GRAMMAR COP

Super-fun Reproducible Pages That Give Kids Practice in Parts of Speech, Capitalization, Punctuation, and More!

by the staff of Storyworks® magazine
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## Introduction

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Grammar Cop has been one of Scholastic Storyworks magazine’s most popular features over the years—and now, we’ve compiled the best of these super-fun grammar activity pages all in one book!

Students will have a blast reading the hilarious adventures of their favorite storybook characters and correcting their mistakes all in the name of the law—grammar laws, that is. They’ll enforce the rules of grammar to help the animals in Old MacDonald’s farm learn the difference between *we* and *us*, teach Mary’s little rooster (not lamb) which verb tense to use, correct the Frog Prince’s spelling in his letter of apology to the witch, and much more!

Inside, you’ll find 40 reproducible activity pages that give students practice in parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation, contractions, spelling, and usage. You can make an overhead transparency of each activity page and work on it together as a whole class. Or you can distribute copies for students to take home as homework or to work on when they’re waiting for the rest of the class to finish their work. These activity pages are perfect for reviewing grammar skills that you’ve already taught or to assess how much students have learned.

Enjoy!
Dear Principal Billsley,

It’s very unusual for my company to receive a letter like the one you sent. We’ve never built a roller coaster in a school’s backyard before. We’re thrilled for the opportunity!

The Super-Riders Construction Team has taken a look at the plans you included with your letter. It’s a shame you used a crayon. The ideas you drew on the school picture were hard to read. But we liked what we saw. As you wrote, the second loop will require demolishing the school cook’s cafeteria. I hope she won’t mind.

Of course, every good roller coaster needs an exciting name. I’m not sure your suggestion, the “Kara Has Cooties Coaster,” is appropriate. What about the “Multiplication Shocker” or the “Research Report Terror”? That’s sure to get the kids excited.

One more thing: just between us, you should work on your spelling. And your signature looks like a kid wrote it!

I think this will certainly help Pickens Elementary with the three R’s of a great education: reading, writing … and rides! If you ever think about expanding, let us know. We build great water parks.

Sincerely,

Tim Showtime, manager
Nouns

The Case of Rapunzel’s Long Hair

Rapunzel desperately needs to get her hair done for the ball. Can she find someone to help her?

Directions: Underline all the nouns in the letter below. Then go back and circle the proper nouns.

Dear Hair Innovations,

I need someone to do my hair for the Ro yal Ball! I’ve tried everyone else. The hairdresser at Cute Clips fainted when he saw me. The shampoo boys at Fine Styles quit their jobs as soon as I walked in the door. Please, you must help.

You’ve probably heard of me. My name is Rapunzel. When I was young, a wicked witch named Wanda kidnapped me and put me in a huge, tall to wer. There were no stairs, so she made me grow my hair really long so that she could use it as a ladder. And let me tell you, ever since, my hair has been impossible to manage.

The witch simply doesn’t care how my long, golden locks look. She’s very cheap. Doesn’t she realize that with 100 feet of hair I need more than just one bottle of F airytale Shampoo a week? I don’t think she expected this extra expense when she put me up in this room.

I have another problem. My date to the ball, Prince Charming, has been secretly climbing up my hair too. Sometimes he forgets to take off his boots. And even worse, he sometimes doesn’t wipe his feet! Gross! Some boys just don’t understand women.

Please say you can help. I need the latest style, and I have to wear my hair up off my shoulders. Otherwise I’m sure King Phillip and the other dancers will get tangled in it. That could be painful.

Sincerely,

Rapunzel
Pronouns

The Case of Jack and Jill

Jill wants to explain what really happened when she and Jack went up the hill. But she doesn’t understand the difference between he and him. Can you help her?

Directions: The word he or him belongs in each of the spaces below. Choose the correct word and write it in.

It was all Jack’s fault. I didn’t even want to go with ________ up that hill. Everyone knows that ________ is a troublemaker. ________ is always teasing Mary about her lamb. But ________ begged me to go with _________. Frankly, I think ________ has a crush on me. _________ and I went up the hill. At first we were having a fine time chatting about basketball, my favorite sport. It was after the pail was full of water that _________ and I got into trouble. _________ started flicking me with water. I asked _________ to stop, but _________ kept flicking away. _________ is very immature. I reached over and tried to grab the pail from _________. _________ got mad and jerked his arm away.

The water spilled all over _________ and me, and we started to fall. Suddenly, we were both tumbling down the hill. The pail kept hitting _________ in the head on the way down. That’s why _________ got hurt and I didn’t. Frankly, I would say _________ deserved it!

Grammar Cop’s Clues

He and him are both personal pronouns. You use both of them as a substitute for someone’s name. The key is knowing when to use he and when to use him. Here are some nifty tricks to help you get it right:

• He is the subject of a sentence or a clause. He is used at the beginning of a sentence and right before a verb. (Example: He won the dance contest. When the winner was announced, he jumped for joy.)

