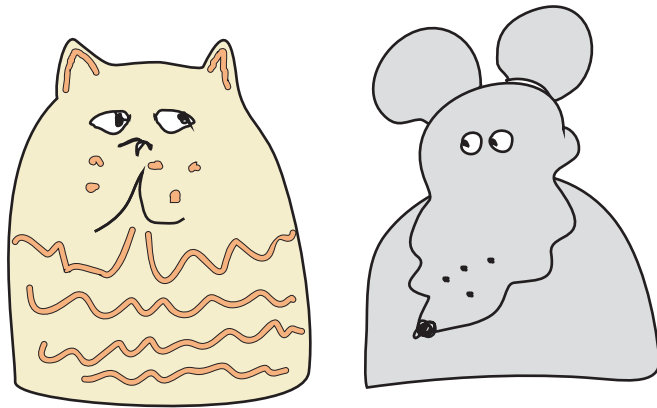


# Book One

Short vowel  
**a**



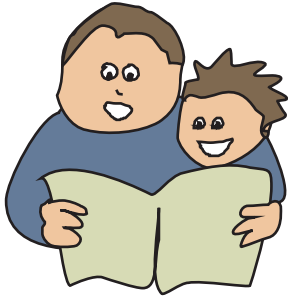
Written and illustrated by

Miz Katz N. Ratz

A Progressive Phonics™ book

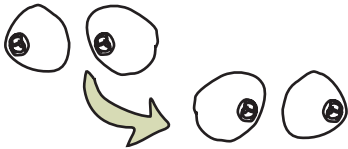
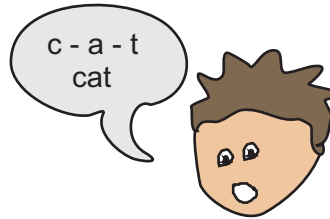
Copyright (c) 2004, 2005 by Miz Katz N. Ratz. Patent pending

## Quick Start Guide



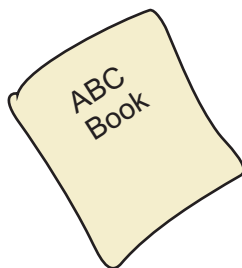
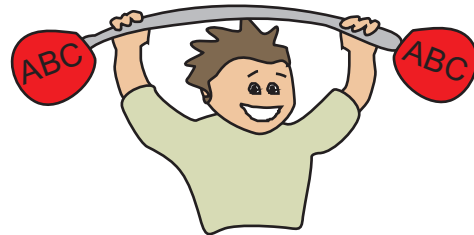
Read the book WITH your child. You read the “regular” text, and he/she reads the big, red words, sort of like reading the different parts in a play.

Help your child sound out the words as needed.



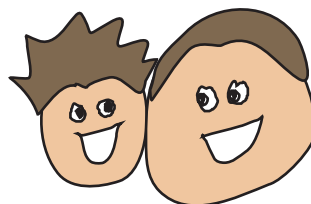
Read the book several times. This helps develop the eye muscles and left-to-right reading patterns that are necessary for reading.

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



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

And most important of all, HAVE FUN!



## Short vowel "a" contents

at bat cat fat hat mat pat rat sat

I am looking at my little cat

I want to buy a baseball bat

Do not throw a ball at me

You tell me I can pat your rat

My cat so very big and fat

Pat mud pies with a baseball bat

bad dad had mad sad

When I was a baby

My mother said I had to be quiet

My sister says my manners are bad

I am mad at my dog

My cat is very sad today

My dad says he had a lot of hair

cab dab gab

A little dab of green

I like to ride in a taxi cab

bag gag wag

I do not want to eat this stuff

I gag when I eat tomatoes

I've got a bag of candy

am ham jam Pam Sam yam

I am Sam

My name is Pam

an can Dan man pan ran van

My brother, Dan  
A man ran down the road

cap lap map nap rap tap yap

This map shows where the treasure is buried  
I always wear my favorite baseball cap

has as

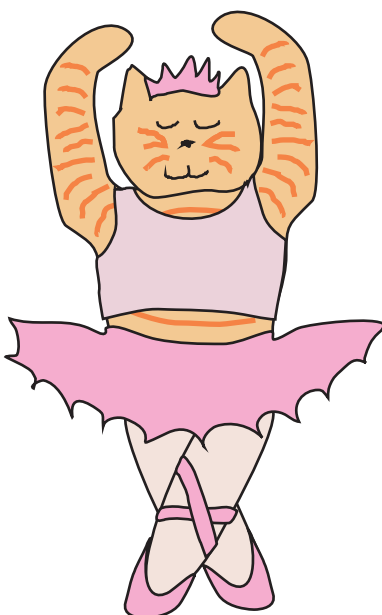
My brother has a lot of toys  
My cat has eyes  
Johnny has to wash his face  
My cat is as big as a dog

a an

The word "a"  
I like to play a silly game  
I wish I had a puppy  
The word "an"  
I saw an alligator eat an apple  
I had an idea

mix it up

I am an ugly toad  
I can run as fast as your feet  
I sat down to take a nap  
Put the ham in the pan  
I am mad at my cat  
A little cat was taking a nap



I am looking **at** my little **cat** –  
she is not the **cat** behind the tree;  
she is not the **cat**  
with the cup of tea.

