

The Letter Stories

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Illustrated by Catherine Fischer

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To Parents and Teachers

This book is about a bunch of letters, who have arms and legs and eyes and mouths. When they want to say something to people, they have to get together with other letters and say their phonetic sounds. In such collaboration, they are able to make words. And the words they say are almost always very helpful for people to hear. The letters always seem to be at the right place at the right time. They have great foresight, and prevent all sorts of disasters.

The letters have another important job to do behind the scenes: helping young children learn to read. When a child starts this crucial task, there are several important things to know:

1. That words can be broken down into individual sounds, and individual sounds can be put together to make words. (The individual sounds are called phonemes, and the skill of breaking words apart or putting sounds together is called phonemic awareness.)

2. That certain shapes make letters, and that these letters make certain sounds. (Associating the shapes with the sounds is called letter-sound correspondence.)

3. That you start at the left and go to the right in sounding out words.

4. That words which have been sounded out actually communicate

messages, and that these messages can sometimes be very important.

The last piece of learning is not about reading, but about life:

5. That it is always good for the words you say to help people.

This book is a way for children to start learning these very important things, simply by hearing or acting out the stories. Those children who can enjoy experiencing these stories repeatedly can pick up a great deal of learning in a relaxed and pleasant way.

There are several ways to use these stories. The most obvious way is simply to sit beside a child and read the stories, as many times as the child wants to hear them. In schools, older children can be enlisted to read these stories to the youngest ones. Another option is to photocopy the pages onto overhead transparencies or through other technology, project them onto a wall or screen. That way, you can read them to a larger group, such as a classroom of children, all at once. Another option in using these with groups of children is to act them out. First you read the story to the children, enough times that they are thoroughly familiar with it. Then you pick children to play various parts. Those children who are playing the part of a letter get a piece of paper to hold with that letter written large upon it. Then the teacher reads each page, after which the

The Letter Stories

children act out what is on that page. When the letters make their sounds, the children speak the individual phonemes. When the letters combine to say a word, the children all call out the word in unison. At the end of the story, there is clapping for the actors and general celebration. This can be lots of fun for all concerned. This is one of the most awareness and letter-sound correspondence that I have experienced.

When you read the stories to children, think of the word the letters are trying to produce, and pronounce the letter sounds just as they are pronounced in the word. That way you won't have to rely totally on the letters I supply to stand for the sounds. Thus in a story about raccoons, ooh is pronounced as the oo in raccoons; in a story where the letters tell someone to "look up," oouh is pronounced as oo in the word *look*.

The stories in this volume are arranged so that the words with short vowels come first; the long vowels and diphthongs come later. This roughly corresponds to the order of introduction

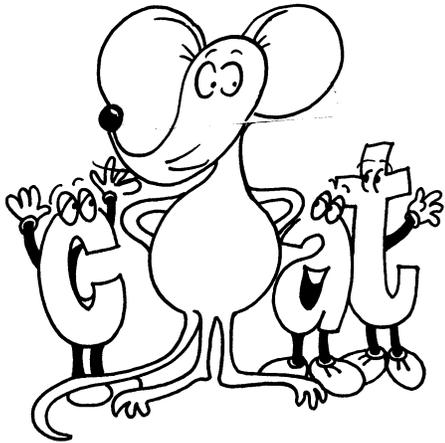
of vowel sounds in the other teaching materials I have written.

You may be interested in the other components of the reading program I have put together. There is a CD of songs that teach the letter sounds, entitled "What the Letters Say." *Manual for Tutors and Teachers of Reading* explains my approach to teaching reading, and includes exercises for the student. *Student Booklet on the Foundations of Reading* abstracts from this manual the student materials, leaving out the materials for training of teachers. *Programmed Readings For Psychological Skills* provides short vignettes meant to teach psychological skills and give practice to early readers simultaneously. *Illustrated Stories That Model Psychological Skills* provide vignettes modeling positive ways of acting, with illustrations.

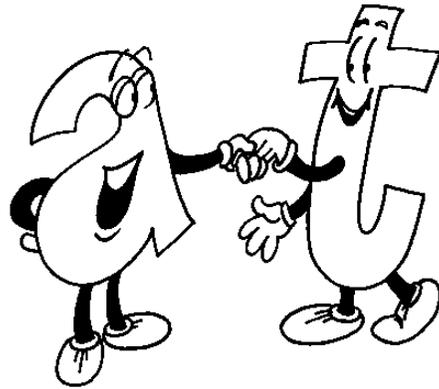
If you would like to get in touch with me, I would love to hear from you. I am particularly interested in hearing from people who have been able to use this program to help children. My email address is joestrayhorn@gmail.com.

The Letters Help Their Friend the Mouse

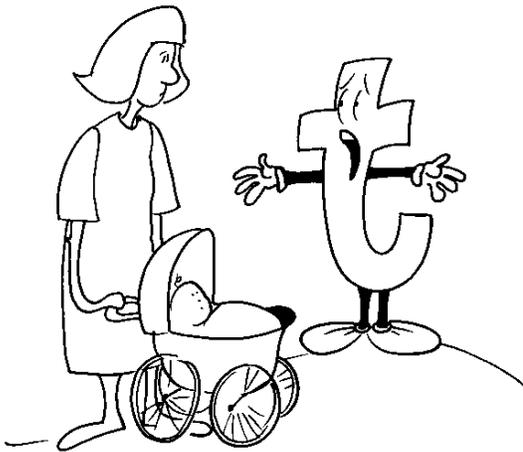
**The Letters Help Their Friend
The Mouse**



The letters could talk with each other, just as people do.



But, if they wanted to talk to people or animals, they could only say a few sounds. The t usually said "tuh."

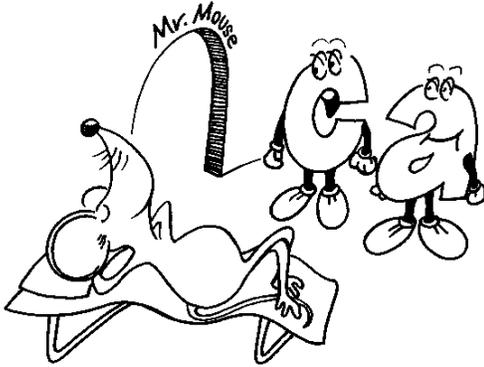


C could say "kuh," and a could say "ă."

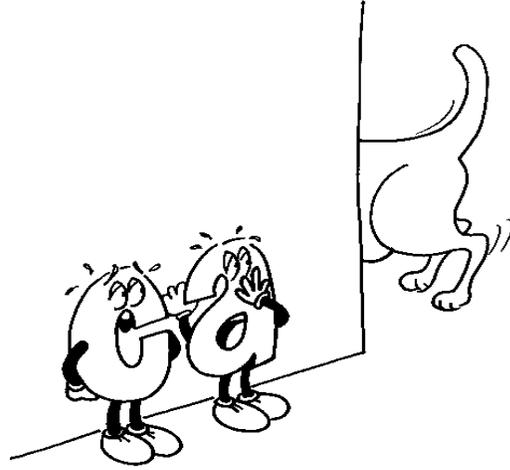


The Letter Stories

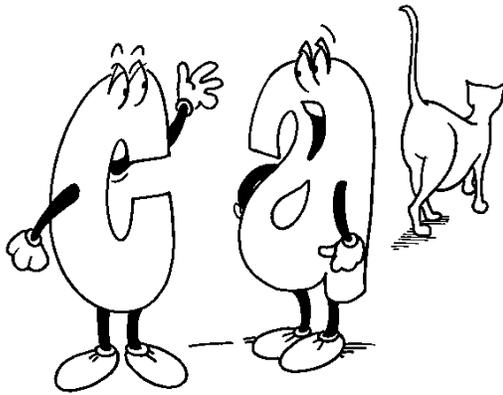
One day, c and a saw their friend, Mr. Mouse. He was lying around outside near his hole.



They started to go away and let him rest. But then they saw something scary. The cat was hunting nearby!



c said to a, "Oh my!" That cat might get our friend Mr. Mouse! We've got to warn him!

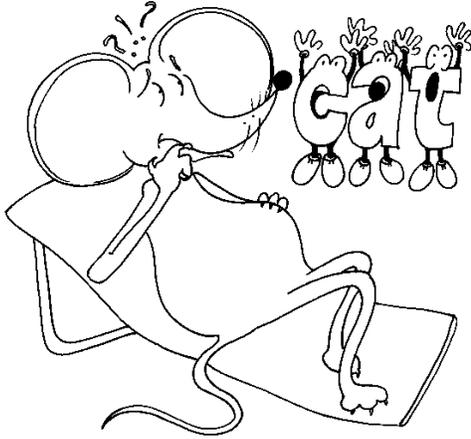


c and a found t. They said, "t, come quickly! We have to warn Mr. Mouse!"

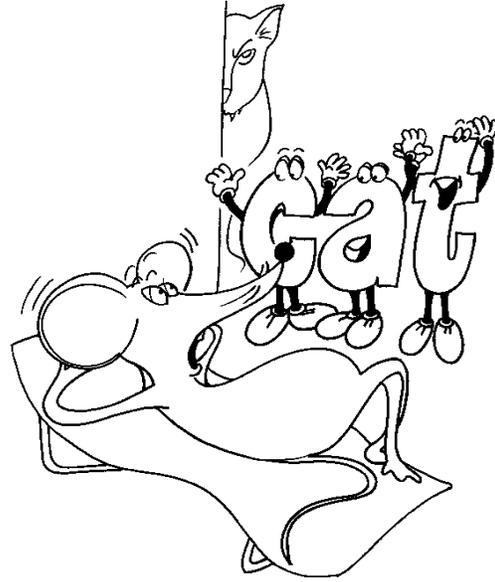


The Letters Help Their Friend the Mouse

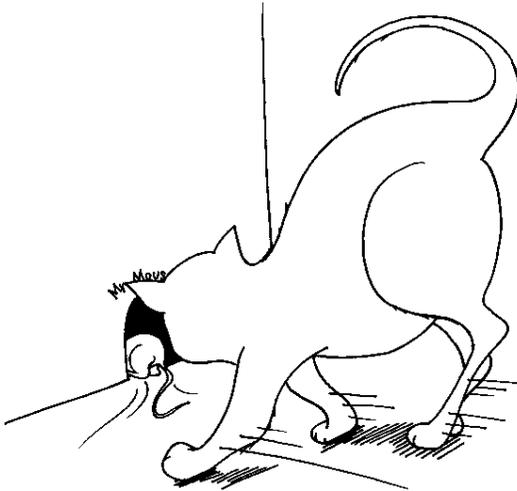
They found Mr. Mouse again. They shouted out, "kuh! ä! tuh!" Mr. Mouse woke up. He thought, "That sounds like something familiar!"



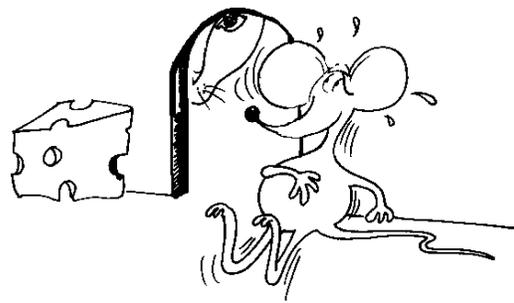
Then, the letters got together and yelled out, "Cat!"



Mr. Mouse jumped into his hole, just in time.

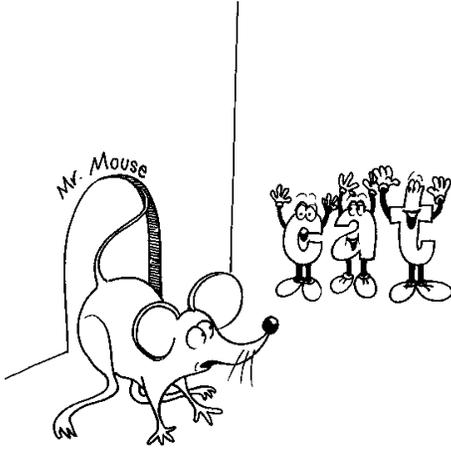


Mr. Mouse was safe!

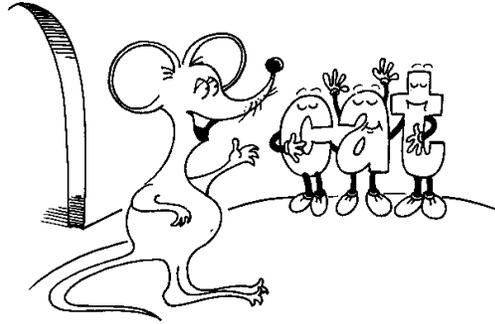


The Letter Stories

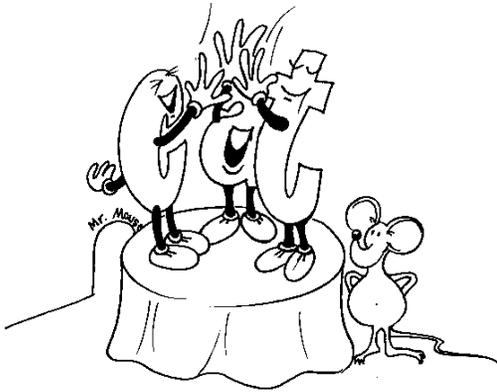
Finally, the cat went away. Mr. Mouse came out of his hole again.



Mr. Mouse said, "Thanks, c, a, and t! You really helped me! If you hadn't warned me, I would have been eaten up!"



The letters felt good that they had been able to help their friend.



The Letters and the Falling Rock

The Letters and the Falling Rock



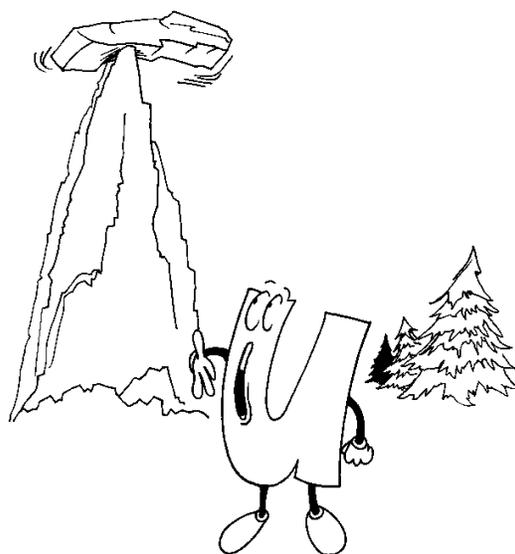
The letters could say anything they wanted to each other. But to people, they could only say certain sounds. r could say, “rrr.” U could say, “ū.” And n could say “nnn.”



Near the place where the letters were walking, a man was standing under a big rock.



u noticed something. He noticed that the rock was moving and about to fall on the man!



The Letter Stories

U ran up to the man and tried to warm him. He said, “ü! ü!” But the man just said, “Uh what? Go on and say it.”



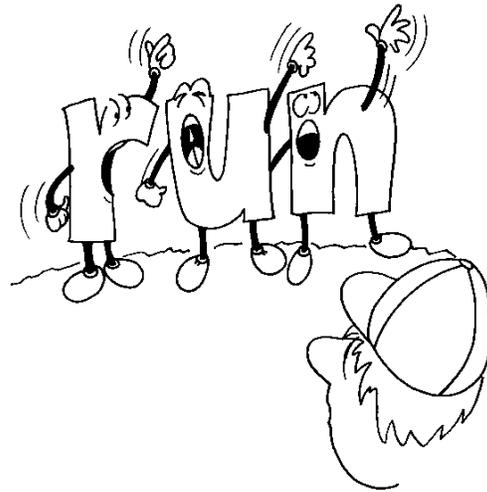
u ran to get r and n.



u said, “Come on, r and n. We’ve got to warn this man! That big rock looks like it’s going to fall!”



They went up to the man. They shouted out “rrr!” “ü!” “nnn!”

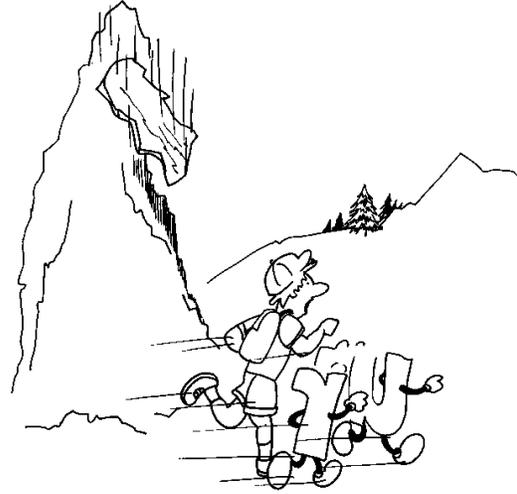


The Letters and the Falling Rock

They all got together and yelled, "run!"



The man said, "Why do you want me to run?"



Just then, the rock fell where the man had been, and they heard a loud thud.

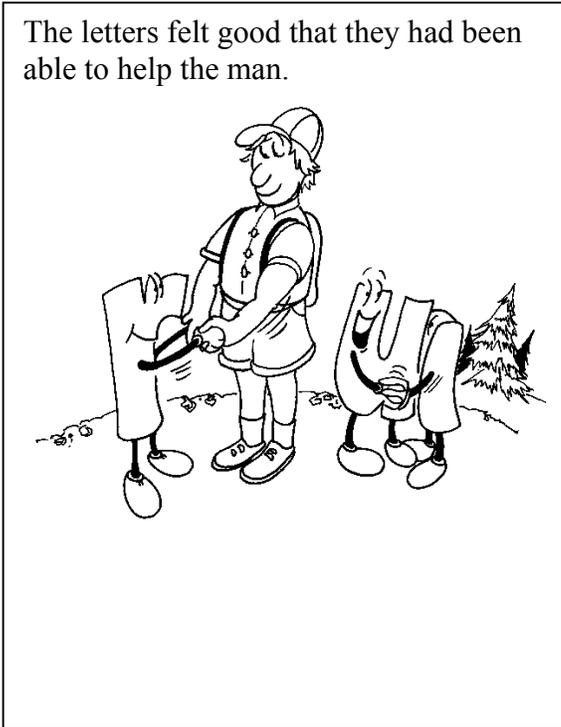


The man said, "Now I know why you wanted me to run! Thanks! You saved my life!"

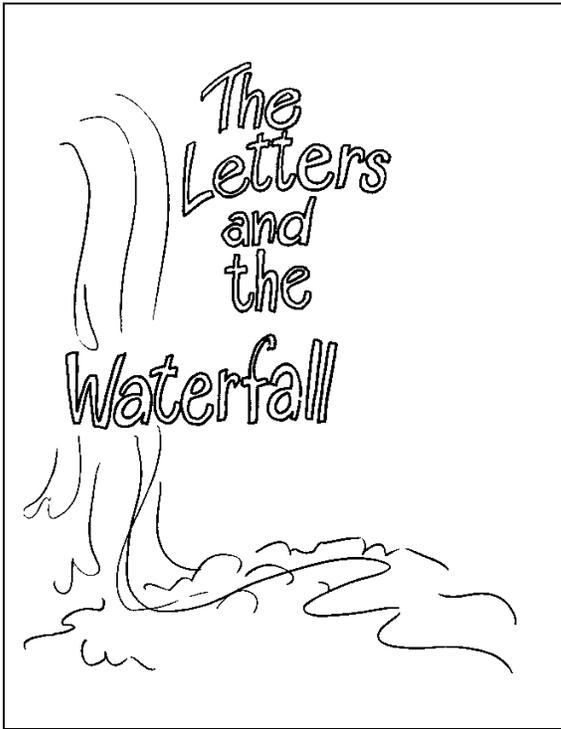


The Letter Stories

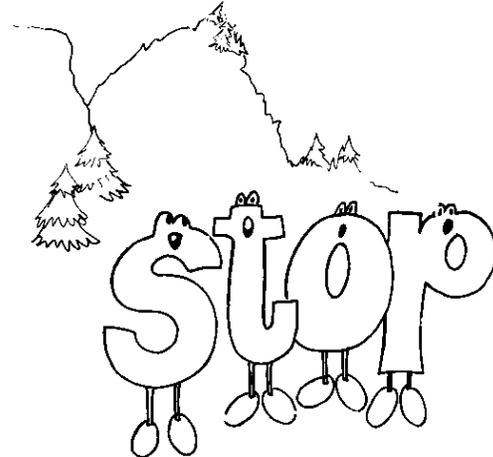
The letters felt good that they had been able to help the man.



The Letters and the Waterfall



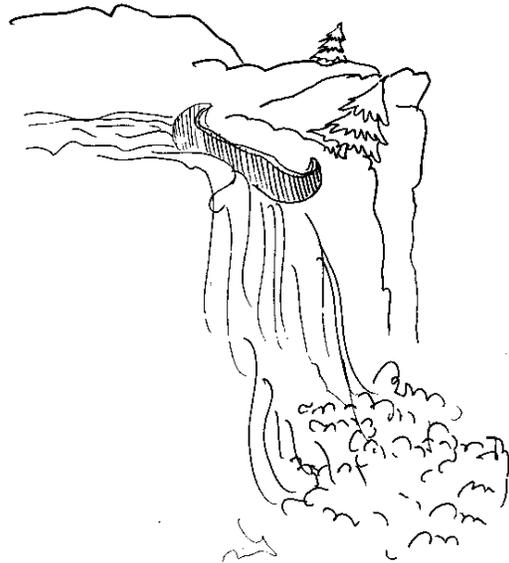
The letters were hiking. s, t, o, and p were walking together.



They saw a river with a big waterfall.

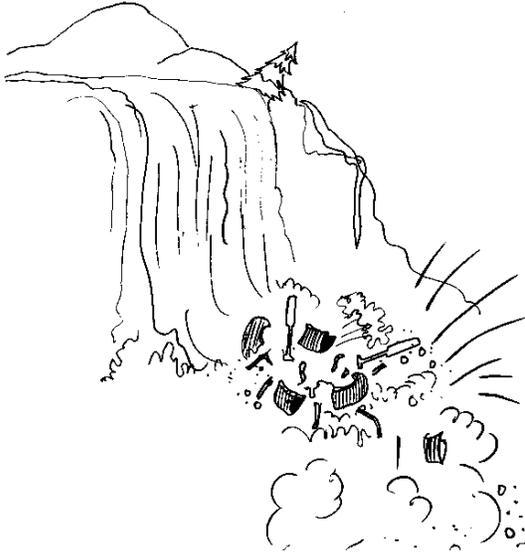


If a boat, or anything else, went over the waterfall...

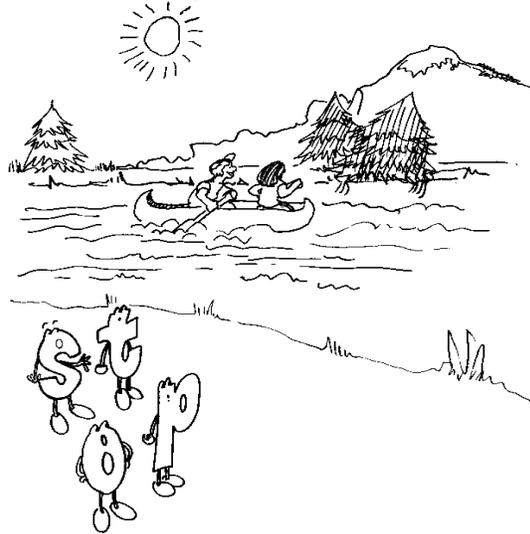


The Letter Stories

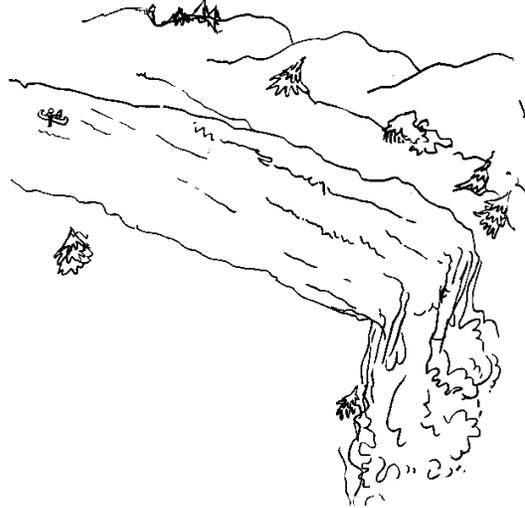
...it would be broken into a million pieces when it hit the rocks at the bottom.



s, t, o, and p were walking up the river. All of a sudden, they saw some people in a boat paddling happily down the river.



The people didn't know that they were paddling right toward the big waterfall.

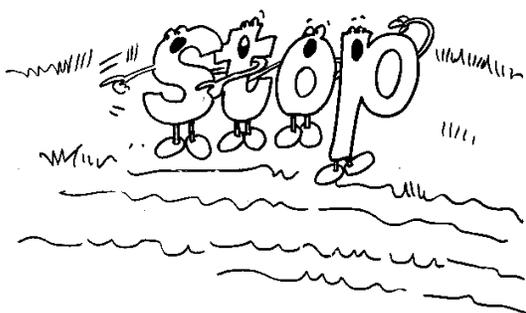


The letters yelled out to warn them. s yelled "sss!" and t yelled "tuh!" o yelled "ō!" and p yelled "puh." The people thought about how to put the sounds together.

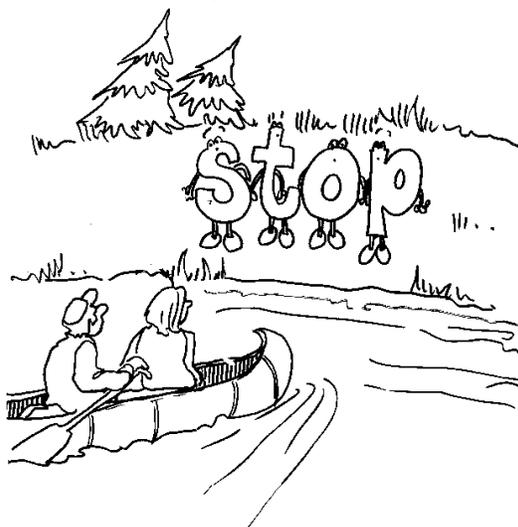


The Letters and the Waterfall

Then the letters got together and yelled out, "Stop! Stop!"



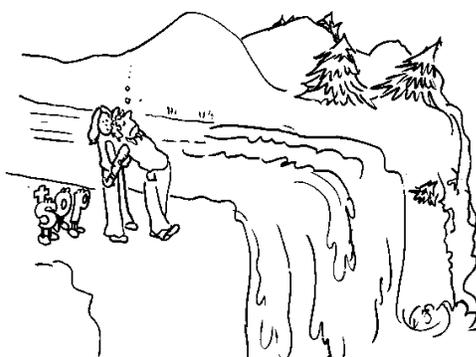
The people said, "I wonder why they want us to stop?" But, they went to the side of the river just the same.



They got out of the boat and the letters took them toward where they could see the waterfall.



When the people saw that they had been about to paddle over the waterfall, they were amazed and shocked.

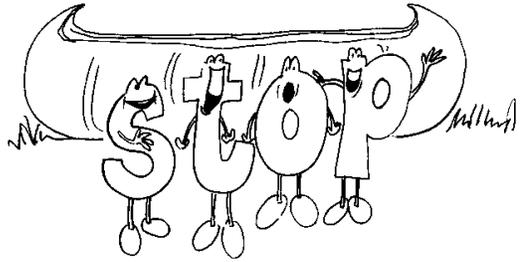


The Letter Stories

The people said to the letters, "You saved our lives! You saved us from going over the waterfall! Thank you!"



The letters felt good that they had been able to help.



The Letters and the Lost Boy

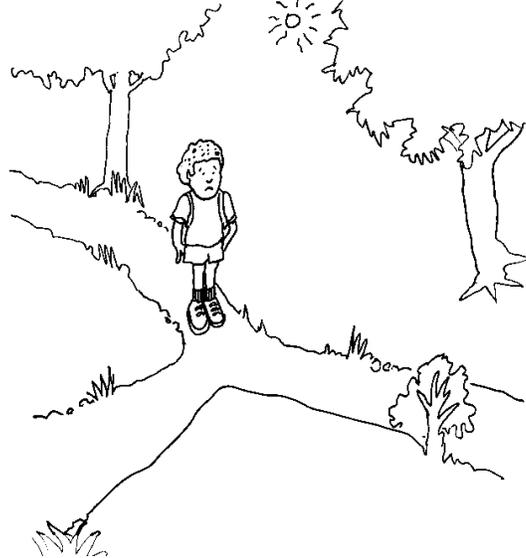
The Letters and the Lost Boy



One time a boy named Sam was walking in the woods.



It became time for Sam to go home. Sam thought, "I'm not sure which way I go to get back!" Sam got worried.



Sam got lost. He kept walking, but the more he walked, the less he knew where he was. Sam felt scared.



The Letter Stories

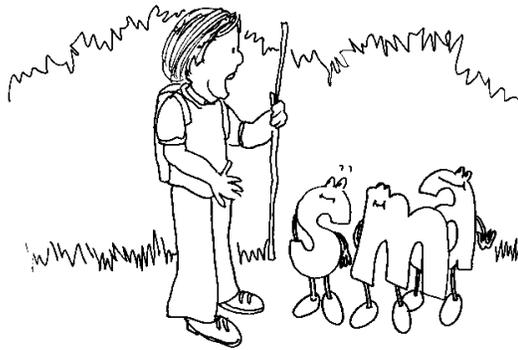
Meanwhile, back home, Sam's family started to miss him. They said to the other people, "Please help us find him!"



The letters were camping in the woods. A boy ran to ask the letters to help.



The boy said to the letters, "Please help us! A boy is lost in these woods. His name is Sam!"

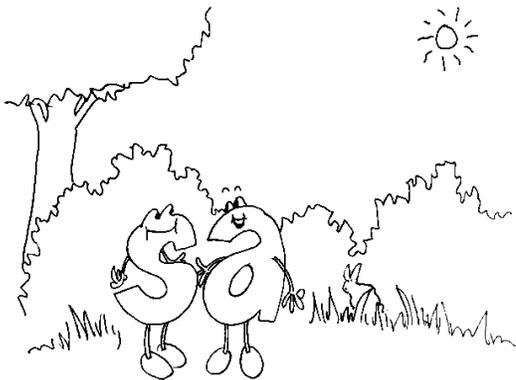


The letter s jumped up and said, "I can say 'sss.' That's how Sam's name starts out. Who can help me call his name?"

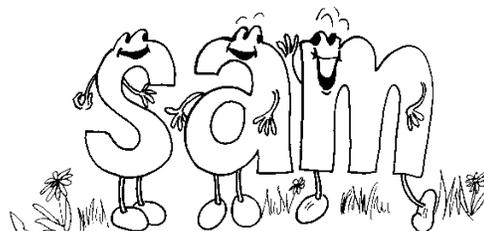


The Letters and the Lost Boy

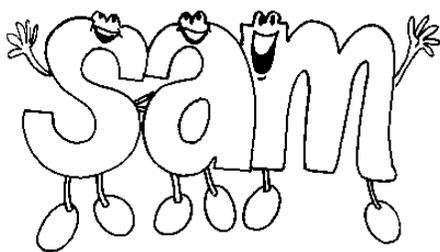
The letter a jumped up and said, "I can say 'ă.' That's the second part of his name."



The letter m then jumped out and said, "And I can say mmm. Let's see if that does it." And when they each said their sounds, they said "sss ă mmm."



And then when they all got together, they were able to yell, "Sam!"



Meanwhile, Sam had sat down to rest. He was very discouraged.



The Letter Stories

All of a sudden, Sam heard someone calling his name.



Sam yelled, "Here I am! I'm Sam!"



The letters ran up to him, and said, "Sam, Sam!" He was very happy to see them. He knew that they could lead him back home.

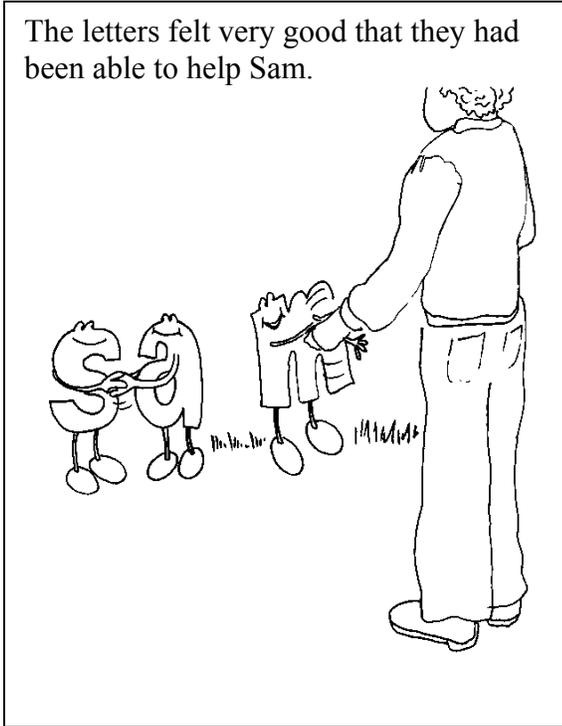


The letters took Sam back to his family. His mother and father were very happy to have Sam back.



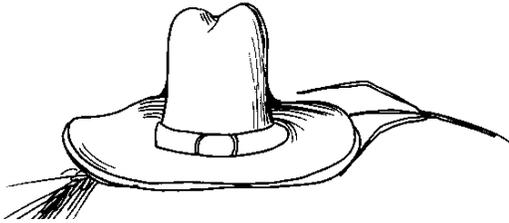
The Letters and the Lost Boy

The letters felt very good that they had been able to help Sam.

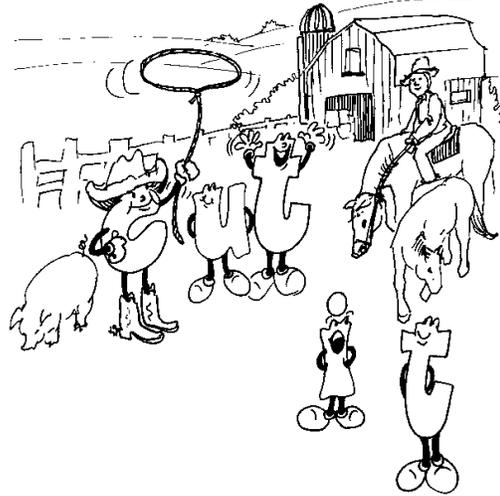


The Letter Stories

The Letters and the Runaway Horse



The letters were on a ranch. There were lots of horses and cows. Lots of people rode on the horses.



A man was standing around talking to someone. Without thinking about what he was doing, he tied the end of a rope around his waste. The other end of the rope was tied onto a horse's saddle. There was a lot of slack in the rope in between.

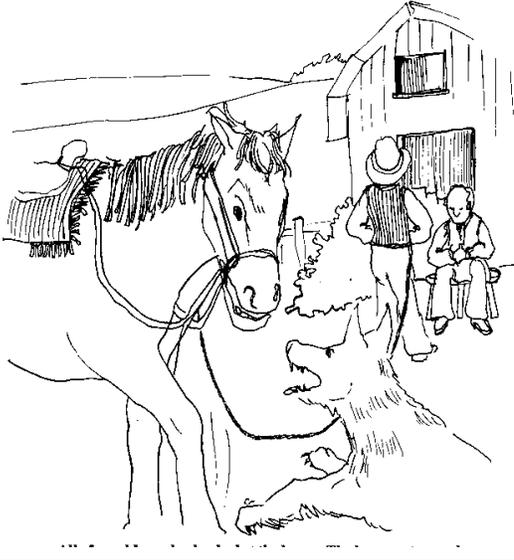


The other man was carving a piece of wood with his knife.

