

Notes for parents

About phonics

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read by breaking words down into combinations of sounds or **phonemes**. There are 44 phonemes in the English language. Some are represented by single letters, like the c - **a** - t sounds in the word **cat**. Others are represented by more than one letter, like the sh - **ar** sounds in the word **shark**.

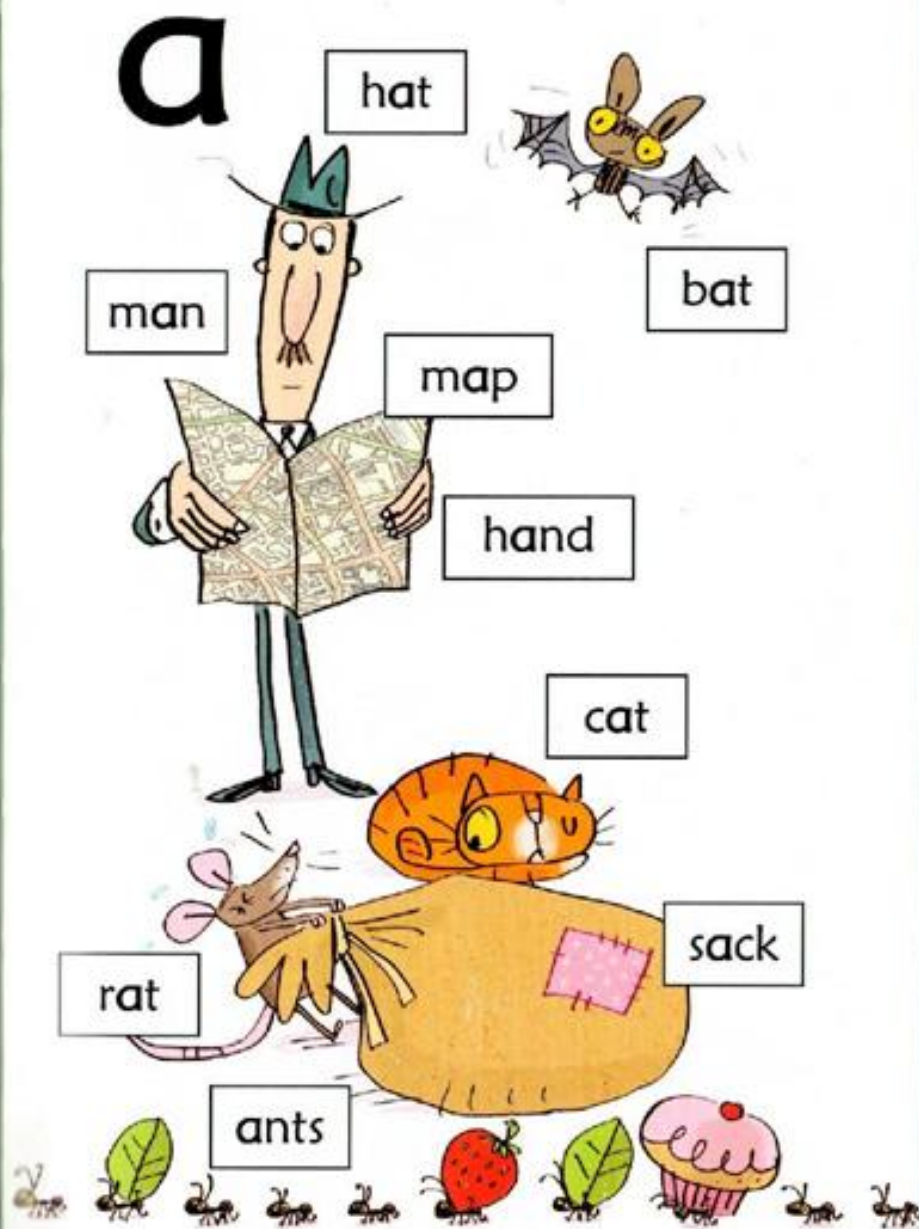
Listen to the phonemes

You can find a full list of phonemes, together with an online pronunciation guide, on the Very First Reading website, www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading* – go to the Resources area and scroll down to **Pronouncing the phonemes**.

Using this book

In this book you will find words containing 43 of the 44 phonemes in their most common spellings (the 44th, the “zh” sound in words such as **vision**, is usually taught at a later stage). This is a great way to learn and remember new words, and ideal for reading and spelling practice. Choose a page and look for the featured phoneme in all the words on the page. Can you think of any more words with that same phoneme?