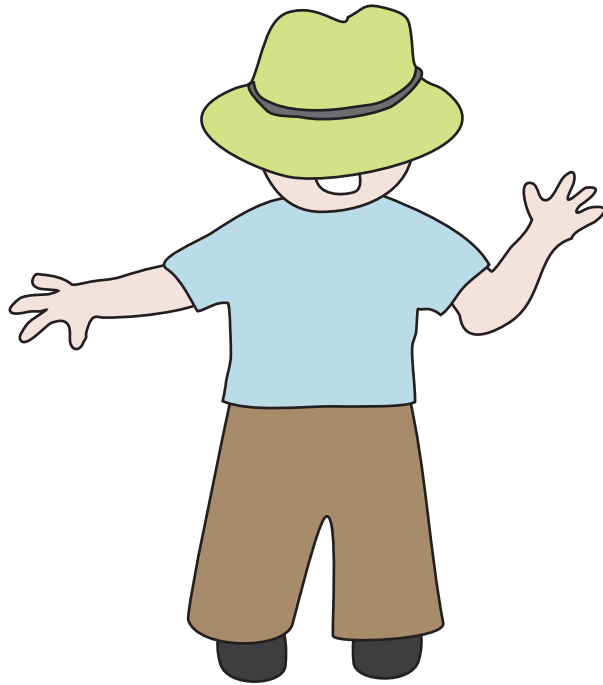
I am looking **at** my little **cat** –  
my **cat** is covered in orange stripes,  
and my **cat** is wearing ballet tights.



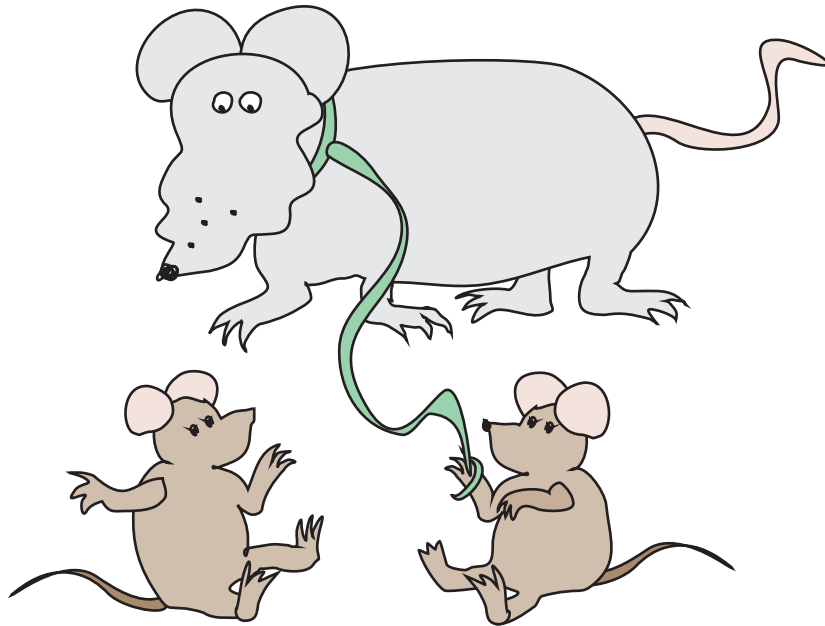
I want to buy a baseball **hat**.

I want to buy a baseball **bat**.

I need a **bat** so I can play  
baseball, baseball every day.



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

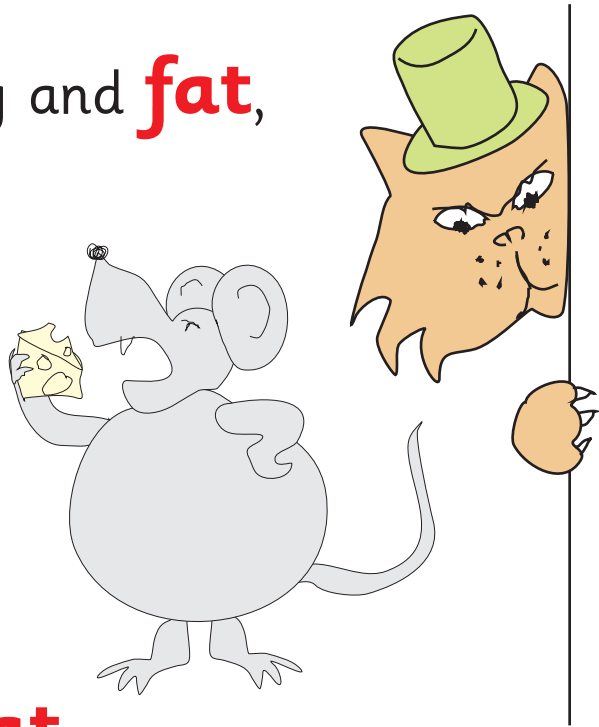


You ask if I want to **pat** your **rat**,  
but I don't want to **pat** your **rat**.  
I'm sure your **rat** is very nice,  
but he's a **rat** and we are mice



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

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



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



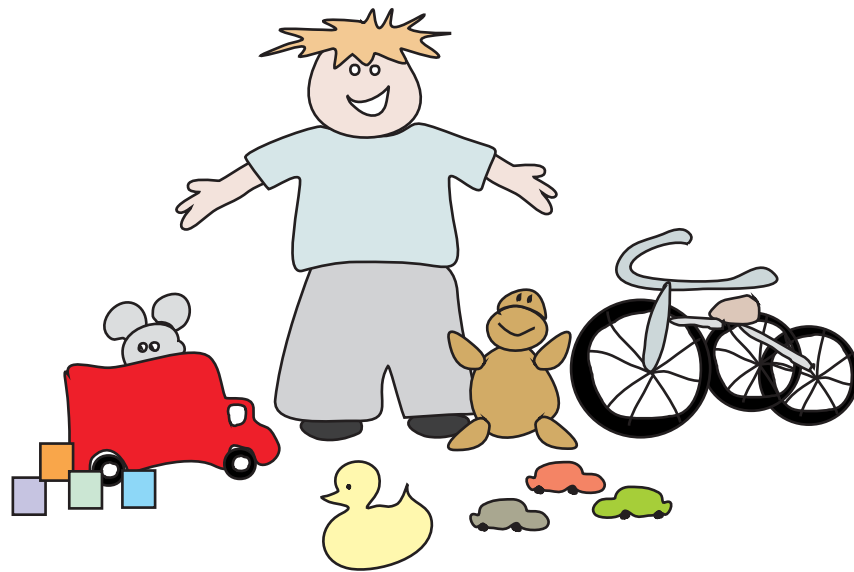
**Pat** mud pies with a baseball **bat** –