• Him is the object of a sentence or a clause. Him is likely to be at the end of a sentence and after a verb or a preposition. (Example: Richard called. I told him I want to take dancing lessons from him.)
The Case of the Old Woman in the Shoe

The Old Woman in the Shoe is thinking about moving to a new home, but she doesn’t know the difference between I and me. Can you help?

Directions: The word I or me belongs in each of the spaces below. Choose the correct word and write it in.

Do you know _______? _______ am the old woman who lives in a big shoe. They say I have so many children, _______ don’t know what to do. Actually, _______ know exactly what to do. I’m selling the shoe and moving! Do you want to buy a great house? Believe _______, _______ will make you a good deal.

My children and _______ have been living in this shoe for years. It was fun at first. When they were little, they all fit in the heel and _______ could keep an eye on them. When they got bigger, the girls drove _______ crazy, swinging on the laces, pretending they were Tarzan. The boys liked to bodysurf down the tongue and dive off the toe. Scared _______ to death! And _______ must say, every year it’s a tighter fit.

Next year, _______ will send six of them to college. As for _______, _______ am thinking about a simpler life. Maybe I’ll move to a little sneaker in San Francisco. Or a sandal on the beach in Florida.

Between you and _______, this house needs a little fixing up, but it has a lot of heart and sole!

Grammar Cop’s Clues

I and me are both personal pronouns. You use them as a substitute for someone’s name. Here are some nifty tricks to help you remember when to use each one:

• I is the subject of a sentence or a clause. I is used at the beginning of a sentence and right before a verb. (Example: I like to go to school. In school, I hang out with my friends and have fun.)

• Me is the object of a sentence or a clause. Me is likely to be at the end of a sentence and after a verb or a preposition. (Example: My friend asked me to help him with the homework.)
Pronouns

The Case of a Letter to Old MacDonald

The animals in Old MacDonald’s farm are quite upset. So they wrote a letter to Farmer MacDonald. Understandably, they don’t know the difference between we and us. Can you help them?

Directions: In each of the underlined word pairs, circle either we or us.

Dear Farmer MacDonald,

All these years we/us animals have lived happily on your farm, moo-mooing here and cluck-clucking there, oink-oinking here, and neigh-neighing there. It is we/us who have put this farm on the map. We/Us have put your song at the top of the nursery school charts. We/Us have made you a household name. And what has it gotten we/us? A big, fat nothing! You have not given we/us animals one dime.

We/Us animals are fed up, Mr. MacDonald. It’s time for we/us to get our fair share. Do you think we/us animals should go right along mooing and neighing and oinking and clucking for free? We/Us say, “ee-I-ee-I-No-Way!”

Our agent will be contacting you next week.

Sincerely,

Mary O’Mare, the horse
Barb Bovino, the cow
Sid Swine, the pig
Chuck Fowler, the chicken

Grammar Cop’s Clues

We and us are both personal pronouns. Read these clues to help you know when to use each one:

• We is the subject of a sentence or a clause. We is used at the beginning of a sentence and right before a verb. (Example: We had a great time at the beach this summer.)

• Us is the object of a sentence or a clause. Us is likely to be at the end of a sentence and after a verb or a preposition. (Example: Our mom took us out for dinner the other night.)
Plural Nouns

The Case of the Bumbling Cupids

Big Boss Cupid wrote this memo to America’s Cupids. But he’s confused about plurals. Can you help?

Directions: For each pair of underlined words, circle the correctly spelled plural noun.

TO: America’s Cupids
FROM: Big Boss Cupid

This Valentine’s Day, there will be 200 Cupids/Cupides flying around the skys/skies. You will be shooting your arrows/arrowes to bring love and happiness to lucky couples/couplese.

Please be careful. A few years ago, a Cupid (who shall remain nameless) accidentally shot a walrus, causing her to fall madly in love with Leonardo DiCaprio. These kinds of terrible mistakes/mistaks give all of us a bad name. Do you know how long it took to get that walrus off the set of Titanic?

We must avoid these disasters/disasteres in the future. Here are some tips/tipp s to help you.

1. Practice your landings/landinges. Avoid slippery roofs/rooves. No one likes to see a naked Cupid falling into bushes/bushs or mailboxes/mailboxs.
2. Sharpen the points/pointes of your arrows. A dull arrow is likely to bounce right off your target.
3. Wear your glasses/glassess. If you can’t see clearly, how can you be sure you’re shooting the right person? Glasses also protect you from getting flies/fly s in your eyes/eyies.

