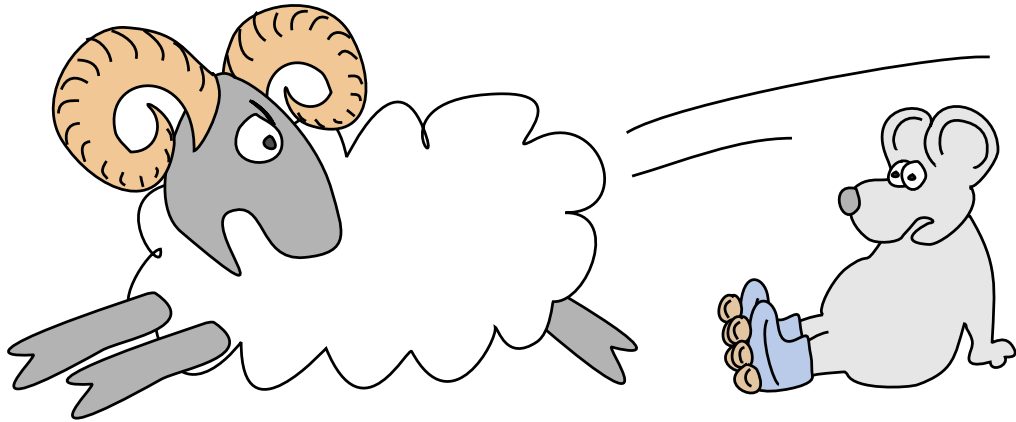


“I **am** the winner!”  
said the **rat**.

“Bye-bye!”



But the **rat** wasn't  
looking, and he  
**ran** into a tree.



“No,” said the **ram**,

“the winner is me!”



## Suggested activities:

### Younger children:

Flash cards and memory games using alphabet letters and simple words.

Finger painting, especially to make shapes (circles, squares, lines, triangles) and to make different alphabet letters.

Tracing, connect-the-dots, mazes, etc.

Beginner-style handwriting exercises.

### Older children:

All the above plus:

More handwriting (writing actual words, not just tracing letters).

# The End

Next:  
Progressive Phonics  
Book 2: Short Vowel “e”

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

Miz Katz N. Ratz is a writer/illustrator who lives in Los Angeles, California, with her family and dozens of pencils.