**pat** until they're nice and flat.

**Pat, pat, pat**

with the **bat, bat, bat** –

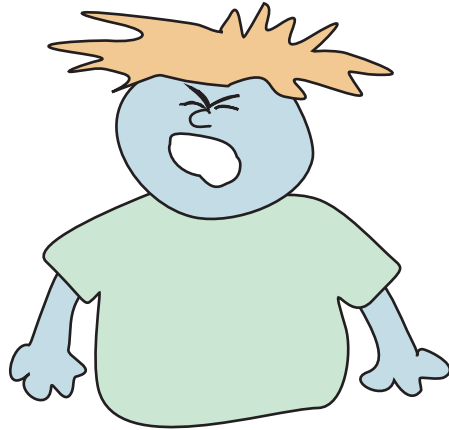
**pat** until they're nice and flat



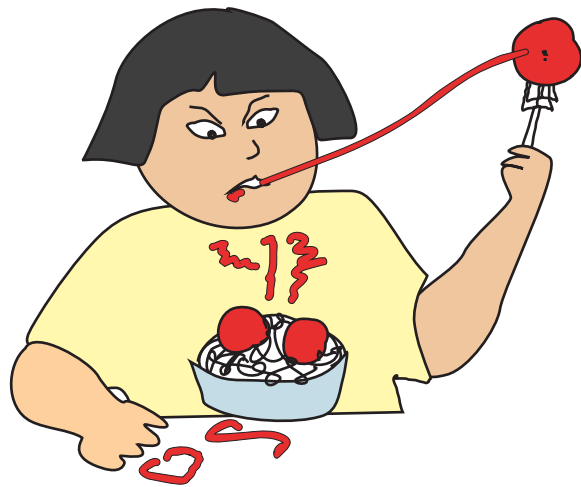
When I was a baby,  
I **had** a yellow duck.

When I was two,  
I **had** a red truck.

When I was three  
I **had** a chimpanzee –  
and now that I'm four,  
I have a lot more.



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



My sister says my manners are **bad**.

She says it all the time –

it's **bad** to spit, it's **bad** to burp,

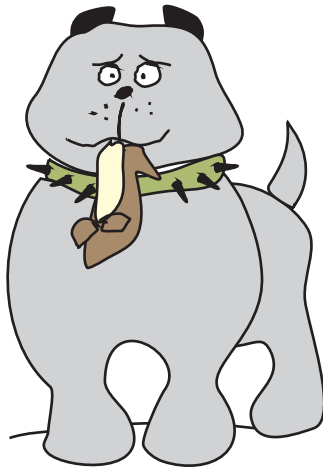
it's **bad** to run when you're inside.

But then she said I **had** no manners,

which really made me **mad** –

if I have no manners,

then how can they be **bad**?

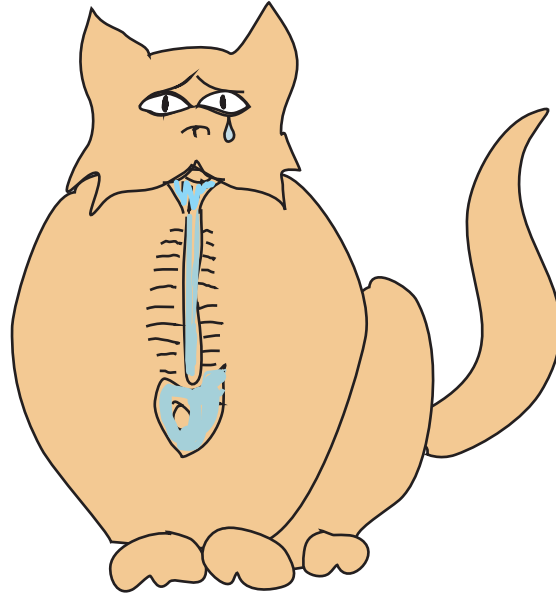


I am **mad** at my dog.

My dog is **bad**.

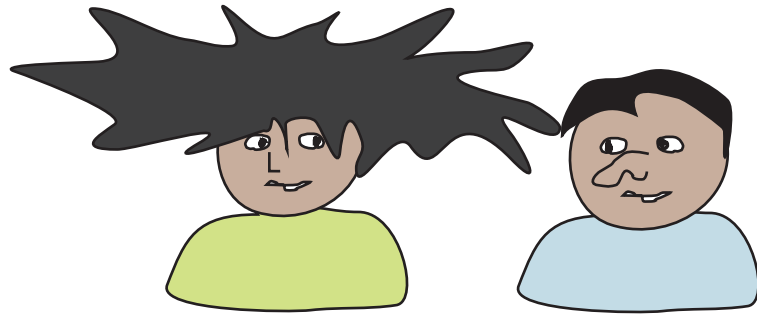
I **had** some shoes –

now they're doggie chews.



My cat is very **sad** today –  
she is very, very **sad**.

She is **sad** because  
our fish is gone,  
and she found his bones  
out on the lawn.



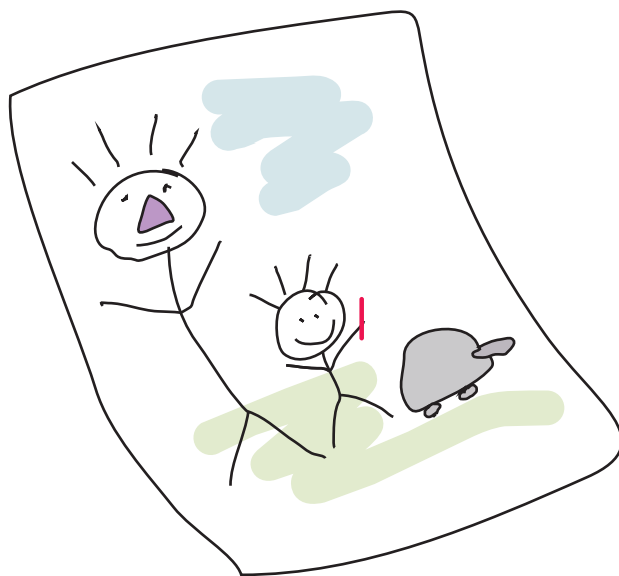
My **dad** says he **had** a lot of hair  
when he was really young.