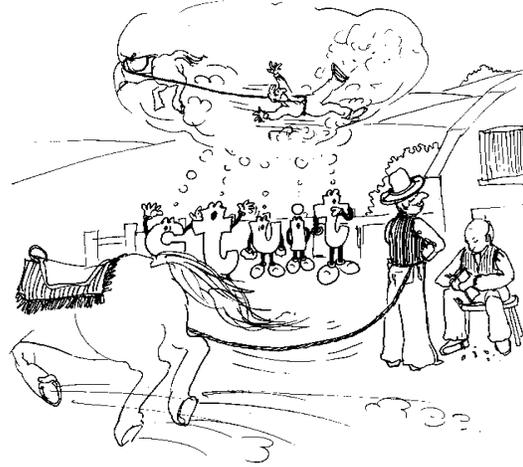


The Letters and the Runaway Horse

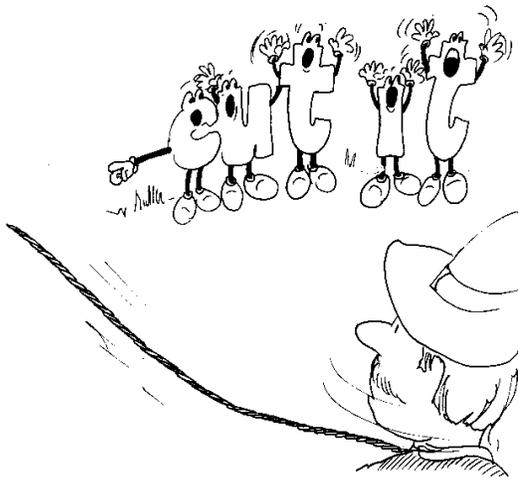
All of a sudden a dog barked at a horse. The horse got scared, and took off running as fast as he could. The men didn't see what happened.



The letters saw what had happened. They knew that the slack in the rope was running out. If they didn't do something, the horse would jerk the man off his feet and drag him along the ground.



The letters didn't waste any time. The c said, "kuh!" The u said, "ū!" and the t said, "tuh!" The I said "ī" and another t said, "tuh!"



The man said, "kuh ũ tuh, ī tuh. That sounds like 'cut it'." The letters all got together and yelled, "Cut it!"



The Letter Stories

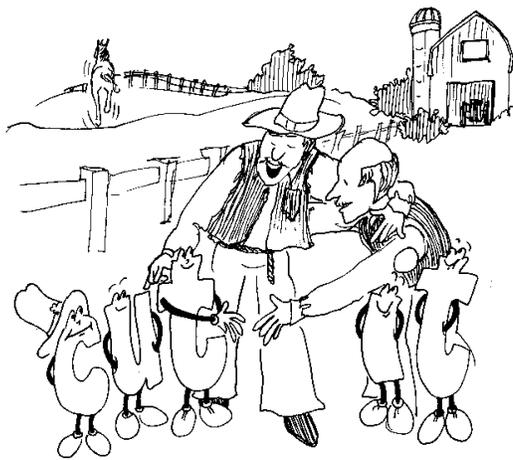
The man cut the rope. The other man said, "Now, why in tarnation did you do a fool thing like that?"



Just then, they saw the rope whiz away from them, and they saw the horse running across the field as fast as he could go.



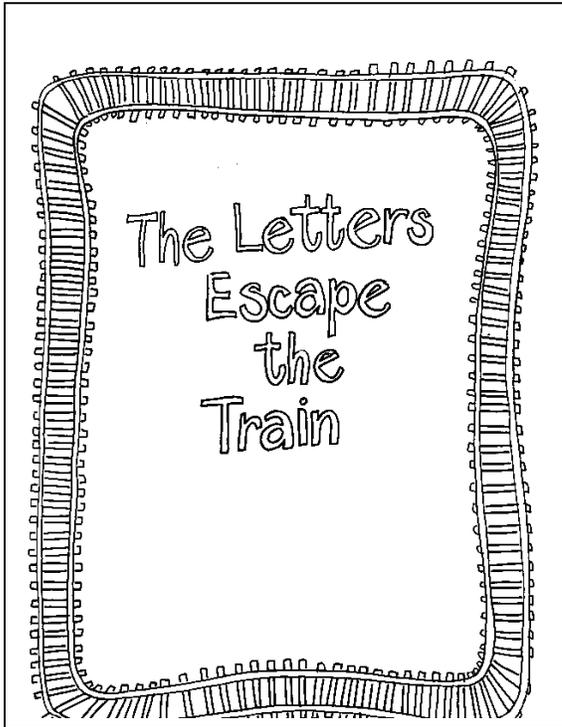
The man said, "Now I see why you told him to cut the rope. If I'd been tied to that horse, I'd have been dragged from here to the next field. I probably would have been killed. Thank you, letters! Thank you, friend!"



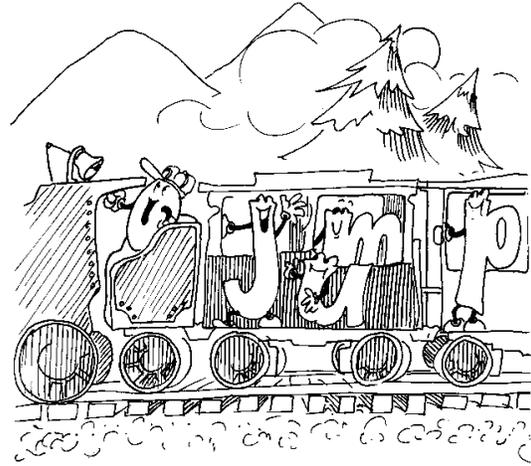
The letters felt very good that they had been able to help the man.



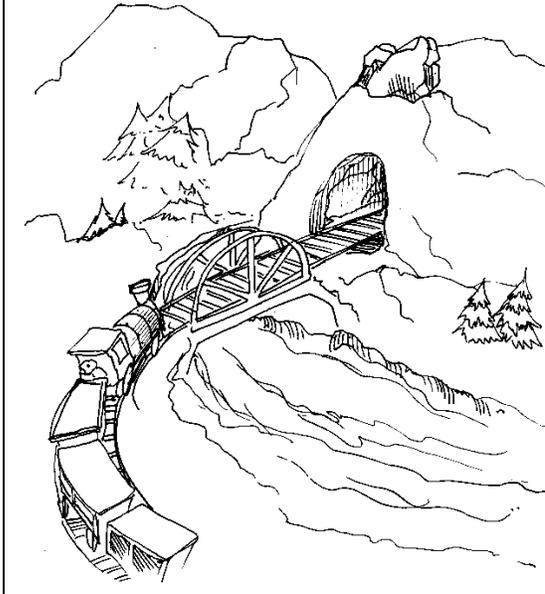
The Letters Escape the Train



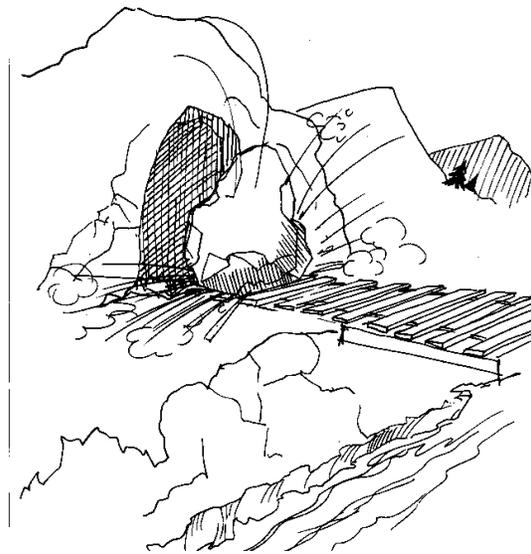
The letters and some people were riding on a train.



The train was about to cross the river. On the other side of the river, a tunnel went through the mountain.

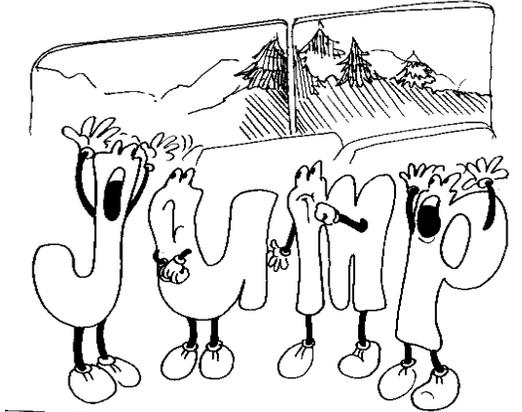


The letter j was looking at the track ahead. All of a sudden, he saw a huge rock drop off the mountain. It landed on the train track and blocked the tunnel.



The Letter Stories

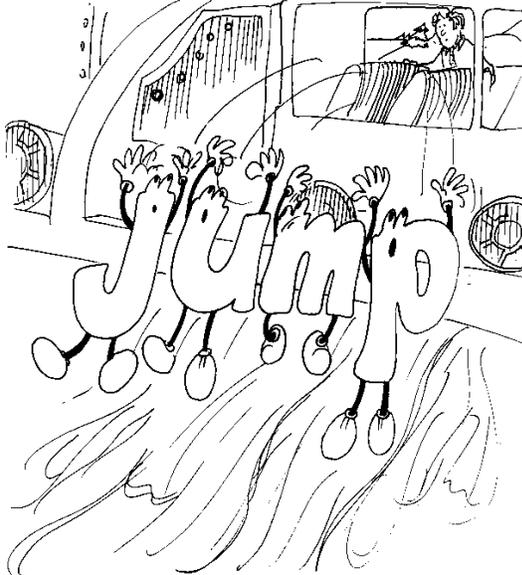
It's almost never smart to jump from something moving. But J knew that there was no time to stop the train before it hit the rock. He also knew that this unusual river was safe to jump into. So, he told the other letters, "We have to tell everybody to jump!"



j stood in front of the people and yelled, "juh!" u yelled, "ü!" m yelled, "mmm!" And p yelled "puh!" The people said, "Juh ü mmm puh. That sounds like jump!"



The letters all got together and yelled, "jump!" And with that they jumped off the train into the river.

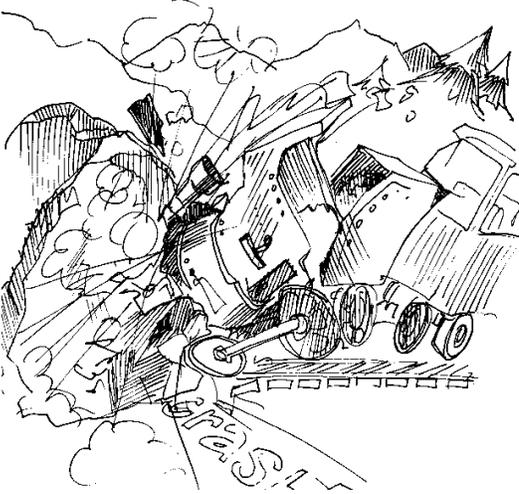


The people knew that the letters gave good advice, so they jumped also.



The Letters Escape the Train

The train smashed into the huge rock with a very loud crash!



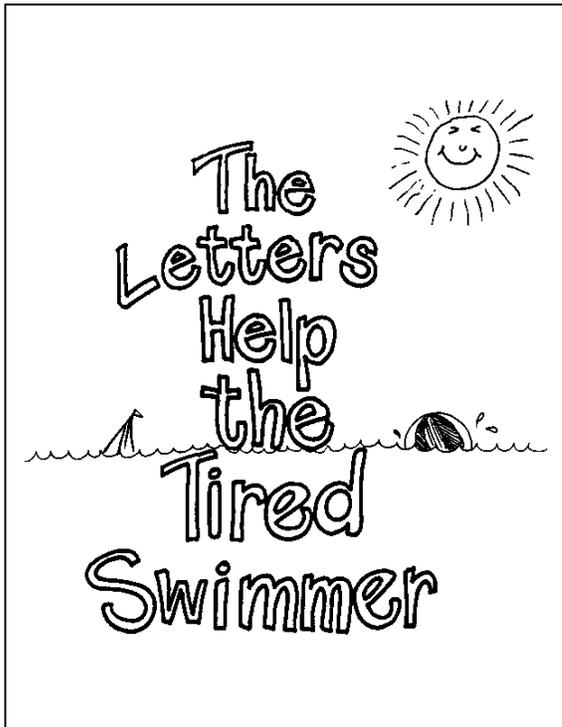
The people and the letters looked at the smashed train. If anybody had stayed on the train, that person would have been killed.



But amazingly enough, no one had been hurt. Everyone was very thankful that they all were safe.



The Letter Stories



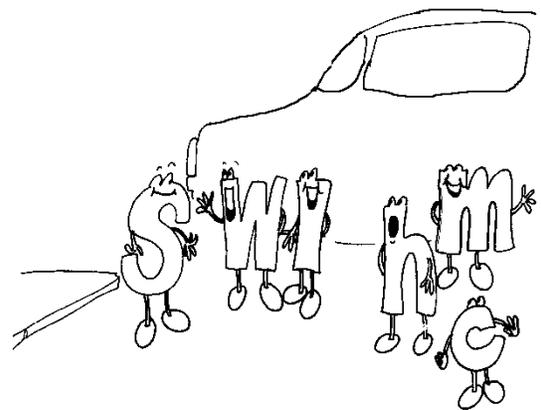
One of the letters' friends said, "I'll take you anywhere you want to go today. What would you like to do?"



The letters decided that they wanted to swim. The s said, "I can say sss. Who can help me say 'swim?'"



Then the w said, "I can say 'wuh,'" and the i said, "I can say 'i.'" The other letters said, "So far we can say 'swi.' We need one more letter."



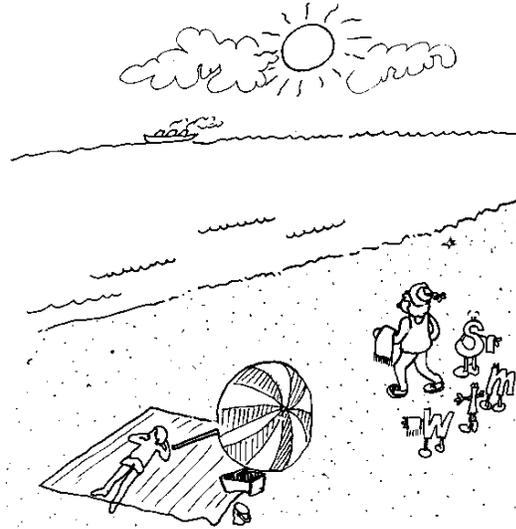
The Letters Help the Tired Swimmer

Then the m said, "I can say mmm." So, when they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "sss wuh ĩ mmm." Then they all got together and said, "Swim!"

The woman said, "That's a good idea, let's go and swim."



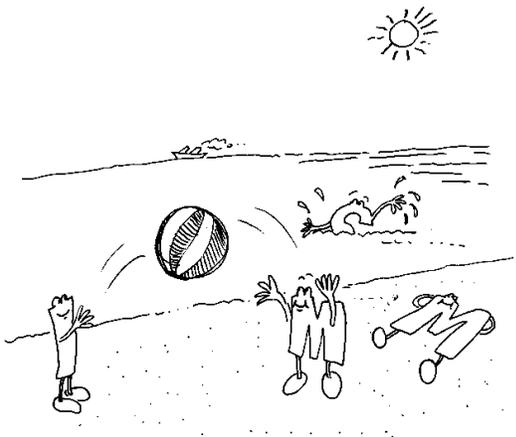
They went in the woman's car to the beach.



The woman decided to go jogging down the beach. She said, "I'll see you after a while, letters."

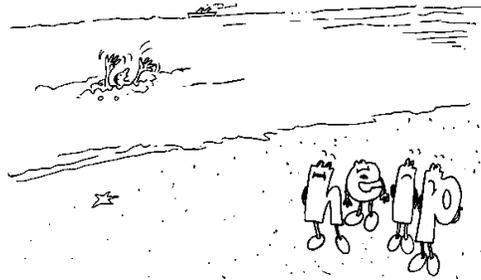


The letters had a good time swimming.

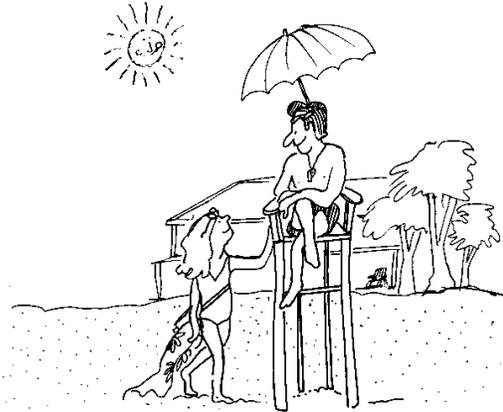


The Letter Stories

All of a sudden, some of the letters saw a man who had gone far out into the water. The man looked very tired. The man was calling for help, but he was so weak that he couldn't yell very loud. The letters said to themselves, "If he doesn't get help, he might drown."



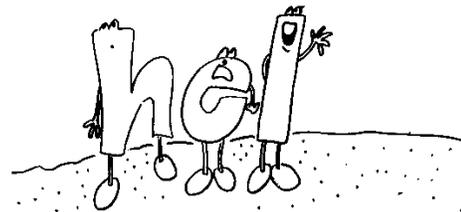
There was a lifeguard, but he was not paying attention. He was talking with a friend.



The letter h said, "We've got to tell that lifeguard to help the man. I can say 'hhh.' Who can help me say 'Help!'?"

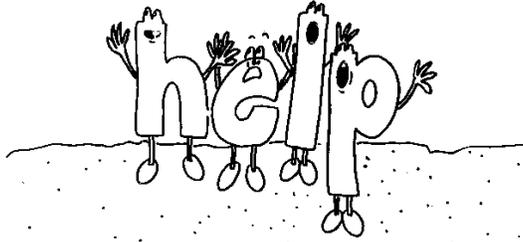


Then e said, "I can say ē," and l said, "I can say ll." "

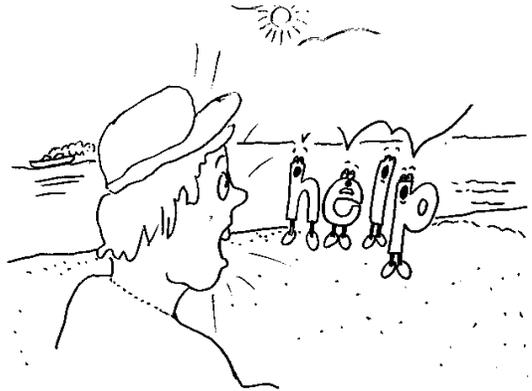


The Letters Help the Tired Swimmer

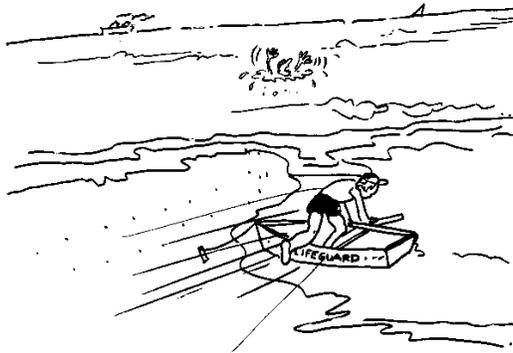
Then p said, "I can say puh." When they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "hhh ě ll puh."



Then they all got together and yelled, "Help!"



The lifeguard saw the man out in the water. He thought that the man had yelled. He very quickly got into his rowboat.

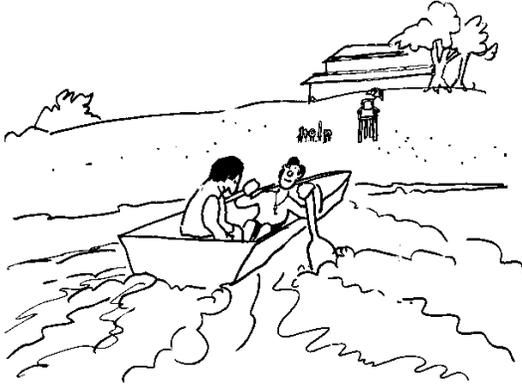


The lifeguard pulled the man into the boat. The man said, "Thanks! I was about to drown! I don't think I could have made it in if you hadn't helped me."



The Letter Stories

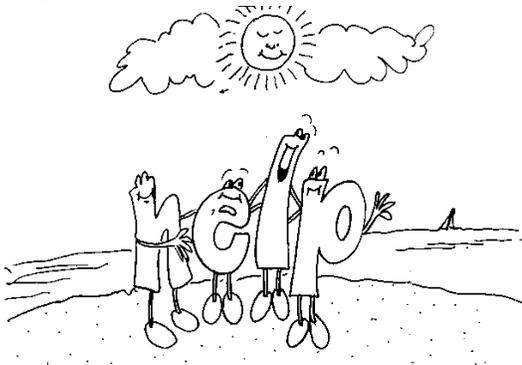
The lifeguard rowed the man back to the shore.



The lifeguard helped the man out of the boat. The lifeguard's friend said to the lifeguard, "You're a hero."



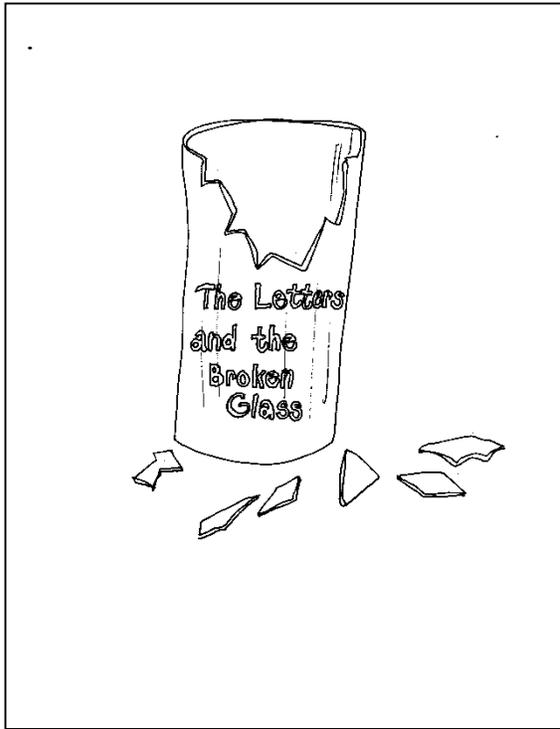
No one ever thanked the letters. No one even realized that without their help, the man would have drowned. But they felt good anyway. They didn't need anyone to give them credit for what they had done.



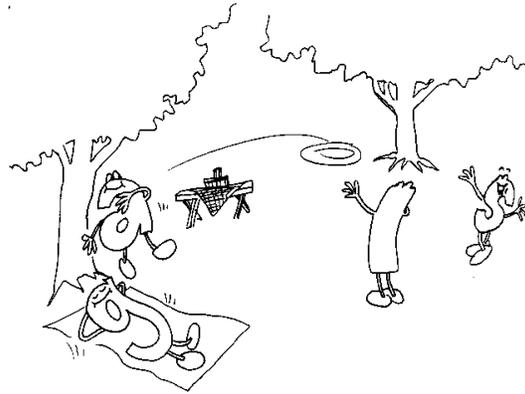
After the woman came back, the letters all got in the car and went home.



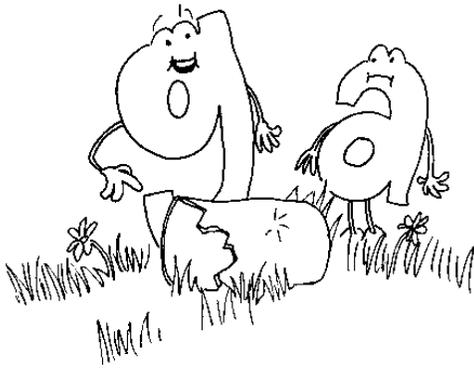
The Letters and the Broken Glass



The letters were in the park.



All of a sudden g saw some broken glass on the ground. G said to a, "Look at this broken glass. People could cut themselves on this."

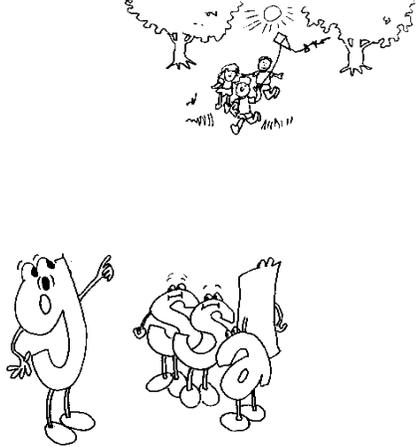


Just at that moment, a bunch of children came walking in that direction. Some of them did not have shoes on.

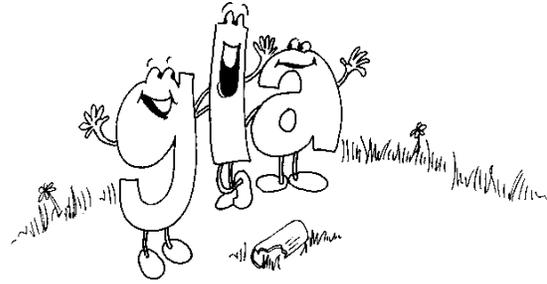


The Letter Stories

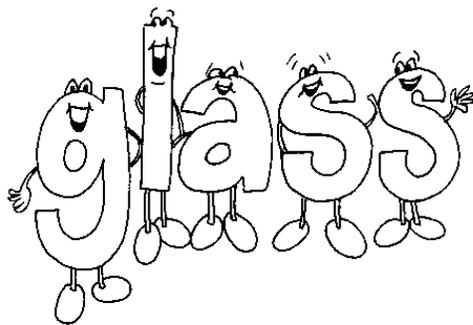
g said to the rest of the letters, "Come on! We've got to warn them before they cut their feet! Who can help me say glass? I can say 'guh.'"



l jumped up and said, "I can say 'lll.'"
And a came forward and said, "I can say 'ă.'"



Then a couple of s's jumped up and said, "And we can say 'sss!'" When they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "guh lll ä sss."



They ran to where the children were. The children were just about to walk into the broken glass. The letters all joined together to say, "glass!"



The Letters and the Broken Glass

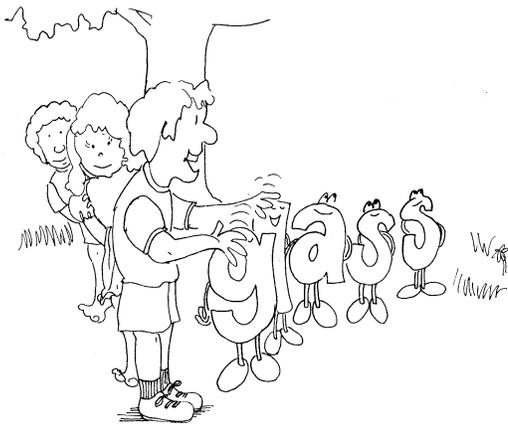
One of the children said, "Oh, look, they're right! There is broken glass right up in front of us!"



The ones with some shoes on very carefully picked up the broken glass and put it in the trash can so that no one would get hurt. The letters helped them clean up the broken glass.

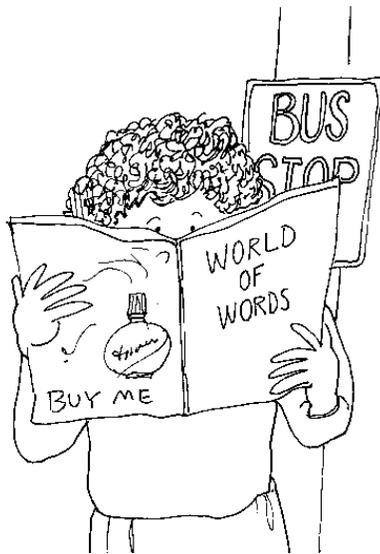


The children said, "Thank you, letters! If it hadn't been for you, we would have cut our feet." The letters felt good that they had been able to help the children.



The Letter Stories

The Letters and the Mirror on the Truck



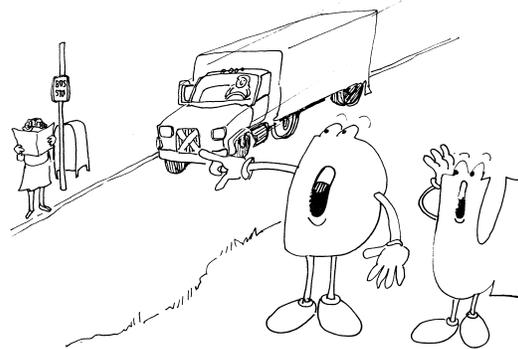
A woman was waiting for a bus. She was standing on the edge of the curb, reading a magazine.



Meanwhile, a truck was coming in the woman's direction. The truck had a big mirror on the side of it.

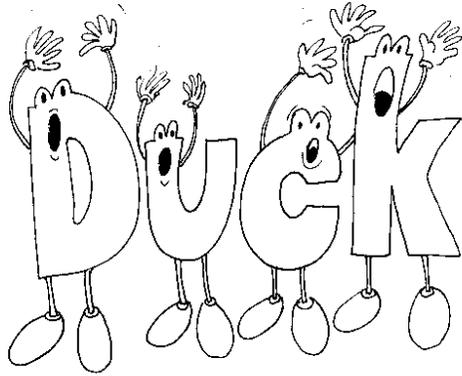


The letters saw that the mirror stuck out so far that the mirror would hit the woman in the head if she didn't move! The truck was coming fast! The letters said to one another, very quickly, "We've got to tell her to duck!"

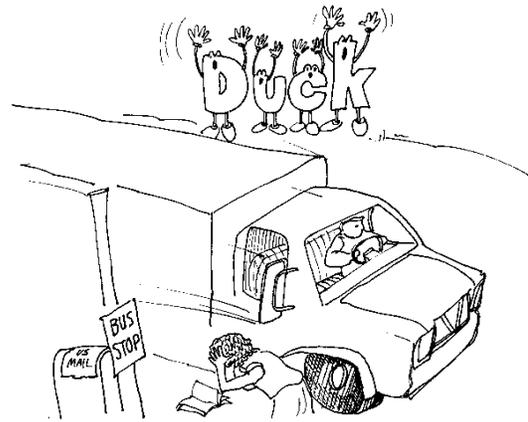


The Letters and the Mirror on the Truck

The letter d shouted, “Duh!” And the letter u shouted, “ū!” And then c and k got together and shouted, “Kuh!” The woman said, “Duh ũ kuh. That sounds like duck.”



The letters all got together and shouted, “Duck! Duck!” The woman knew that the letters gave good advice, so she ducked down, just as the truck roared past her. The mirror whistled right over her head, coming close, but not hitting her.



The woman sat down. She said, “Whew, that was a close one! Letters, you saved my life! If you hadn’t warned me to duck, that truck’s mirror would have killed me! Thank you, letters!” The letters felt very very relieved that the woman had not been hurt.



The Letter Stories

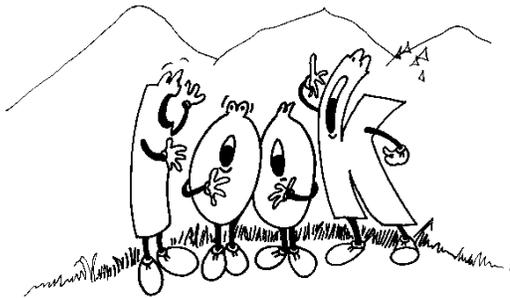
**The Letters Help
The Man On The Cliff**



A man was walking along, lost in thought. The letters could see that he was about to walk off the edge of a cliff!



The letters said, "We've got to warn him! Let's tell him to look out!" The letter l said, 'lll!' Two o's said "oouh!" And k was just about to say "kuh!" After that, they were planning to say their sounds together and say, "look!"

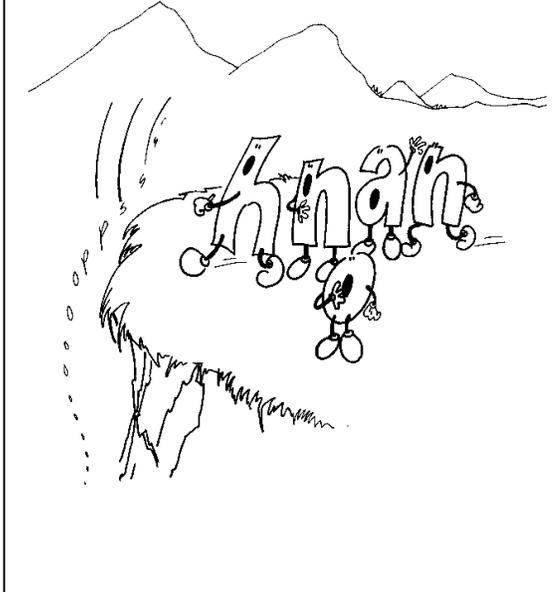


But before they could finish saying the word, the man walked right over the cliff!

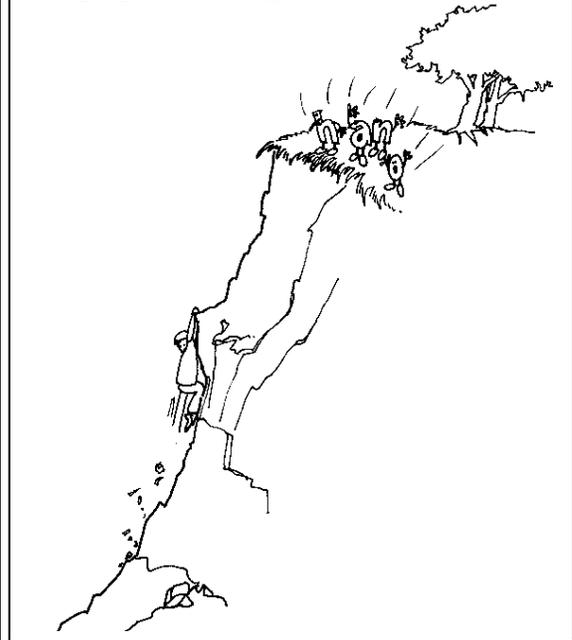


The Letters Help the Man on the Cliff

The letters said to themselves, "Oh no, something horrible has happened!" And they ran to the edge of the cliff.



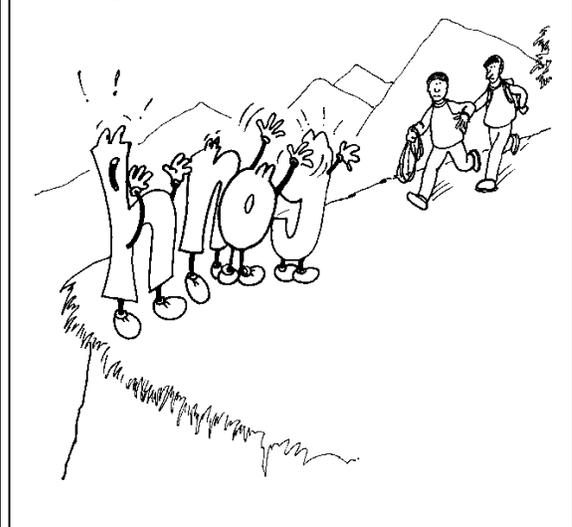
The man had caught himself! He was hanging onto a ledge.



The man looked down. The cliff was very, very high. The man said, "I'm a goner. I might as well let go. The only ones close by are the letters. There's no way they can climb down to get me."

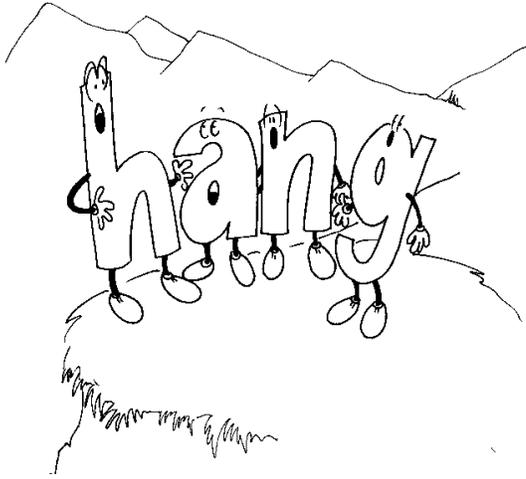


Some rock climbers with ropes had seen the man fall off the cliff. They were running from a long way away, to try to save the man. The letters saw them coming.



The Letter Stories

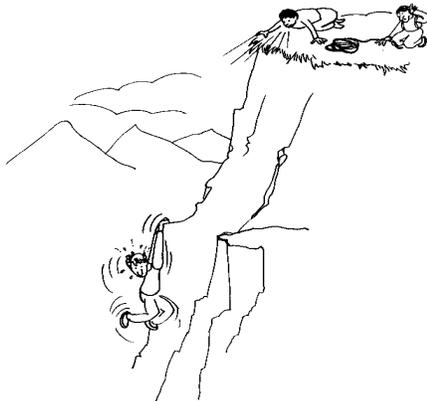
The letters knew that help was on the way. They knew they had to tell this to the man. They said to each other, "We've got to tell him to hang on!" The letter h said "huh!" a said, "ă." n said "nn." And g said "guh."