These simple rules will help make this the best holiday ever!
Dear Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and Baby Bear,

I owe you guys an apology. I didn’t mean to get my germ all over everyone’s porridge and break Baby Bear’s chair. I didn’t say to myself, “I think I’ll head to the bear’s cottage and mess up their stuff.” I had been hiking through the wood, gathering rock for my science project. I had stuffed all the rocks into my jumper pocket. When I sat down in Baby Bear’s chair, the rock weight caused me to crush the chair.

To make it up to you, I would like you to come to my family’s house for dinner. I have a new chair for Baby Bear. (I used all my baby-sitting money to pay for it.) Please let me know if you can come.

Love,

Goldilocks

P.S. I’ll be serving some of my parent’s homemade honey.

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of possessives and plurals:

• Singular possessive (‘s): Use ‘s when you want to show that something belongs to someone or something.  
(Example: That is Bozo’s clown wig.)

• Plural possessive (s’): Use s’ when something belongs to more than one person.  
(Example: Those are the clowns’ wigs.)

• Plural noun (s): Use a plain s when you simply want to show that there is more than one of something.  
(Example: There are lots of clowns in town. They are all wearing wigs.)
Verbs

The Case of Mary Had a Little Rooster

It seems that Mary didn’t just have a little lamb. She had a rooster as well. And he’s mad! He wants to tell us why he’s so angry, but he doesn’t know how to use verbs correctly. Can you help him?

Directions: Circle the correct verb from each underlined pair.

Mary had a little rooster
With a very clever mind.
And everywhere that Mary went
The rooster was left behind.

I bet you’ve never heard/hearing that verse before. Do you know why? It’s because that silly lamb gets/get all the attention. Maybe if I had “fleece as white as snow” then everyone would sing/sang about me. But I am/is just a plain rooster with a flabby red wattle. I guess Mary thinks/thinking white and fluffy is better than red and flabby. I guess she likes/liking a whiny little “baahhhhh” more than a bold “cock-a-doodle-doo.” Maybe she’s never heard/hearing the words “lamb chop”!

You think I didn’t try/tried to follow her to school one day? I tried/try all right. And you know what that little lamb do/did? He tripped me so I fell/fall down the hill that gave Jack and Jill their problems. By the time I got to school, that lamb was there. He got sent/send to the principal’s office. I bet they were afraid that lamb would give/giving everyone lice.

I’ve never heard/hearing of a rooster with lice, have you? Why doesn’t anyone write/writing a song about that?
From the Desk of Molly the Mutt

Dear Teachers,

The first thing I want/wants to say is that (1) I’m sorry. Sort of.

Let me explain. I’m sure there are times when a student come/comes to class without his or her homework. You patiently ask/asks where it is, and your student reply/replies, “The dog ate it!” You tend to think that your student has/have a big imagination and is just making up a story. Well, it’s all my fault. I confess/confessing.

I, Molly the Mutt, eat/eats homework. And lots of it. I travel/traveling from state to state, house to house, devouring homework.

I’m not picky. I’ll eat anything I can get/gets my paws on. I like/likes essays, vocabulary lists, even math workbooks. Dog food is/are just not interesting to me anymore. There is nothing better than a hearty meal of note cards from a 4th-grade oral report on George Washington. Though I’d have to say my most favorite treat was/were Karl Butler’s book report on Green Eggs and Ham. That was so tasty, so delicious!

So the next time your student show/shows up in class with a scrap of torn notebook paper covered in slobber, I’m responsible.

Catch me if you can!

Sincerely,

Molly the Mutt

P.S. I even started to eat this letter after I typed/typing it!
The Case of the Cat Food Casserole

Would you feed your family cat-food casserole?
Not on purpose, maybe. Read this confession from
a budding chef.

Directions: On each blank line, write the past tense form
of the verb that appears below it. We did the first one for you.

I think that last night my family ate cat food
for dinner. And, I think it was my fault. Here’s what

my family ate:

My dad was making tuna casserole. He had already sliced
the celery, chopped the onion, and cooked the noodles when the phone rang.
I whispered that I would finish making dinner while he talked on the phone.
I had, after all, watched my parents make tuna casserole hundreds of times. “Just leave it to me,” I said.

I grabbed a can of tuna from the cupboard above the sink and dumped its contents into a casserole dish along with everything else. Then I mixed it all together and stuck it in the oven. My family loved the casserole, and I felt very proud of myself!

I still feeling proud this morning when my mom asked me to feed our cat, Benjamin. “There’s one can of cat food left. It’s in the cupboard above the sink,” she said. But when I opened the cupboard, I do not see any cat food. All I see was one can of tuna fish. One can of tuna fish that is exactly the same shape and size as the can I had empty into last night’s casserole…

So, do I tell them that the cat food eat them in any way. I think it might be better for everyone if I keep the truth to myself. Or maybe I’ll share it with Benjamin, as I feed him the leftover casserole.
Dear Mom and Dad,

I have a little problem. Mr. Willis suddenly kicked me out of the band. He called me a troublemaker. But it’s all a big mistake! Here’s the whole story:

Remember last Friday when you told me to thoroughly clean my closet? Well, what I didn’t tell you is that while I was cleaning, I lost dear Zippy. I took her out of her cozy tank so she could keep me company. But I must have lost her in my closet. You have repeatedly told me my closet is ridiculously messy. And you’re right. You wouldn’t believe the crazy stuff I found in there! Do you remember that pepperoni pizza we couldn’t find? And Dad, are you missing some fuzzy, purple slippers?