*US readers go to www.veryfirstreading.com



ai

rain

train

sail

nail

chain

snail

paint

air

stair

hair

chair

pair

ar

star

barn

car

cart

farmer

harp

scarf

arm

b

bus

bee

bell

belt

boat

bucket

c ck k

cat

cup

pocket

coffee

bricks

duck

jacket

socks

rocket

clock

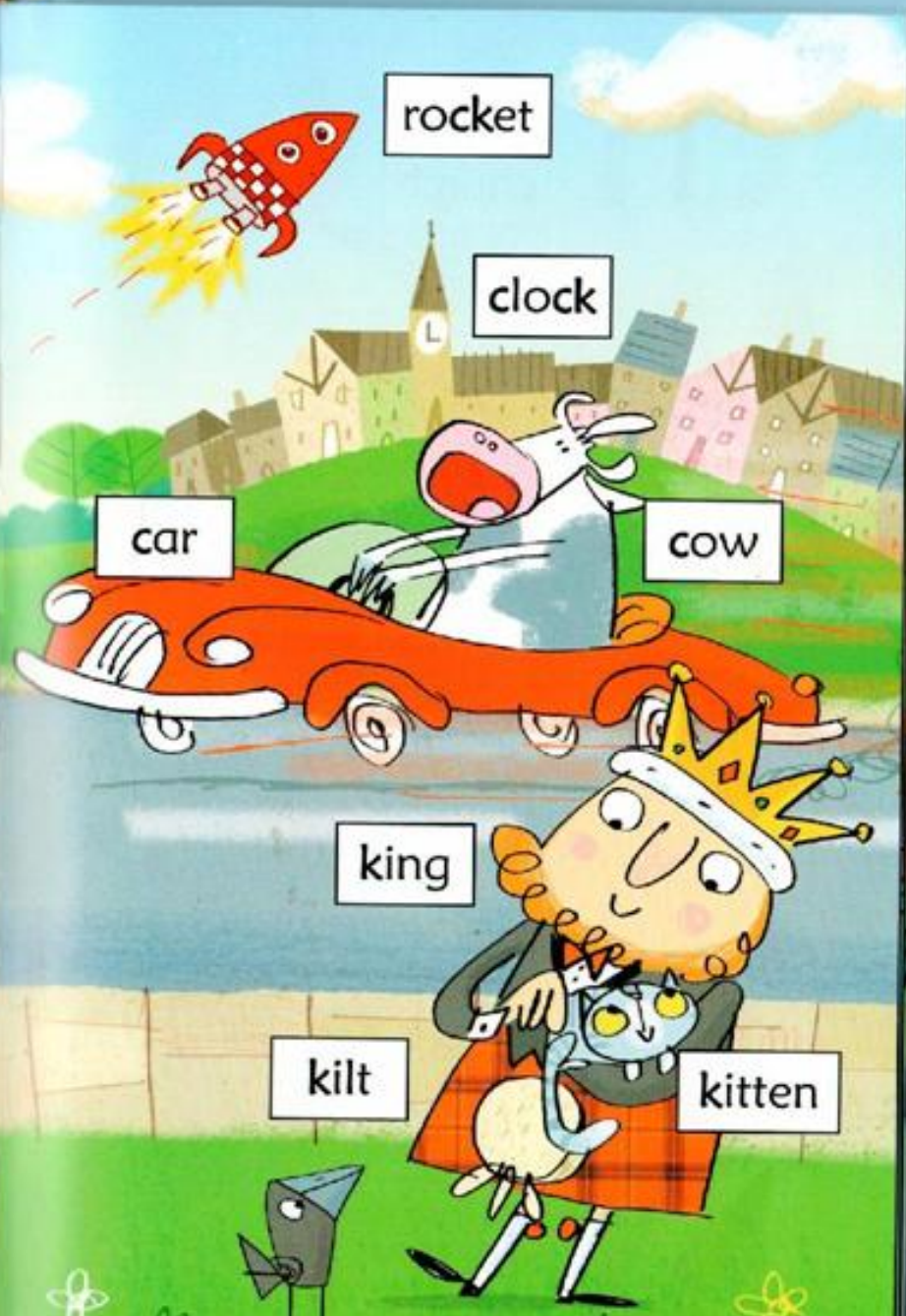
car

cow

king

kilt

kitten



ch

church

chain

chin

chess

chair

chicken

d

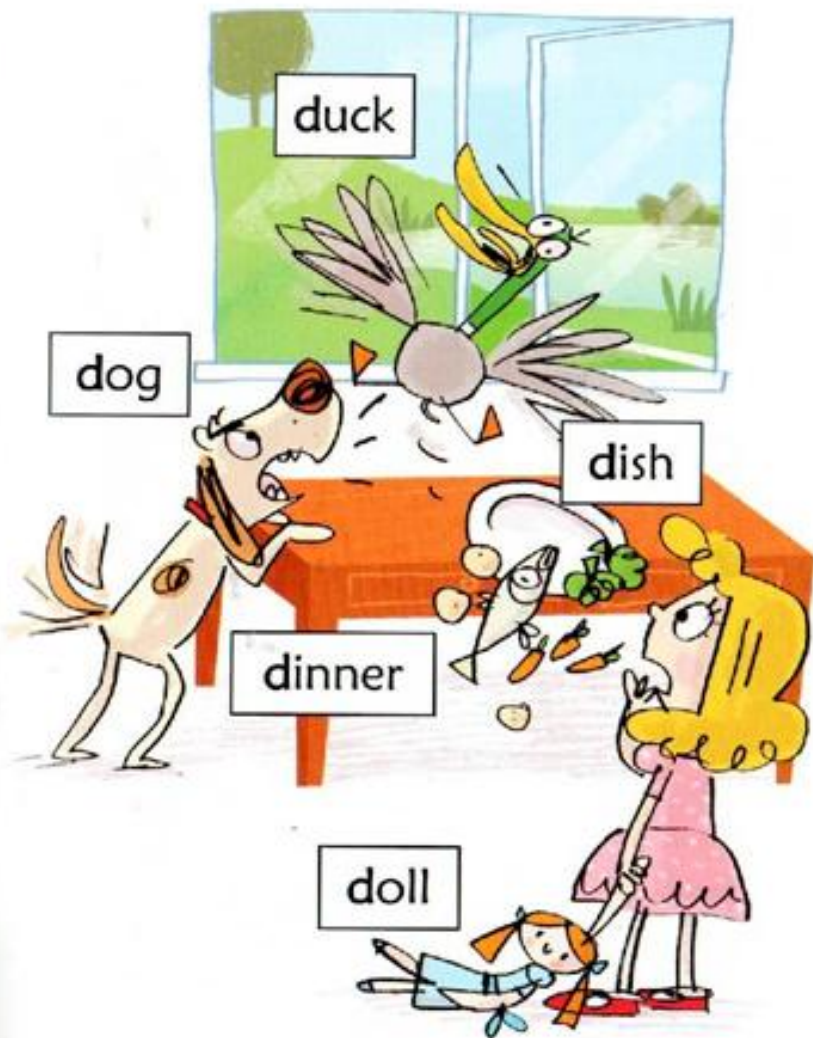
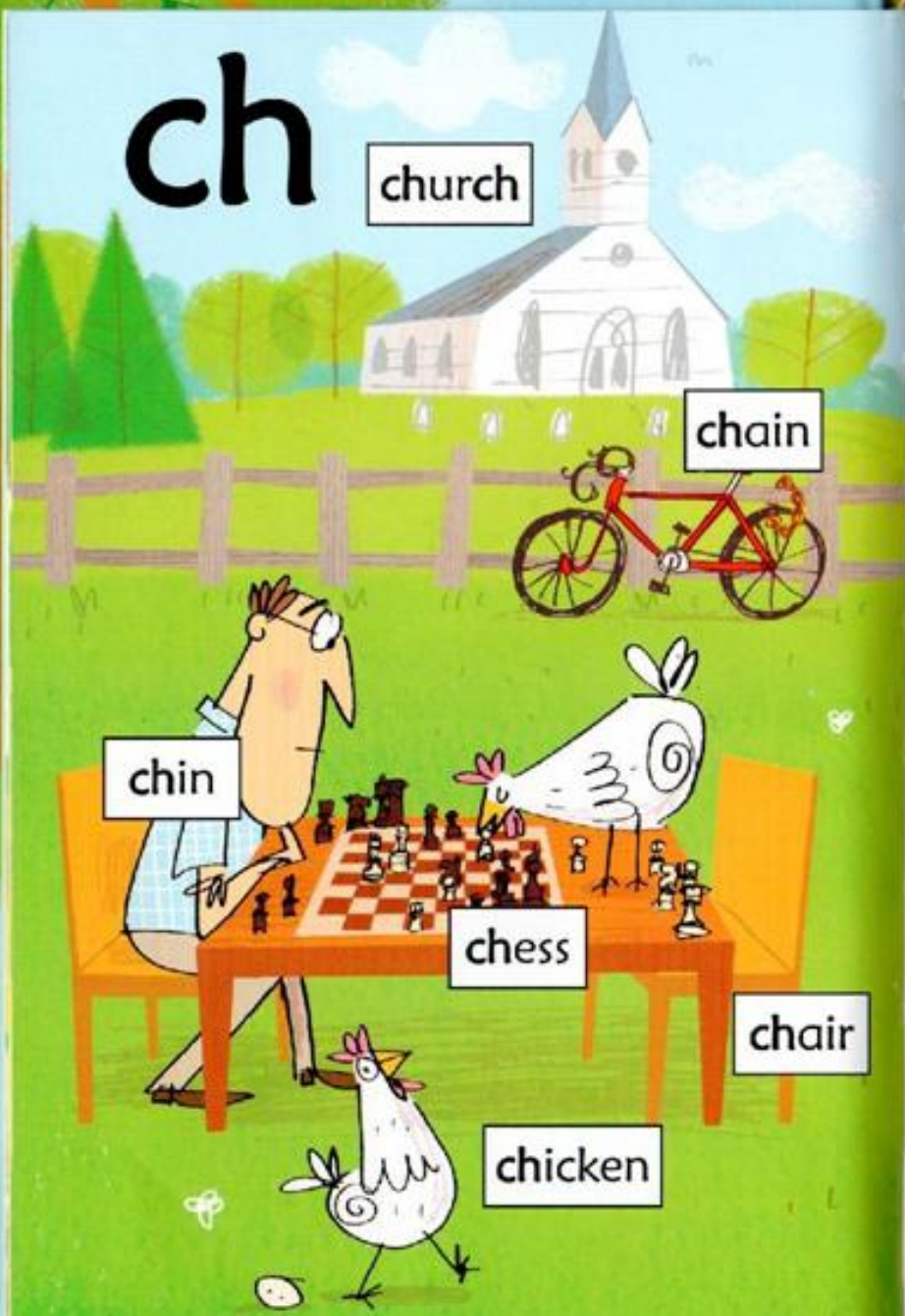
duck