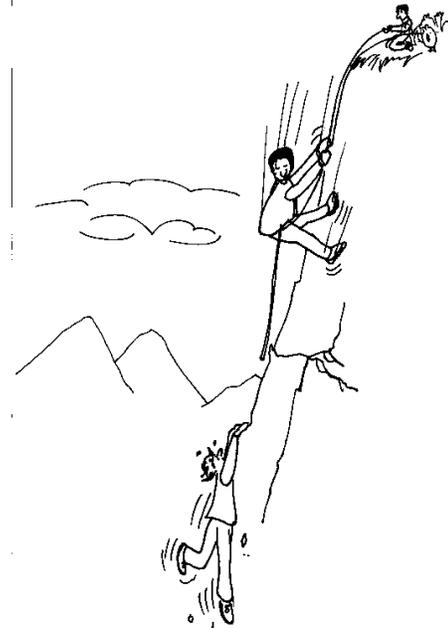
The man said, "Huh ă nnn guh. Sounds like *hang*." Then o said "ö." And n said "nnn." The man said, "ö nn. Sounds like *on*." The letters all got together and yelled, "Hang on! Hang on!"



The man said, "Maybe they know something I don't know. I'll try hanging on just a little while longer." In seconds the rock climbers arrived. They yelled, "Don't let go! We've got a rope! We're coming down after you!"



Very quickly, one of the rock climbers went down the cliff to the ledge.



The Letters Help the Man on the Cliff

The climber grabbed the man's forearms and pulled him over the ledge to safety.



Finally the climbers got the man to the top of the cliff. The man was very tired, but he was also very grateful.



The man said, "I owe my life to you climbers. You saved me from certain death. And I also owe it to you letters. I wouldn't have hung on if you hadn't let me know that there was help coming." The letters were very glad that they had been able to help the man.



The Letter Stories

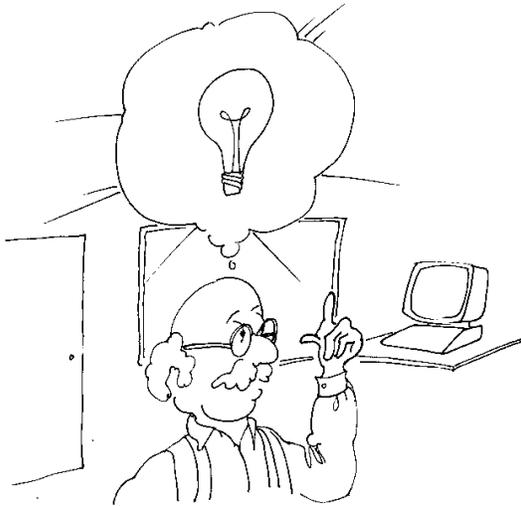
The Letters Help the Person Fix the Computer



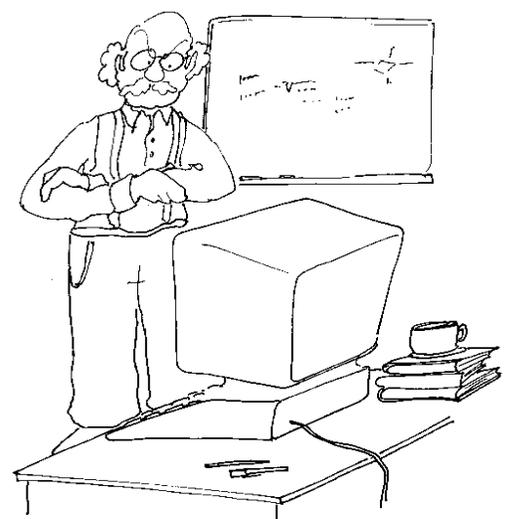
The letters were visiting their friend the professor. The professor was very smart, but he sometimes was absent-minded. For example, one time he spent a lot of time looking for his glasses, when they were already on his head.



Another time, the professor had a brilliant idea. He said to himself, "I want to write this idea down! I'll do it with my computer!"

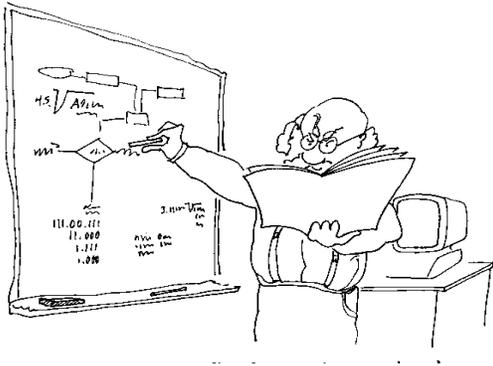


But then the professor said, "Frustration! My computer won't work! Maybe one of the electrical components in it has blown out."

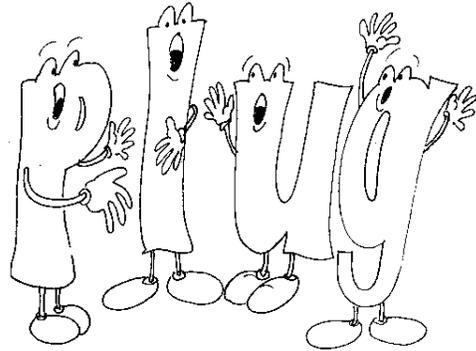


The Letters Help the Person Fix the Computer

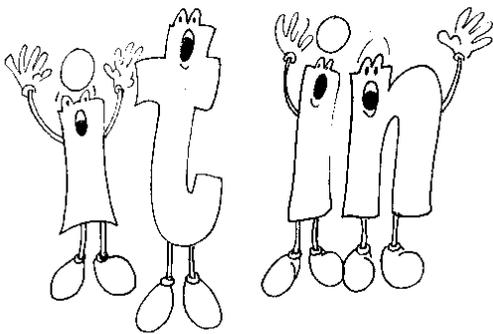
The professor started reading the computer manuals. He worked on the blackboard with some equations, trying to calculate exactly what was most likely to have gone wrong. Meanwhile, the letters looked at the computer.



The letters figured out what was wrong with the computer! They said to each other, "Let's tell the professor how to fix it!" The letter p said, "I can say 'puh.'" I said, "I can say 'lll.'" u said, "I can say 'ü.'" And g said, "I can say 'guh.'" "



Then the letter i said, "I'll say 'ī.'" And t said, "I'll say 'tuh.'" Another i said "I'll say 'ī' again." And an n said, "I'll say 'nnnn.'" "



When they said their sounds, the professor looked up from what he was doing. "Humh. 'puh ll ü guh, ī tuh, ī nnn.' That sounds like a message to me."

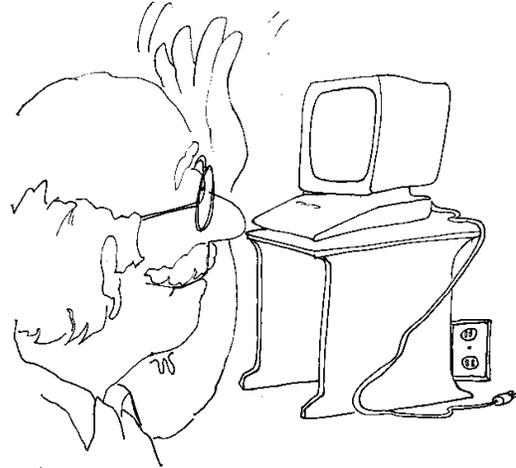


The Letter Stories

Then the letters all said their sounds together. They said, "Plug it in."



The professor was surprised when he saw that the computer power cord wasn't plugged in. As he reached to plug it in, he said, "How did that cord get disconnected? Thanks, letters. You saved me a lot of time."



A few months later, the professor gave a big speech in which he read his new ideas. The people thought the professor's ideas were great. At the end of the talk, the professor said, "Thanks to the letters, who helped me get my computer working so that I could write these ideas down before I forgot them." The letters felt good that they had been able to help.



The Letters Help the Person Catch the Plane

The Letters Help the Person Catch the Plane



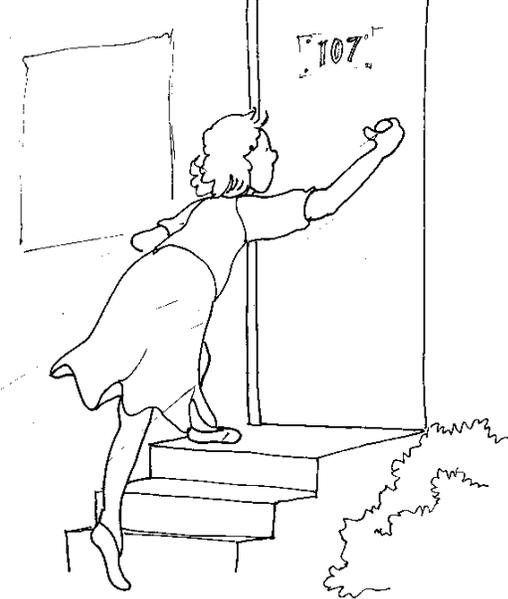
The letters were visiting a friend of theirs. They were playing ball in her front yard.



All of a sudden their friend looked at her watch and shrieked, "Oh my! I have to be on an airplane in one hour, and I'm not even packed! I wonder if I can make it?"



The letters' friend raced into her house.



The Letter Stories

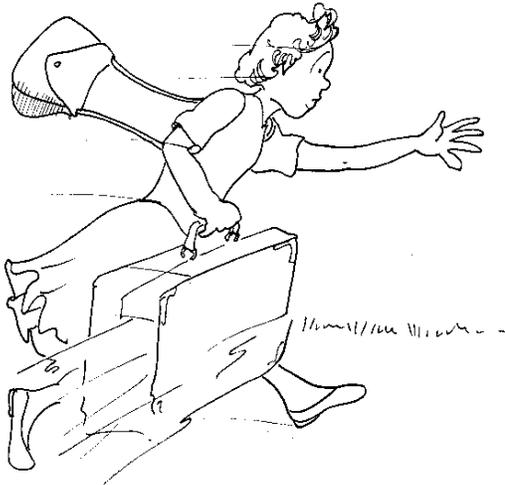
She threw her things into her suitcase as fast as she could. The letters helped her.



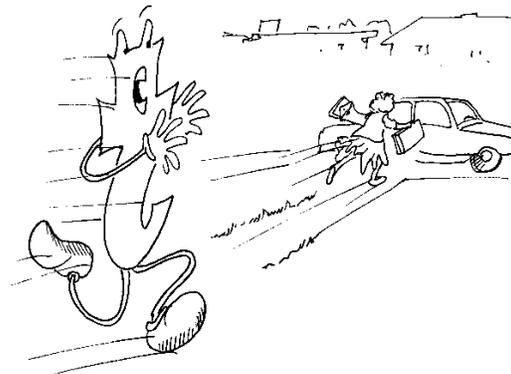
The letters noticed that the woman hadn't taken her airplane ticket with her. They knew that if she got to the airport without her ticket, she wouldn't be able to get on the plane. They knew that she would feel very upset.



The woman slammed her suitcase shut and raced for her car. "Good bye, letters!" she called out.

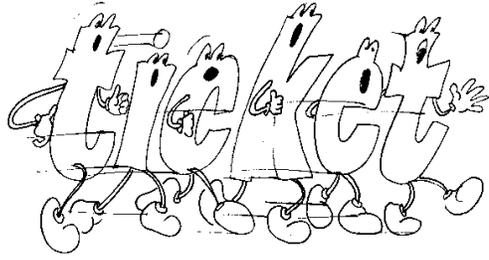


So the letters said, "We have to warn her, before she leaves." As she was running toward her car, the letter t yelled out "tuh!"



The Letters Help the Person Catch the Plane

Then the letter i said “ī!” Then c and k got together and said “kuh!” e said “ē,” and another t said “tuh.” The woman slowed down enough to pay attention to them.



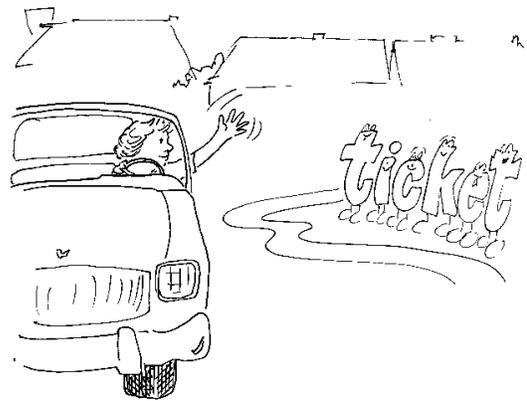
As the woman put her bag in the car, she said the sounds she had heard. “What are they telling me? Tuh ī kuh ē tuh. Tuh ick et. Ticket! I was about to forget my plane ticket! Thanks for reminding me, letters.”



So the woman raced back into her house, and got her plane ticket out of her file cabinet.

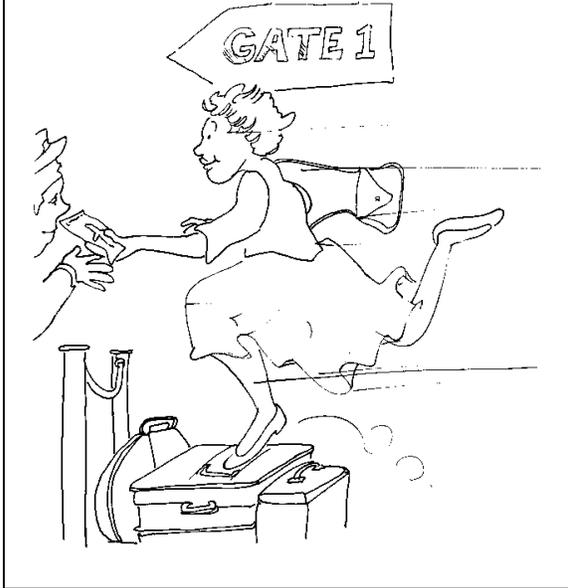


She got into her car and rushed off to the airport.

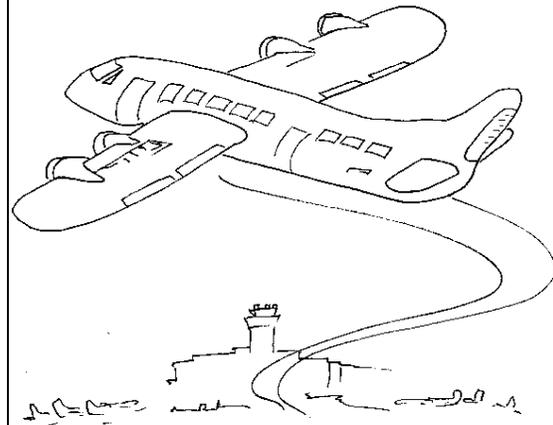


The Letter Stories

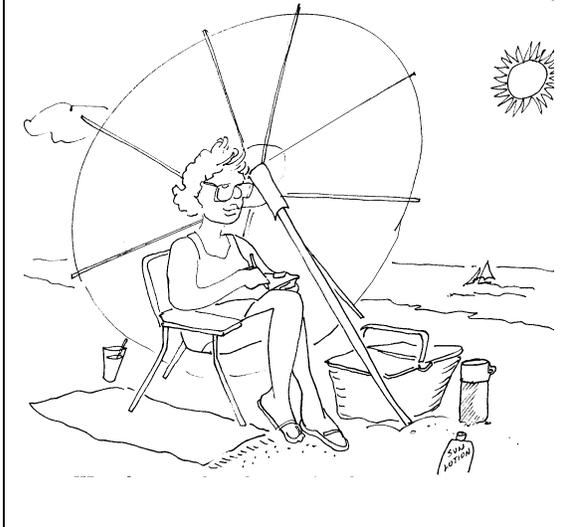
When she got to the airport, she ran inside, and got to the departure gate just in time to get onto the plane.



The plane took off, flying toward Florida.



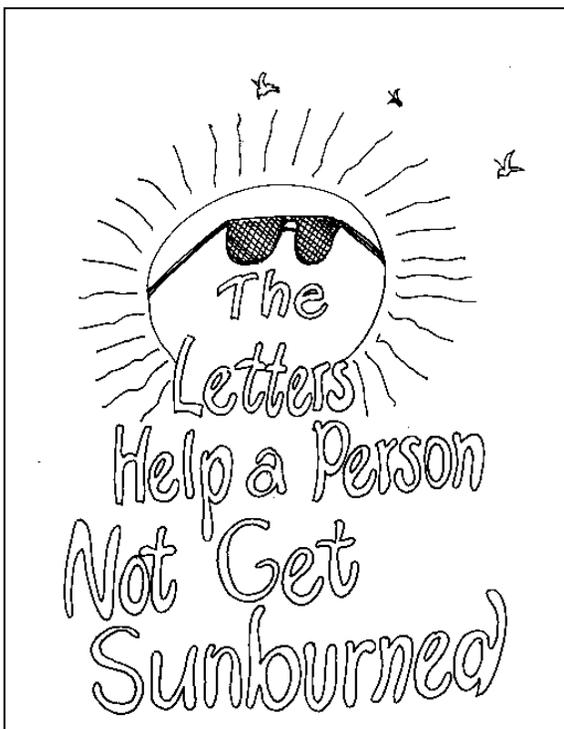
When she got there, she wrote a post card to the letters. It said, "Dear letters, I'm having a good time here. I wish you were here. Thanks very much for helping me make my plane on time."



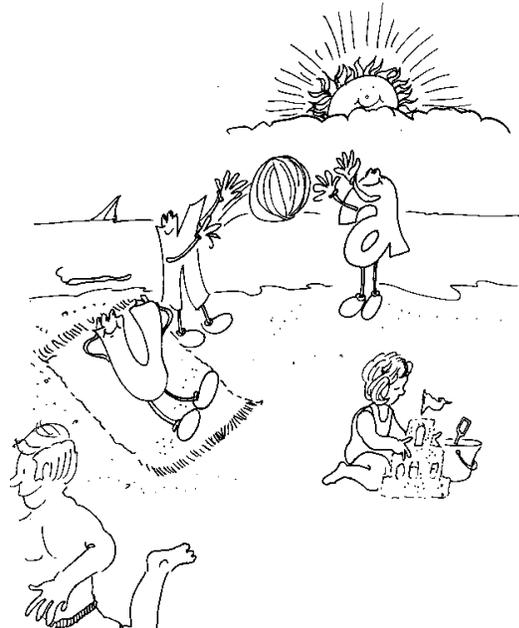
The letters got the post card. They were very glad that their friend had made her plane and had arrived safely.



The Letters Help A Person Not Get Sunburned



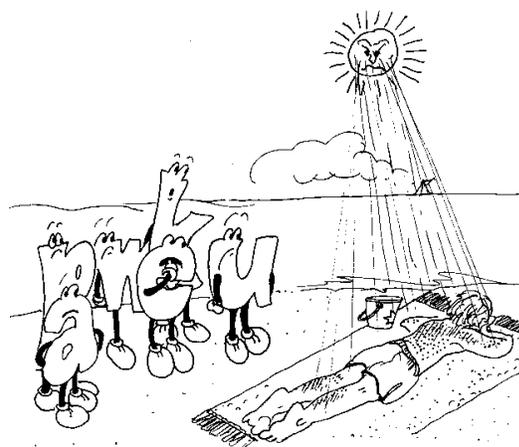
The letters were at the beach.



The sun was shining very brightly. The letters knew that when the sun is bright, people can get burned very badly.

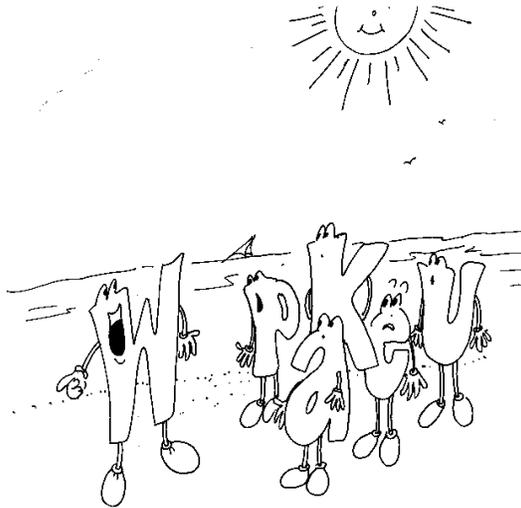


The letters saw someone with white skin who had been asleep on the beach. The person's skin was getting pink. The letters knew that if he didn't get out of the sun, he would get a very bad sunburn.



The Letter Stories

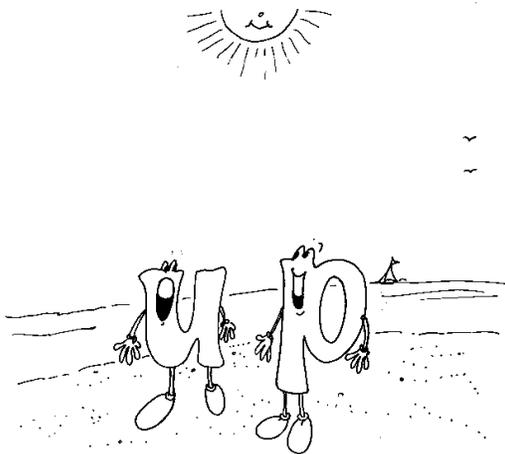
The w said, "We need to tell him to wake up. Who can help me? I can say 'wuh.'"



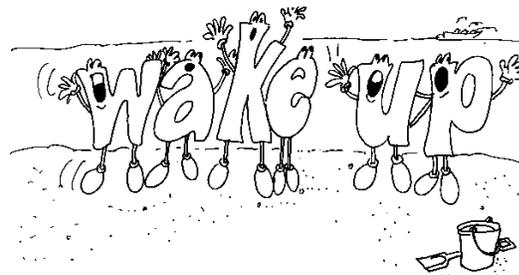
Then the a said, "If the e will help me by getting on at the end, I can say a." And the k said, I can say kuh." So when they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "wuh a kuh."



Then the u said, "I can say 'ü!'" And the p said, "I can say 'puh.'" So when they said their sounds together, it sounded like this: "ü puh."

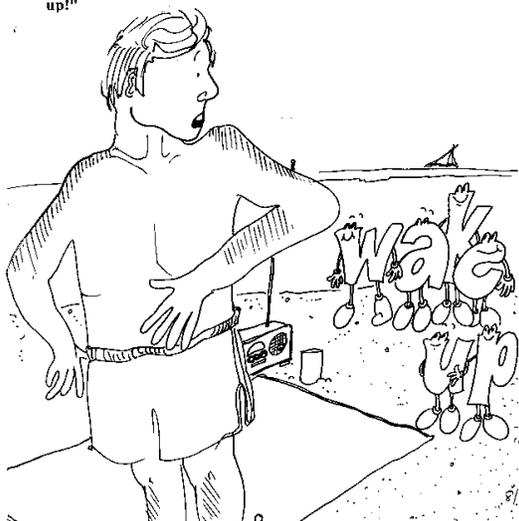


Then they all got together and said, "Wake up!"

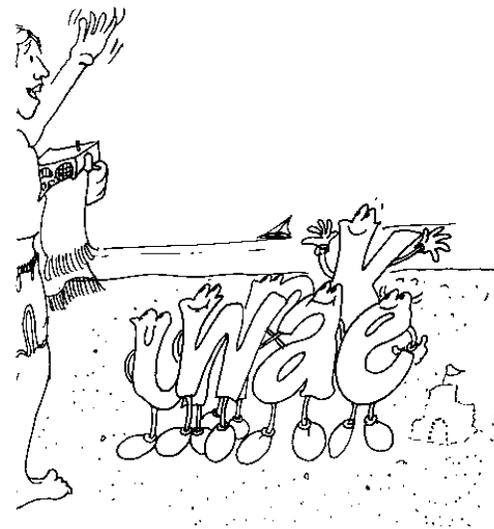


The Letters Help A Person Not Get Sunburned

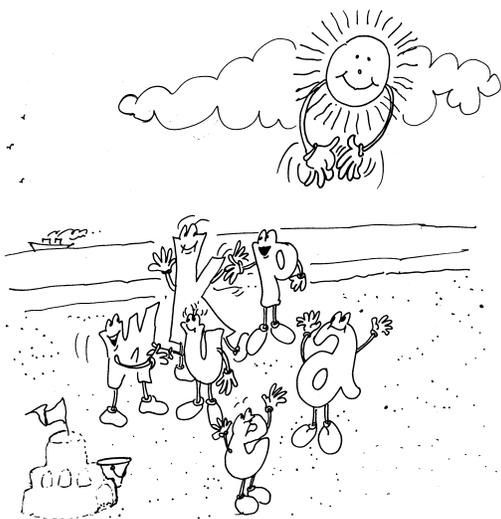
The man did wake up. He said, "Why did you want me to wake up?" But as soon as he saw the sun and his skin, he said, "Now I see why you told me to wake up!"



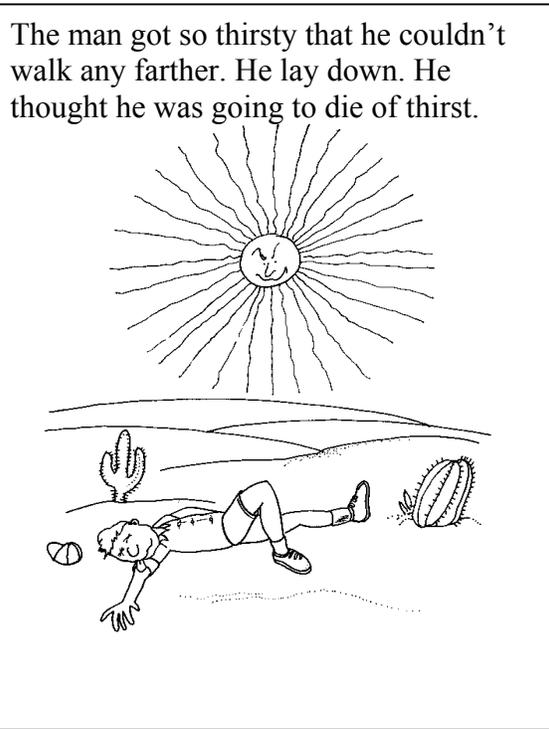
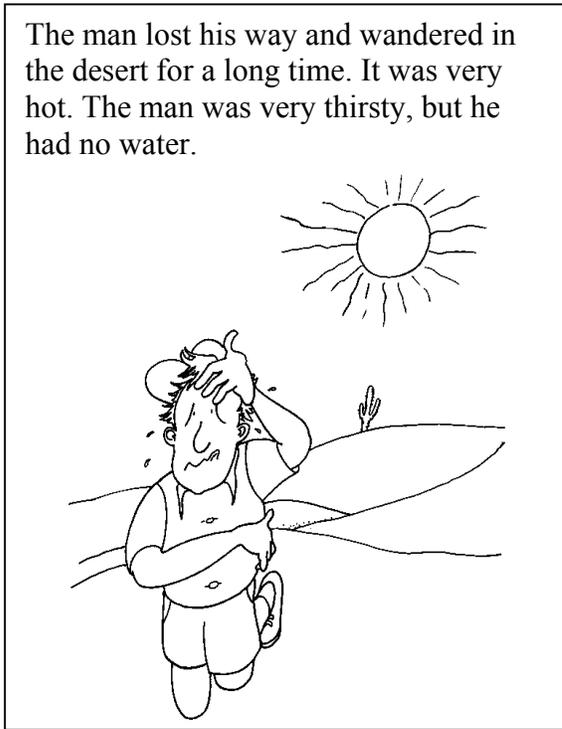
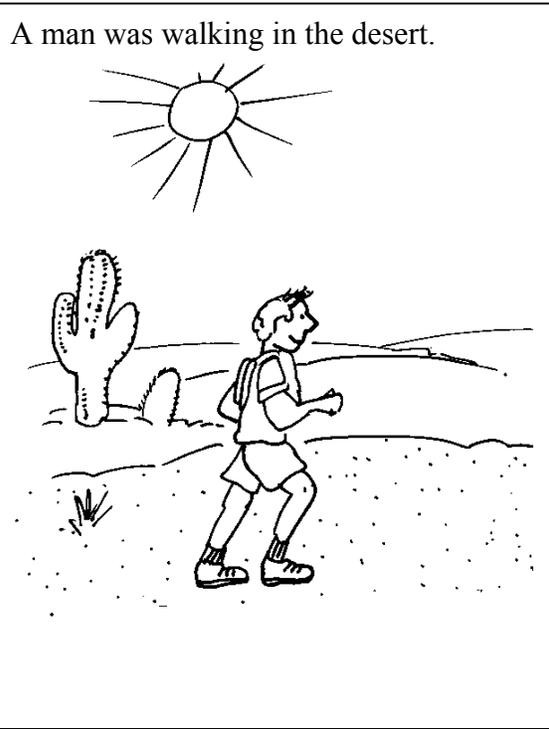
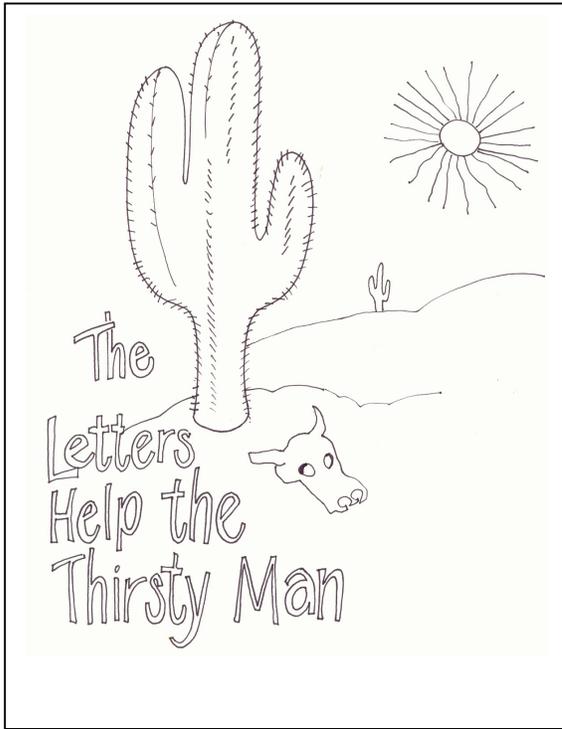
The man went inside. He said, "If it hadn't been for you letters, I would have gotten burned very badly. You really helped me. Thanks a lot."



The letters felt good that they had helped the man.



The Letter Stories

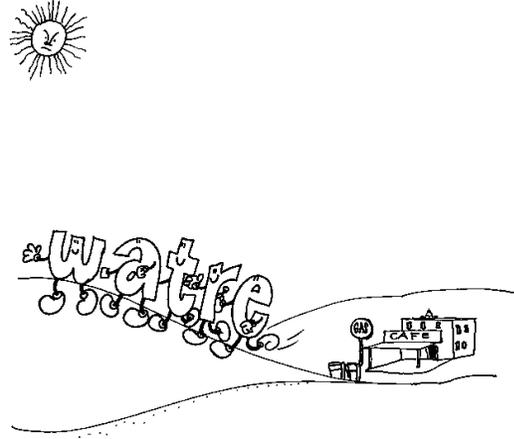


The Letters Help the Thirsty Man

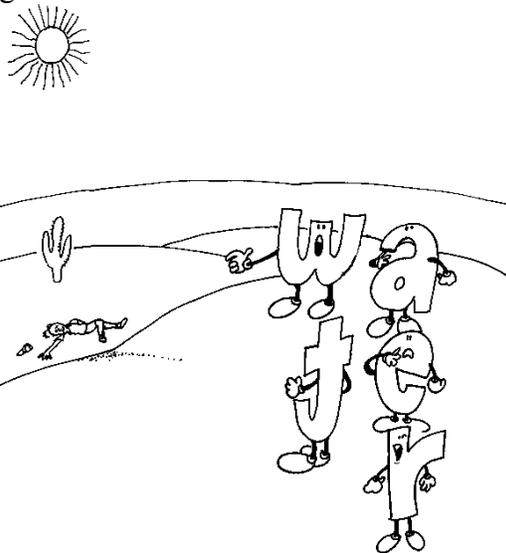
The man didn't know that on the other side of the little hill was a road and a gas station and a little restaurant.



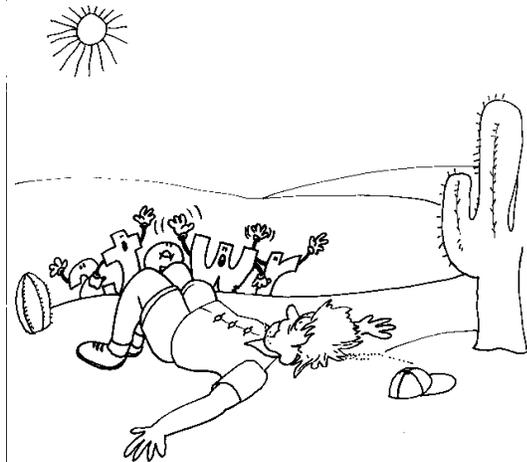
The letters decided that they would go for a walk. They climbed the little hill so that they could see the desert.



They saw a big view when they got to the top. Then w said, "Look at that!" There's a man down there lying on the ground."

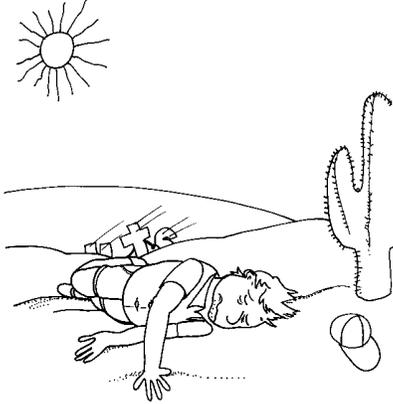


The letters ran up to the man. He said to them, "Thank goodness you found me. I'm so thirsty. Do you have any water?"

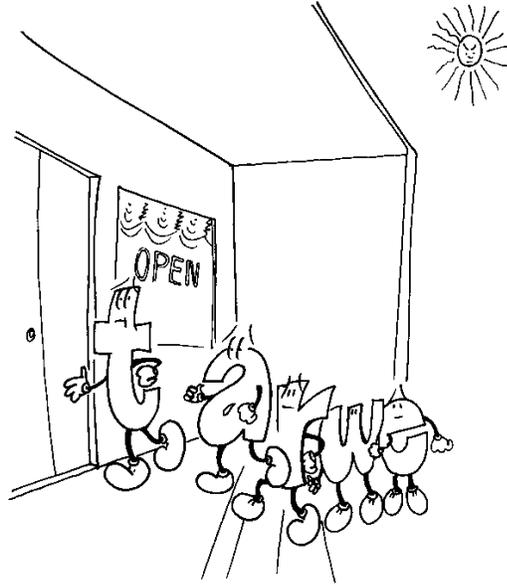


The Letter Stories

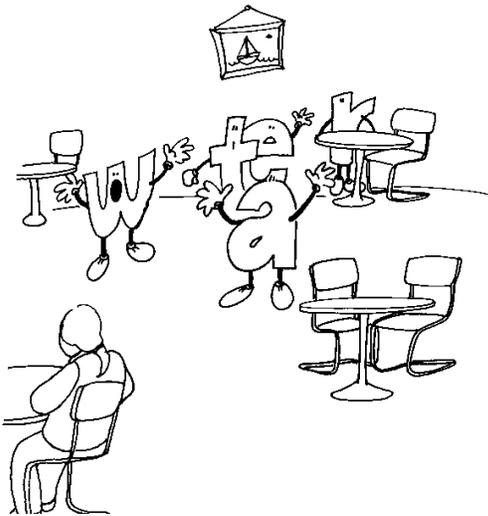
The letters could see that the man needed water very much. They all started running back over the hill to get some water for him. The man put his head back down. He thought that he had been dreaming.



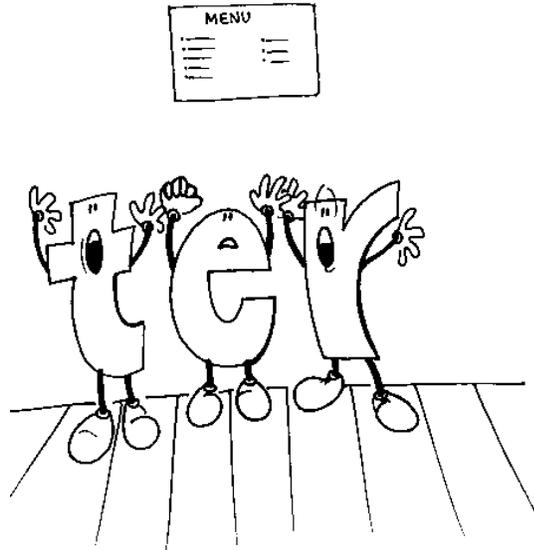
The letters ran into the little restaurant.