Anyway, I never found poor Zippy. I figured she was slithering happily in the closet. I thought I would find her eventually. Snakes like pepperoni pizza, right?

So I went to the recital. We started playing “Oops … I Did It Again.” Suddenly the girl next to me screamed loudly. Zippy was sticking her little, green head out of my saxophone! I swear she was dancing. The rest of the band was not charmed, and they quickly ran off the stage. Mr. Willis closed the front curtain. He angrily told me I was fired from the band!

Do you think Mr. Willis will forgive me? And what about Zippy? That snake’s got some serious groove! Do you think she can audition for the next American Idol?

Your sorry daughter,

Marcia
Adjectives/Adverbs

The Case of the Unexpected Delay

Will the Gingerbread Man’s delicious new house ever be completed? Not if the hungry workers can help it!

Directions: Circle all the adjectives and underline all the adverbs in the letter below.

Dear Mr. Gingerbread Man,

We have some bad news. The big additions you asked us to build on your gingerbread house haven’t been going as originally planned. Something strange is happening. Please let me humbly explain.

You must know that coconut lollipops, sticky Snickers® bars, and giant candy canes are not normal materials for building a new bedroom. But when I asked my loyal employees, they said that they would joyfully welcome the unusual challenge. Big Tony was especially excited. He even started anxiously licking his lips.

On the first day of work, I noticed that we were using up purple gumdrops faster than I’d expected. And the order I had placed for giant jawbreakers was short by nearly a hundred. Then the huge crate of red licorice we were using for the inside walls disappeared!

Suddenly my favorite workers are regularly calling in sick. Heavy Hank told me he had seventeen cavities. He’s going to be out for a week getting them professionally drilled. Chubby Chuck has gotten so chubby that he fell through the graham-cracker roof. I don’t know what’s happening to them. Maybe they need more physical exercise.

Please, just give us more time. We’ll quickly do a wonderful job.

Sincerely,

Do-It-All Builders, Inc.

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these simple rules about adjectives and adverbs:

- An adjective describes a noun or a pronoun. It might tell what kind, which one, or how many. (Example: My two best friends gave me the most wonderful surprise ever!)

- An adverb describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Many adverbs end in -ly. (Example: I quickly finished my homework so I could watch TV.)
Dear Cinderella and Prince Charming,

there must be a terrible mistake! The stepsisters and I have not yet received an invitation to your wedding. I keep telling the stepsisters that the invitation will arrive soon. I’m getting worried that our invitation got lost. I hear you often have problems with the unicorns that deliver the palace mail.

I’m sure you intend to invite us! After all, you were always my special favorite. How I spoiled you! I let you do all the best chores around the house. Are you still mad about that trip to Disney World? I don’t know how we could have forgotten you! Anyway, Florida is too hot in the summer.

so Cinderella dear, please send along another invitation as soon as you can. I know how busy you are in your new palace! If you need any cleaning help, I can send one of your stepsisters along. They both miss you so much!

Best wishes,

Your Not-Really-So-Wicked Stepmother

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**Grammar Cop’s Clues**

**Remember these basic laws of capital letters:**

- **Names:** Always capitalize someone’s proper name.
  
  (Example: Gina, Kenneth, Terrence)

- **Places:** Always capitalize the name of a town, city, state, or country.
  
  (Example: I live in Orchard Beach, California, which is in the United States.)

- **I:** Always capitalize the letter I when it stands for a person.
  
  (Example: I am in fourth grade and I’m 10 years old.)

- **First letter:** Always capitalize the first letter of a sentence.
Belinda Cunningham is looking for a job. She wrote this business letter, but she is confused about the use of capital letters. Can you help her?

Directions: Circle the letters that should be capitalized. Draw a line through the capital letters that should be lowercase. (Hint: There are 19 mistakes.)

mollie O’Brien
4485 Problem street
New york, NY 10009

February 28, 2004
dear Ms. O’Brien,

I am writing in response to The classified ad that appeared in Magic Wand Weekly (“fairy godmother wanted”). my many years of experience make Me highly qualified for this position.

You may already be familiar with my work. One of my former clients, Cinderella, received quite a bit of attention. With my help, She married Prince lucky fellow and moved into that castle (the real one looks nothing like that tacky thing at disney world). Of course, I would want to work with you to determine the happy ending that’s right for you, were i to become your fairy godmother.