dog

dish

dinner

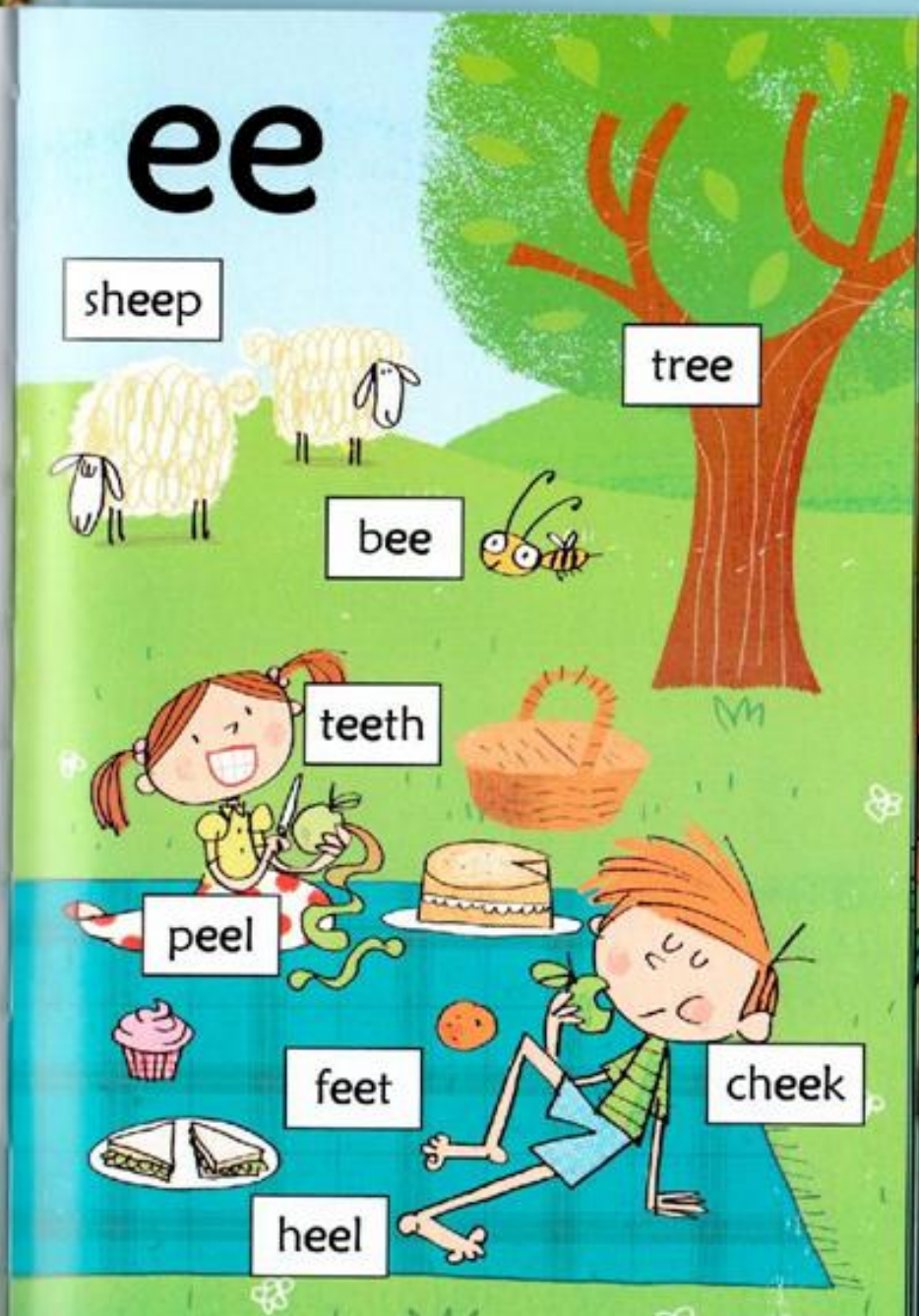
doll



e



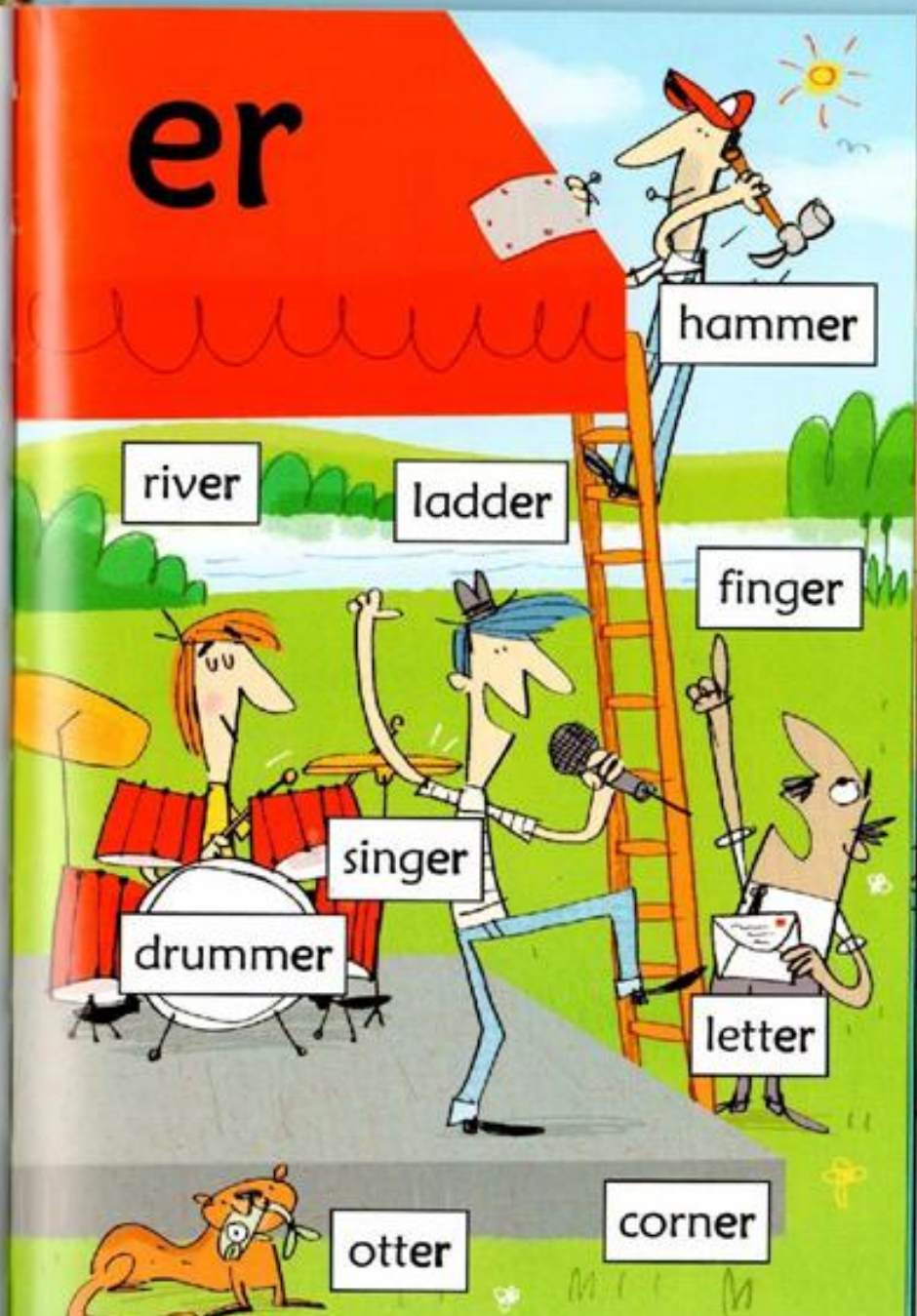
ee



ear



er



f ff



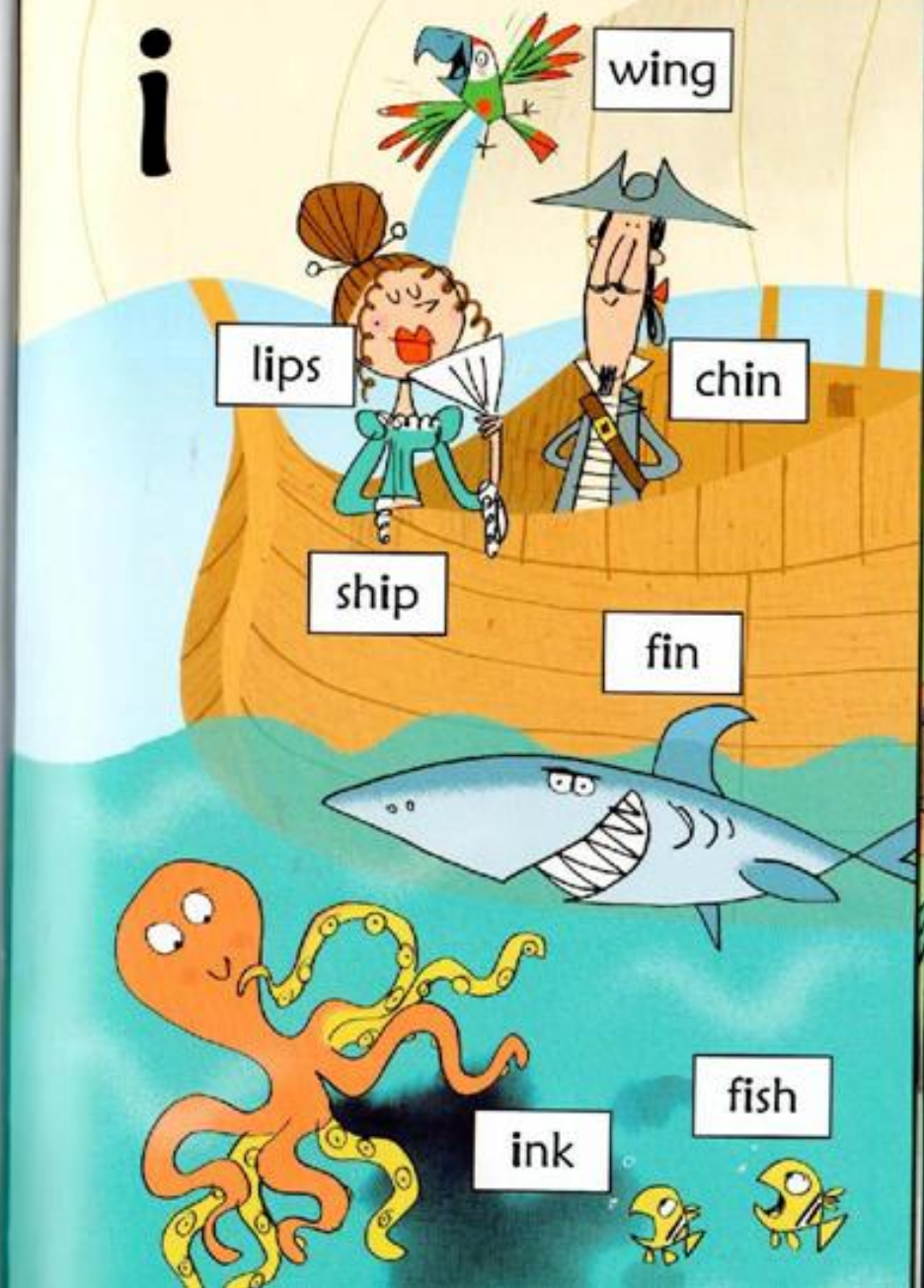
g



h



i



igh

lightning

night

midnight