When they got inside, w said, "Come on, we need to ask them for some water. Who can help me? I can start it off by saying 'wuh.'" Then a said, "I can go next; I can say 'ah.'"

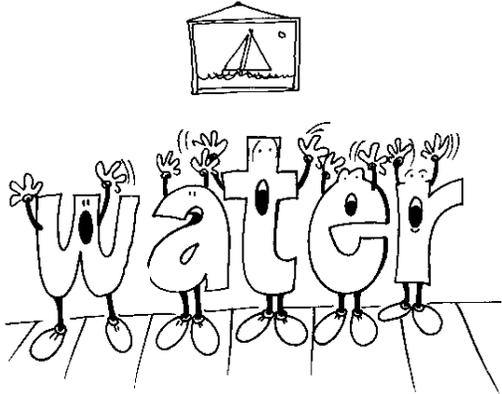


Then t said, "I can say 'tuh.'" And e and r said, "Together we can say 'er.'"



The Letters Help the Thirsty Man

They all said their sounds, and it sounded like this: "wuh ah tuh er."



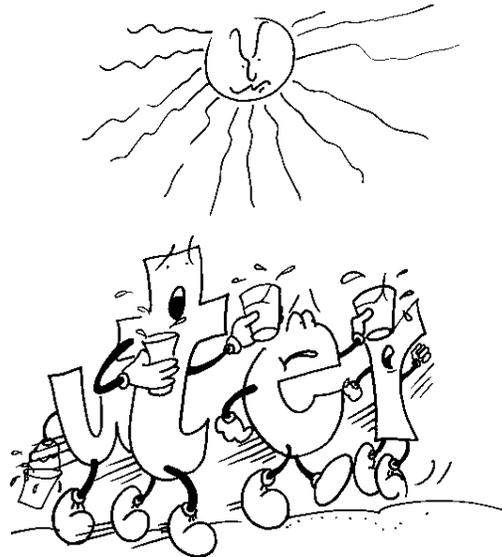
The person at the restaurant said, "Humh. Wuh ah tuh er. Sounds like water. I bet they want some water."



The letters all got together and said, "Water!" and the person at the restaurant said, "Yep, that's what they want, all right. I'll give them each a big cup of water."



The letters took their cups of water and ran back over the hill again, back to the man.



The Letter Stories

The man drank lots of water. With the rest of the water they wet his clothes so that he would cool off.



The water was just what the man needed. Now he could walk back with the letters. He knew now that he could get back home with no problem.



The man said, "Thanks, letters. If you hadn't helped me, I would have died of thirst." The letters felt good that they had been able to help him.



The Letters at the Fight

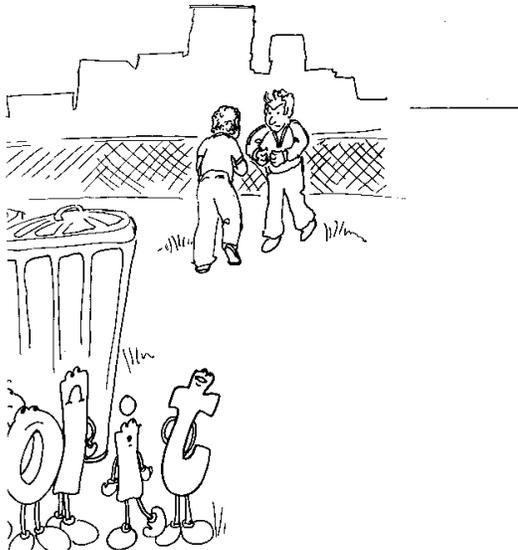
The Letters
...at the Fight...



Two teenaged boys got into an argument. One of them thought the other was trying to take his girlfriend away from him.



The letters saw what was going on. They thought, "It looks like these boys are about to get into a fight! How can we stop them?"

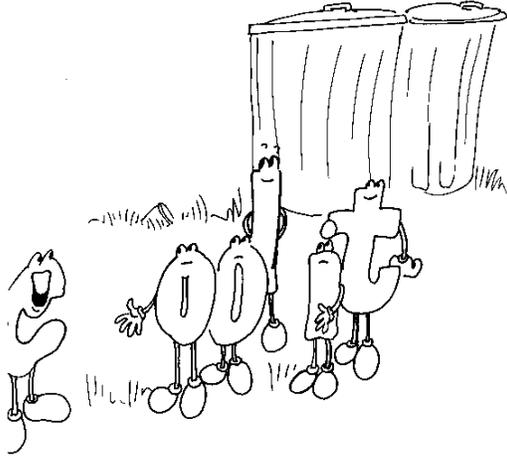


Some other people gathered around. But they were not very smart. They tried to get the boys to fight each other, rather than to cool off. They yelled, "Get him! Let's see you get him." The letters thought, "Those people are doing the wrong thing."

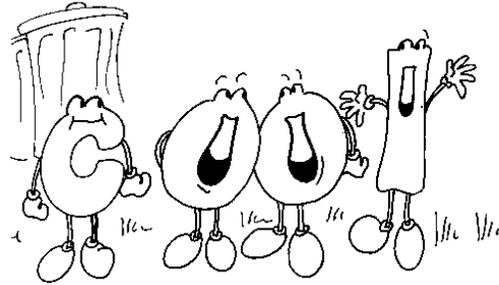


The Letter Stories

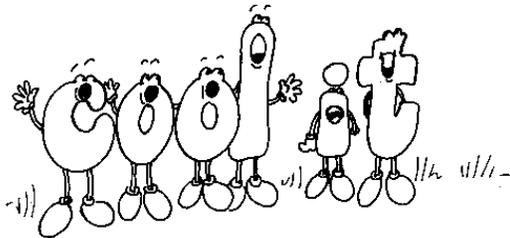
The letter c said, "We need to tell them to cool it. I can say kuh; who can help me say cool it?"



A couple of o's said, "If we get together, we can say 'ooh.'" And I said, "I can say 'lll.'" "



The i said, "I can say 'ī.'" And the t said, "I can say 'tuh.'" Then they all shouted their sounds. It sounded like this: "kuh ooh lll ī tuh!"

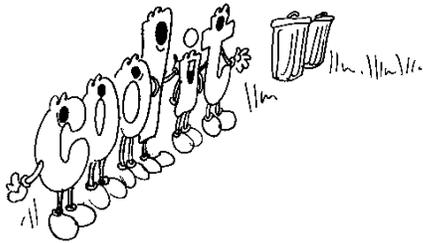


The people all looked around. One of them said, "What was that?" And another said, "I heard it. They said, 'kuh ooh lll ī tuh.'" "

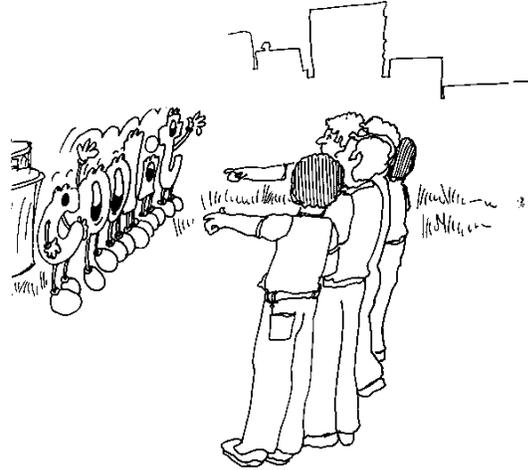


The Letters at the Fight

The letters all got together and said, very quietly, "Cool it."



No one there had seen the letters talk before. They were so amazed to see them that they forgot all about the fight. They asked the letters to talk again, and the letters said, "Cool it."



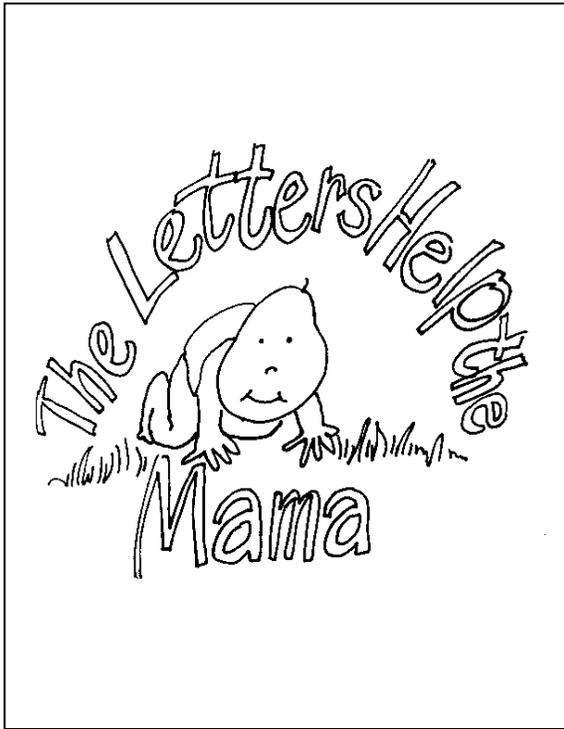
One of the people said, "Cool it.' You know, they are giving us some good advice, too. Let's get out of here and do something fun."



They decided to have a basketball game. The boys never did fight each other. The letters felt good that they had been able to stop the fight and to keep the boys from hurting each other.



The Letter Stories



The letters were at the park. A baby was there with his mother and some other people.



While the mother wasn't looking, the baby crawled away into the woods.



When the mother noticed that her baby was gone, she got scared. She frantically looked for the baby.



The Letters Help the Mama

Meanwhile the baby crawled through the woods, not knowing how dangerous the woods were.



The letters found the baby. M said, "I've got an idea about how to get the mama to find the baby. Let's yell 'mama' so she'll come here. I can say 'mmm.'"



The a said, "I can say 'ah.'"



Then another m and a joined them. They said, "We can say 'mmm' and 'ah' too." When they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "mmm ah mmm ah."



The Letter Stories

Then all the letters got together and said, "Mama!" Mama!"



The mother heard them yelling.



The mother ran in the direction that the sound had come from.



The mother found her baby. The letters were very happy. The mother was so glad to see the baby, she didn't even notice the letters.



The Letters Help the Mama

The mother took the baby out of the woods. The mother said to someone else, "I can't understand how this baby could have yelled 'mama.' This baby can't even talk yet."

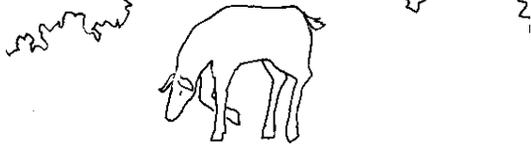


Only the letters knew that they had helped the mother find her baby. They felt good that they had been able to help.

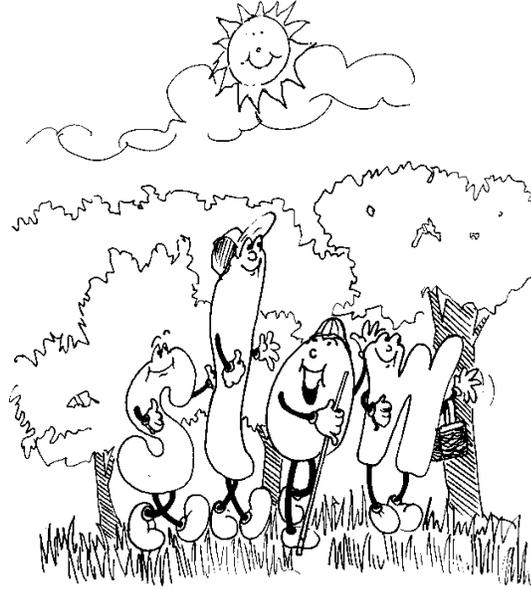


The Letter Stories

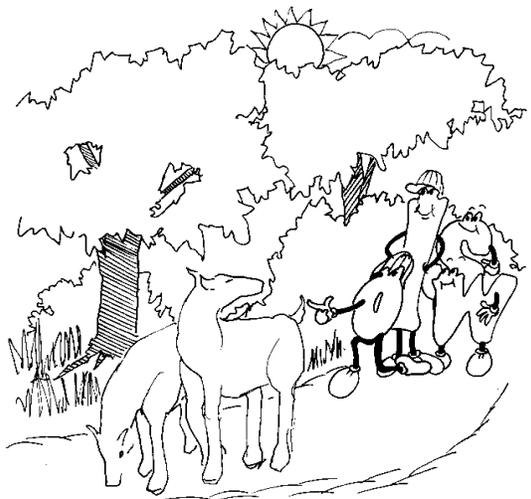
The Letters
Help the
People
and the
Deer



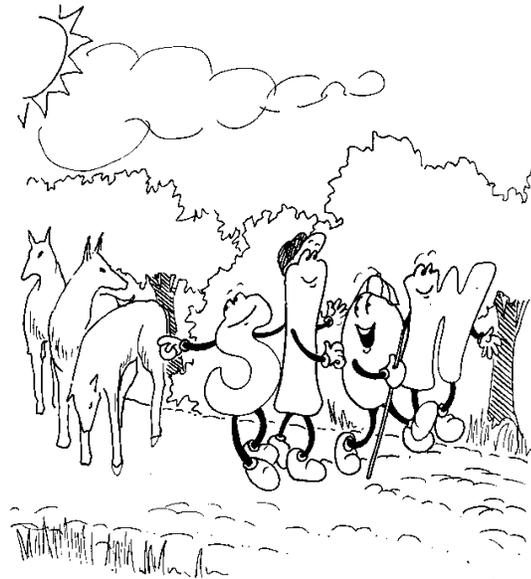
The letters were taking a hike along a very curvy road.



All of a sudden, the letters came upon a big herd of deer. Some of the deer were in the road. The letters enjoyed looking at the deer.

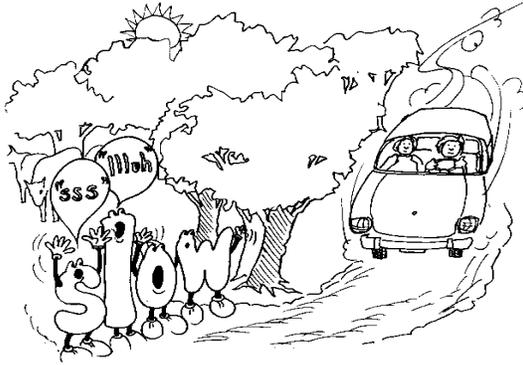


After a while, the letters went past the deer and kept walking down the road.

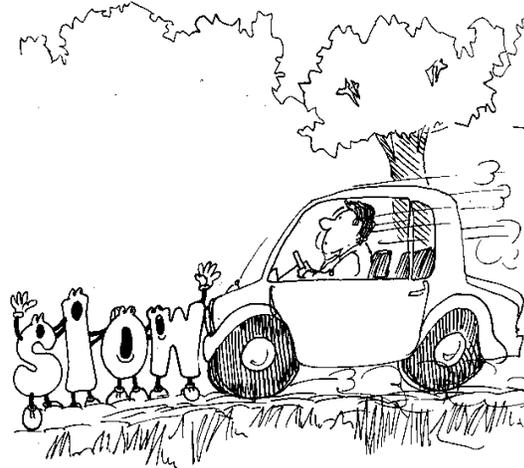


The Letters Help the People and the Deer

Just after the letters had gone around a bend in the road, they saw some people in a car speeding down the road. The letters knew that if the people didn't slow down, they wouldn't have time to stop without hitting the deer. So the s yelled, "sss!" and the l yelled, "lll!"



o and w got together to yell, "Oh!" Someone in the car said, "sss lll oh?" That sounds like *slow!* Then the letters all got together and yelled, "Slow! Slow!"



The driver of the car said, "I'll slow the car down. Those letters usually give good advice. Maybe there's something in the road ahead."

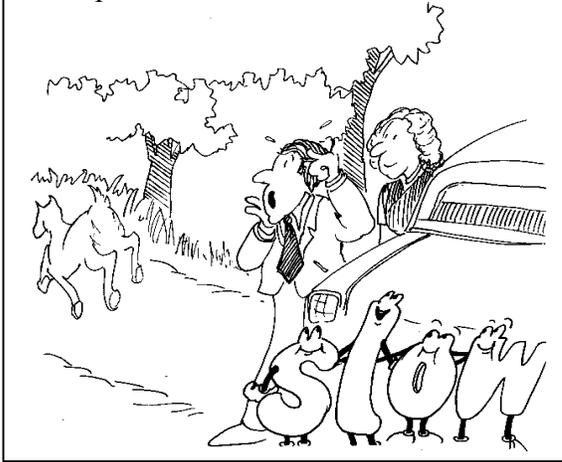


Just as the car passed the bend, the people saw all the deer. The driver slammed on the brakes. The car came to a screeching halt. They just missed hitting a deer.

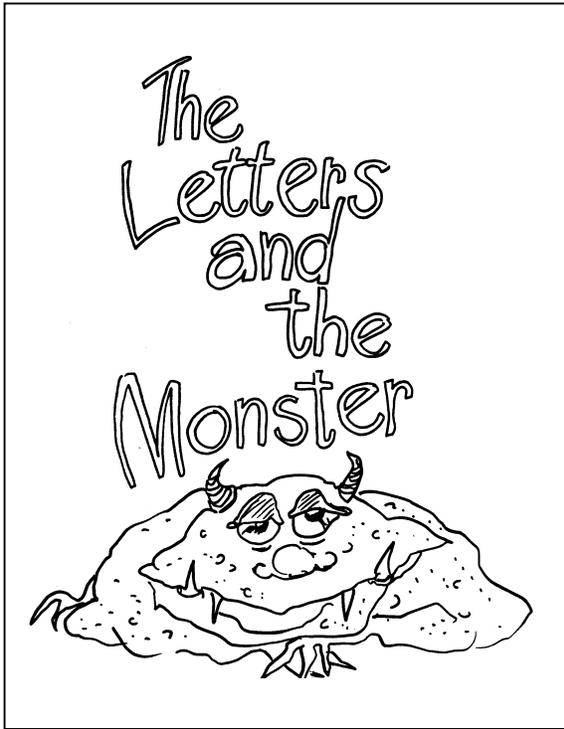


The Letter Stories

The letters heard the screeching tires. They ran to see what had happened. One of the people said, "Thank you, letters. If it hadn't been for you, we would have hit one of the deer with the car." The letters felt good that they had been able to help.



The Letters and the Monster



The letters were with some people on a walk.



One of the people said, "Isn't that an interesting mountain over there?"

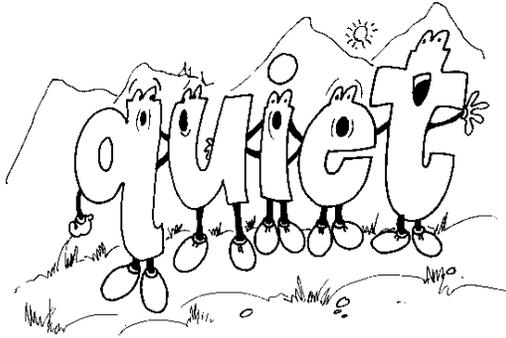


The letters knew, though, that what the person was seeing was not a mountain. It was the back of a giant monster who was lying down taking a nap.



The Letter Stories

The letters didn't want the people to wake up the monster. So, the q and u got together to say, "kwuh." The i said "i." The e said "ě," and the t said "tuh."



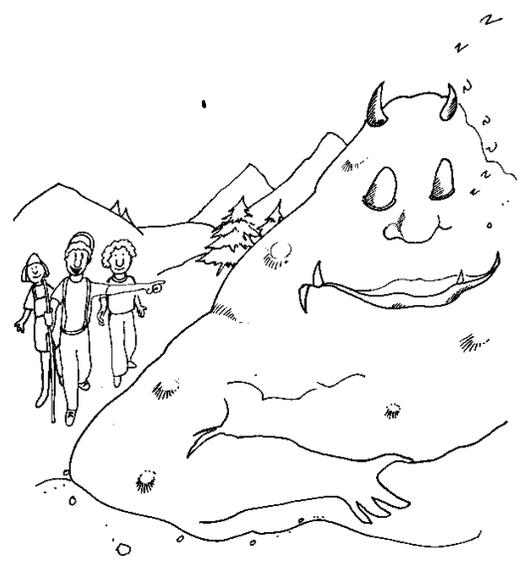
One of the people said, "'Kwuh i ě tuh.' That sounds like *quiet*. Do you think the letters want us to be quiet?" The letters got together, and in a very soft voice they said, "Quiet."



The people knew that the letters gave good advice, so they walked along very quietly.



All of a sudden, someone noticed the monster's face. He pointed to it and whispered, "Look! It wasn't a mountain! It was a giant monster sleeping!"



The Letters and the Monster

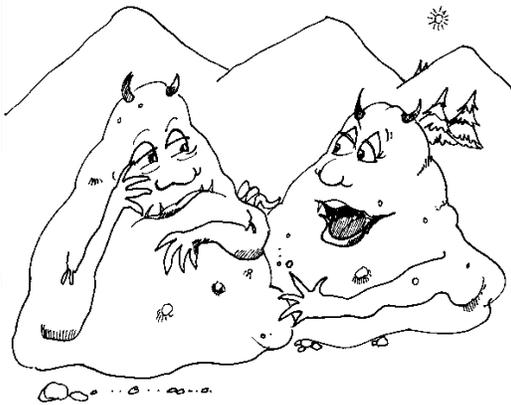
The people ran away, still trying to keep quiet. One of them whispered, "Thanks, letters! Now we know why you wanted us to be quiet!"



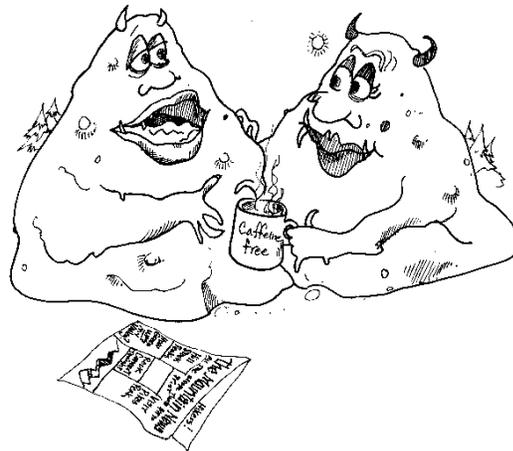
But, the letters were not scared. They knew that the monster was a nice monster. They had wanted the people to be quiet just because the monster didn't like to be waked from nice naps.



A little while later, the monster woke up. His wife, Mrs. Monster, had seen what had happened. She said to him, "Those letters asked the people to be quiet so they wouldn't wake you."

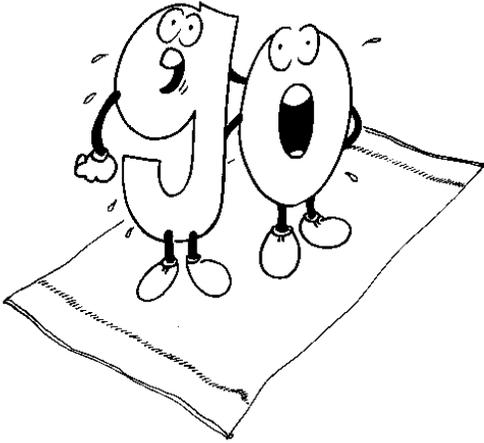


Mr. Monster said, "That was nice of those letters. I was having a fantastic dream, and it would have annoyed me if I couldn't have finished it."

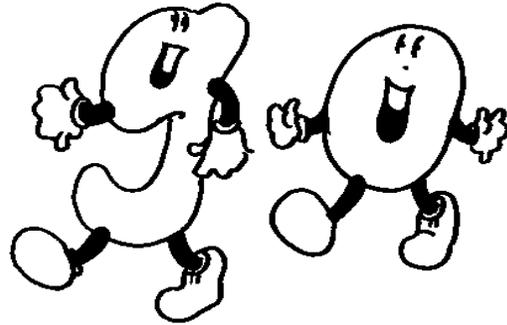


The Letter Stories

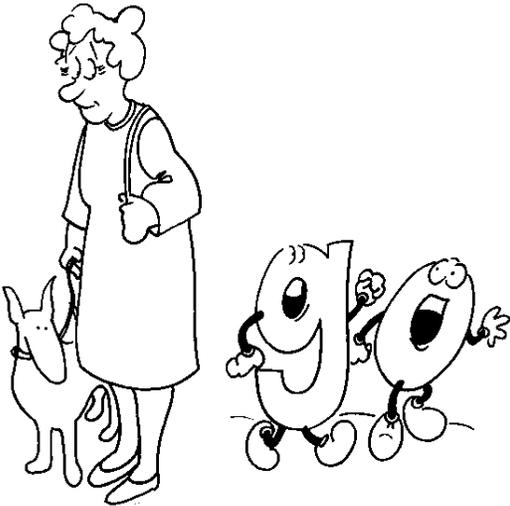
G and O Start the Race



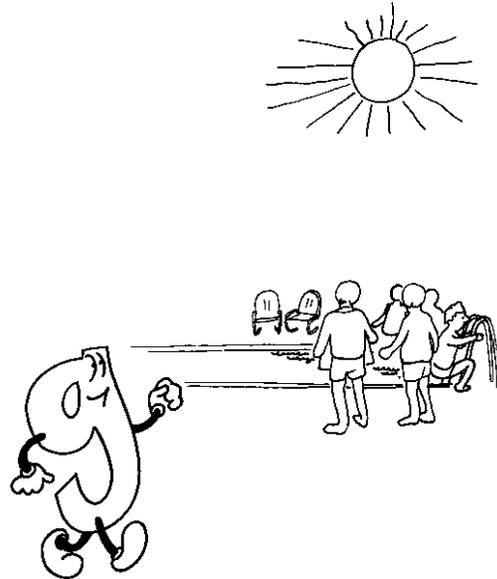
G and O were good friends.



They liked to go out exploring together.

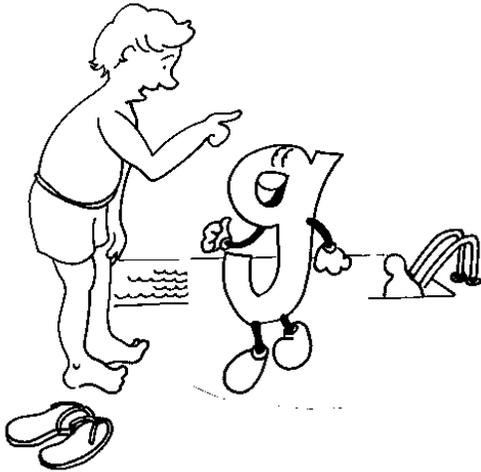


They were looking around in a big park.
g saw some boys getting ready to have a swimming race.

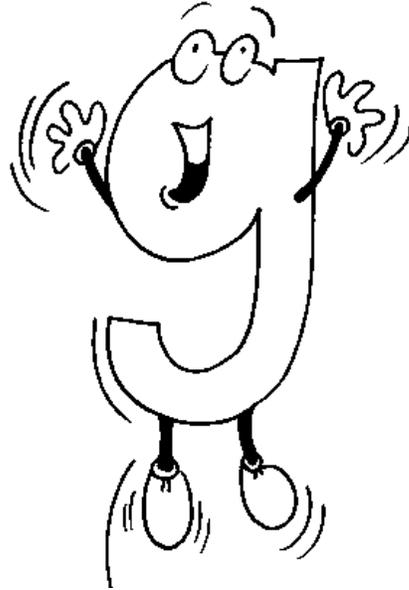


G and O Start the Race

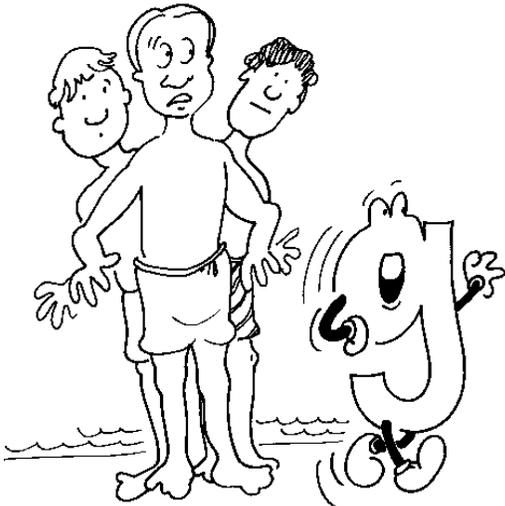
One of the boys said to g, "We need someone to start our race for us. Can you say 'go?'"



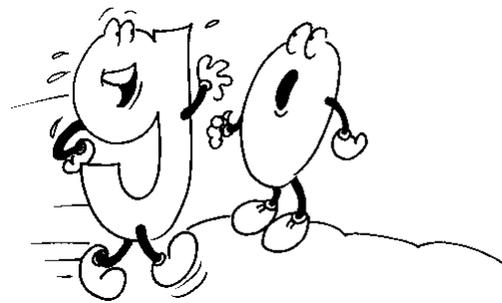
G jumped up and down and nodded his head, to say "yes."



Then he ran quickly to find o. A boy said, "Where is he going?"



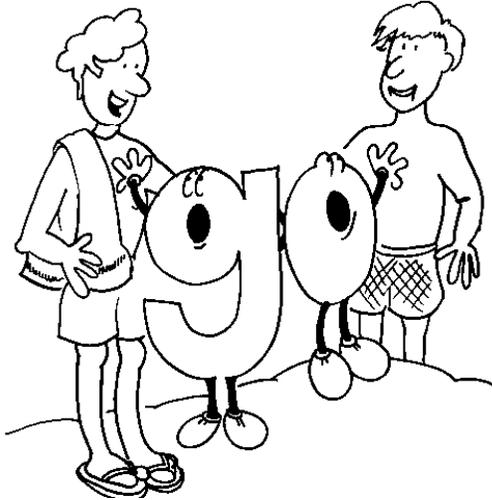
g found o. He said, "o, come quickly! We can start a swimming race!"



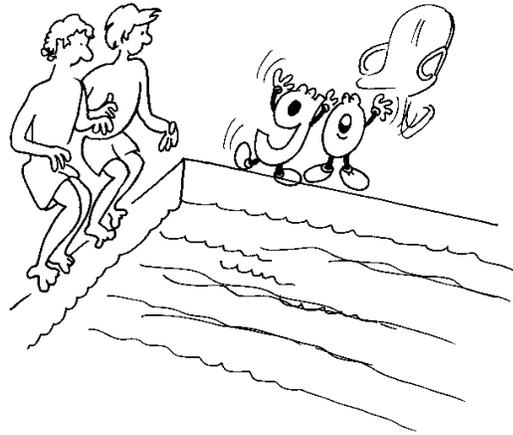
The Letter Stories

They ran up to the boys. One boy said, "Oh, don't pay any attention to them, they can't talk."

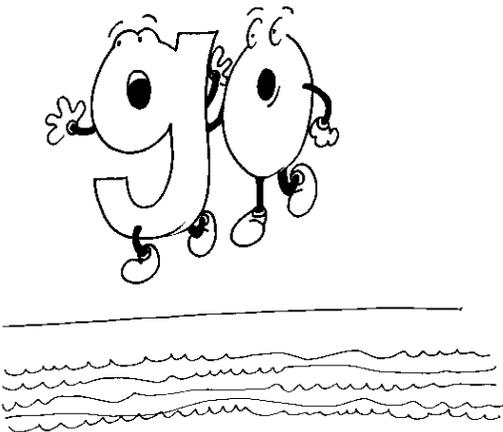
But another boy said, "Can the two of you say 'go' for us?"



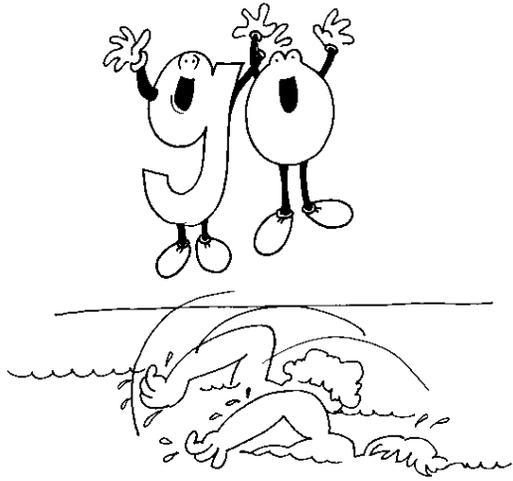
g said, "guh" and o said, "oh."



The boy said, "Guh-oh. I guess that's close enough. Okay, let's line up, and our friends, the letters, will tell us when to start the race. On your mark, get set..."

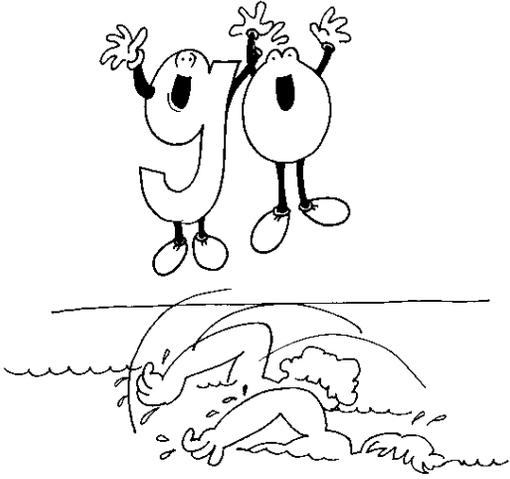


"Go!" g and o stood together and yelled it out, and the boys started the race.

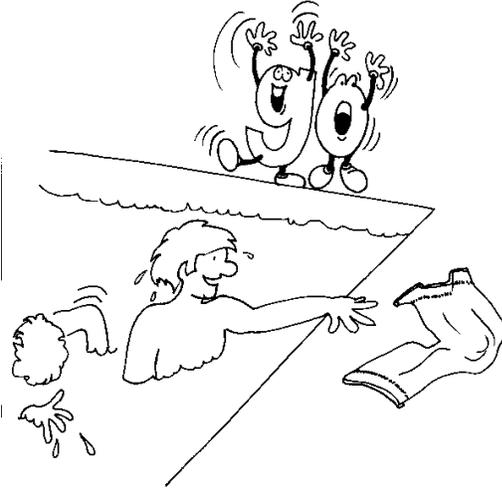


G and O Start the Race

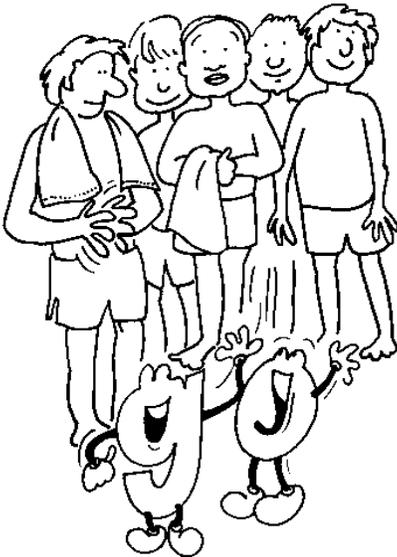
G and o cheered for the boy who had been nice to them. They yelled, "Go! Go!"



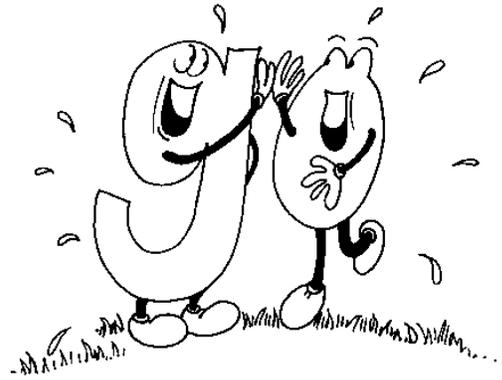
The one who had been nice to them won the race!



The boys said to g and o, "Thank you for starting our race for us! You really helped us!"



g and o felt good that they had been able to help the boys.



The Letter Stories

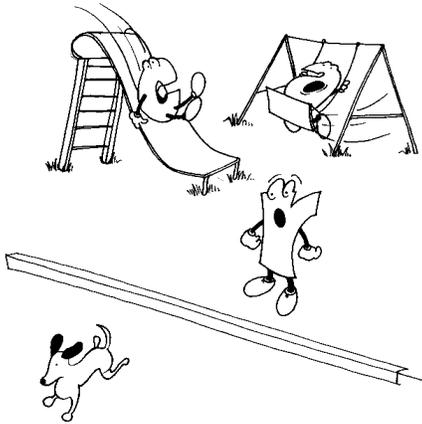
The Letters Help the Dog in the Street



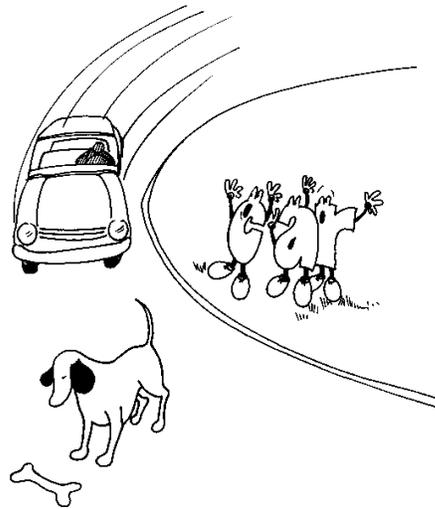
The letters c, a, and r happened to be playing together one day.