He says he **had** a nose so funny –  
he also **had** a lot more money.

But then my **dad had** kids,  
and it's really rather **sad**.

I got the hair, Jim's nose is funny –  
but we want to know,  
who got the money?





A little **dab** of green,  
a little **dab** of blue –  
I am making a picture  
of me and you.

A little **dab** of grey –  
I think that's a turtle.

A little **dab** of red –  
and your nose is purple.



I like to ride in a taxi **cab**.

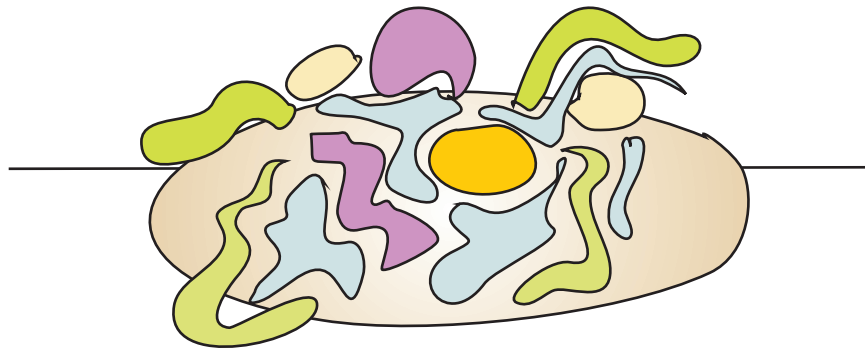
I like it when the driver  
likes to **gab**.

When I grow up,

I will drive my own **cab** –

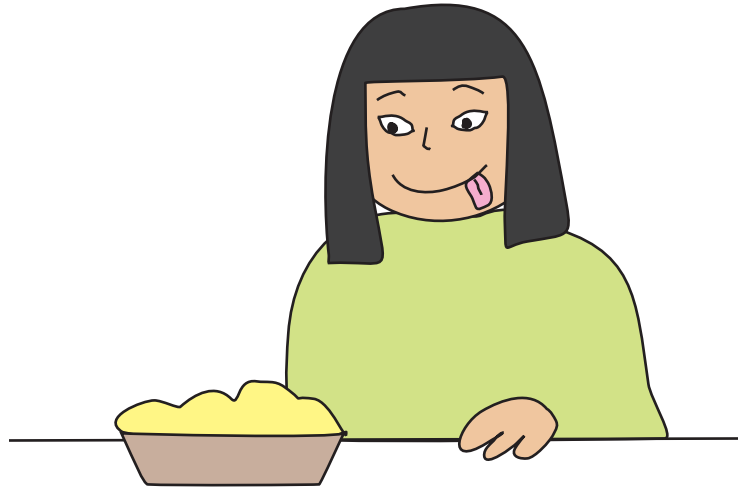
I will talk as I drive,

I will **gab, gab, gab**



I do not want to eat this stuff –  
it makes me want to **gag**  
and throw it up.

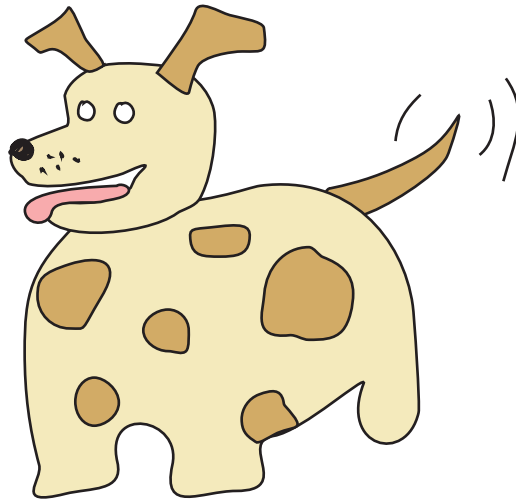
Let's put it in a garbage **bag** –  
if I don't see it, I won't **gag**.



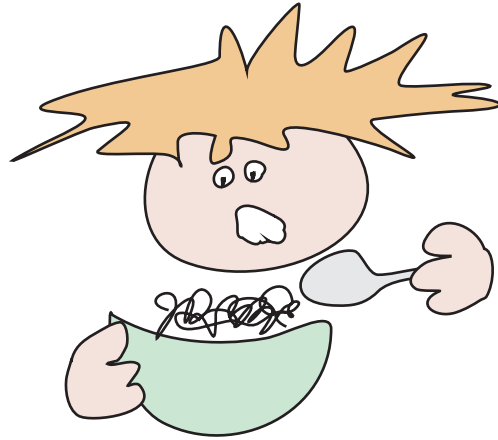
I **gag** when I eat tomatoes.

I **gag** when I eat French fries.

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



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



I **am** Sam.

I **am** five years old.

I **am** very, very glad

that I **am** eating from this bowl.

After I have eaten,

I **am** going to brush my teeth.