I currently live in palm Beach, florida. There, i keep quite busy, thank you. My book, Turning vegetables into Vehicles, has been on the best-seller list since last april. I am also developing my own line of glass footwear.

If you want to speak to my former clients, feel free to contact Cinderella, Sleeping beauty, and Michael Jordan (talent only goes so far, my dear).

If you would like to meet me, just close your e yes and make a wish. I will appear immediately.

sincerely,
Belinda Cunningham
The Case of Freddy's Tarantula

Freddy may never get his dream pet, but maybe he can teach his mom and dad some rules about capitalizing family titles. Can you?

Directions: In the letter below, all of the family titles (like mom and uncle) have been underlined. Circle the ones that should begin with a capital letter.

TO: Freddy
FROM: mom and dad
SUBJECT: Your birthday present request

Dear Freddy,

Your mom and I read with great interest your birthday wish list. You know mom and I love you. We want your tenth birthday to be a huge hit. Your grandfather already picked up the bowling shoes, and aunt Marjorie wants to get you the glow-in-the-dark socks. However, we’re having a little trouble with item number three on your list: the tarantula.

You know mom and I are glad you love animals. But really, Freddy, do you think a tarantula is a good pet for a 10-year-old? How would your grandparents react? I don’t think saying, “grandma, meet the newest addition to the Horowitz family” will work. Your sweet granny would run screaming from the house. And forget about your uncle. Don’t you know that uncle Clayton is terrified of spiders?

To be honest, mom and I don’t feel that a venomous spider fits our idea of a cuddly household pet. If you want something small and furry, your mother and I will buy you a couple of hamsters.

Much love,
dad

Grammar Cop’s Clues

How do you know whether to capitalize family titles like mom, grandma, and uncle? Here are some tricks:

- If you’re using the word as part of a person’s name (Aunt Rhoda) or as a substitute for a person’s name (“Did Grandma call?”), capitalize it. You are using it as a proper noun.

- Otherwise, do not capitalize it; you are not using it as a proper noun. Here’s a hint: When you use a word like my, your, or her before the family title (“My mom has red hair”), you usually do not capitalize the title.
Capitlization

The Case of Frosty’s Rules

It seems that some of the snowpeople need to be reminded of the rules of the trade. Too bad Frosty can’t seem to remember the rules of capitalization. Can you help him?

Directions: Circle the letters that should be capitalized.

dear fellow snowmen and snowwomen,

         it’s that time of year again, when fall turns to winter and the snowy season approaches. to
make sure this will be a great season for all of us, i want to remind you of a few important rules:

1. don’t eat your face. i know you get hungry out there.
         no matter what, though, do not eat your carrot nose
and raisin eyes. have a little self-respect.
2. do not peek in windows. i don’t care if the minnesota vikings are playing the buffalo bills. no human wants
to discover a snowperson peeking through the window. last year, julius iceman was nabbed by the minneapolis
police department watching how the grinch stole christmas through the melville family’s window.
he melted in the backseat of the squad car.
3. do not play gameboy. do i need to remind you that
         video games will turn your brain to slush? there are
plenty of other ways to entertain yourself out there in
the yard.

         i know this will be a fantastic season. if you have
any questions, call me at my pre-season headquarters,
the freezer section of stop & shop.

sincerely,

frosty

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of capital letters:

• Names: Always capitalize someone’s proper name.
         (For example: Gina, Kenneth, Terrence)
• Places: Always capitalize the name of a town, city, state, or country. (Example: I live
         in Orchard Beach, California, which is in the United States.)
• I: Always capitalize the letter I when it stands for a person.
         (Example: I am in fourth grade and I’m 10 years old.)
• First letter: Always capitalize the first letter of a sentence.
Dear All the King’s Horses and All the King’s Men,

HELP! Have you forgotten that I am still lying here next to the wall? I do not mean to be a pest. You are all very busy with your royal responsibilities. But you should not have just left me here! Do not you think you could have tried a little harder to put me back together again? My feet are not even attached to my legs. I cannot find one of my ears. And I do not know what became of my top hat. I am worried that one of Cinderella’s stepsisters took it.

The situation could not be more dangerous. You know that diner across the street? It is only a matter of time before I show up on its menu: Humpty Dumpty over easy with bacon and home fries.

I will give a big hug to the person who gets me back on my feet. Hurry!

Sincerely,

Mr. Humpty Dumpty
You are probably aware that the game "Duck, Duck, Goose" does not require the participation of an actual goose. Well, some of the people around here seem to have forgotten that. Lately, no matter where I am, somebody is after me. I cannot explain it, but it is driving me crazy!