They were at a playground. A dog was walking around in the middle of the street. c and a and r got together, just in case they should be needed.

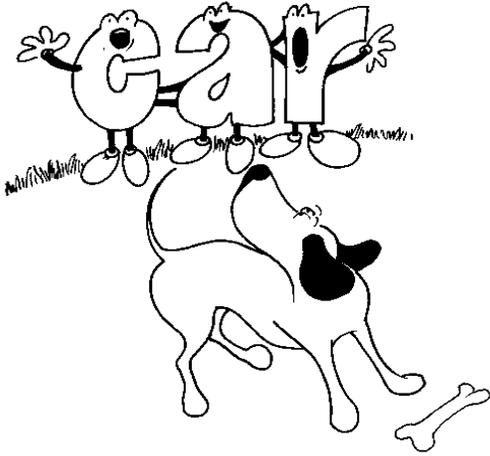


The dog started to smell something in the middle of the street. But just at that moment, a big car turned the corner and started coming down the street very fast.



The Letters Help the Dog in the Street

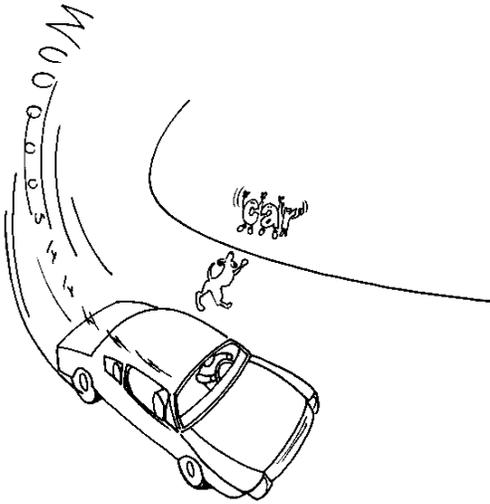
C yelled "kuh!" and a and r got together to yell "ar!" The dog looked up at them.



Then the letters got together and yelled, "Car!, Car!"



The dog got out of the way of the car just in time.



The car kept going.



The Letter Stories

The dog said, "Wow! He would have run over me if you letters hadn't warned me! Thank you, c and a and r!"



The letters felt very good that they had been able to help the dog.



The Letters Help the Person with Allergies

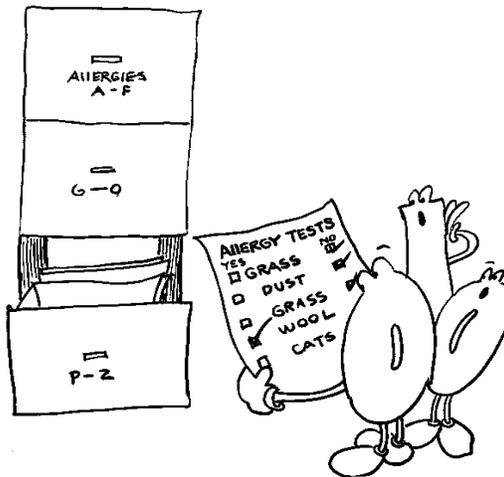
The Letters Help the Person with Allergies



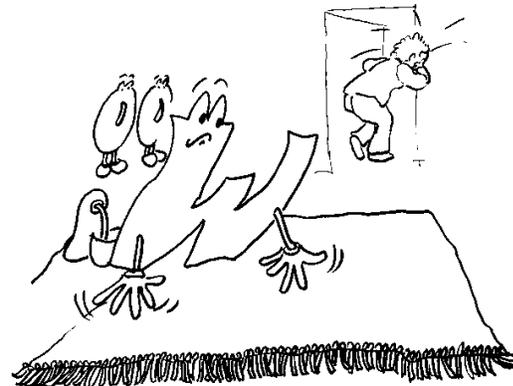
The letters were visiting a friend who had allergies. His eyes ran, and his nose ran, and he sneezed.



The letters wanted to help the person. He showed them his medical record. They read that he was allergic to anything made of wool cloth.

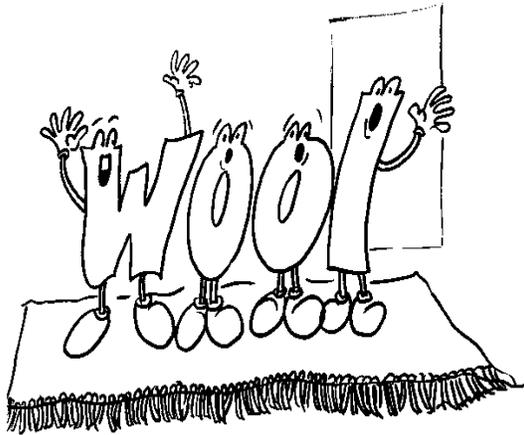


One of the letters knew what wool felt like. He could tell what was cotton or polyester or wool. He felt the rug on the floor. He said to the other letters, "No wonder the man is sneezing. He's allergic to wool and this whole rug is made out of wool. Let's tell the man."

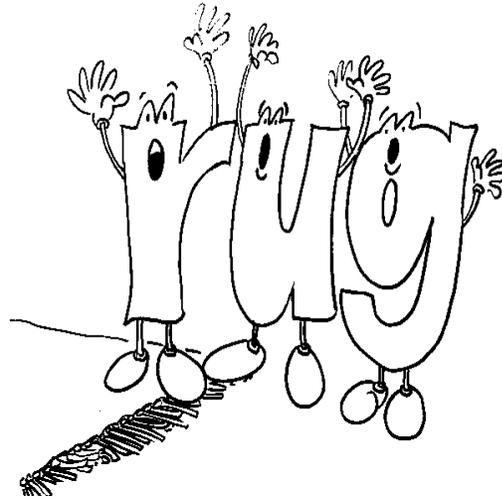


The Letter Stories

The letter w said, "I'll say 'wuh.'" A couple of o's got together and said, "We can say 'oouh.'" And an l said, "I can say 'lll.'" When they said their sounds together, it sounded like this: "wuh oouh lll."



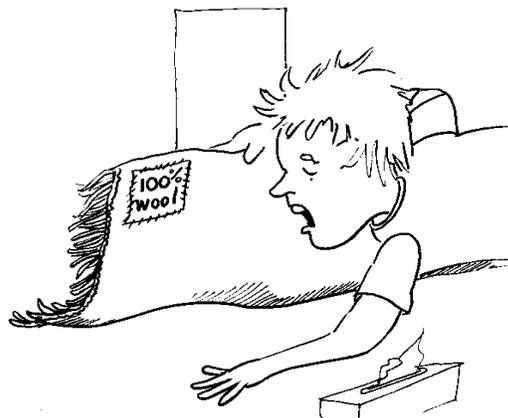
Then r said, "I can say 'rrr.'" u said, "I can say 'ü.'" And g said, "I can say 'guh.'" When they put their sounds together, it sounded like this: "rrr ü guh."



The man said, "Humh, what are they saying to me? Wuh oouh lll. Wool! rrr ü guh. Rug! Is that what you're saying, letters?" And the letters all got together and said, "Wool rug!"



The man said, "I know I'm allergic to wool, but is this rug really made of wool? I'll read the tag here. What do you know! It really is made of wool! That's why I'm sneezing!"



The Letters Help the Person with Allergies

The man put up a sign in his front yard that said, "Wool rug for sale." Pretty soon, someone came around and bought the rug.

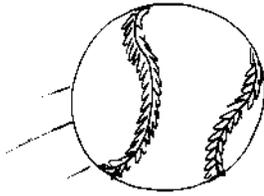


After a while, the letters visited again. The man said, "Letters, I'm cured! I haven't had allergies since we got rid of the wool rug!" The letters felt good that they had helped the man.



The Letter Stories

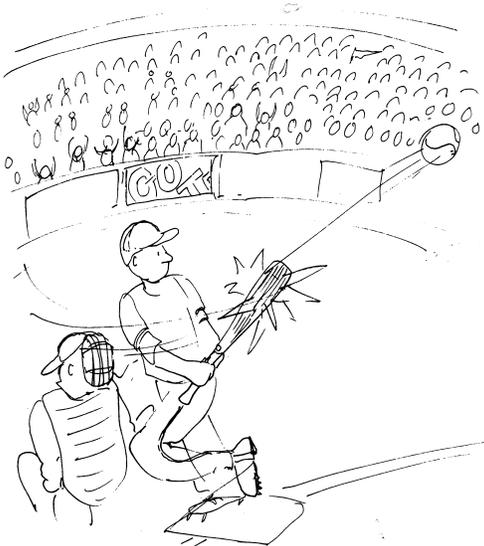
The Letters at the Baseball Game



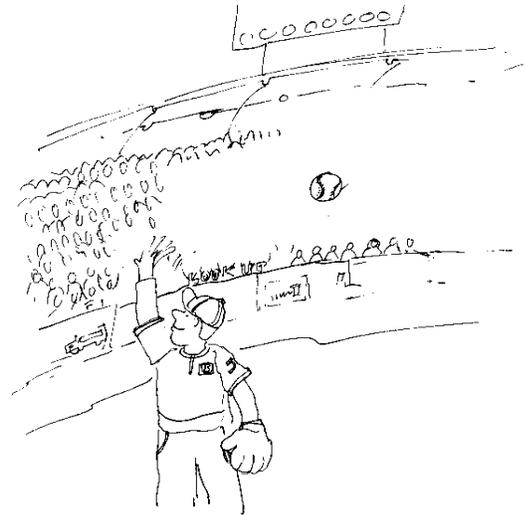
The letters were watching a baseball game.



The game was almost over. All of a sudden one of the players hit the ball way up into the air.



The ball was headed for left field. The left fielder, though, was not paying attention. He was waving to some friends.

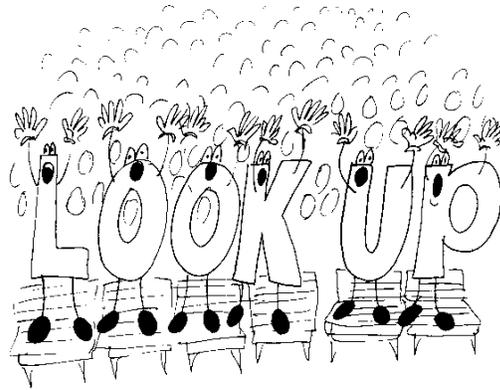


The Letters at the Baseball Game

The letters acted quickly. The l got up and said “lll!” The two o’s stood beside him and said “oouh!” And the k stood beside them and said, “kuh!”



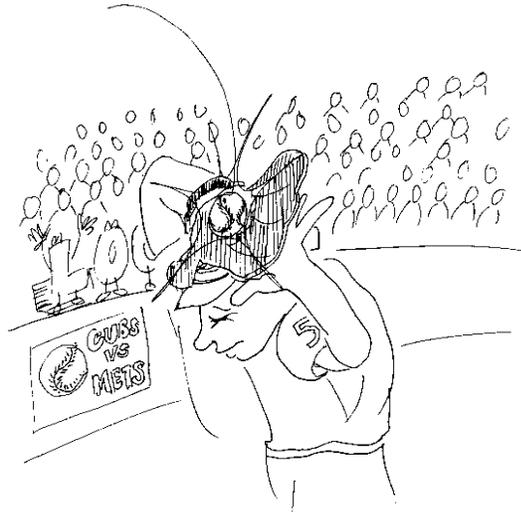
The u said, “ū” and p said, “puh.” When they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: “lll oouh kuh, ū puh.”



The left fielder could hear them. He said to himself, “‘Look up.’ Humh, maybe I’d better look up and see what’s up there.”



The left fielder looked up just in time to put up his glove and keep the ball from hitting him right on the head.



The Letter Stories

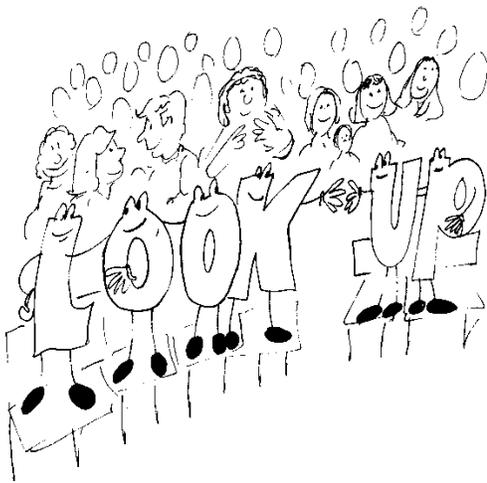
With that catch, the left fielder's team won the game. The left fielder was a big hero.



Nobody realized that the letters had helped the left fielder. Nobody cheered for them.

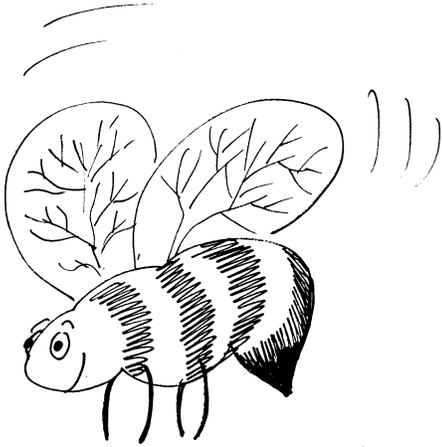


The letters didn't need anyone to cheer for them. They knew that if they hadn't acted so quickly, the left fielder might have gotten hit by the ball instead of catching it. And they felt good.

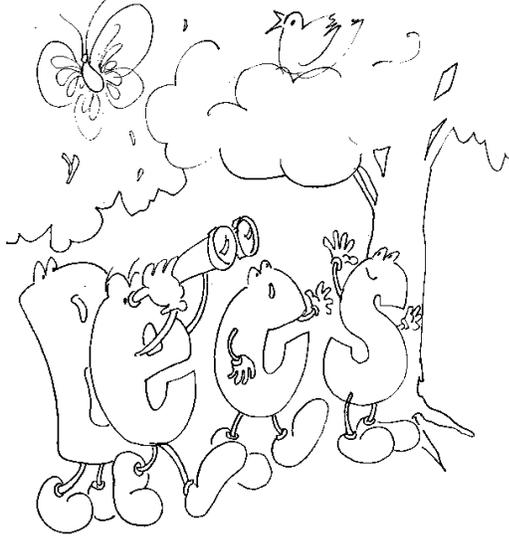


The Letters and the Bees

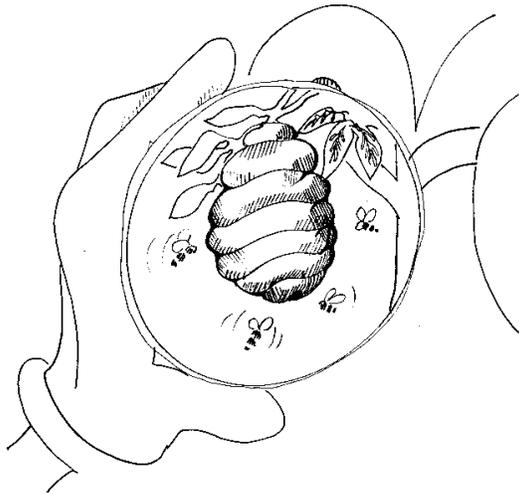
The Letters and the Bees



One day the letters were walking through some woods, looking at birds with some binoculars.



One of the letters found something interesting. He said, "Wow, look what I see!" It was a bees' hive!



One of the other letters said, "Let me see." And she looked also. But then she said, "Look! Some boys are getting ready to climb the tree! I bet they don't know there's a bee hive in the tree!"

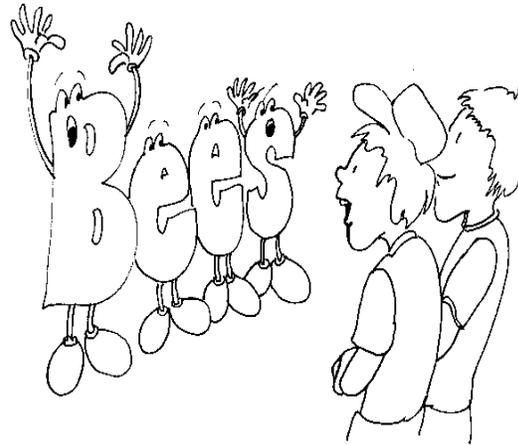


The Letter Stories

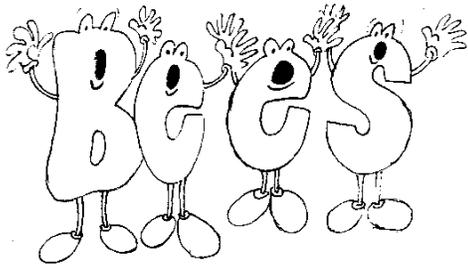
The letters thought, “We’ve got to warn them! If they get very far up in that tree, they won’t be able to run away if the bees start to sting them! They’ll probably get stung many times!”



When they got up to the boys, the letter b yelled out “buh!” A couple of e’s yelled out “ee!” And s yelled out “sss.” The boys said, “buh ee sss. That sounds like *bees*.”



Then the letters got their timing together and yelled out, “Bees, bees!” Now the boys were sure what they meant.

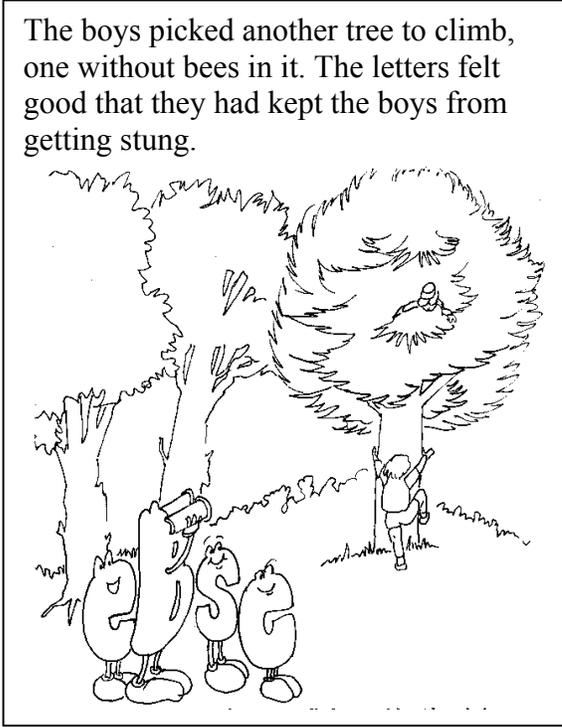


Then the letters lent the boys their binoculars. One boy looked up in the tree. He said, “Wow, look at that! There are hundreds of bees living in this tree! Thanks for warning us, letters!”

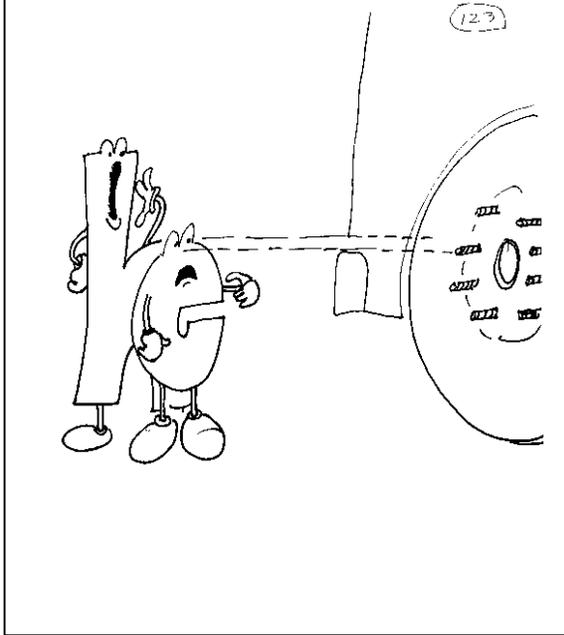


The Letters and the Bees

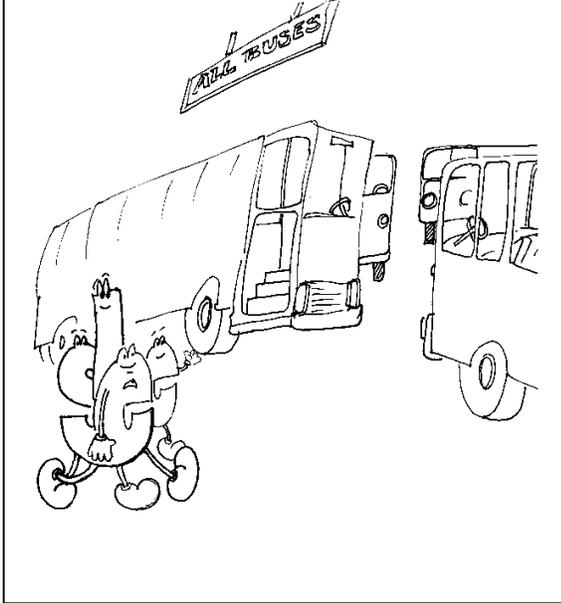
The boys picked another tree to climb, one without bees in it. The letters felt good that they had kept the boys from getting stung.



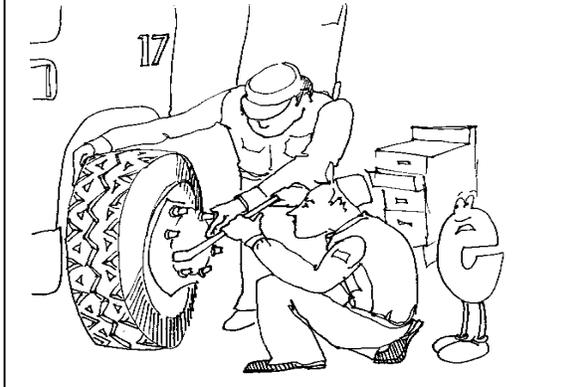
The Letters Help the Bus Driver



The letters visited the place where buses are kept when they aren't being driven. There were lots and lots of buses.



Two men were fixing a bus. One of them said, "We need some bolts for the wheels. Just for the time being, I'll take the bolts off this wheel of this other bus, so that we can test out the one we're fixing. Later, I'll bring back the bolts and put them back on." The letters watched the men take the bolts off the wheel.

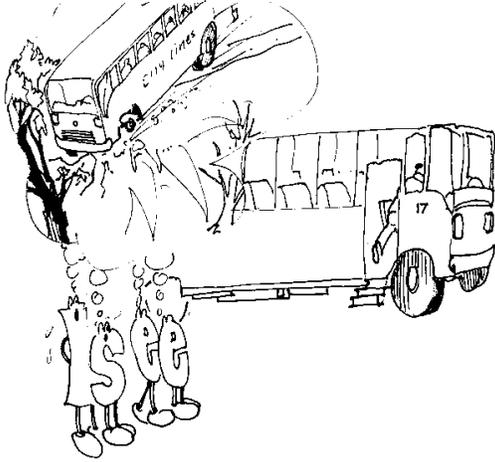


The two men walked away. In a minute, a bus driver came out. He said, "Well, it's time for me to leave if I want to get there on time." He got in the bus that had the bolts missing.

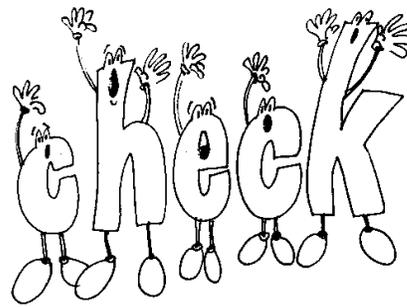


The Letters Help the Bus Driver

The letters thought about what could happen if the man drove the bus with no bolts on the wheel. The wheel could fall off after the man had gotten started, and that could cause the bus to wreck.



The letters said, "We've got to stop him!" The letters c and h said "We can say 'chuh!'" The letter e said, "I can say 'ě!'" And the letters c and k said, "We can get together and say 'kuh!'" They said their sounds, and it sounded like this: "chuh ě kuh."



The bus driver said, "Chuh ě kuh. That sounds like check. I wonder what the letters want me to check?"

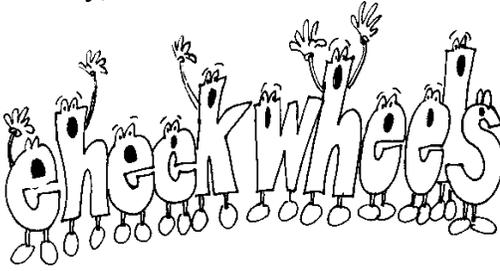


Then the letters w and h said, "We can get together and say 'wuh.'" A couple of e's said, "We can say 'ee.'" The letter l said, "I can say 'll.'" And the letter s said, "I can say 'sss.'" Then they all said their sounds, and it sounded like this: "wuh ee ll sss."



The Letter Stories

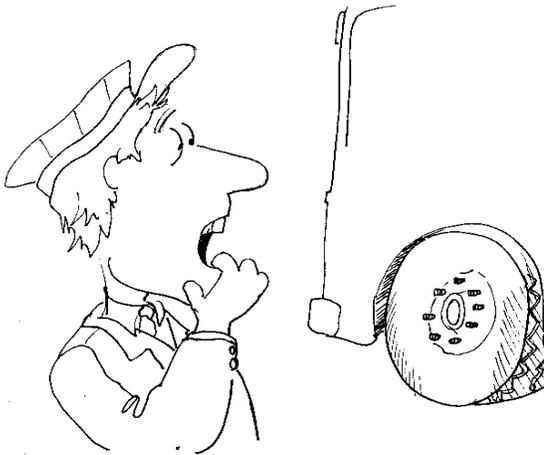
The driver said, "wuh ee ll sss. Wheel-lls. Wheels! Do you want me to check the wheels, letters?" And the letters all got their timing together so that they could say, "Check wheels."



The driver got out and looked at the wheels on one side of the bus. "Nothing wrong with these wheels on this side," he said.



Then the driver looked at the wheel with no bolts holding it on. "Holy cow!" Said the driver. "That wheel has nothing holding it on! It could have fallen off and caused me to have a bad wreck! Thanks for warning me, letters!"

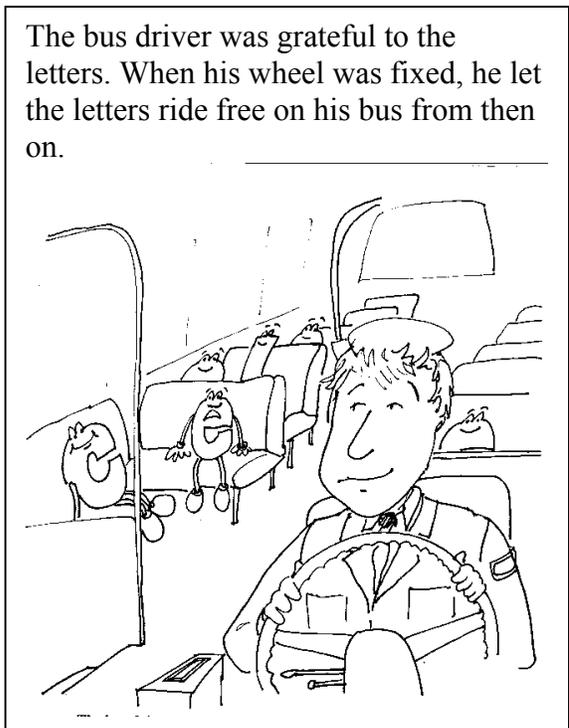


The bus driver found the men who had taken the bolts, and had some words with them. He said, "If it hadn't been for the letters, you would have caused me to have a wreck! Next time, think more about safety!"



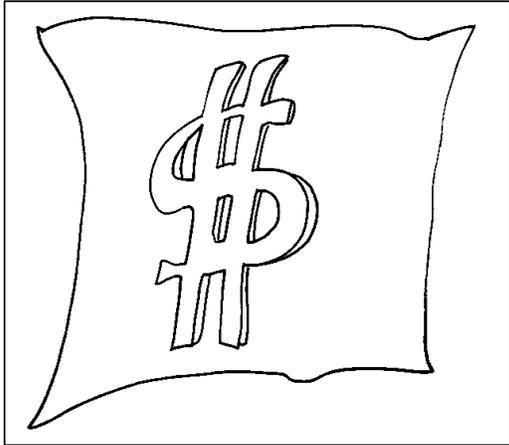
The Letters Help the Bus Driver

The bus driver was grateful to the letters. When his wheel was fixed, he let the letters ride free on his bus from then on.



The Letter Stories

The Letters and the Change



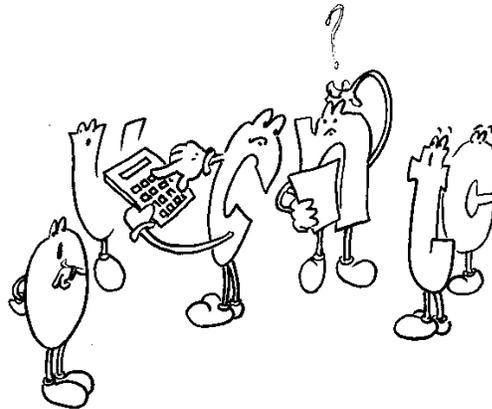
One of the people whom the letters had helped decided to take the letters out to dinner to show his gratitude. The letters had a very good time.



When it came time to leave, their host insisted on paying the bill. "This one is on me, letters," he said. He gave the cashier a bunch of bills and got some change back.

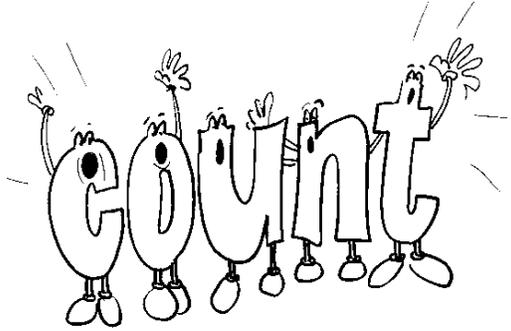


But the letters noticed that the man had not gotten the right change. In fact, he had gotten back 20 dollars less than he should have!



The Letters and the Change

The letters spoke to the man. The letter c said, "kuh." o and u got together to say "ow." n said "nnn." And t said "tuh." The man said, "kuh own n tuh. That sounds like count!"



Then the c and h got together to say "chuh." a got some help from an e that got on at the end to say "a." Another n said "nnn." And the g, who sometimes says "guh," this time said "juh." The man said, "chuh a nnn juh. That sounds like change. Count change. Is that what you want me to do?"



Then the letters said their letters together. They got together and said, "Count change."



The man counted his change. He said, "Wow! I'm twenty dollars short!"



The Letter Stories

The man said to the cashier, "Excuse me, but I think you forgot to give me one twenty dollar bill in the change." The cashier said, "Oh, how careless of me; I apologize, sir." He gave the man his money.



As they left the restaurant, the man said, "Letters, as I was showing you my gratitude for helping me, you helped me once more. You are such helpful folks!" The letters felt proud that they had been able to do something else helpful.

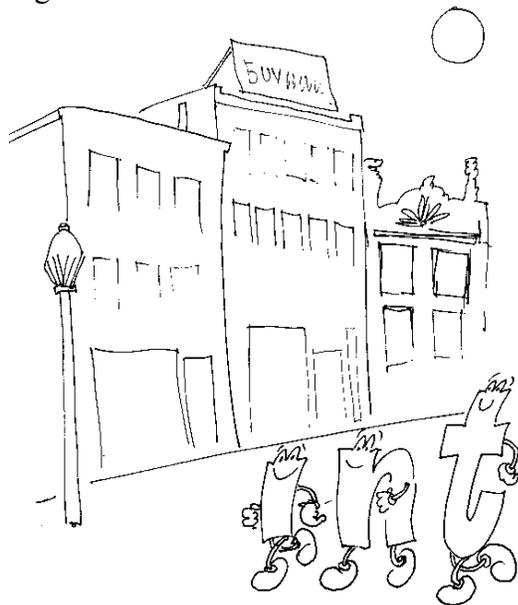


The Letters Call the Emergency Service

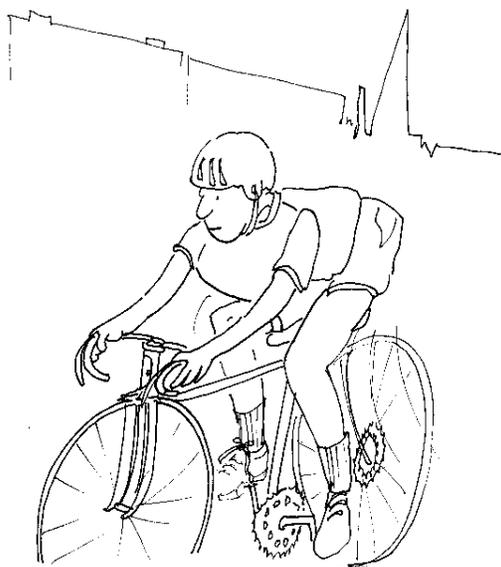
The Letters Call the Emergency Service



One day the letters were out running together.



A cyclist came by on his bicycle.

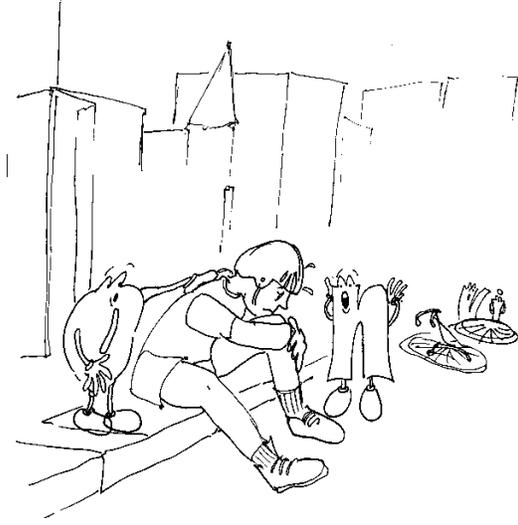


The cyclist's wheel went into a pothole in the road. The cyclist was thrown off his bike!



The Letter Stories

The letters ran to help the cyclist. He said, "I'm lucky I was wearing my helmet. My head isn't hurt at all. But I think I've probably broken my leg. Can you call an ambulance for me, please?"



There was a phone booth nearby. The letters said to themselves, "Where shall we tell the ambulance driver to come?" The letters saw a sign on the street corner; they were on Vine Street.



They saw a house with the number 9 on the front door. "The address here is Nine Vine Street," said the letters to one another.

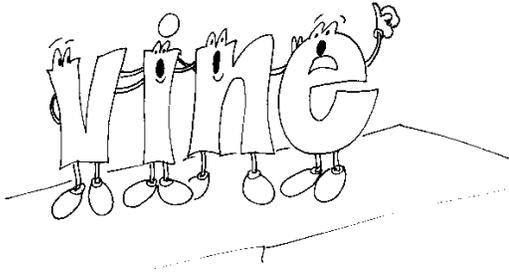


Before the letters called the emergency service, they had a very quick practice. The letter n said, "I can say 'nnn.'" The letter i said, "If the e will help me out by getting on at the end, I can say 'i.'" Another letter n said, "I can say nnn too." When they said their sounds together, it sounded like this: nnn i nnn.

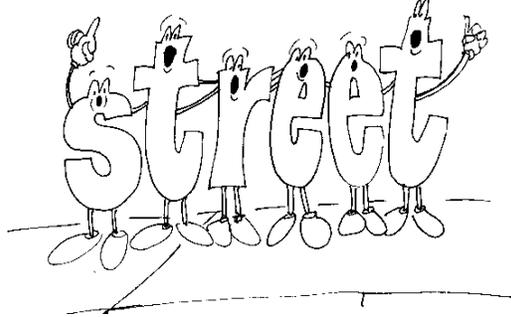


The Letters Call the Emergency Service

Then v said, "I can say vuh." i said, "With e's help, I'll say i again." And n said, "I'll say nnn again." And when they said their sounds together, it sounded like this: vuh i nnn.