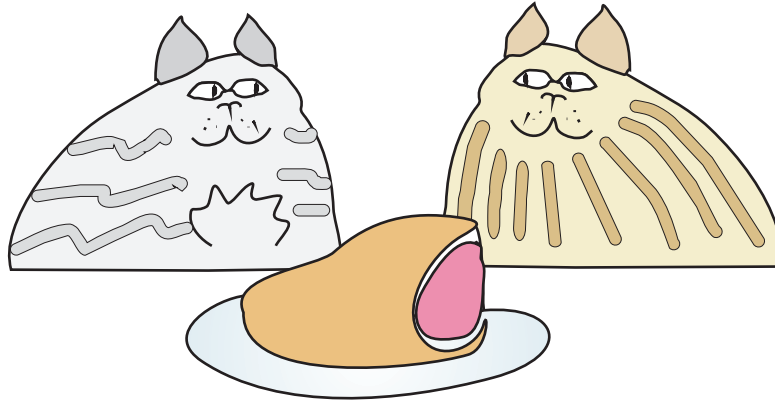
But now,

I **am** much too hungry

to do anything but eat.

**Pam**

**Sam**



My name is **Pam**. I **am** a cat.

I **am** glad I **am** so nice and fat.

I have a friend, his name is **Sam**,  
he eats a lot of honey **ham**.

**Sam** likes to share his **ham** with me.

He says, “**Pam**, have some **ham** –  
it is so yummy”



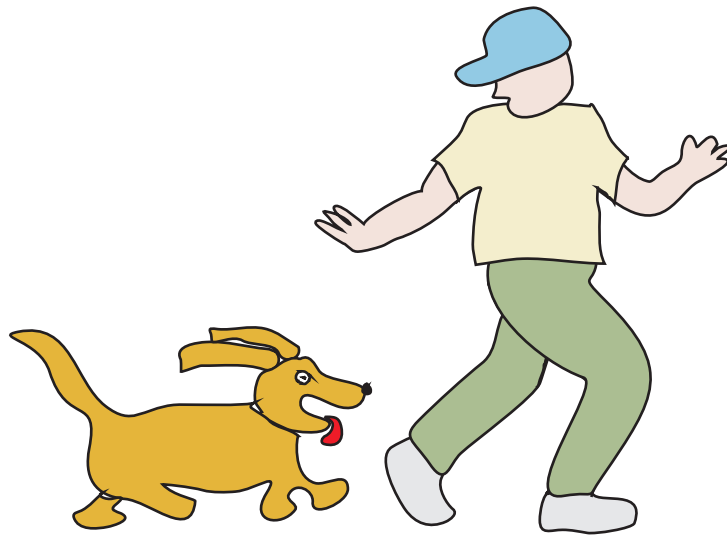
My brother, **Dan**,  
**can** read this book.

I **can** too –  
**Dan** let me look.

**Dan** and I  
**can** read very well.

**Dan can** also  
write and spell.





A **man ran** down the road.

A dog **ran** too, but **man** said, “No.”

The **man ran** as fast as he could.

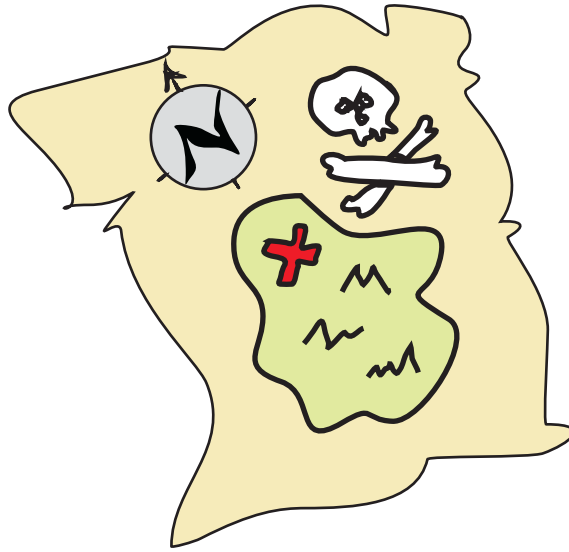
The dog **ran** faster – boy, he was good.

“Go away,” said the **man**

as he **ran** out of breath.

But the dog didn’t listen –

the dog was deaf.



This **map** shows where treasure is buried.

I got the **map** from someone scary.

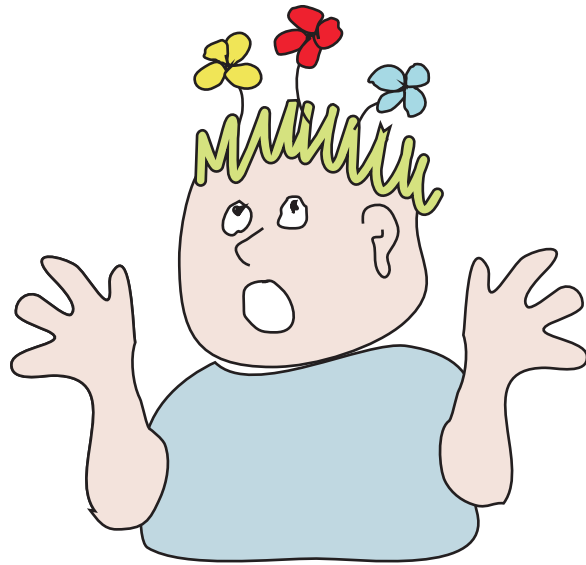
I asked my mom to help me with the **map** –  
she said it was time to take my **nap**.

It's hard to be a pirate when you're only three.

It's hard to use a **map** when you can't even read.

It's hard to take a **nap** when you're never sleepy.

I don't know what to do – being me isn't easy.



I always wear my favorite baseball **cap**.

I never take it off, not even for a **nap**.

One day the wind blew off my **cap** –

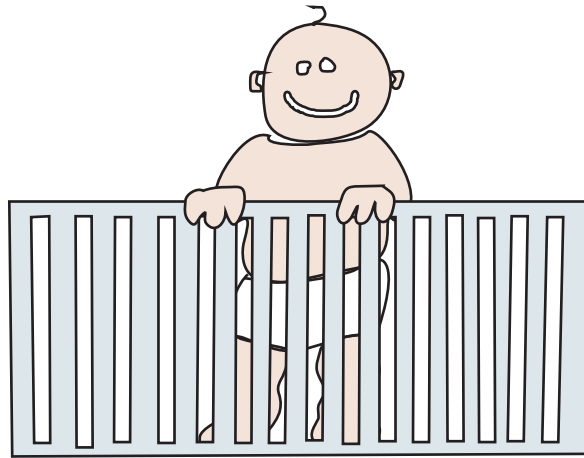
I did not know, I was taking a **nap**.