For example, the other day I was resting behind the barn. I had just finished a delicious crust of bread and could not have been feeling more relaxed. Suddenly, the farmer’s boy came by and whacked me on the head. "Goose!" he yelled and started chasing me around the pond. "I do not want to play this game!" I screamed as I ran. "Plus, you are playing it wrong. I’m supposed to chase you!" But he would not listen. He caught me and demanded that I sit in the mushpot (whatever that is).

Please help me. I will try anything to end this foolishness. We geese are not safe anymore. The best I have been able to do so far is buy a good pair of running shoes!
Dear Dr. Fish,

I hope you will be able to help me. I am the bookworm who lives in the New York Public Library. Ever since gulping down Meet the Backstreet Boys last week, I have been suffering from a mysterious stomach illness. Normally, I can munch through Shakespeare’s complete plays and still have room for a chapter from Treasure Island. Now, I can barely make it through Romeo and Juliet! Also, I had been nibbling on a chapter from Little House on the Prairie when suddenly I could not stop belching up adjectives. It happened again with The Hobbit. Not only is this problem embarrassing, but if the librarian hears me, she will be furious. Help me! I cannot eat my favorite books!

Dear Mr. Worm,

First, you are eating too many big words. You must immediately begin a strict diet of three-letter words. I prescribe Dr. Seuss’s Hop on Pop. After that, try a few pages of Goodnight Moon, but avoid all words with more than two syllables! As for your mysterious stomach illness, well, I do not think it is very mysterious at all! The answer is obvious: no more Meet the Backstreet Boys. It clearly does not agree with you. Stick to this diet for a few weeks and you will be back to your luscious Shakespeare in no time.

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Contractions

The Case of the Sick Bookworm

Neither Mr. Worm nor Dr. Fish understands the use of contractions. Can you help them?

Directions: A contraction is formed by putting together two words with certain letters left out. An apostrophe (’) takes the place of the missing letters. For each of the underlined, numbered word pairs, write the correct contraction in the blanks on the right. We did the first one for you.
Contractions

The Case of the Chicken That Crossed the Road

This chicken has something to say. Can you give him some help with contractions?

Directions: A contraction is formed by putting together two words with certain letters left out. An apostrophe (’) takes the place of the missing letters. For each of the underlined, numbered word pairs, write the correct contraction in the blanks on the right. We did the first one for you.

“Why did the chicken cross the road?”

You have heard this joke, have not you? You are laughing right now, just thinking about it, are not you? Well, I am the chicken who crossed the road, and I will tell you something. I do not find that joke funny at all.

Since the day I was hatched, I have minded my own business. It is not like me to cause trouble or draw attention to myself. And yet, you have turned me into a big joke. Is not it time to end this mockery?

So here is what really happened: I had spent the morning with my friends—a real cluckfest. We had a few laughs, and quite a few cans of soda. On the way home, I had to go to the bathroom. I looked across the road, and there was a gas station with a nice clean restroom. So I did it. I crossed the road. I used the restroom and went on my way. That is the whole story.

So the next time someone asks you why the chicken crossed the road, you will not giggle, chuckle, or snort. You will tell him the truth: “When a chicken’s gotta go, a chicken’s gotta go.”
Dear Mom and Dad

I’m going to be a star. I saw an ad for Starmakers in the back of a comic book. For two years they have made their name by turning youngsters like me into pop music idols—overnight. I just need $1,000 for their how-to book. Can I have a loan?

If I’m going to become a superstar I’ll need a new hairstyle. A neon green mohawk will look great on stage. Also you’ll need to buy a limousine. I can’t bear having you pick me up from school in the minivan anymore. It doesn’t fit my new image. I just know crowds will come every night to hear me sing. I have real talent. After all these years of listening to me in the shower, you must know that I’m great. Even Bubba loves howling along to my version of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

I’ll sell millions of records. You’ll see my picture in hundreds of magazines. This could be my big break. So can I have the $1,000? Of course I’ll pay you back when I become a multimillionaire. I’ll save every cent. Honest. Please don’t say no. Do you think the principal would excuse me from school for a world tour with Avril?

Your son

Billy
Dear Lunch Lady Ruth

   Lately we students have noticed that you seem overworked. You look tired. Your hairnet is always on crooked. You can barely keep your eyes open as we slide our trays by you. Once you dumped a ladleful of gravy on Tommy’s head. His mom was not pleased when she got the dry-cleaning bill for his Boy Scout uniform.

   It can’t be easy to feed all of us. It must take hours of chopping broccoli, slicing Brussels sprouts, and cooking lima beans to fix lunch for hundreds of students. Things need to change.

   Don’t get us wrong. We appreciated the liver meatballs you fixed for us last Thursday. Just because that food fight started before we could eat any of them doesn’t mean we wouldn’t have loved the meal. Those meatballs were just so easy to throw. They bounced nicely too. Oh, and sorry you had to clean up the cafeteria afterwards. Still, it was pretty impressive how high we got those spaghetti noodles stuck up on the wall wasn’t it.