Then s said, "I can say 'sss.'" t said, "I can say 'tuh.'" r said, "I can say 'rrr.'" A couple of e's said, "We can say 'ee.'" And another t said, "I'll say 'tuh' also." When they all said their sounds together, it sounded like this: "sss tuh rr ee tuh."



Then they picked up the telephone and dialed 911. The emergency operator answered. The letters said, "nnn ine vuh ine str eet." The operator said, "What was that again?" And this time the letters had their timing down so that they could say, "Nine Vine Street."

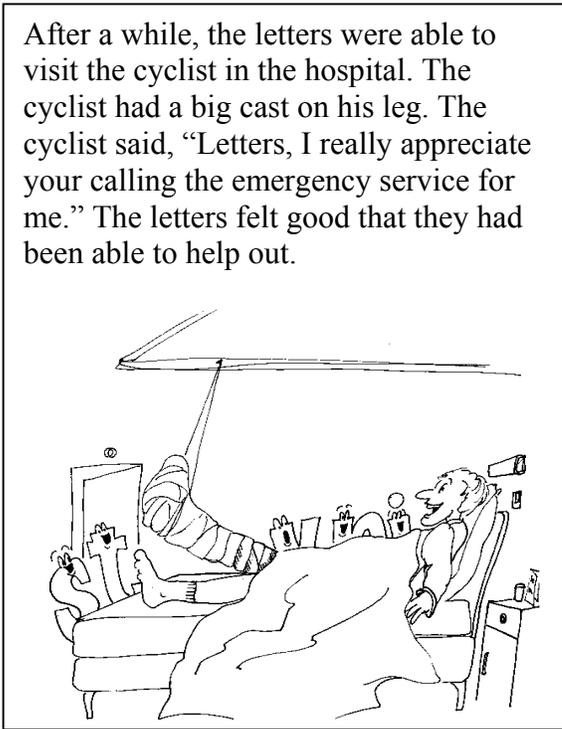


Pretty soon an ambulance and a police car arrived at Nine Vine Street. The workers gently put the cyclist on a stretcher and lifted him into the ambulance. Then they said, "Letters, would you like to come along to the hospital?"



The Letter Stories

After a while, the letters were able to visit the cyclist in the hospital. The cyclist had a big cast on his leg. The cyclist said, "Letters, I really appreciate your calling the emergency service for me." The letters felt good that they had been able to help out.



The Letters Cheer Up a Lonesome Boy

The Letters Cheer Up A Lonesome Boy



On their way to school, a lot of children walked past the letters' home.



One boy looked very lonesome. He looked like he did not have anyone to talk with or play with.

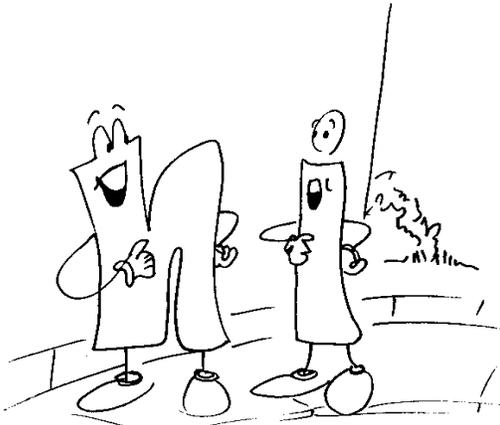


The letters read his name on his notebook. They could see that his name was Jim.

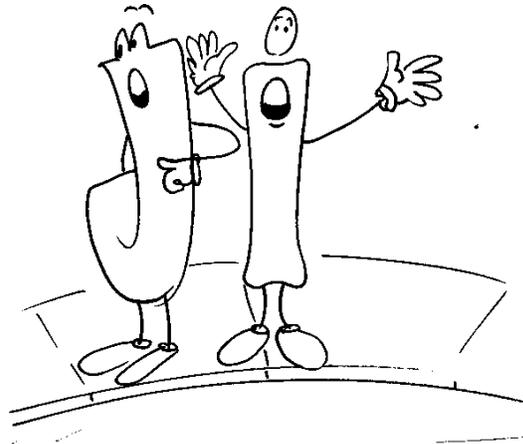


The Letter Stories

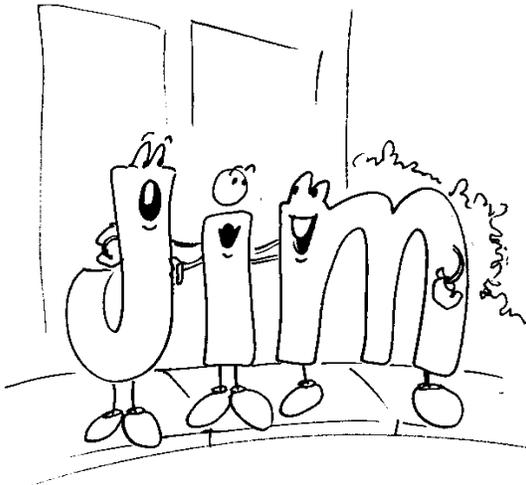
The letter h said, "Let's see if we can help Jim cheer up. When he comes by the next time, let's say to him, 'Hi, Jim!' I can say 'hhh.' Who can help me?" The letter i said, "I can say 'i.'" So when h and i said their sounds together it sounded like this: "hhh i."



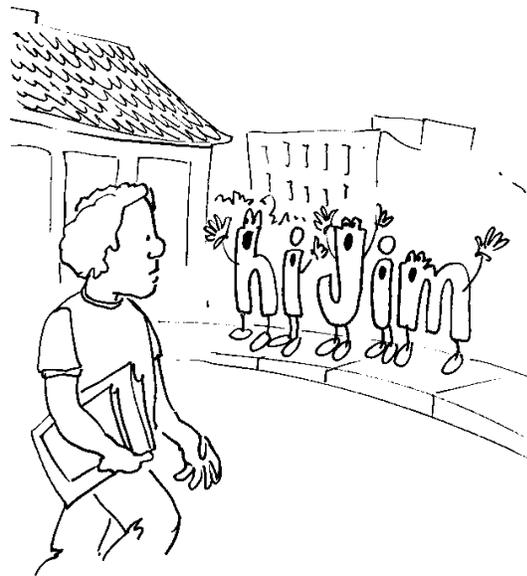
The letter j said, "I can say 'juh.'" And another i said, "I can say 'i.'" "



Then the letter m said, "And I can say 'mmm.'" When j and i and m said their sounds together, it sounded like this: "juh i mmm."



The next day when Jim came walking along, the letters got together and said, "Hi, Jim!"



The Letters Cheer Up a Lonesome Boy

After Jim had gotten over being surprised, he smiled and said, "Hi, letters."



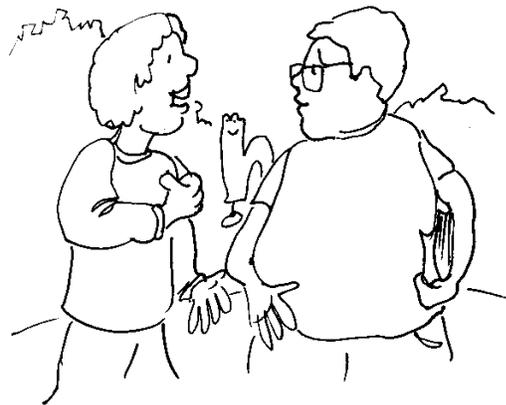
Every day, the letters said hi to Jim. When they said hi to him, he looked happy, and the letters felt good about that.



One day, the letters saw another boy who looked lonesome. They could tell that his name was Ted because it was written on his tee shirt.

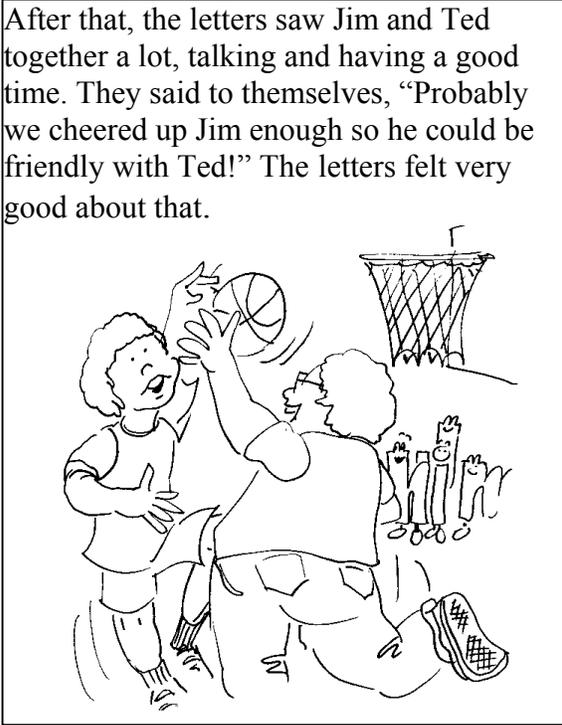


All of a sudden, Jim came up to Ted and said, "Hi, Ted. My name's Jim."

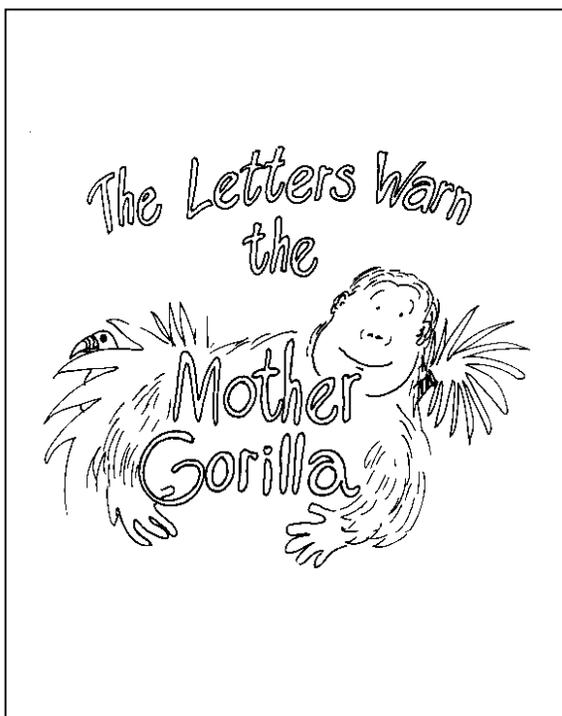


The Letter Stories

After that, the letters saw Jim and Ted together a lot, talking and having a good time. They said to themselves, “Probably we cheered up Jim enough so he could be friendly with Ted!” The letters felt very good about that.



The Letters Warn the Mother Gorilla



The letters were out in the jungle. There were lots of animals there. They saw lions.



They also saw some tigers.



One of their favorites was a mother gorilla and her baby.



The Letter Stories

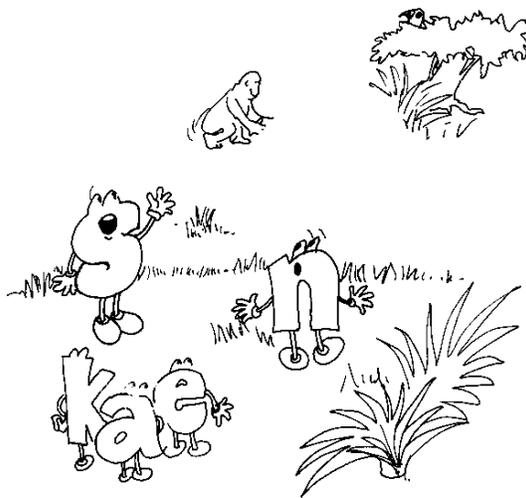
One day, the baby was climbing around in trees while the mother was on the ground.



The letters had very sharp eyes. They could see something in the tree. A big snake was coming toward the baby gorilla.



The letters said to themselves, "We've got to warn them, quickly! Which of us can get together and yell 'snake?'" s said, "I can say 'sss.'" And n said, "I can say 'nnn.'" "



a said, "If e will help me by getting on at the end, I can say 'a.'" And k said, "I can say 'kuh.'" So when they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "sss nnn a kuh."



The Letters Warn the Mother Gorilla

Then they all got together and yelled,
“Snake!”



The mother gorilla moved like a flash.
She went up the tree and saved her baby
from the snake.



They all went farther away from the
snake.



The mother gorilla said, “Thanks,
letters. You saved my baby’s life. If it
hadn’t been for you, that snake would
have gotten him.” The letters felt good
that they had been able to help.



The Letter Stories

The Letters Help the Person Use the Computer



One of the letter's friends could not get his computer to work.



The letters wanted to help him. They studied the computer manuals very carefully.

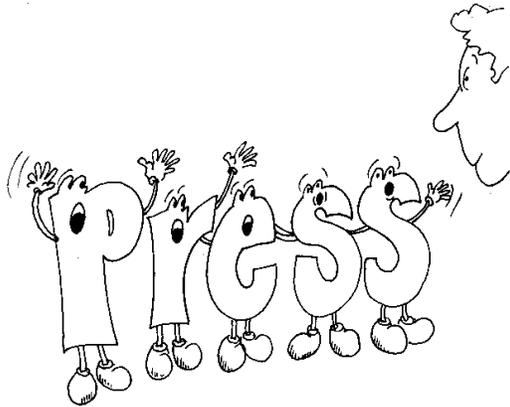


The letter p jumped up and said to the other letters, "Here's what the problem is! He needs to press the key that says *enter* on it. When he pushes that key, his program will work! We need to tell him to *press enter*. I can say 'puh!' Who can help me?"



The Letters Help the Person Use the Computer

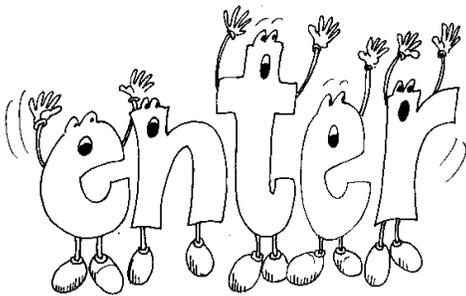
The letter r said, "I can say 'rrr!'" The letter e said, "I can say 'ě!'" and two s's said, "We can say 'sss!'" When they all said their sounds, they said "puh rrr ě ssss!"



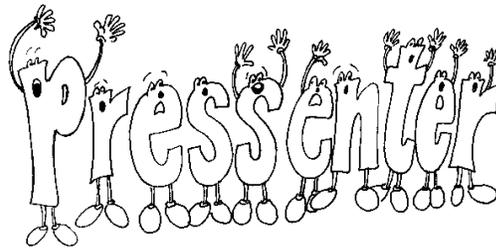
The man said, "puh rrr ě sss. That sounds like *press!* Are you trying to tell me what key to press, letters? What key should I press?"



Then e said, "I'll say 'ě' again!" n said, "I can say 'nnn.'" t said, "I can say 'tuh.'" Another e and an r said, "Together, we can say 'er.'" When they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "ě nn tuh er."

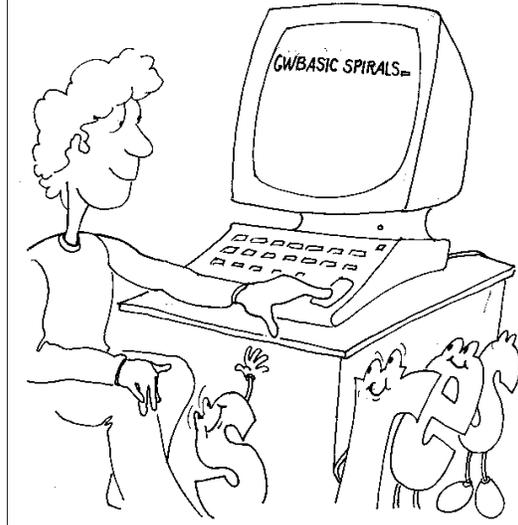


The man said, "ě nn tuh er. That sounds like *enter.* Is that what they are saying?" And then all the letters got together and said "Press enter!"

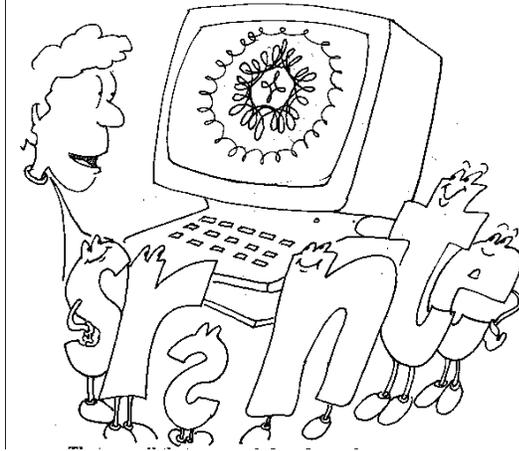


The Letter Stories

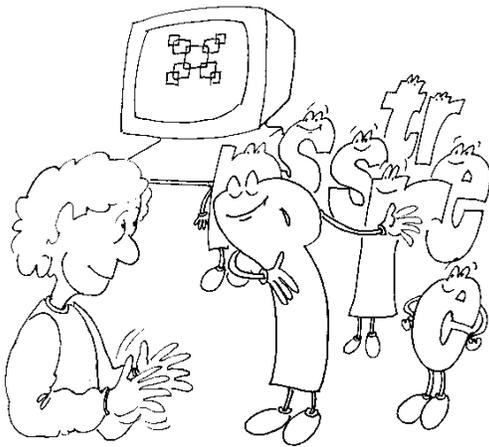
The man went back to his computer. He said, "There's a key with the word *enter* on it. I'll press it and see what happens."



That was all that was needed, and now the program worked! It did what it was supposed to do!



The man said, "Letters, thank you very much for helping me to get the computer program to work!" The letters felt very good that they had figured out how to help the man.

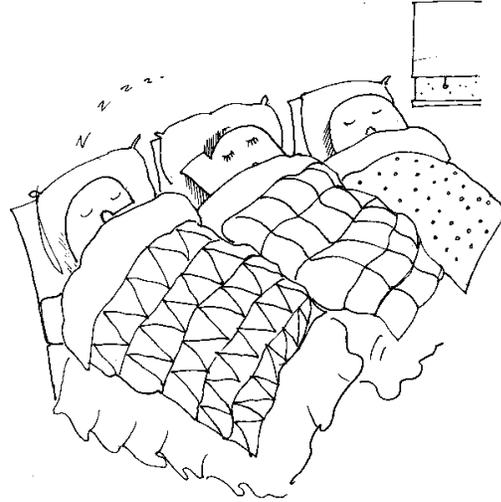


The Letters Help the Man and the Raccoons

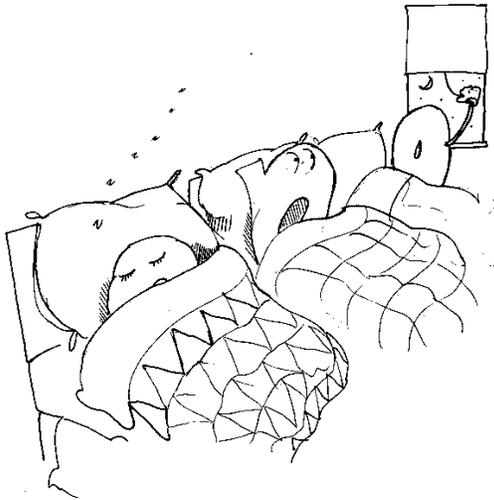
The Letters Help the Man and the Raccoons



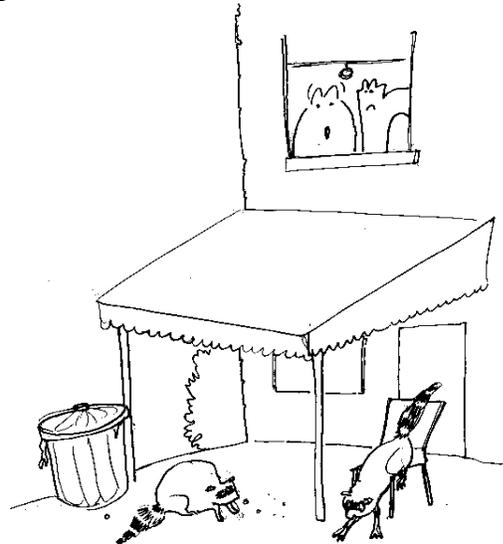
The letters and a bunch of people were staying overnight at a man's house.



In the middle of the night, the letters awoke to hear some footsteps on the back porch of the house. They went to the window to look and see what was happening.

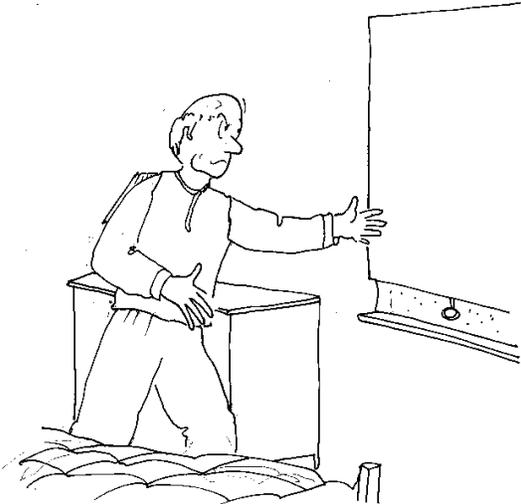


From their room on the second floor, the letters could see what was causing the noise. Some raccoons were on the back porch.

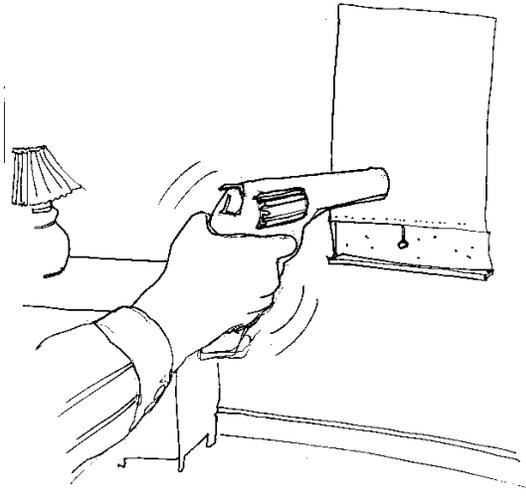


The Letter Stories

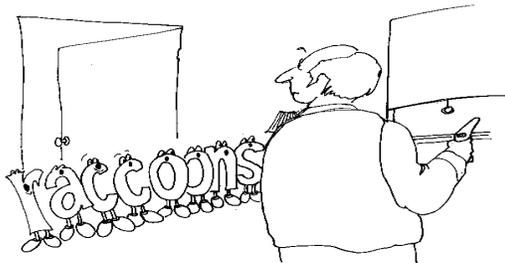
Then the letters heard a man, another house guest, on the first floor. The man said, "Who is that out there?" He sounded scared. The letters ran downstairs.



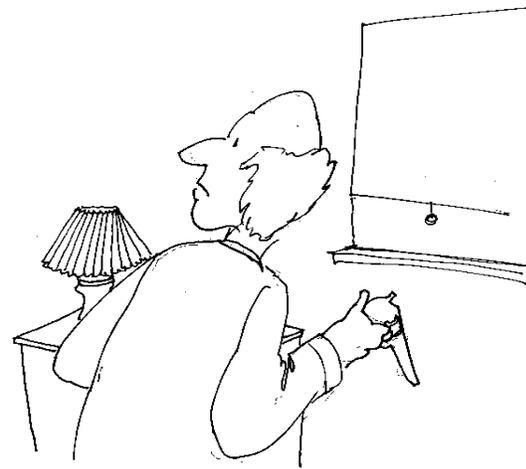
Then the man got a gun! He said, "Why won't you answer me out there? If you don't answer, I'm going to shoot you, right through the window shade and the window and all."



The letters said to each other, "We've got to tell him it's just raccoons!" The letter r said, "I can say 'rrr.'" The letter a said, "I can say 'ă.'" A couple of c's said, "We can say 'kuh.'" A couple of o's said, "We can say 'ooh!'" And n said, "I can say 'nnn.'" And the s said, "I can say 'sss.'" The man was trying to figure out what they were saying. He said, "rr ä kuh ooh nnn sss. Humh, I wonder what they are saying."

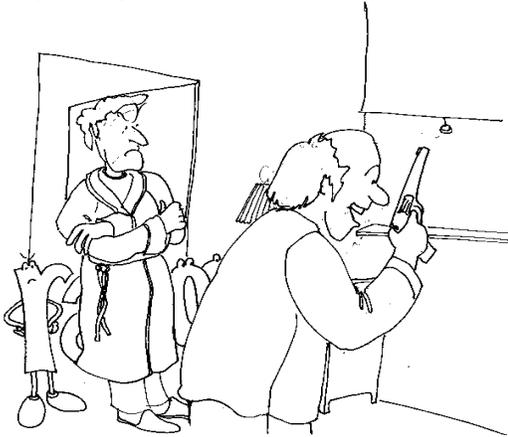


Then the letters all got together and said, "Raccoons! Raccoons!" The man said, "You mean that noise is just a bunch of raccoons?"



The Letters Help the Man and the Raccoons

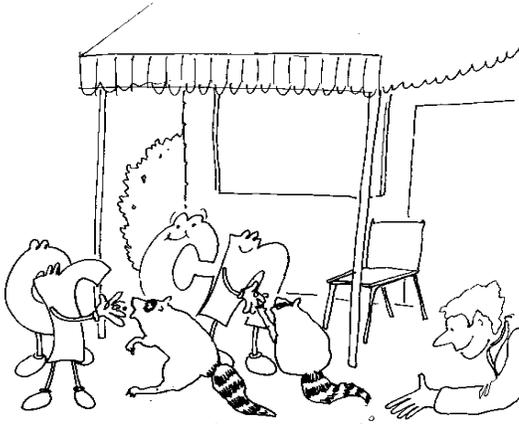
The man opened the window shade to see the raccoons outside. He laughed and said, "Why my goodness, that's all the noise is, just some raccoons." But the owner of the house had heard all that had taken place. He didn't think it was very funny.



The owner of the house said, "If it weren't for the letters here, you might have destroyed my window and killed a raccoon. You could have killed a person. And I don't allow guns in my house anyway. Please go somewhere else."



After the man had left, the owner of the house said, "Thank you, letters. You really helped. I don't think the raccoons know what happened, but if they did, they would be very grateful to you, too." The letters were glad they could help.



The Letters Remind the Performer



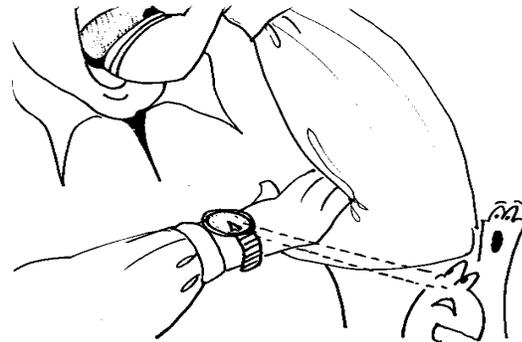
One time, the letters decided to see a person put on a show. They bought tickets to see “Alfredo, the Great.” The show was supposed to start in ten minutes.



Some of the letters went out to walk around before the show. They saw a man using the telephone. The letters recognized him from the posters as Alfredo, who was going to put on the show in only a few minutes. Alfredo was saying, “Hi, mom. Just thought I’d call and chat for a while. How are things going?”

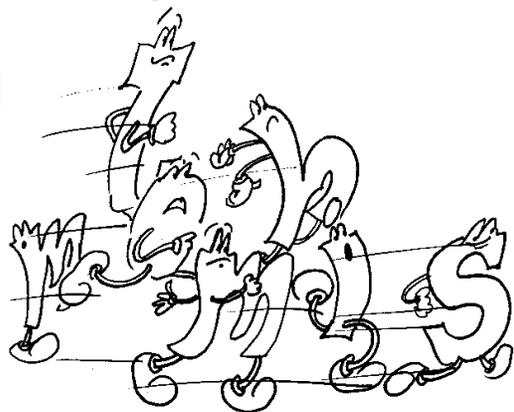


The letters thought, “That’s strange. You would think he’d be changing clothes or be backstage getting ready for his show.” Then they noticed that Alfredo had a watch on his wrist, but the watch had stopped! Alfredo thought he had a half an hour until show time, when he was really supposed to go on stage in five minutes!



The Letters Remind the Performer

The letters said, "Come on, let's get the other letters and warn him. Otherwise he'll miss his own show!" The letters ran back to get the other letters.



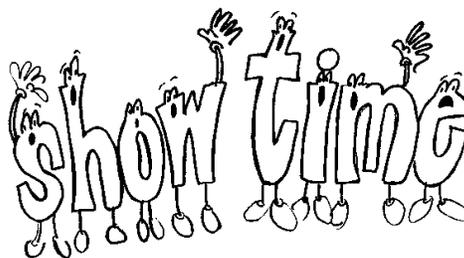
In a couple of minutes, the man saw a bunch of letters running toward him. The letters s and h got together and yelled out "sh!" o and w got together and yelled out "oh!" The man said, "Gosh, mom, there are a bunch of letters coming toward me in a big hurry. What are they saying? Sh oh. That sounds like *show!*"



Then the letter t said "tuh!" And i got some help from an e, who got on at the end, to say "i". And m said "mm!" The man said, "tuh i mm. ti mm. Sounds like *time!*"



Then the letters all got together and yelled to the man, "Show time! Show time!"

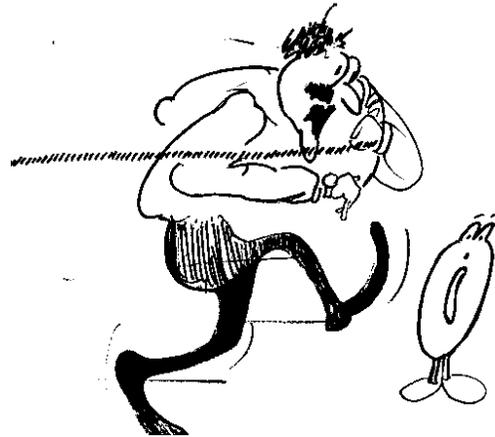


The Letter Stories

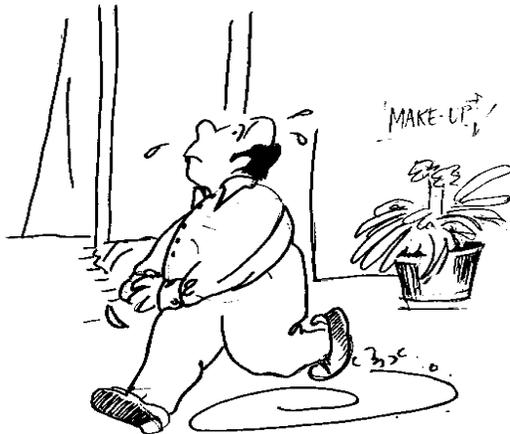
The man said, "Thanks for the reminder, letters, but I have a half an hour until show time. I can still chat with my mom a while longer on the phone."



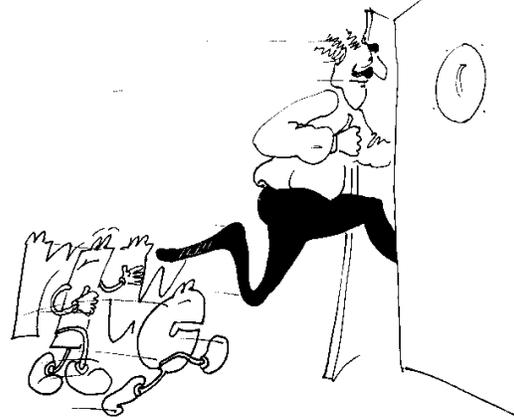
But the letters kept saying to the man, "Show time! Show time!" He looked at his watch again. Then he said, "Hey, my watch isn't moving! It's stopped! It's giving me the wrong time! I'll bet the letters are right! Good-bye, mom!"



Back at the theater, the announcer was very nervous. He was saying, "It's time for the show to start right now, and Alfredo has not even shown up at the theater. Shall we announce to the audience that the show will be late? Where could he be?"



Alfredo ran all the way to the theater, with the letters behind him. He ran into the theater and ran straight to the stage.



The Letters Remind the Performer

Alfredo put on a good show. He sang and danced and juggled, all at the same time, and did each of them very well.

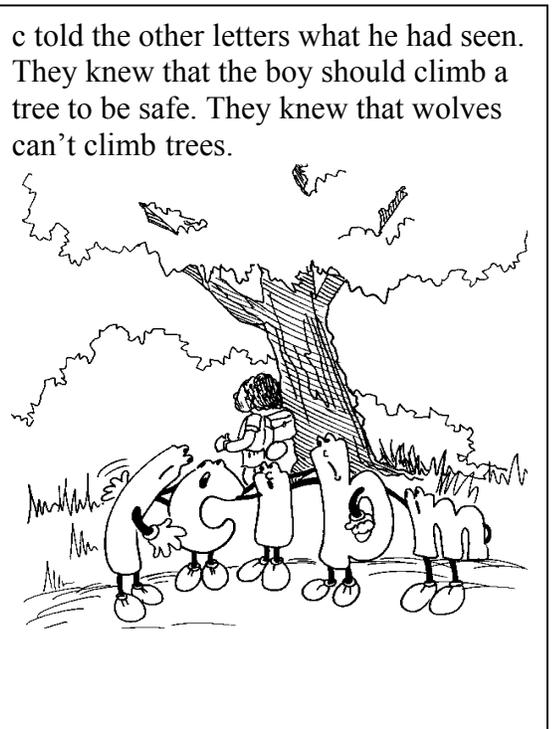
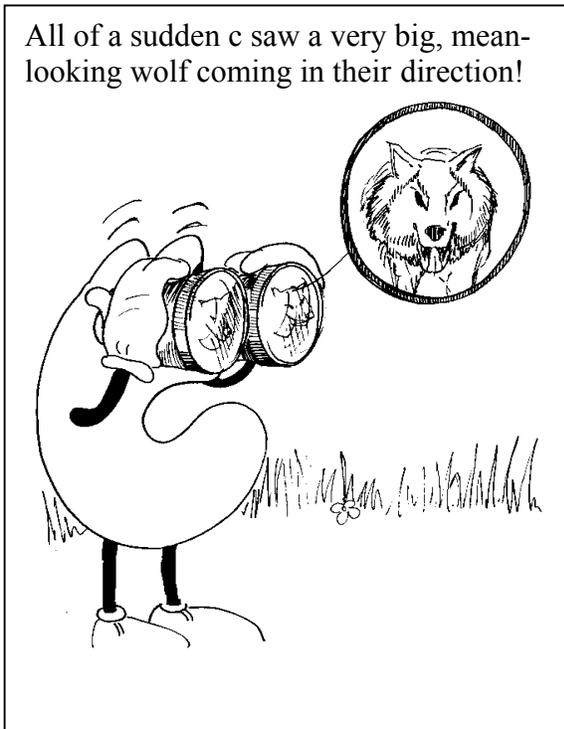
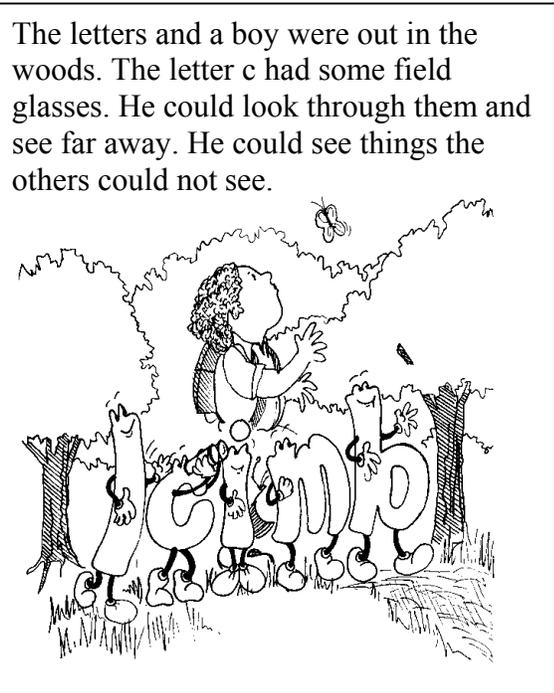
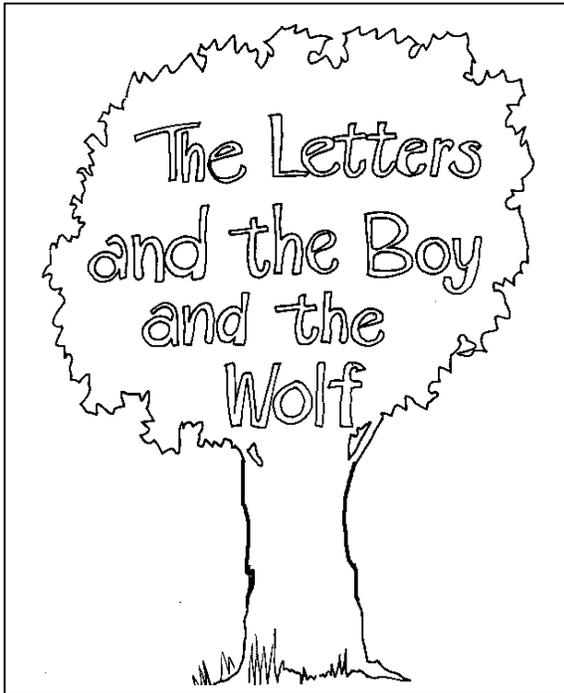


After the show, Alfredo found the letters. He said, "Well, the audience seemed to like my show a lot. But they sure wouldn't have liked it if I hadn't shown up for the show! Thanks, letters. You saved my act."