When I went outside, my friends all screamed.

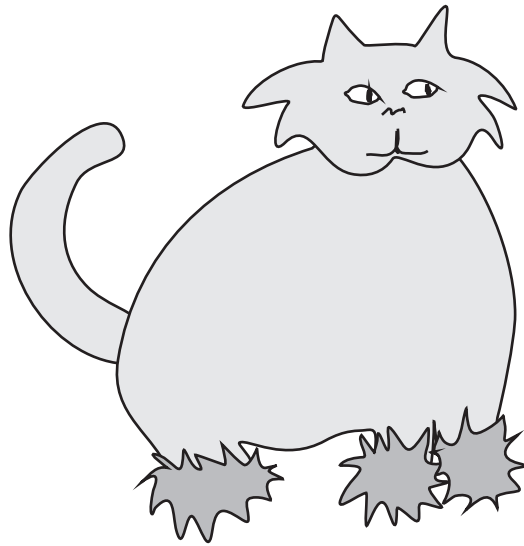
They were really scared, or so it seemed.

“Put your **cap** back on,” they begged for hours –  
where the **cap** once was I was growing flowers.

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



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



My cat **has** eyes.

My cat **has** teeth.

My cat **has** a name –

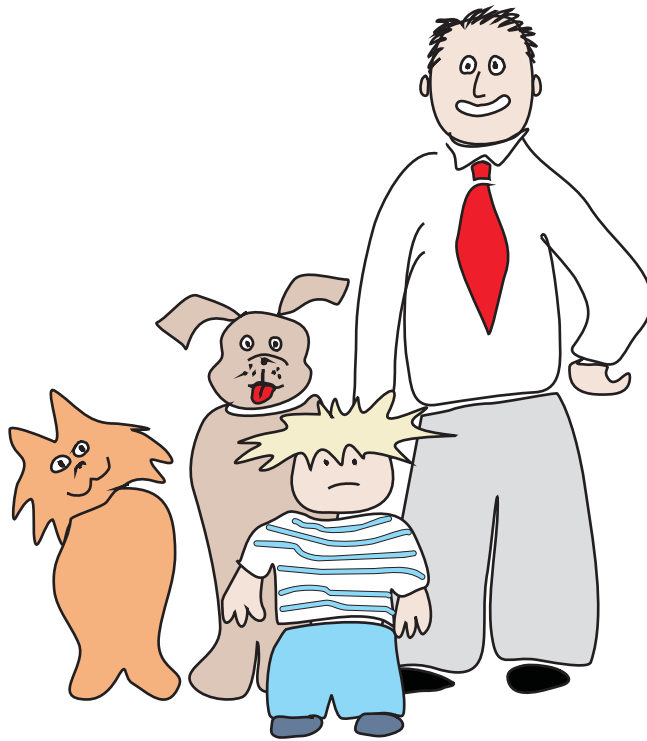
Miss Furry Feet.



Johnny **has** to wash his face.

Johnny **has** to brush his teeth.

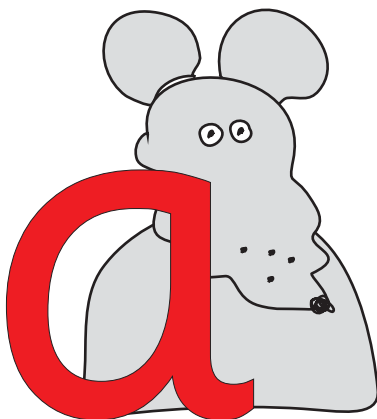
Johnny **has** to go to say goodnight,  
and Johnny **has** to go to sleep.



My cat is **as** big **as** a dog.

My dog is **as** big **as** a wall.

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



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

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

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

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

You try...