light

fight

j

jester

jam

jar

jacket

l ll



logs

doll



doll

shell

m



man



map

mug



milk



mop



moth



n

nail



nest



nut



north



ng

wing



morning



swing



ping-pong



king



ring



o

moth



fox



box



socks

dog



rock



frog



pond



log

oa

foal



cloak



foam



boat



toast



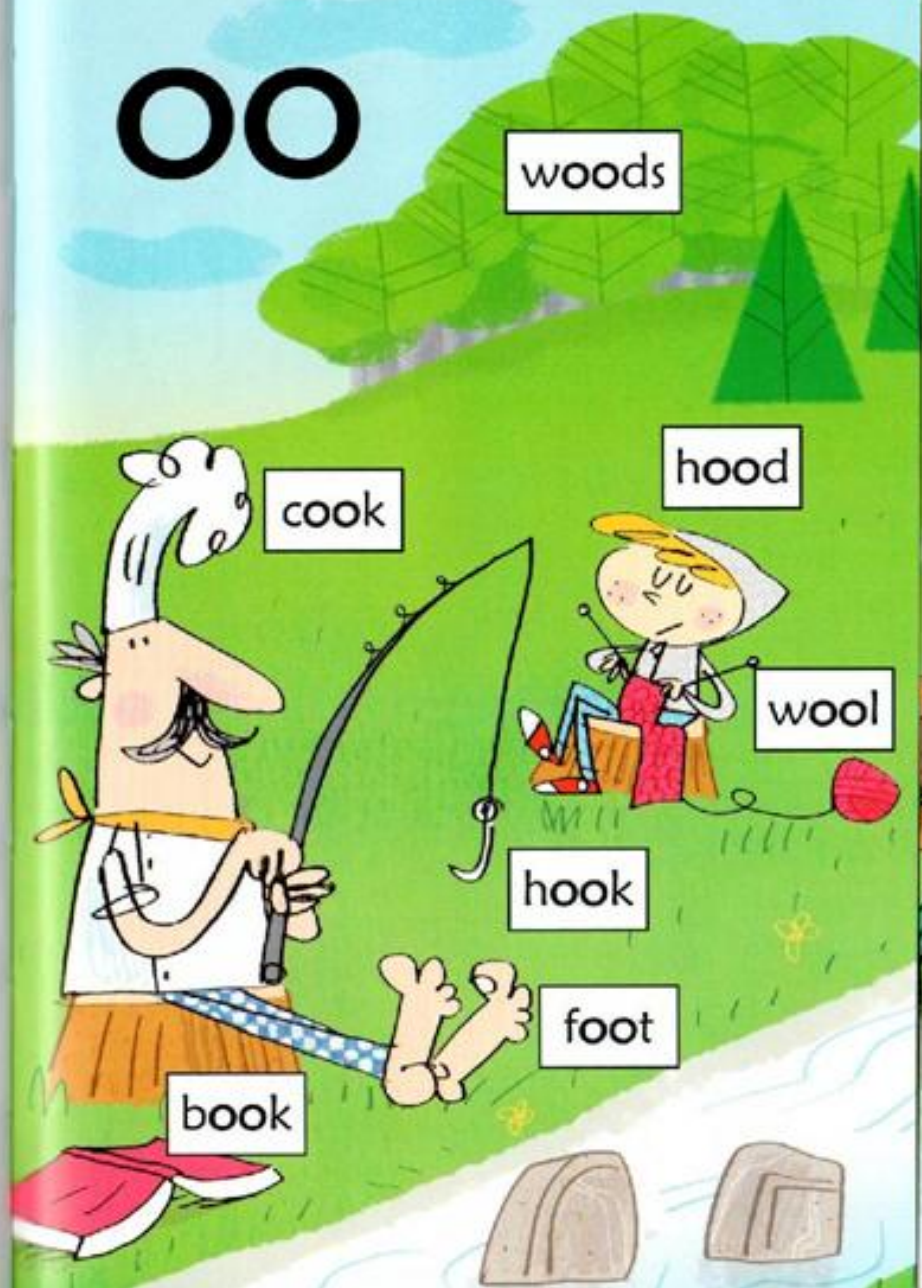
toad



oi

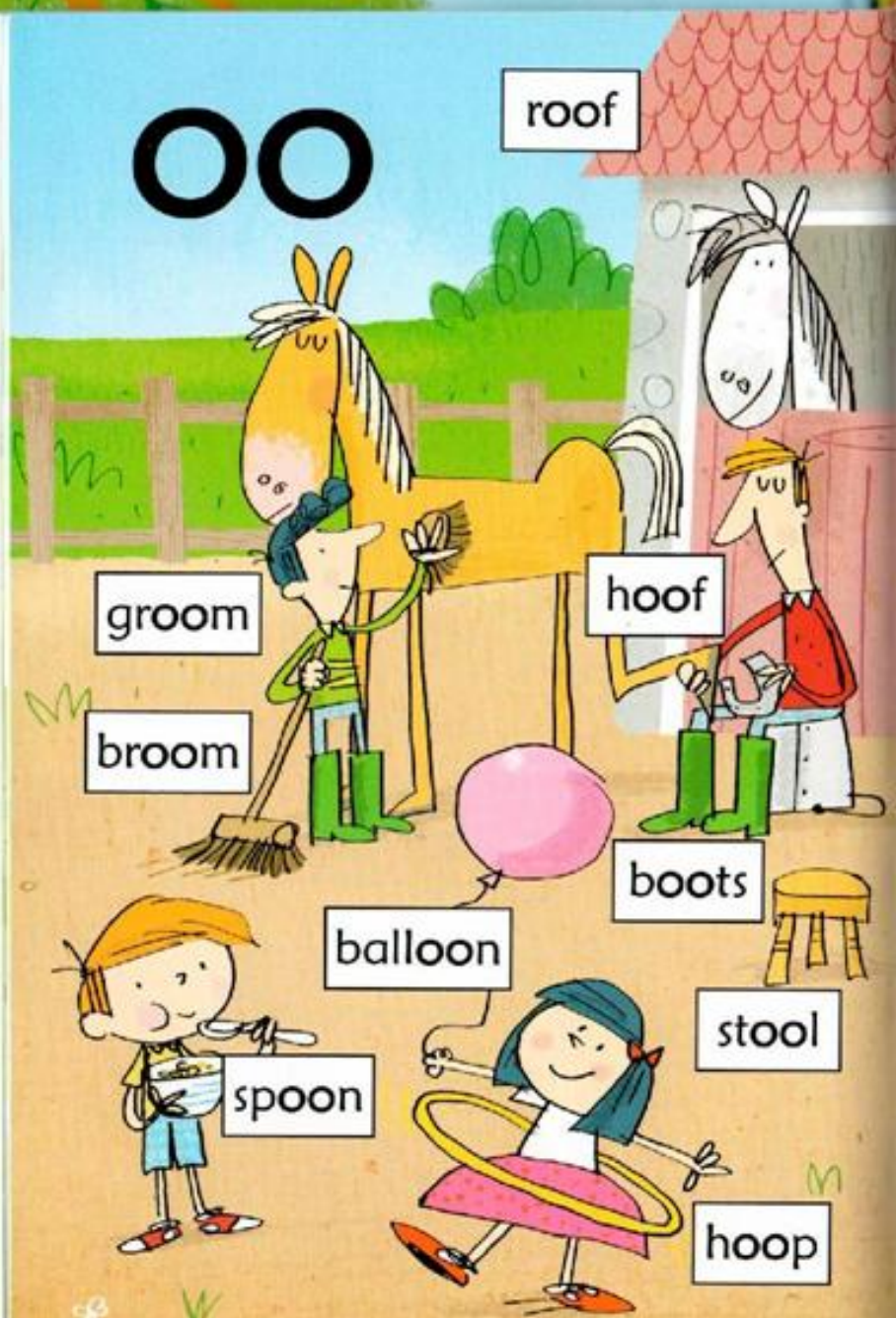


oo



oo

roof