   Let us make a suggestion. Candy corn and jelly beans require absolutely no preparation in the kitchen. Just grab a bunch, set them on the plate, and hand them to us hungry students. We’ll be happy to put them in our stomachs, not on each other. Can Swedish Fish provide us with protein? Candy Corn is a vegetable right.

   We hope you will consider our proposal.

Sincerely,

The Students of Webster Elementary
Quotation Marks

The Three Little Pigs’ Day in Court

The Three Little Pigs are trying to prove their case against the Big Bad Wolf. But they don’t know the rules for using quotation marks. Can you help by adding the quotation marks needed in their story?

Directions: Insert quotation marks in the correct places below.

One day the Three Little Pigs—Hambone, Porky, and Daisy—agreed that Wolf had bothered them long enough. I hate to be a pig, Daisy said, but I think we should sue him.

A few weeks later, they went to court. The courtroom was packed with other animals.

What’s the problem? asked the judge.

Wolf won’t leave us alone, said Hambone. He keeps blowing down our houses.

Porky said, He turned my house into a pigsty! The judge asked Wolf if the charges were true. They’re all hogwash, said Wolf. I’m not guilty. The judge said that he didn’t know what to believe. Do you have witnesses? he asked the pigs.

The judge said that he didn’t know what to believe. Do you have witnesses? he asked the pigs.

The pigs looked to the other animals for help, but they all said that they were scared of Wolf.

The pigs were losing hope when a flea jumped out of Wolf’s fur. I saw everything, she said. The pigs are telling the truth. Wolf is a real beast!

What a relief, Daisy said. Maybe now we’ll all live happily ever after!

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws for quotation marks:

• Direct Quotes: Put quotation marks around words that someone is actually saying. (Example: “Are you positive,” Bill’s mother asked, “that you really want to put turnips on your sandwich?”)

• Indirect Quotes: Don’t put quotation marks around words that summarize what someone said. (Example: Bill said that he likes to eat turnips at every meal.)

Tip: Phrases such as said that or reported that are often good clues that you don’t need quotation marks.
Dear Madam Witch,

I am writing to you to tell you how disappointed I am that you have refused to turn me back into a prince. I have apologized over and over again for making that little comment about the wart on your nose. I have suffered enough! If you don’t think so, turn yourself into a frog and see what it is like. I must share my pond with three very nasty geese. The pond water is recking my skin. And the food is terrible (altho I did catch a most delicious fly yesterday for lunch). I miss my palase!

In your last letter, you told me that the spell will be broken when a princess gives me a kiss. I am afraid that there is a real shortage of princesses around the kingdom. Most are off at collige. If a princess did happen to see me at the pond, I somehow doubt she would want to kiss me.

Please, won’t you reconsider? You know where to find me: on the second rock to the right.

Best wishes,

Prince Leonardo

(the geese call me Prince Slimo)

P.S. If you turn me back into a prince, I’ll pay the finest doctor to take care of that little problem in your nasal area.

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20. ____________
Dear Storyworks Readers,

What fun I’ve had reading the entries to the “Create a Character” contest. In fact, in the end, it even inspired me to write a story about a contest.

Grand Prize winner Mika Roy may wonder why I didn’t include many pieces of information about Juniper Green. This is because authors always know lots more about their characters than they tell in their stories. By knowing details such as favorite foods, TV programs, and hobbies, and even the dislikes of my characters, I understand them better and am better able to write about them.

One thing that fascinated me was that so many of you who entered this contest wrote about a character who lived in a town different from your own. I think this is because young writers always think things are more interesting elsewhere. When I was your age, the stories I wrote all took place in faraway places where I’d never been. My advice to you is to write about your own community. You know it better and if you think for a while, you’ll discover that there are many things that you can write about.

Congratulations to all who entered. You all did a great job!

Your friend,

Johanna

P.S. Here’s a secret from my past: I entered some writing contests when I was your age and I never won. I guess my writing improved as I got older.
Spelling

The Case of the Terrible Tooth Fairy

There are problems in Tooth Fairy Land. This letter will be sent to the queen, but it’s filled with spelling mistakes! Can you help?

Directions: Circle the misspelled words in the letter below. Write them correctly in the blanks on the right. Hint: There are 15 misspelled words.

TO: Queen Tooth Fairy
FROM: Complaint Bureau

Over the past month, I have received five complaints about tooth fairy number 324, also known as Doris. Last Friday, on a job in Montana, she stopped in the kitchen and made herself a lettuce and whipped cream sandwich. She left a big mess. Then, she took a nap in the kid’s doll house.

Afterwards, she turned on a Backstreet Boys CD and started dancing on the bed. The little girl woke up and started screaming. The mother thought Doris was a giant mosquito and went after her with a can of bug spray. Doris escaped, but we nearly had a disaster. I don’t have to tell you what would happen if the newspapers heard about this.