**A man**

**a cat**

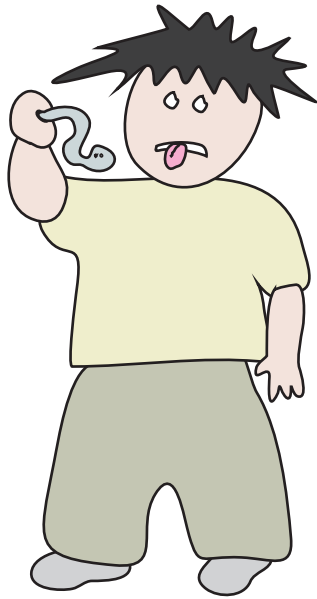
**A cap**

**a rat**

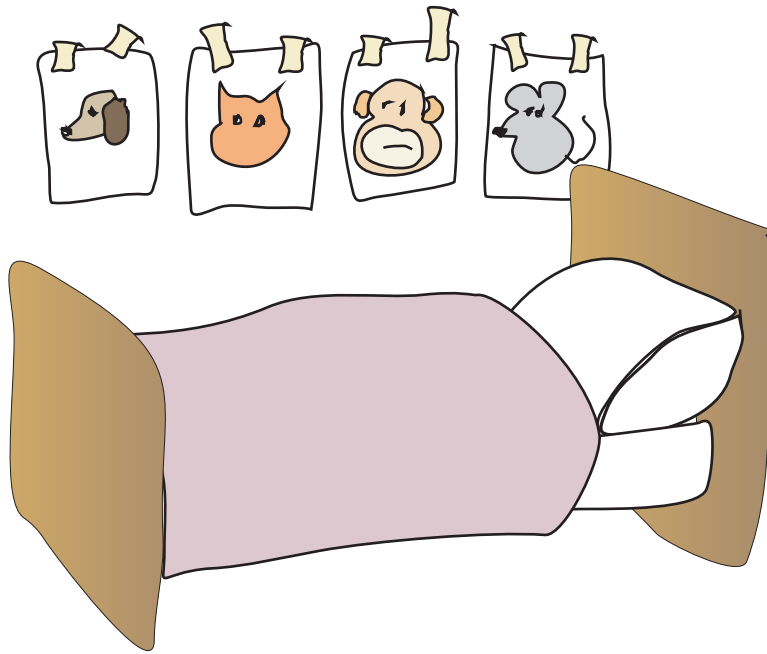
**A pan**

**a bat**





I like to play **a** silly game –  
the game is so silly  
it doesn't have **a** name.  
You climb **a** tree,  
you pretend you're **a** bird,  
you eat **a** lot of worms  
that you dig from the dirt.  
Just kidding!



I wish I had **a** puppy.

I wish I had **a cat**.

I wish I had **a** monkey.

I wish I had **a rat**.

But where would I keep them?

My room is very small.

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



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

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

**an** airplane      **an** alligator      **an** animal

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

**an** egg

**an** elevator

**an** elbow

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

wrong

right

**a** animal

**an** animal

**a** elephant

**an** elephant

**a** idea

**an** idea

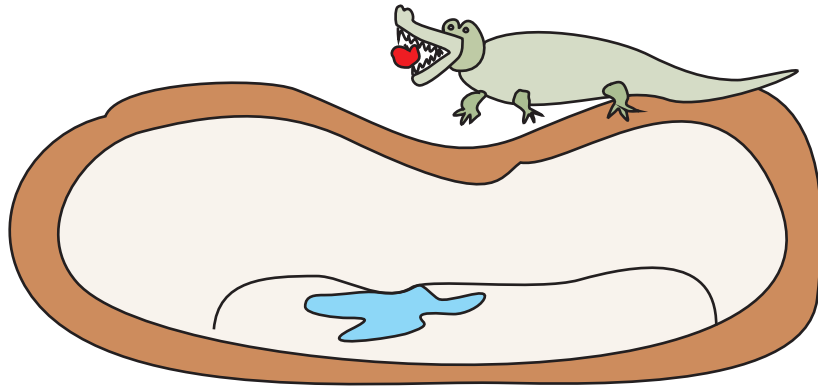
**a** orange

**an** orange

**a** umbrella

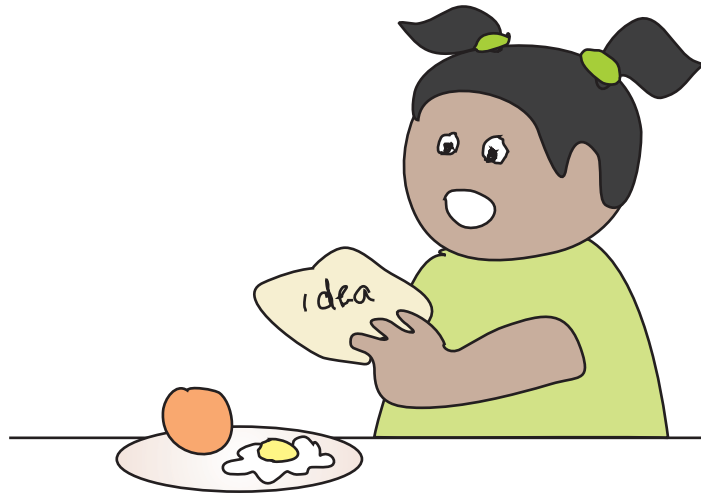
**an** umbrella

Let's practice...



I saw **an** alligator eat **an** apple  
as he sat by **an** empty pool.

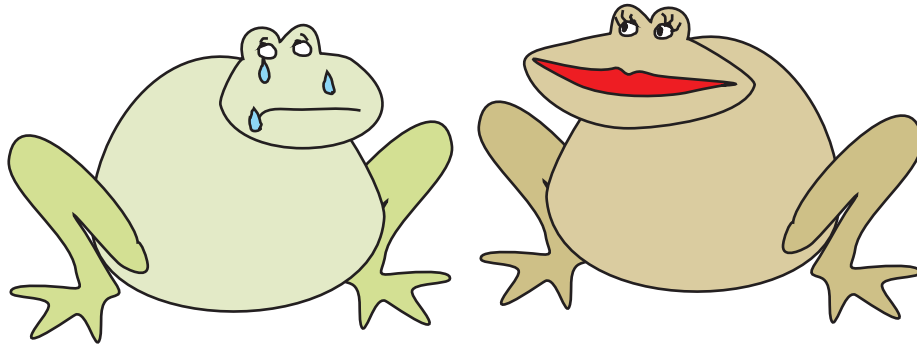
The alligator laughed and didn't jump in –  
he needs **an** awful lot of water to swim.



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

# Mix it up

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



“I **am an** ugly toad,”  
said the toad to his wife.

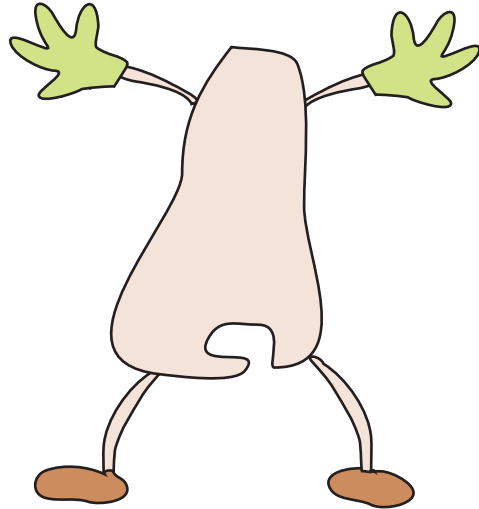
“I **am an** ugly, ugly toad.”