groom

broom

hoof

boots

balloon

stool

spoon

hoop

or

storm

fort

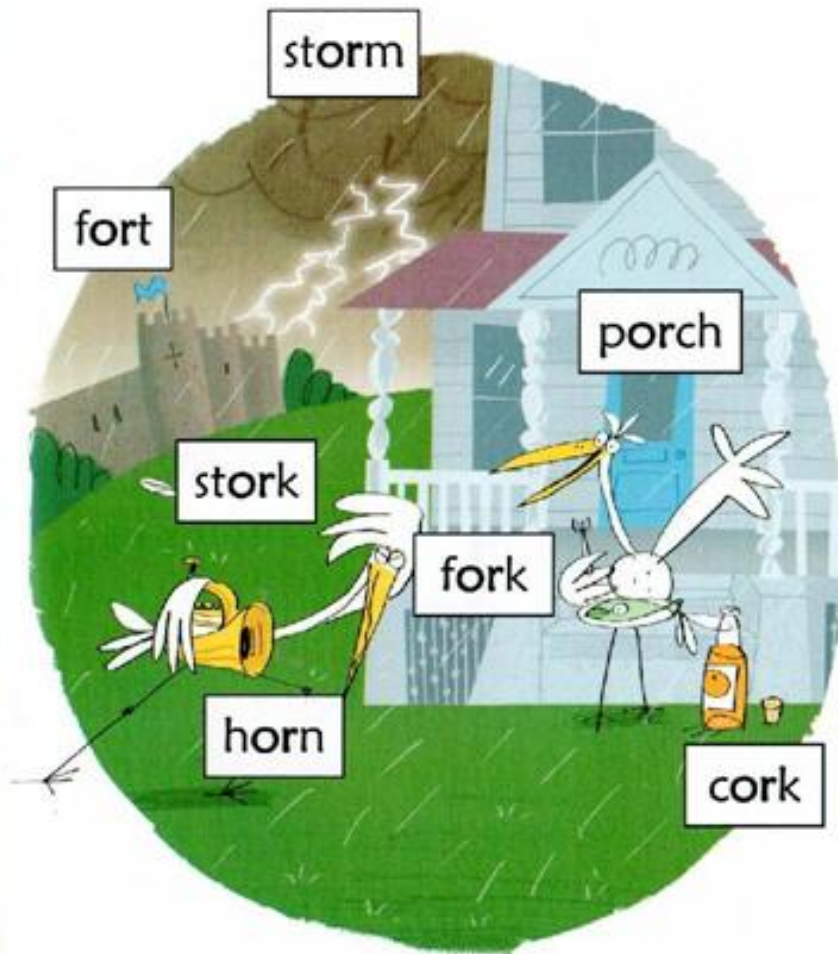
porch

stork

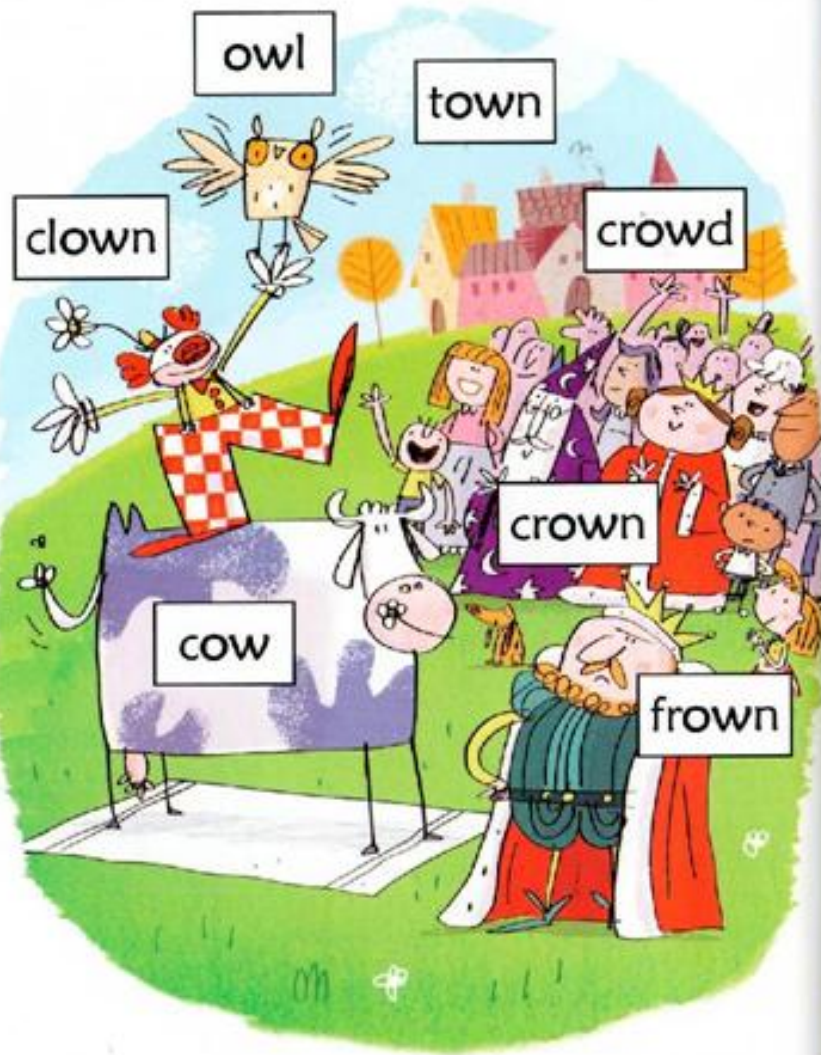
fork

horn

cork



ow



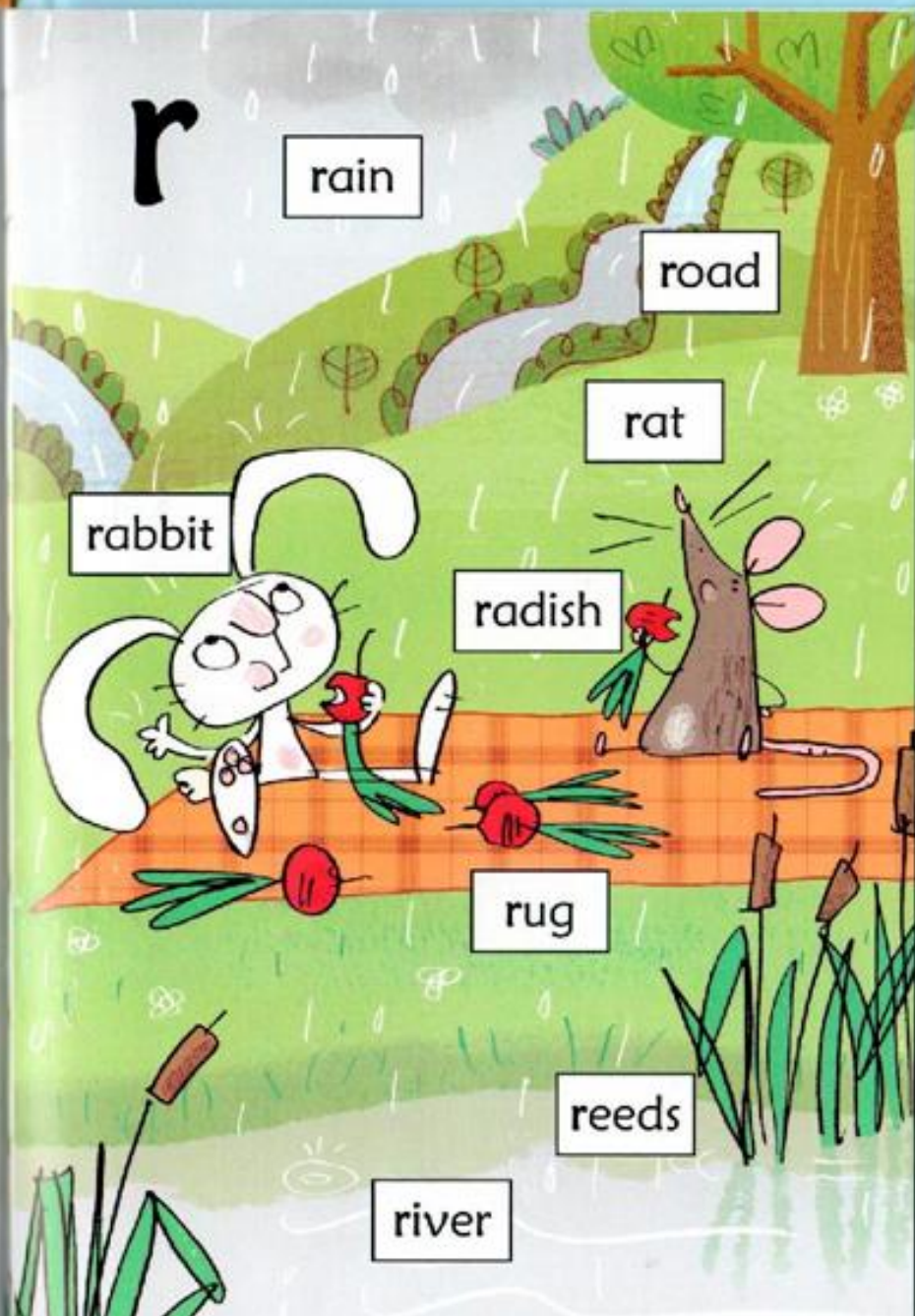