The letters were very glad that they had been able to help him.



The Letter Stories

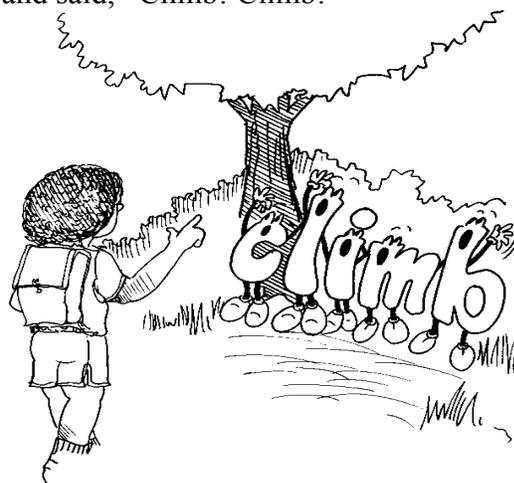


The Letters and the Boy and the Wolf

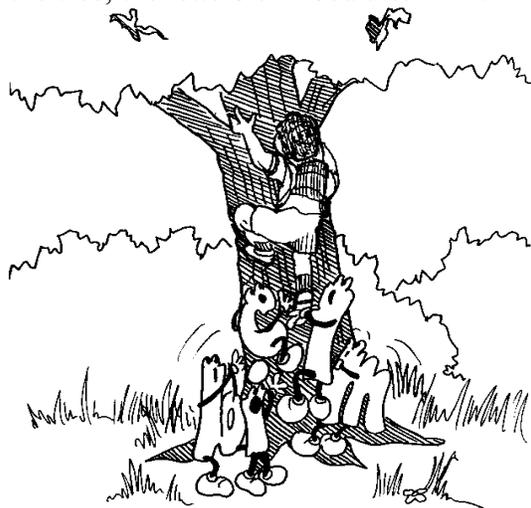
c said to the boy, “kuh!” and l said “lll!”
i said, “i!” m said, “mmm!” and b took it
easy and didn’t say anything.



The boy said, “kuh lll I mm.” That
sounds like *climb*. Do you want me to
climb this tree?” The letters got together
and said, “Climb! Climb!”



The boy said, “OK, I’ll see if I can climb
it. That sounds like fun.” As he climbed
the tree, the letters climbed after him.



Not long after they had climbed the tree,
the wolf came! The boy said, “Wow!
I’m glad you told me to climb this tree!
I’m safe from the wolf up here.”

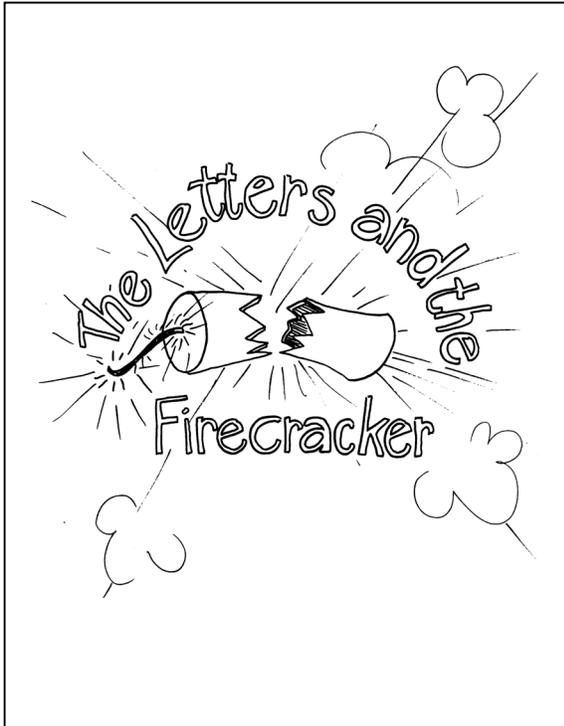


The Letter Stories

In a while, the wolf went far away and it was safe to come down. The boy said, "Thanks, letters! It was fun looking at the wolf from up in the tree! It wouldn't have been so much fun from on the ground!" The letters were glad that they could help.



The Letters and the Firecracker



Some boys were playing with firecrackers. They would light the fuse at the end of the firecracker. When the fuse burned down to the end, the firecracker would explode.



A firecracker with a long fuse fell near where a young child was playing. The child didn't know what it was, so he picked it up. He didn't know that if it exploded in his hand, it would burn him and hurt him badly.

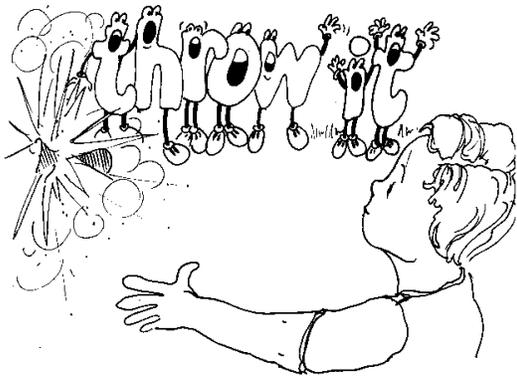


The letters saw what happened. They did not waste a second. The t and the h got together and said "thuh!" r said "rrr!" and o and w said "oh!" Then i said "i!" and t said "tuh!"



The Letter Stories

The letters all got together and yelled, "Throw it!" The little boy understood them, and threw the firecracker way up into the air.



Before the firecracker even landed, it exploded in the air. It made a loud "bang!" as it blew up.



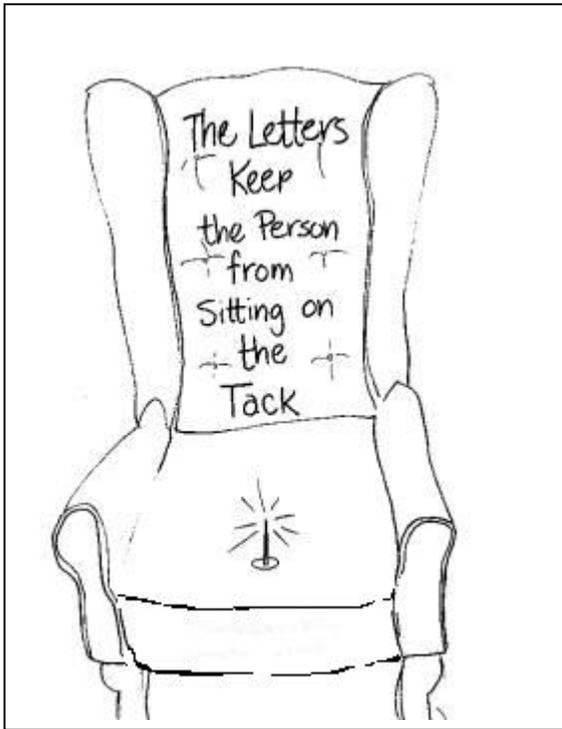
The little boy's father saw what had happened. He ran out to where they were. He said, "Thank you, letters. My son might have gotten his hand blown off if it hadn't been for you."



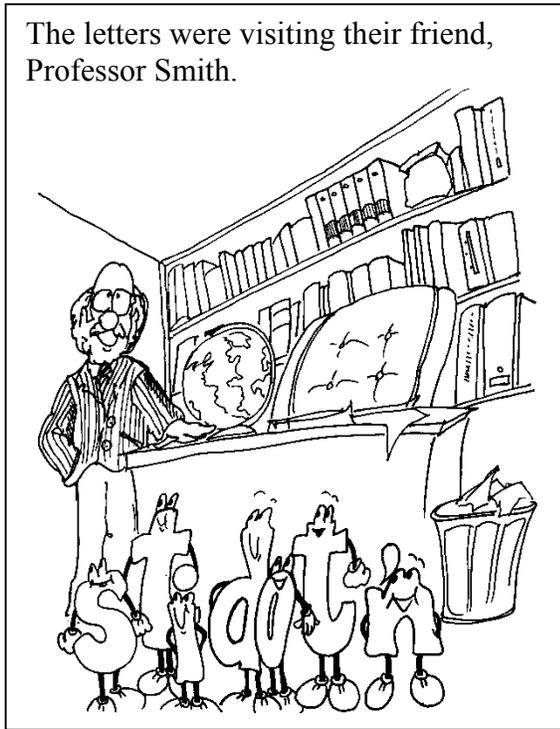
The father went over to have some words with the boys who had thrown the firecrackers. The letters were glad they had been able to help the little boy.



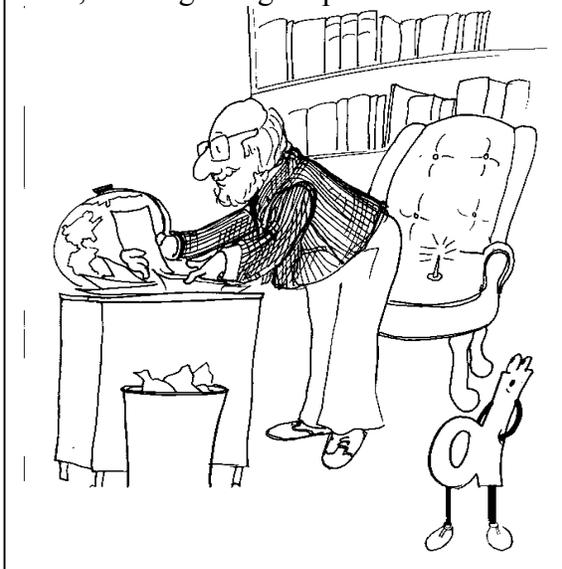
The Letters Keep the Person from Sitting on the Tack



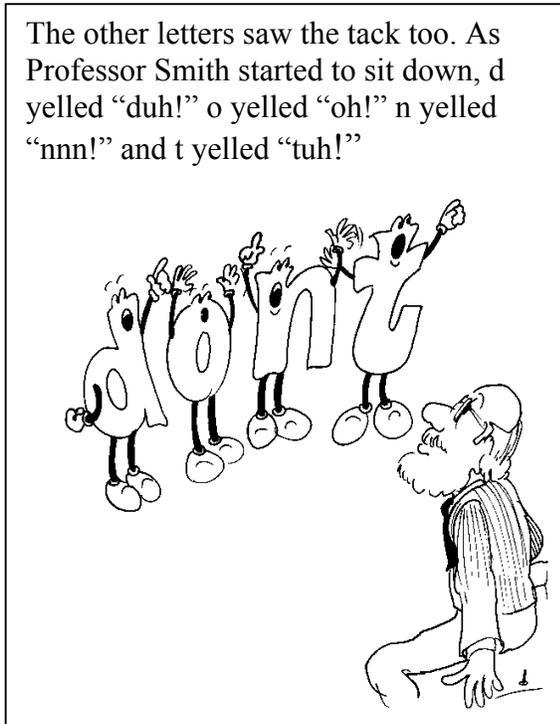
The letters were visiting their friend, Professor Smith.



Professor Smith looked as if he were getting ready to sit down. But the letter d saw something in his chair. It was a tack, sticking straight up.



The other letters saw the tack too. As Professor Smith started to sit down, d yelled "duh!" o yelled "oh!" n yelled "nnn!" and t yelled "tuh!"



The Letter Stories

Professor Smith said, "Duh oh nnn tuh. That sounds like *don't*. Don't what, letters?"



Then s said "ssss!" and i said "i!" and another t said "tuh!" Professor Smith said, "sss i tuh. That sounds like *sit*."



Then all the letters got together and yelled, "Don't sit!"



Professor Smith said, "I wonder why they don't want me to sit. Maybe there's something wrong with my chair."



The Letters Keep the Person from Sitting on a Tack

When Professor Smith saw the tack in the chair, he said, "Wow! Now I see why you told me not to sit! That would have stuck in to me and hurt me badly. Thank you, letters!"

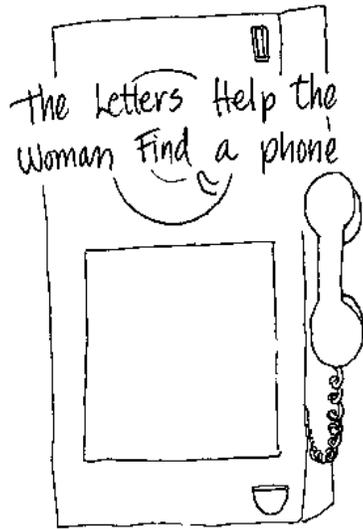


The letters felt good that they had been able to keep Professor Smith from getting hurt.

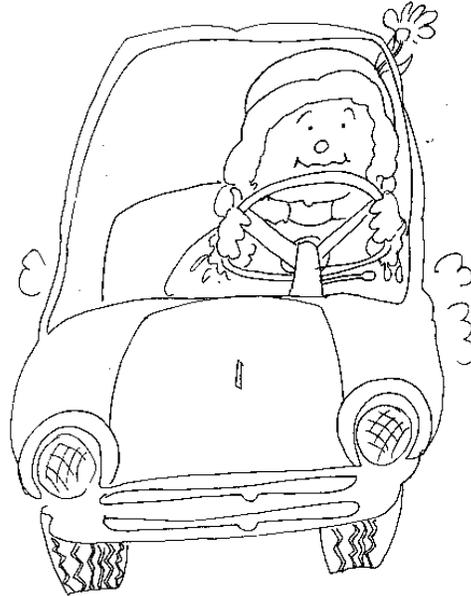


The Letter Stories

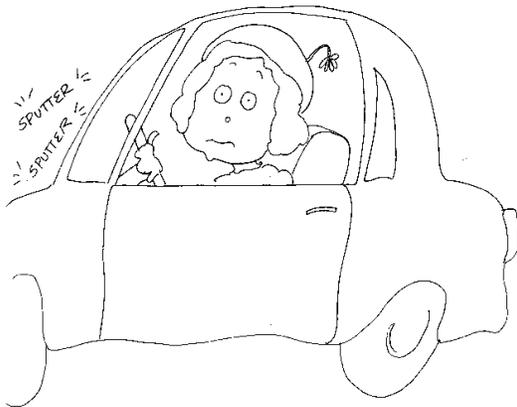
The Letters Help the Woman Find a Phone



A woman was driving her car.



All of a sudden, the car stopped running. It just wouldn't go any further.



Then the woman looked at her gas gauge. It was on E for empty. The woman realized that she had run out of gas.

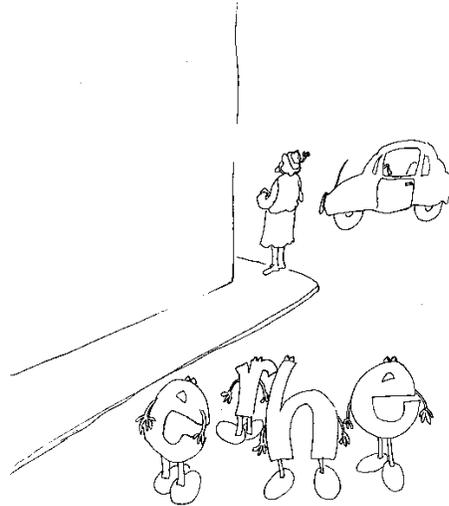


The Letters Help the Woman Find a Phone

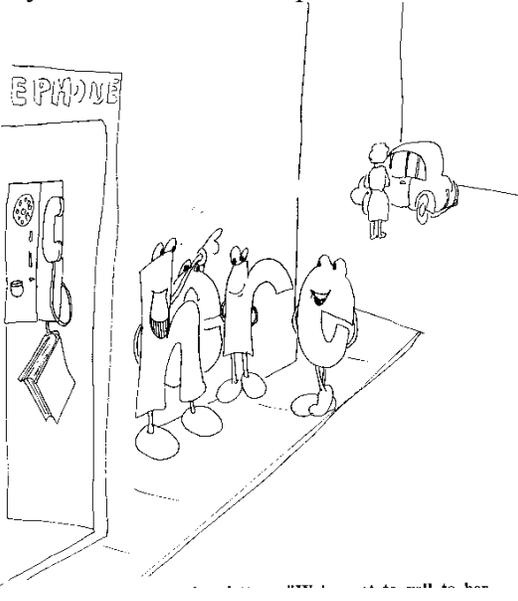
The woman got out of the car. She thought, if I can call a gas station on the phone, they can bring me some more gas.



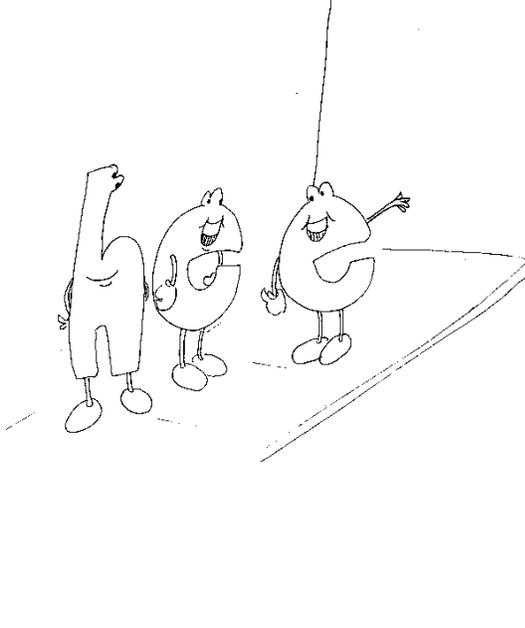
The letters were nearby. They saw what had happened.



h said to the other letters, "We've got to yell to her that the phone is here. I can say 'hhh.' Who can help me?"

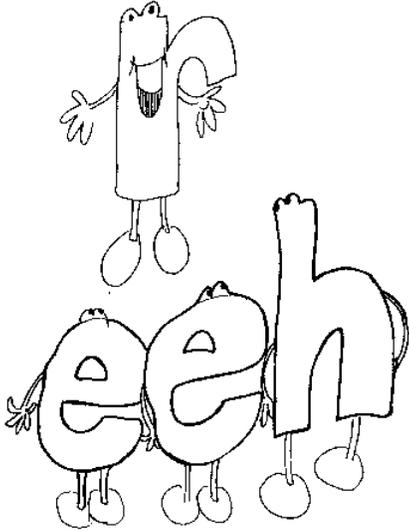


A couple of e's got up and said, "If we work together, we can say ee."

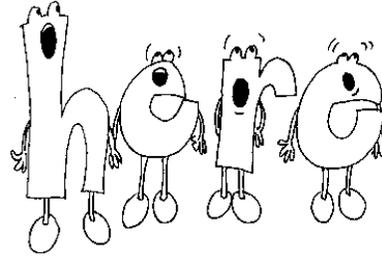


The Letter Stories

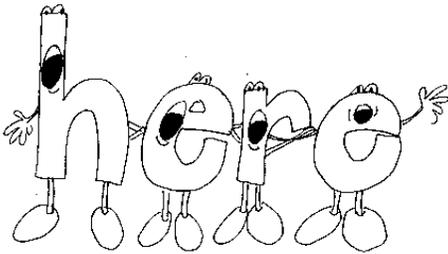
An r said, "I can say rrr."



So they all said their sounds, and they said this: hhh ee rrr.



Then they all got together and yelled, "Here!"



The woman heard them yelling. She went in their direction.

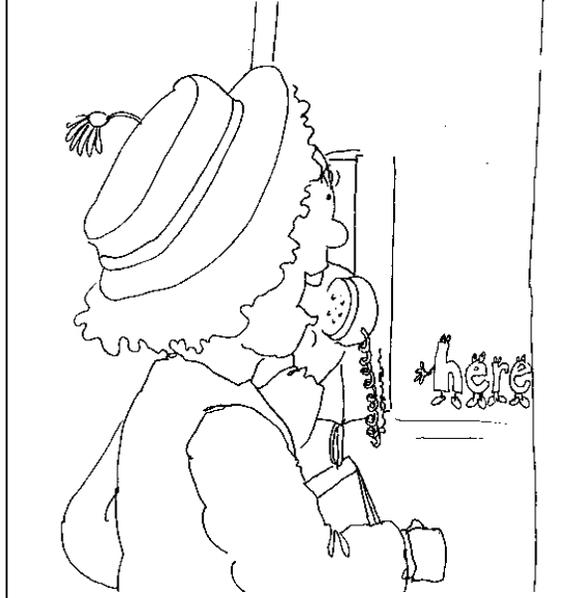


The Letters Help the Woman Find a Phone

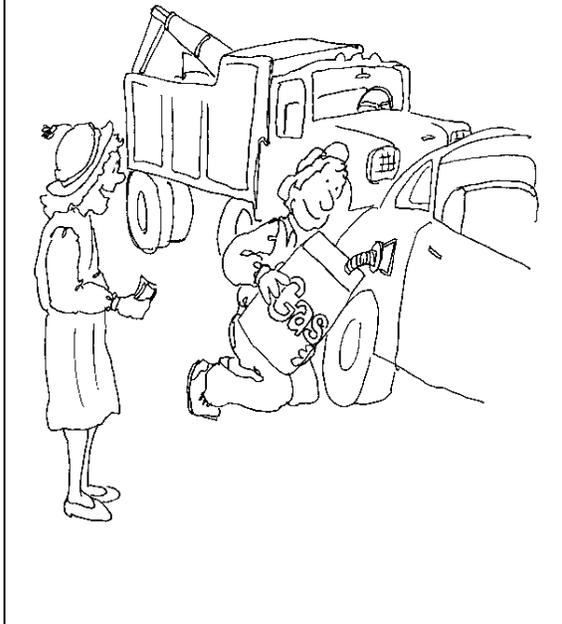
When she saw the letters, they pointed to the phone and said, "Here!" And she said, "Thank you! You really helped me by telling me that the phone is here."



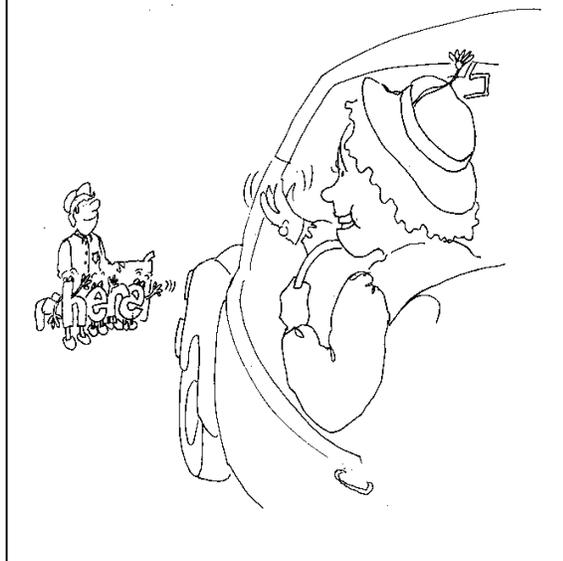
The woman called the gas station on the phone. She said, "I'm out of gas. Could you bring me some gas, please?"



Soon the man from the gas station came with some gas for the woman.

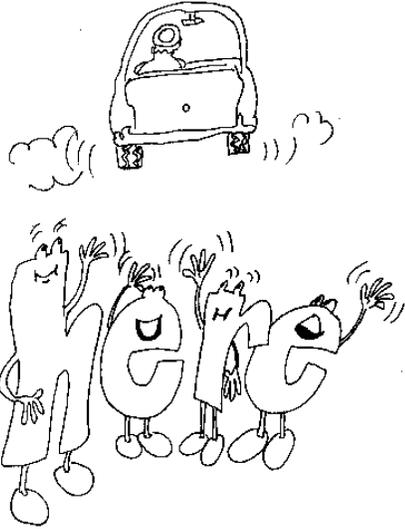


Now the woman's car worked. She said, "Thank you, Mr. Gas station man, from bringing my gas. And thank you, letters, for showing me where the phone is."



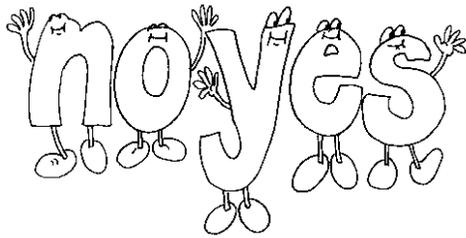
The Letter Stories

The letters felt good that they had been able to help the woman.

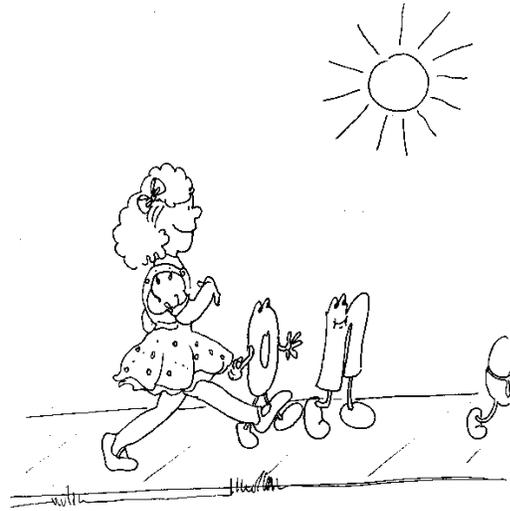


The Letters Give Advice About Taking Rides

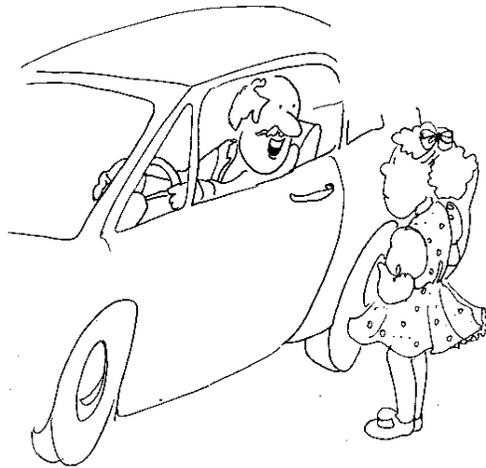
**The Letters Give Advice
About Taking Rides**



A little girl was walking along the sidewalk. The letters were walking along, too.



A man in a car stopped beside the little girl. The man said, "Do you want a ride in my car, little girl? I'll give you some candy if you ride with me."

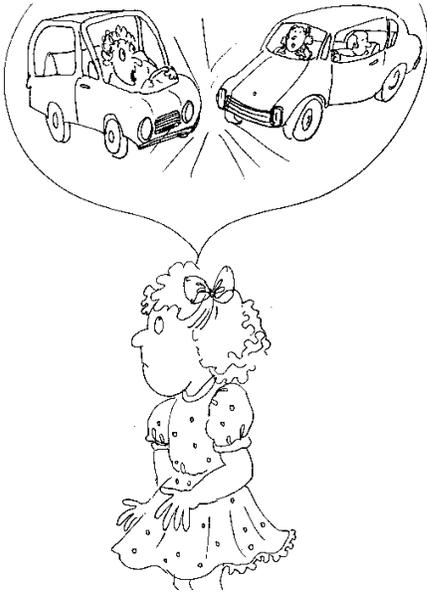


The little girl thought to herself, "What should I do? It would be nice to have a ride, and it would be nice to get some candy. But, I don't know that man, and he might turn out to be a mean man."



The Letter Stories

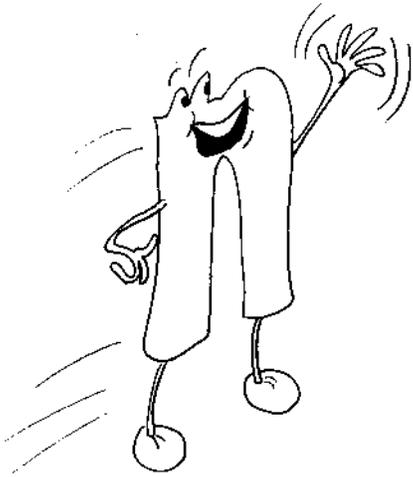
The little girl thought, "Or he could be a nice man, but a terrible driver, and have a wreck."



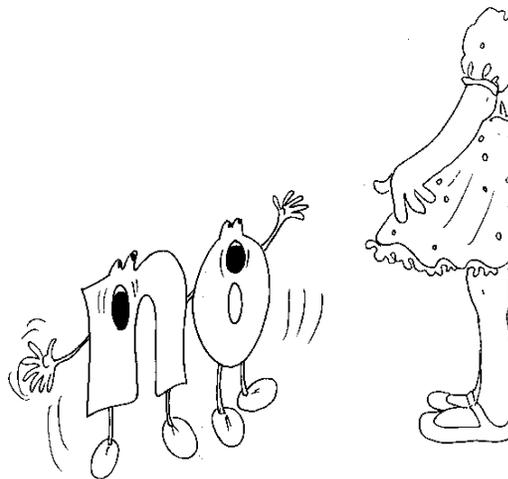
She saw her friends, the letters. She knew them very well, and she knew that they were nice. She said to them, "Do you think I should get in the car with him?"



The letters all thought that she shouldn't get in a car with someone that she didn't know. So n shouted out "nnn!"



And then the o jumped up and said, "oh!" The n and the o then got together and said, "No! No!"



The Letters Give Advice About Taking Rides

The girl thought that the letters were right. She turned to the man and said, "Thank you, anyway, sir, but the answer is No."



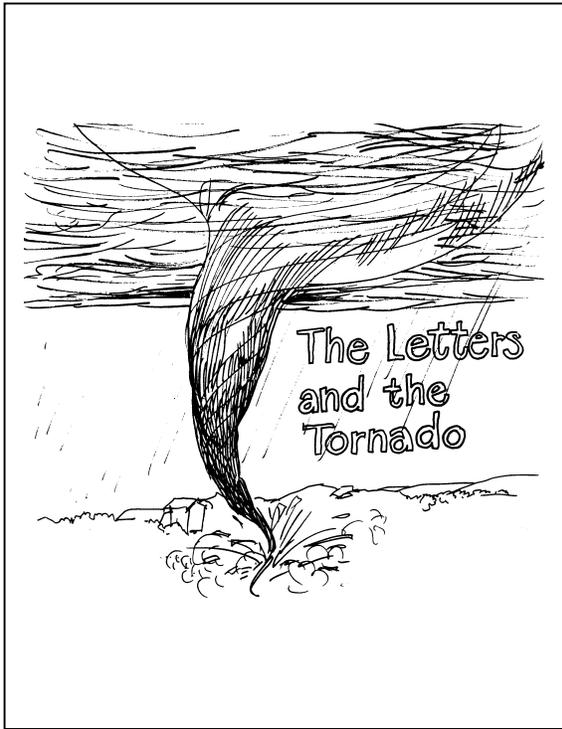
The man drove off. The little girl said to the letters, "Thanks, letters. You gave me some good advice. It isn't smart to get into cars with people you don't know, is it?" And the letters said, "No."



The letters felt good that they had given the girl some good advice.



The Letter Stories



The letters were listening to the radio. The woman on the radio said, "There is going to be a big tornado. The wind will blow very hard. Go into your basements."



The letters saw some people outside. They were getting ready to ride their bicycles to go on a picnic. The letters said to each other, "We've got to warn them."



The people started out on their bicycles. The letters ran to catch up with them. g yelled, "guh!" and o yelled, "oh!"

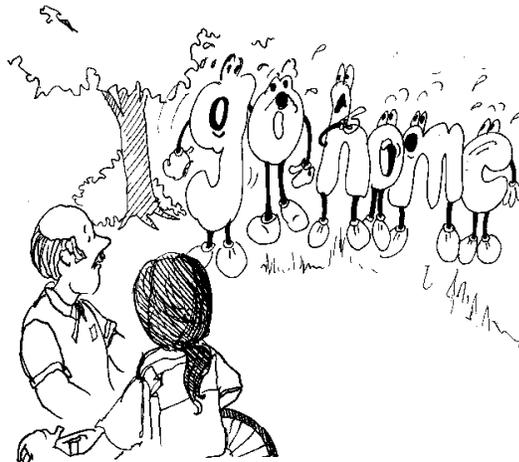


The Letters and the Tornado

h yelled, “hhh!” o yelled, “oh!” m yelled, “mmm,” and e helped the o.



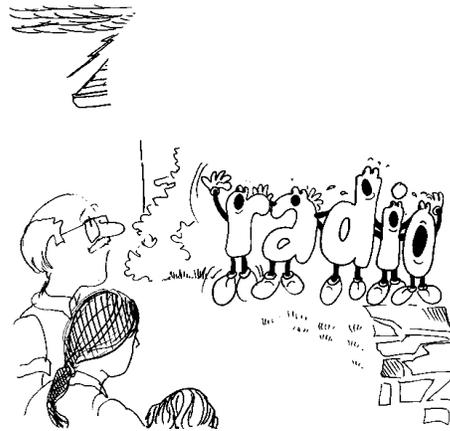
One of the people said, “guh oh, hhh oh mmm. That sounds like *go home*. Do you think that’s what they’re saying? When they stopped, the letters could all get together and say, “Go home!”



The people said, “Well, it seems strange to go home now, but these letters usually have a good reason for what they say. Let’s do it.”



As the people came back to their house, some more letters came out to tell them what to do. r said “rrrr.” a said, “a.” d said “duh.” i said “ī.” And o said “oh.” One of the people said, “rrr a duh ī oh. That sounds like *radio*. Maybe we should turn on our radio.”



The Letter Stories

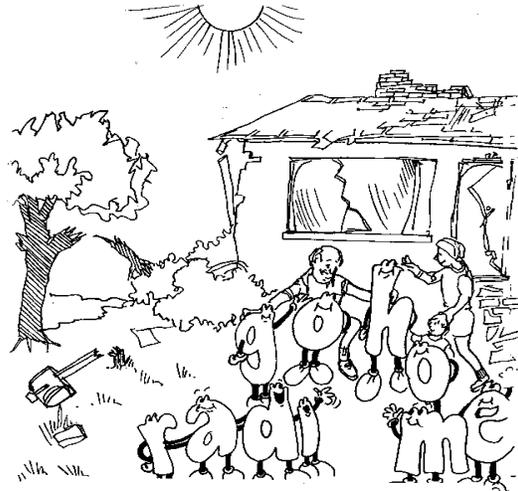
The people went inside and listened to the radio. They heard that there was going to be a tornado! They went down into their basement.



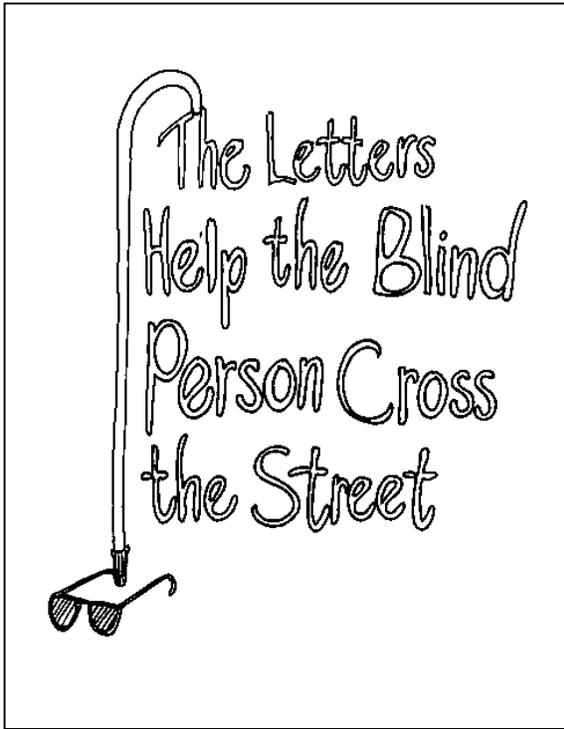
Sure enough, the tornado came. It was a terrible storm. Things were blown all over everywhere.