His wife gave **a** smile

**as** wide **as a** mile –

“You’re not ugly **at** all,  
you’re snuggly!”





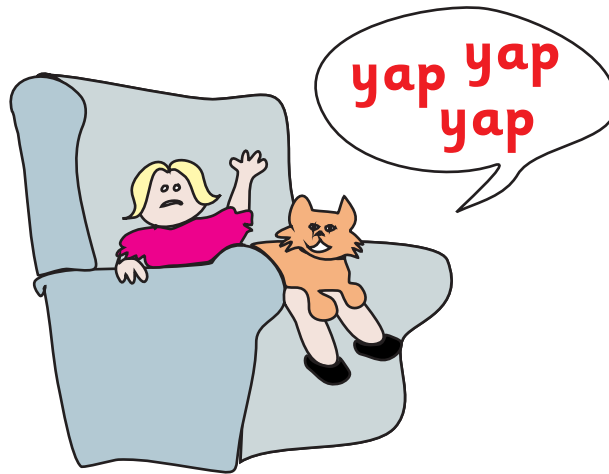
I **can** run **as** fast  
**as** your little feet.

I have two little holes  
so that you **can** breathe.

I **can** smell **as** good  
**as** your little toes –

**Can** you guess what I **am**?

I **am** your nose!



I **sat** down to take **a nap**.

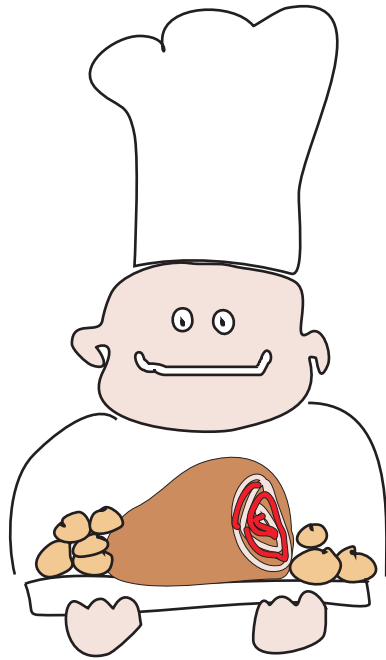
I **had** my **cat** and  
my teddy bear in my **lap**.

I took off my **hat** and closed my eyes –  
then the **cat** began to **yap**,  
oh, big surprise.

I told my **cat** he **had** to be quiet.

He talked, **yap, yap**,  
about the food in his diet.

I told my **cat** he **had** to stop the **yap**,  
so he closed his mouth and took his **nap**.



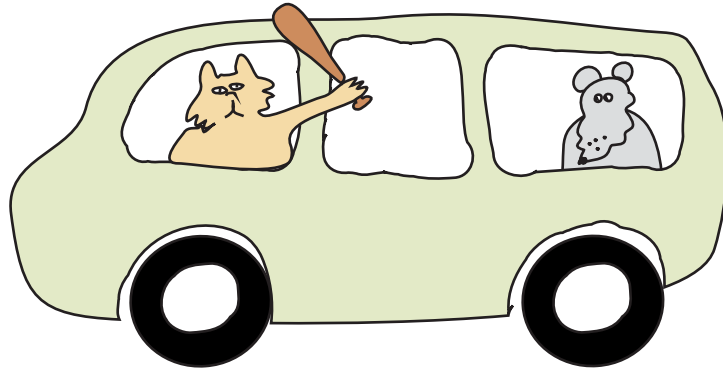
Put the **ham** in the **pan**  
with some of that **yam**.

Add **a** little **pat** of butter,

**a** little **pat** of **jam** –

**Am** I **a** good cook?

Oh, yes I **am** !



I **am mad at** my **cat**.

I **am mad at** my **rat**.

They **ran** away with my baseball **bat**.

They were told to take **a nap**,

but instead they took the **van** –

they took **a can** of peas, and

they took **a can** of **ham**.

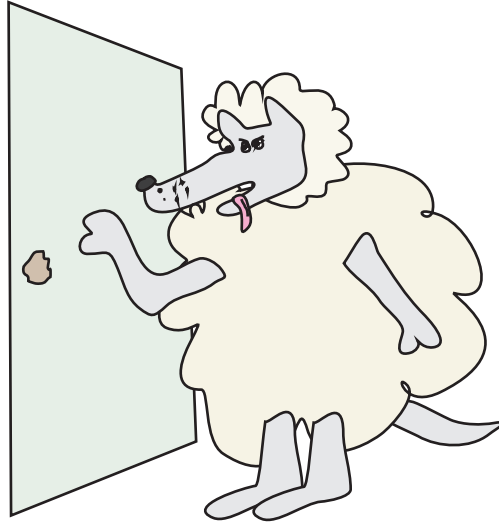
So if you see **a cat** and **a** big, **fat rat**,

driving in **a van** with **a** baseball **bat**,

tell them, please, to hurry back –

or I'll have to tell my **dad**

that they've been **bad**.



**A** little **cat** was taking **a nap**  
when someone **at** the door  
went **rap, tap, tap**.

“Who’s there?” said the **cat**,  
still half asleep.

“**A** big, **bad** wolf  
dressed up **as a** sheep.”

“Go away,” said the **cat**,  
“I **am** taking **a nap**.”

But still the wolf went **rap, tap, tap**.



“Go away,” said the **cat**,

“I **am** in the shower.”

But the wolf went **rap, tap,**  
**tap** for **an** hour.

Finally the **cat** dialed 911 –

“There’s **a** wolf **at** my door,  
and it isn’t any fun.”

When the police showed up,

no wolf was there –

just the **cat** and his **nap**,  
snoring on a stair.

# The end

## Don't forget!

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

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

# NEXT



Book 2: Short Vowel E

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

## A progressive phonics book

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