p



qu



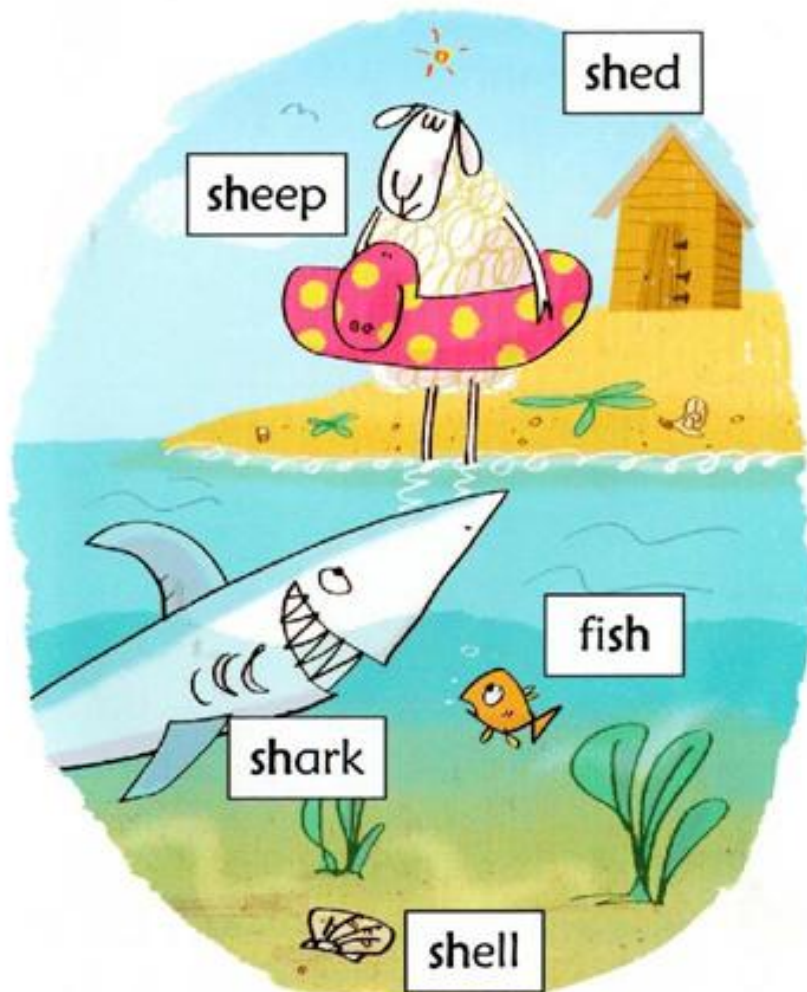
r



s ss



sh



t

tennis

tent

towel

tail

ticket

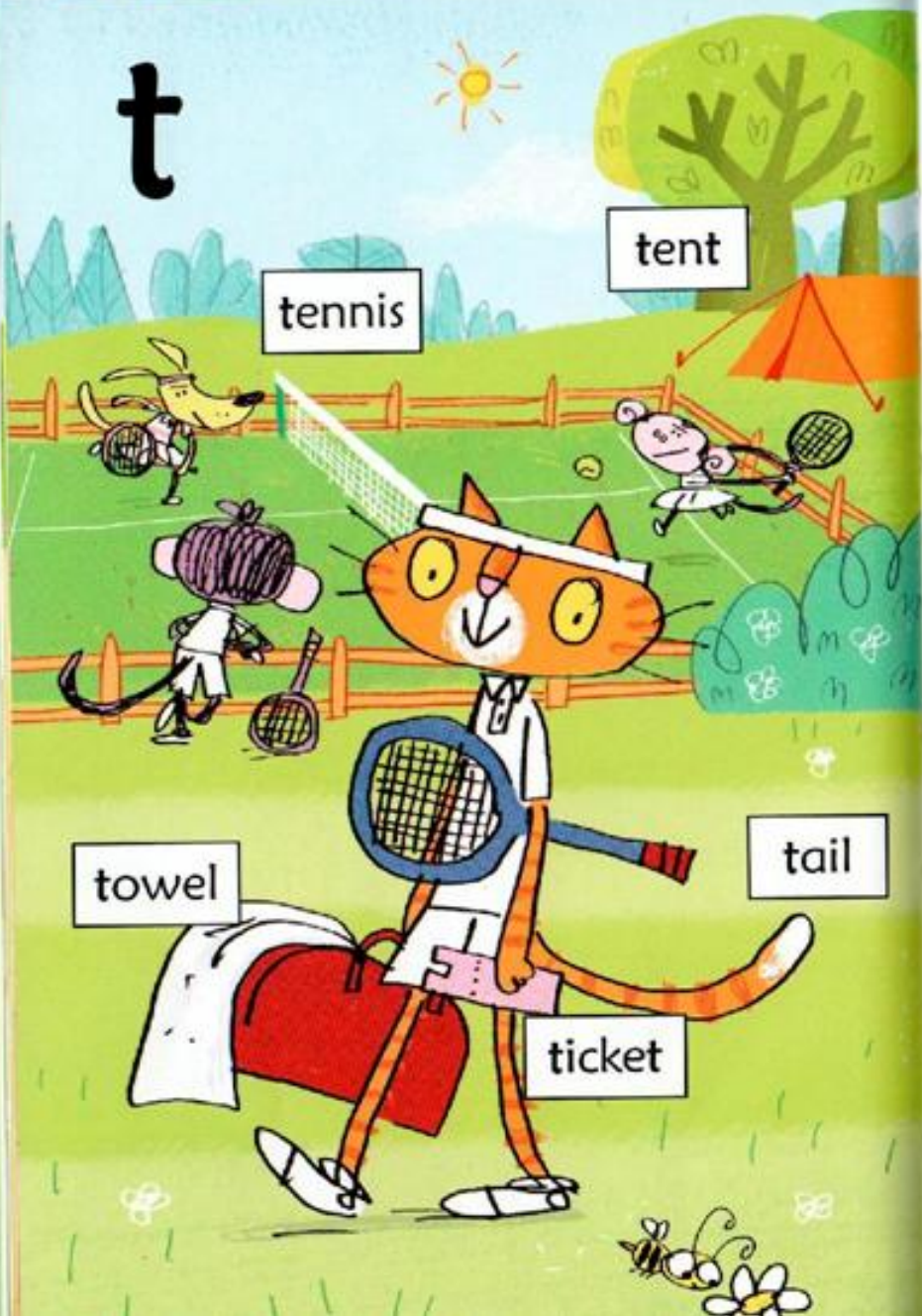
th

moth

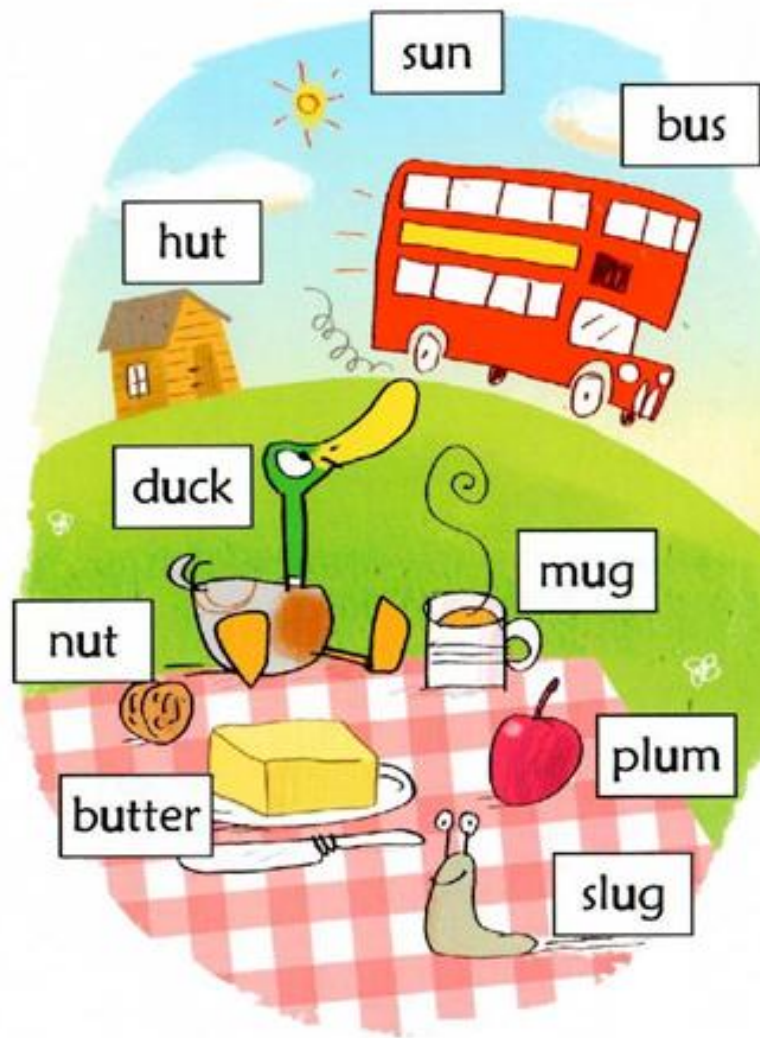
cloth

teeth