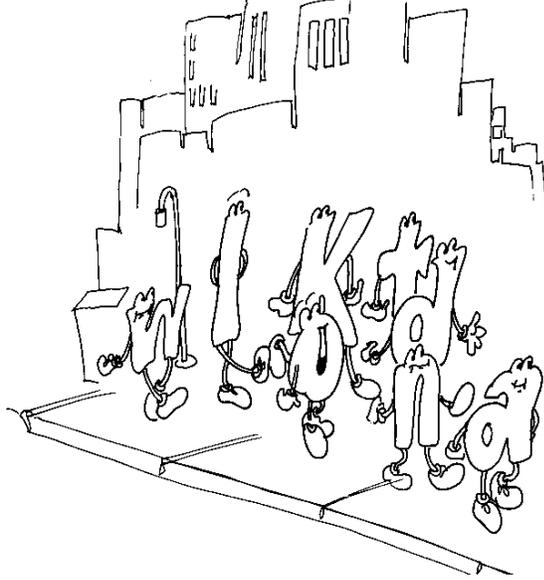
After the storm was over, everyone came out to look at what had happened. The people said, "Letters, thanks to you, we're all safe!" The letters felt good that they had been able to help the people.



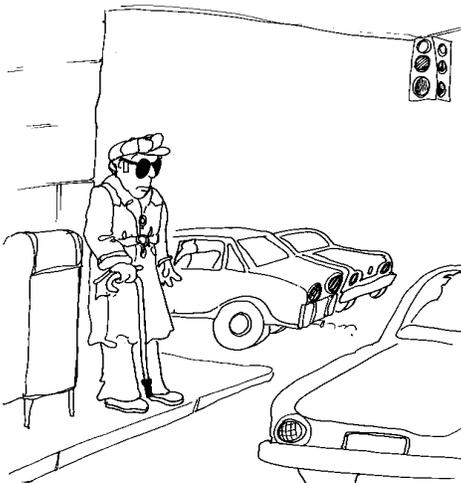
The Letters Help the Blind Person Cross the Street



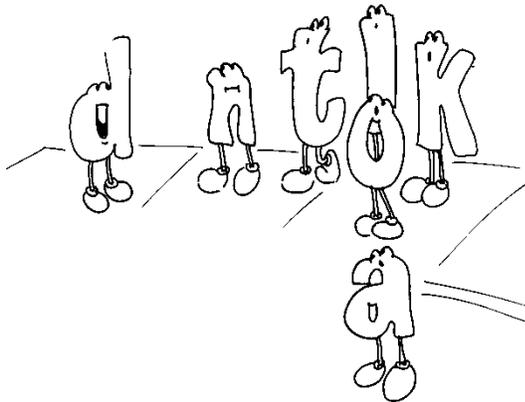
The letters were walking in the city.



Not far away, there was a person waiting to cross the street. Since this person was blind, he couldn't see the traffic light or the cars. And this corner was a very busy one, very hard for blind people to cross.

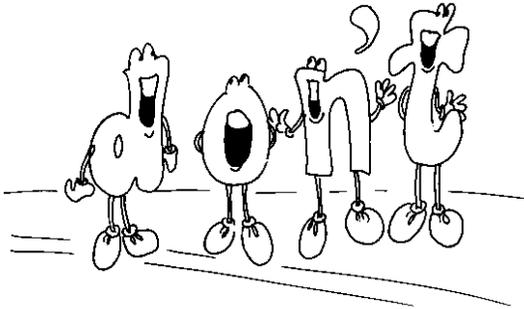


The letters could see that this was a hard street to cross, even if you weren't blind. They decided they would help him. The d said, "We need to tell him 'don't walk' when cars are coming, and tell him 'walk' when it's safe to go. I can start out by saying 'duh.' Who can help me?"

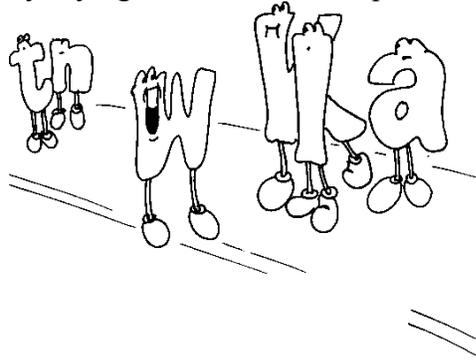


The Letter Stories

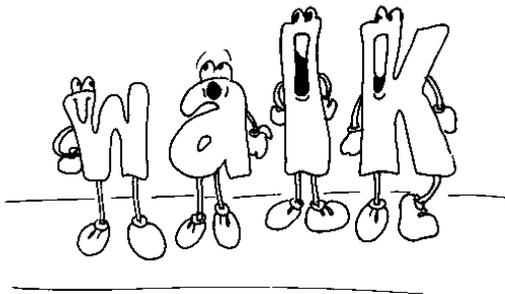
The o said, "I can say 'oh.'" The n said, "I can say 'nnn.'" And the t said, "I can say 'tuh.'" If they all said their sounds, it would have sounded like this: "duh oh nnn tuh."



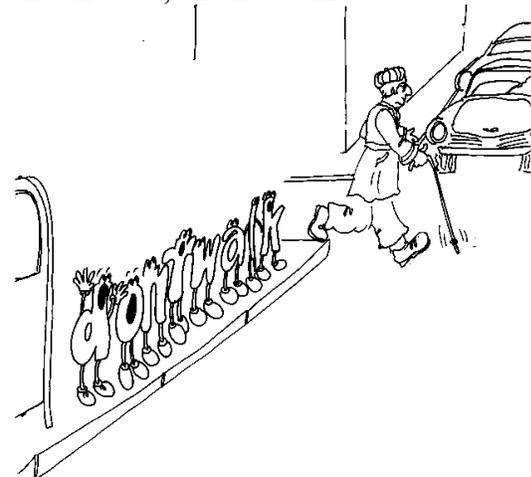
Then the w said, "We also need to say the word 'walk' to him. I can start it off by saying wuh. Who can help me?"



Then a said, "I can say ah." L said, "I can say lll." And k said, "I can say kuh." If they had all said their sounds together, it would have sounded like this: "wuh ah lll kuh." But they didn't speak yet.

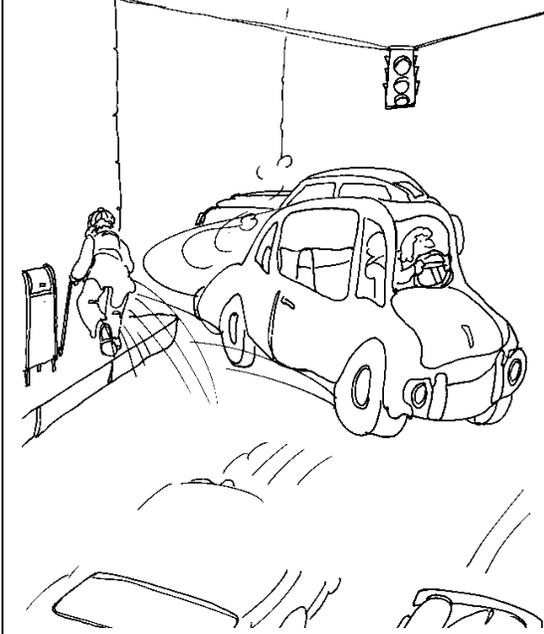


The blind person started to cross the street, but there were lots of cars coming, that he couldn't hear! The letters said to him, "Duh oh nn tuh wuh ah lll kuh!" Then they all joined together and shouted, "Don't walk!"



The Letters Help the Blind Person Cross the Street

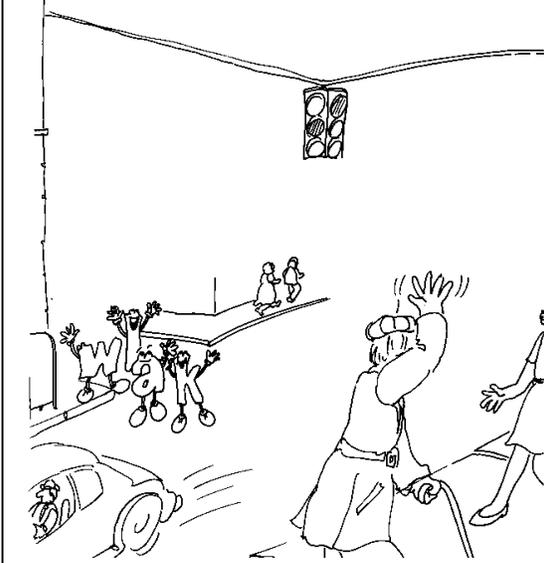
The blind person got back on the sidewalk, as the cars sped past him.



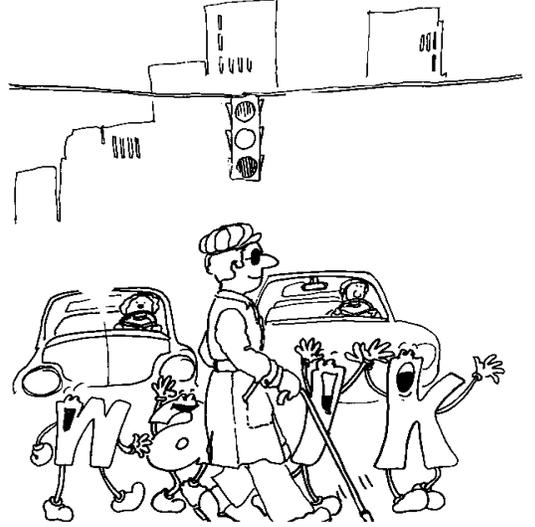
The blind person said, "Thanks!" Those cars might have hit me! Maybe you can tell me when it is safe to cross here."



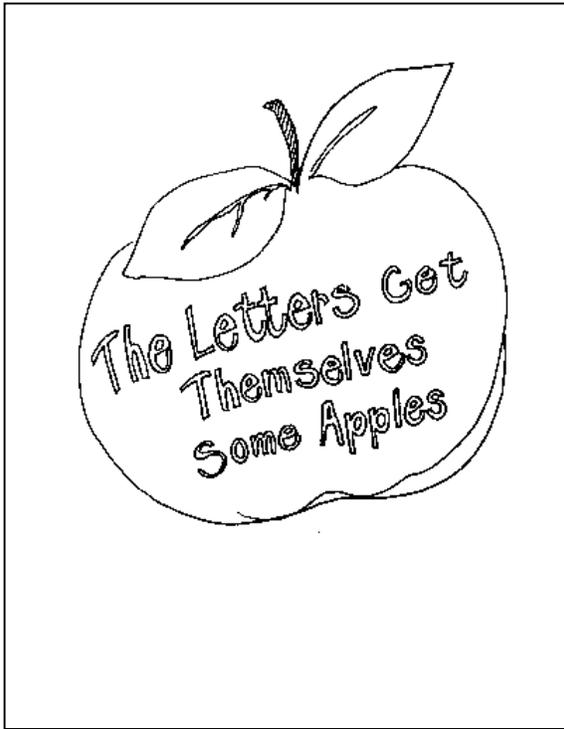
Finally, the cars stopped coming. Then w and a and l and k got together again and said, "Walk!" The blind person started walking across the street.



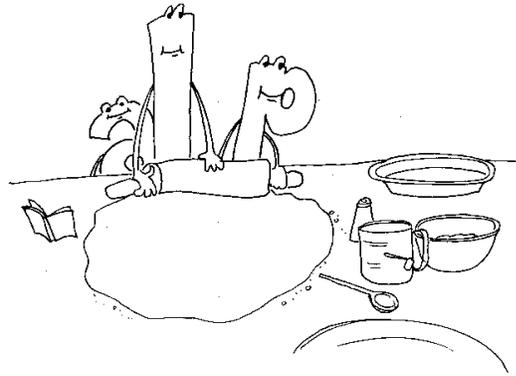
They all got to the other side safely. The blind person said, "Thank you, you really helped me! I can make it fine from here on." The letters felt good that they had been able to help him.



The Letter Stories



The letters wanted to make themselves a big apple pie. Some of them got the crust of the pie ready.



Other letters went out to get the apples, but when they got to their apple tree, they saw a bunch of squirrels in the tree, eating up all the apples.



The squirrels ran off. But one of them said, "Sorry, we must have eaten your apples. Don't worry about that, we'll pay you for them. You can get more at the store." And the squirrel gave them a bunch of money.

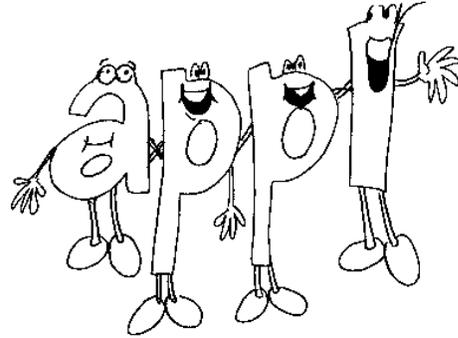


The Letters Get Themselves Some Apples

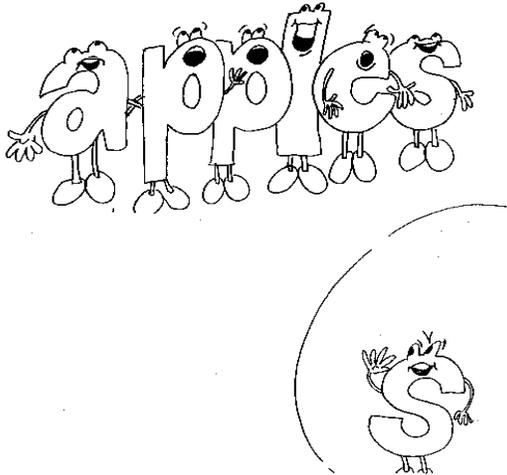
When they got to the store, a said, "We've got to tell the man we need some apples. I can say 'ă.' Who can help me say 'apples?'"



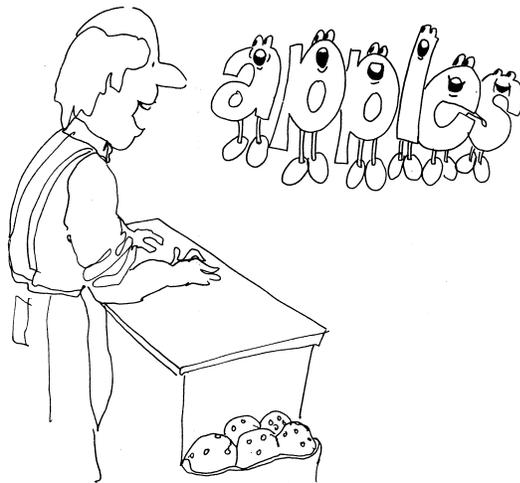
The two p's said, "We can say 'puh.'" And the l said, with e's help, "I can say 'ul.'"



The s said, "And I can say 'sss.'" So, when they all got together and said their sounds, it sounded like this: "ă puh ul ss."



The grocery man said, "ă puh ul ss. ă puh ul ss. Apples! Is that what you want, some apples?" And the letters all joined together and answered, "Apples!"

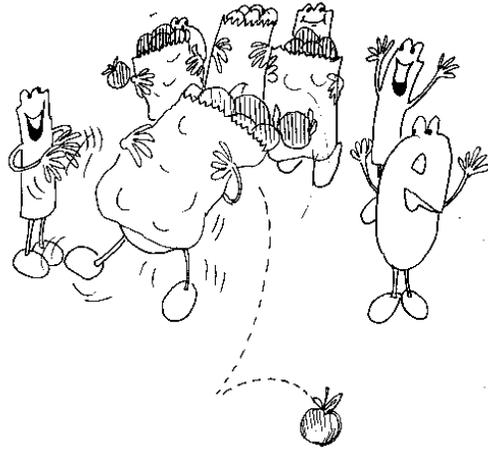


The Letter Stories

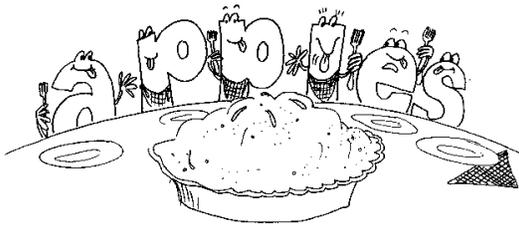
The man sold them lots of apples, and they took them home to the rest of the letters.



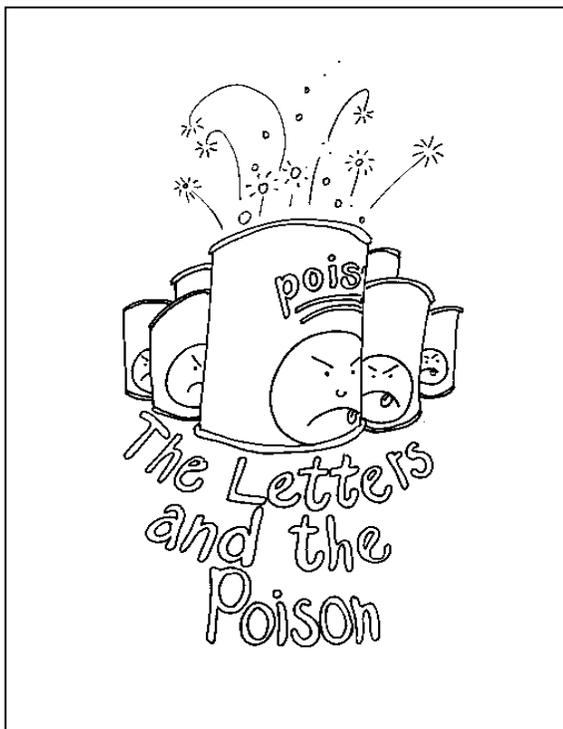
The other letters were very happy.



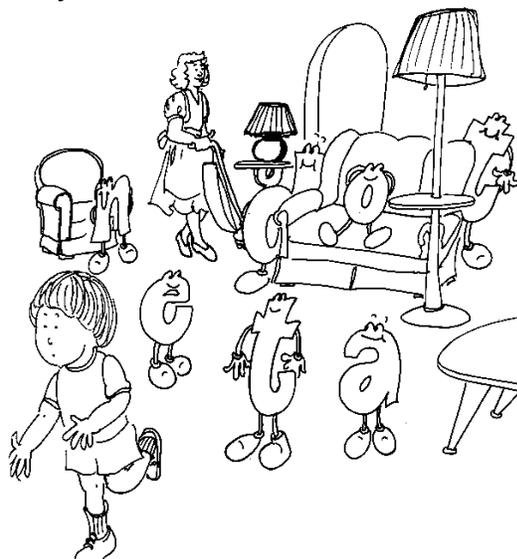
They made a giant apple pie, and they all had a good time.



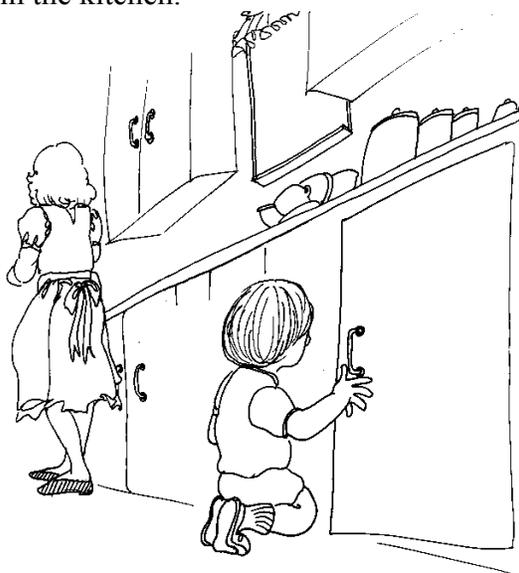
The Letters and the Poison



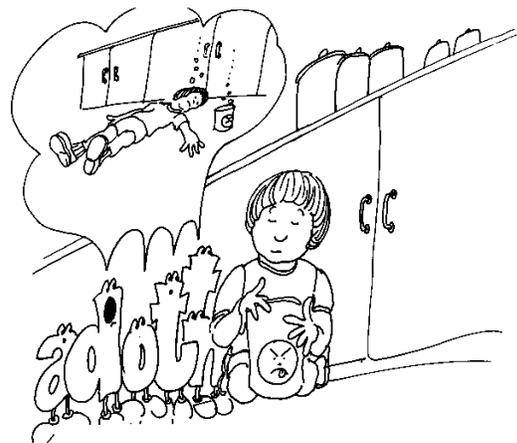
The letters were visiting in a friend's house. The friend had a little boy about two years old.



The woman was doing some work in the house. The little boy was looking around in the kitchen.



The little boy got a can of something from the cabinet. The letters could tell that it was poison! They could tell by the skull and crossbones and Mr. Yuk pictures on it. They also knew what it was. They knew that if the boy ate it, he would die.

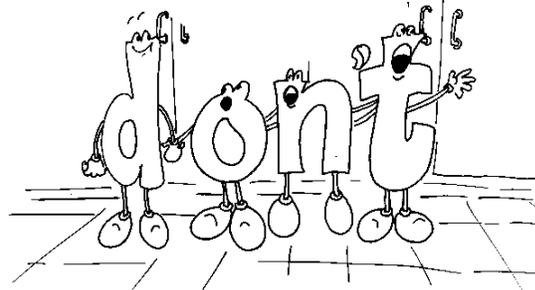


The Letter Stories

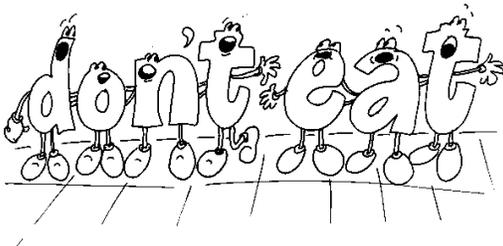
The little boy said, "I wonder if this stuff is good to eat." His mother didn't hear him, but the letters did. The letter d said, "We need to tell him not to eat that. I'll say 'duh.'"



The o said, "I'll say 'oh.' The n said, "I'll say 'nn.'" The t said, "I'll say 'tuh.'"



The e and the a said, "Together, we can say 'ee.'" And another t said, "I'll say 'tuh' again." When they all said their sounds, it sounded like this: "duh oh nnn tuh ee tuh."



The little boy was figuring out how to get the top off the can. The letters all got together and said, "Don't eat!"



The Letters and the Poison

The little boy put the can down. The mother came running over and snatched up the can.



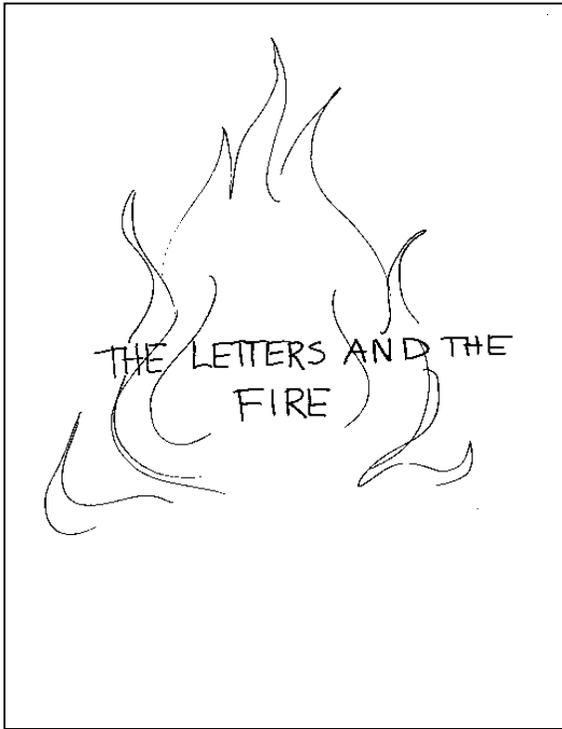
The mother said to the letters, "Thank you, letters, so much! If he had eaten this stuff, it would have killed him!"



The mother said, "I shouldn't even have this stuff out. I should lock this stuff up." And she locked it in a high cabinet. The letters were glad that they had saved the little boy from getting into the poison.



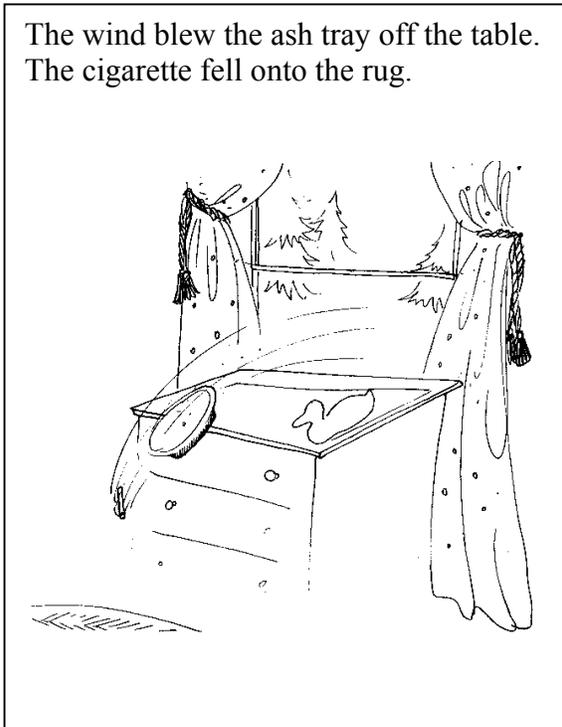
The Letter Stories



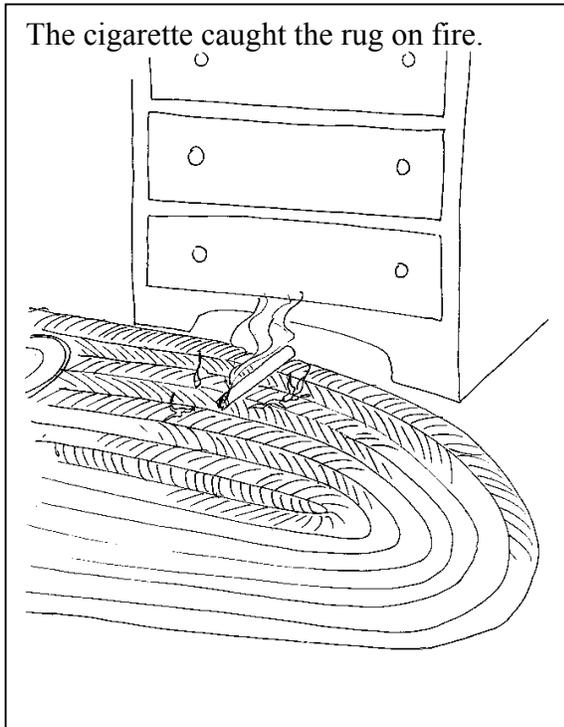
Someone had left a burning cigarette in an ash tray.



The wind blew the ash tray off the table.
The cigarette fell onto the rug.

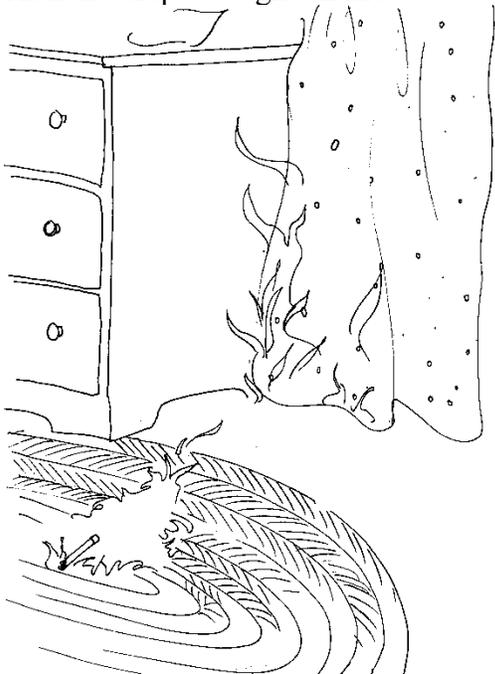


The cigarette caught the rug on fire.



The Letters and the Fire

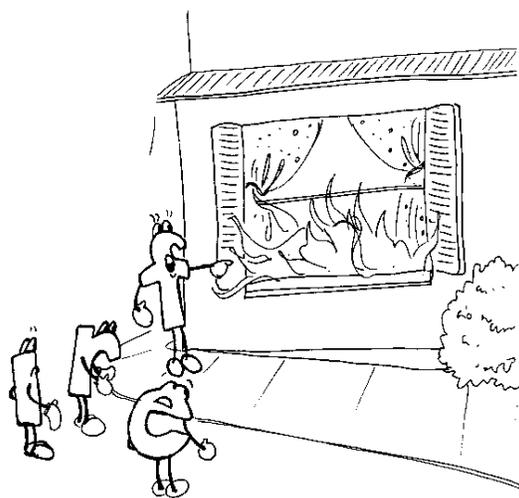
Then the drapes caught on fire.



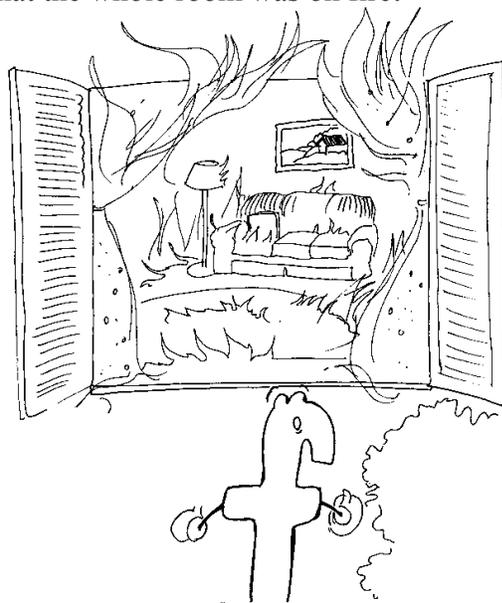
A mother and her baby lived in the house. They were upstairs asleep. They didn't know about the fire downstairs.



The letters were walking outside. f said, "Look, there's a lot of smoke coming from that house!"

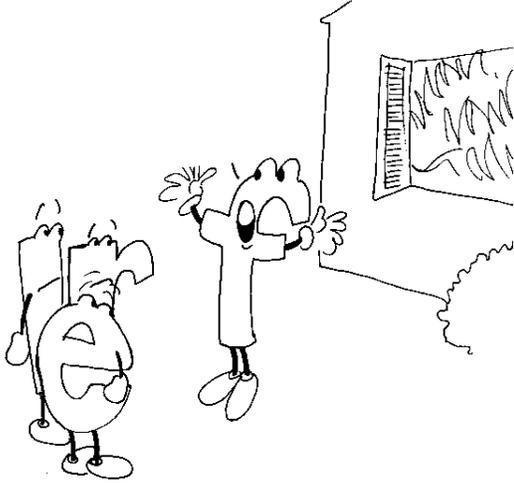


They looked in the window, and saw that the whole room was on fire!

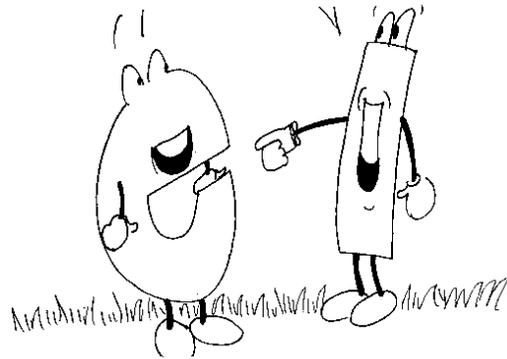


The Letter Stories

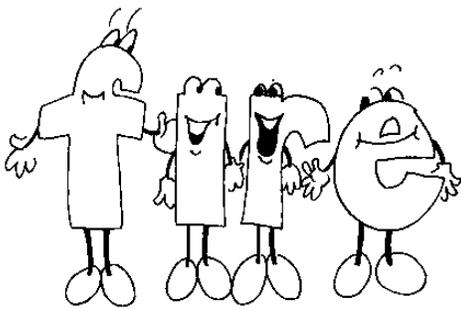
f said, "There may be people in there!
We've got to warn them! I can say 'fff.'
Who can help me?"



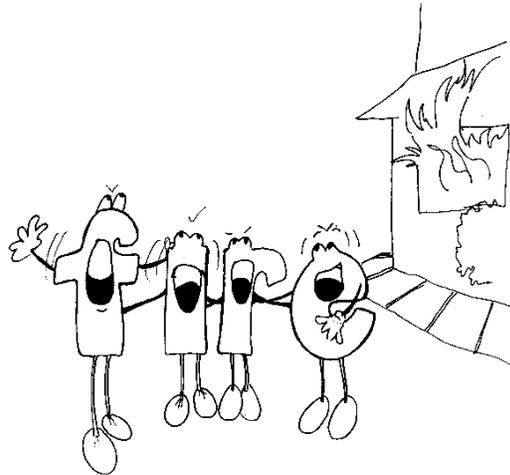
i said, "If e will help me by getting on
the end, I can say 'i'."



r said, "I can say 'rrr.'" So when they all
said their sounds, it sounded like this:
"fff i rrr."



Then they all joined together and yelled,
"Fire! Fire!"



The Letters and the Fire

The woman heard them yelling and woke up. She saw that the house was on fire and that she couldn't go downstairs.



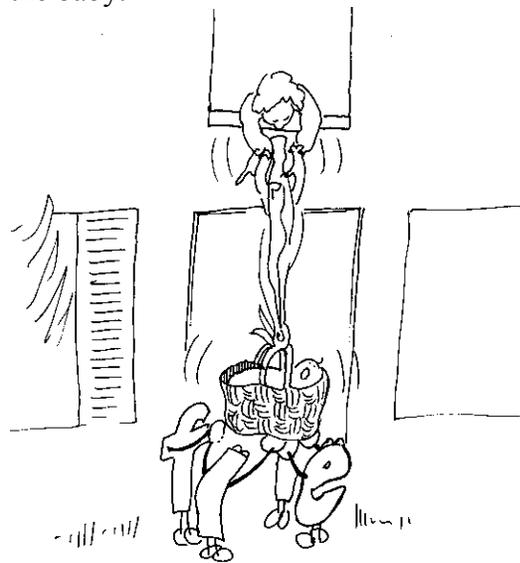
A neighbor heard the letters yelling "Fire!" The neighbor called the fire department.



The woman got an idea about how to save her baby. She wrapped the baby firmly in a big basket.

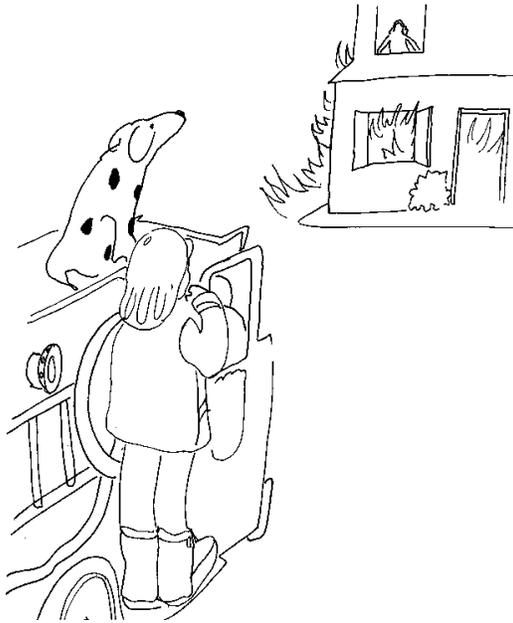


Then the mother tied the basket to a sheet and lowered the baby from the window. The letters took the basket and the baby.

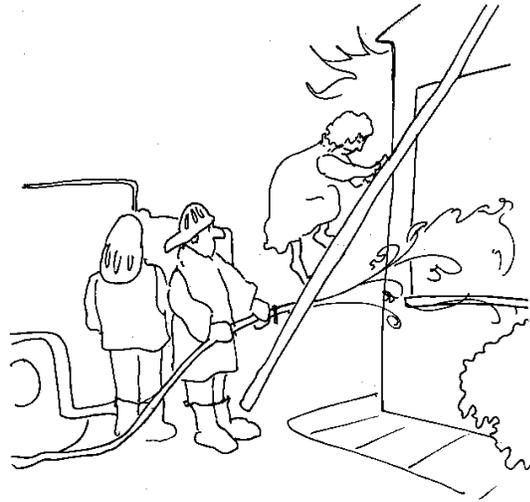


The Letter Stories

Just at that moment, the fire truck got there.



The firefighters put up a ladder. The woman climbed down it.



The woman and her baby were safe! Now the firefighters shot water onto the burning house.



The firefighters put out the fire. The woman thanked her neighbor and the firefighters and the letters. She said, "You saved our lives! Thank you!"



The Letters and the Fire

The letters felt good that they had been able to help.



The Letter Stories

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