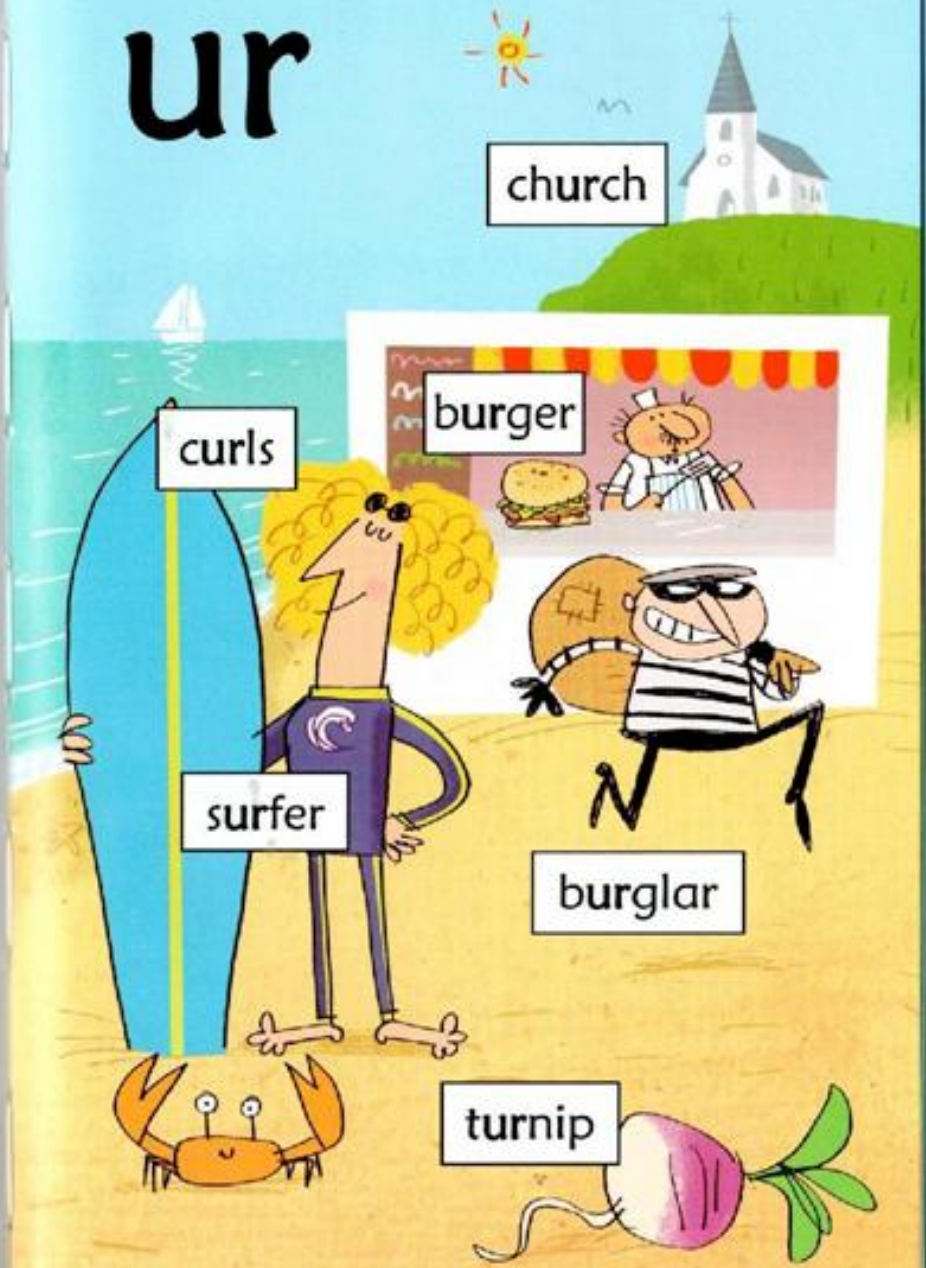
thorn



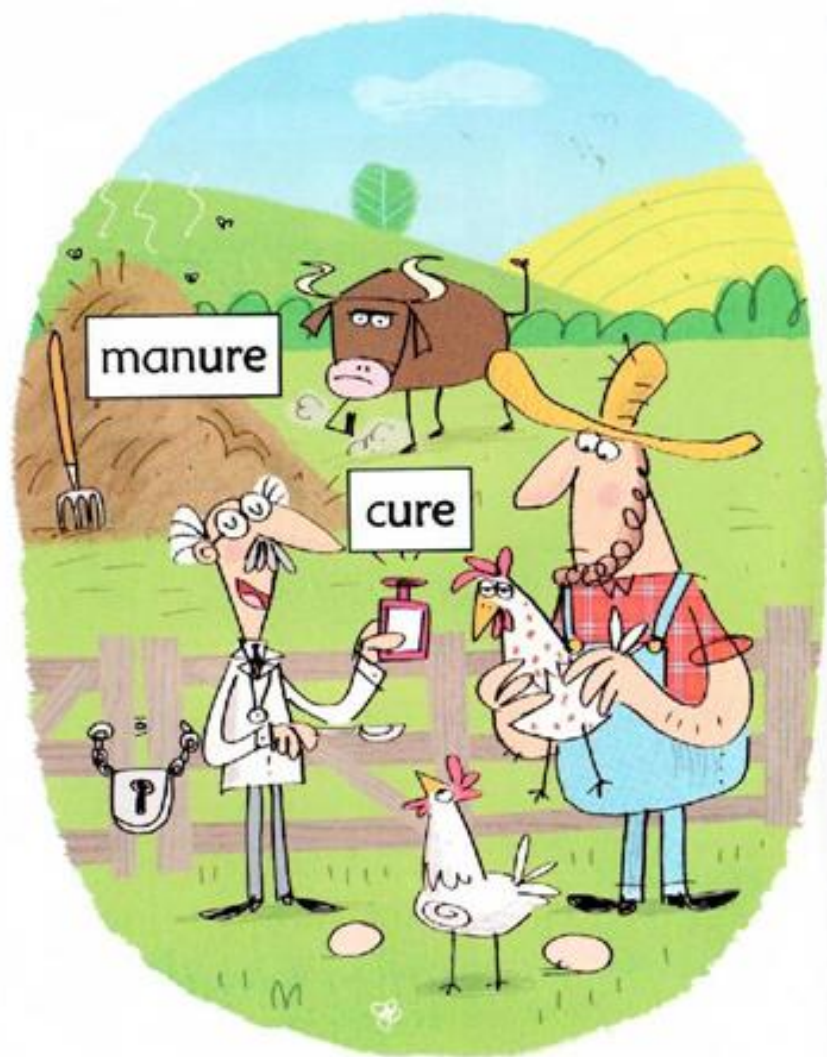
u



ur



ure



v



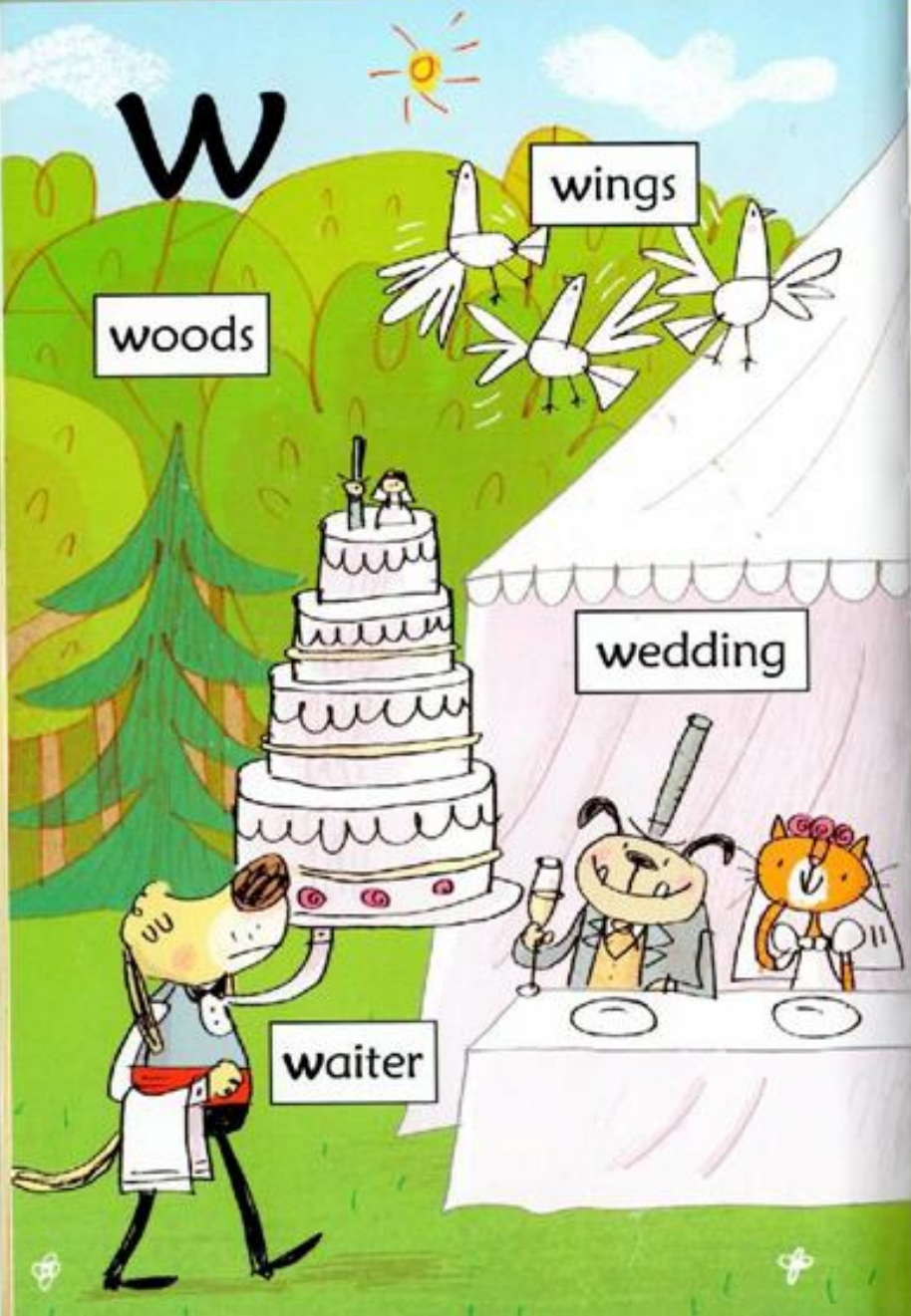
W

woods

wings

wedding

waiter



X

boxer

wax

box

fox



y



z zz