As you know, all tooth fairies are trained at the Tooth Fairy Command Center. The rules are clear. They are to fly into a room quietly and carefully inspect the tooth under the pillow, without waking up the child. If they believe the tooth is real (fake teeth are a growing problem) they are to leave fifty cents. They are then to exit the house without making any noise.

Doris is a hopeless case. I believe you should help her find a job with another organization. I understand the Easter Bunny needs some help this year.
Dear Mrs. Washington,

As you know, I received permission to take care of our class rabbit, Binky, over summer vacation. I fed him a variety of vegetables every day. I changed his water and cleaned his cage, but something went wrong. A few weeks ago, he disappeared. I hung “missing bunny” posters all over the neighborhood, but nobody had seen him. Then, things started getting weird.

First, I found a copy of the book *The Runaway Bunny* hidden in his cage. Then, I read that the Stop & Shop had been robbed. Eight bags of carrots, a head of lettuce, and a pair of pink sunglasses were stolen. A cashier reported that she saw a gang of rabbits hopping away from the store. She claimed their leader was a large rabbit with black and white spots. He was wearing the sunglasses.

At first, I didn’t believe it. Neither did my friends. But, Mrs. Washington, I think we all know who that large rabbit was. I think Binky was the mastermind of the grocery store heist.

I hope you don’t blame me for the fact that our class rabbit has turned out to be a thief. I don’t know what happened—he was always so quiet and sweet! Maybe, if he goes to jail, we could take a field trip to visit him. Anyway, I think our next class pet should be a goldfish.

Sincerely,

Joseph
Homophones

The Case of Frosty the Snowman

Frosty the Snowman has a complaint, but he is confused about homophones. Can you help?

Directions: Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings. Circle the correct word in each pair of underlined words below.

From the Desk of Frosty the Snowman

I know/no you all think that I am a “jolly, happy soul/sole.” That’s really not the case. I mean, my eyes are made out of coal. I can’t see/see a thing! That’s why I am always going “thumpety-thump-thump” all over town.

Everyone thinks I came alive only because those kids put a silk hat on my head. I was already alive, but I was just freezing cold. I’m made of snow, after all! Do you know/no that most of your body heat escapes through/threw the top of your head? That’s why it’s important to where/wear a hat in the winter.

Please, don’t even get me started on my nose! It doesn’t work at all. First it was a button, now it’s a carrot. Everybody is always roasting chestnuts, and I have absolutely no sense/cents of smell. Plus, my nose barely stays on my face. I sneezed once and that thing flew right off. It took me an hour/our to find it.

And do you know/no why I was running here and there all over the square? Because those kids were chasing me! They even threw snowballs at me! I had to use my broomstick as a shield.

Oh well, at least it’s not July.
Greetings, Earthlings!

We all know that the dish ran away with the spoon, and they lived happily ever after (for six months). I bet you are all dying to know what happened to me after my famous jump over the moon. Now that I have my very own stationary/stationery, I decided to write to you. Yes, I jumped over the moon, but I did not land back on Earth. I kept flying through the night sky all the way to the planet Venus. At first I didn’t know where I was. It turns out I’m not the only one who lives on Venus. One of the three bears built a house here. I see Little Red Riding Hood skipping around. We are all very happy and we meet once a week for our book club.

Life here on Venus is a little bit strange. Let me try to explain. It takes longer for Venus to rotate once than it does for it to orbit the sun. That means that on Venus, a day is longer than a year! I know, I know, it’s confusing. And the weather is not great. Sometimes the temperature rises to 900°F! On those days, I’m not allowed to go outside. I just stay in and send e-mail to the rest of my herd back on Earth. So now you know where I am. I hope you will send me some mail soon.

Sincerely,

The Cow Who Jumped Over the Moon

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Homophones

Hey diddle, diddle, does anyone know what happened to the cow who jumped over the moon? Well, we finally found out. In this exclusive letter to Storyworks, the cow tells us about her new life.

Directions: Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings. For each pair of underlined homophones, circle the correct word.

Greetings, Earthlings!

We all know that the dish ran away with the spoon, and they lived happily ever after (for six months). I bet you are all dying to know what happened to me after my famous jump over the moon. Now that I have my very own stationary, I decided to write to you. Yes, I jumped over the moon, but I did not land back on Earth. I kept flying through the night sky all the way to the planet Venus. At first I didn’t know where I was. It turns out I’m not the only one who lives on Venus. One of the three bears built a house here. I see Little Red Riding Hood skipping around. We are all very happy and we meet once a week for our book club.

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Sincerely,

The Cow Who Jumped Over the Moon
Dear Mr. Glumpus,

I have never sent mail/male to an author before, but I had to let you know/no how much I love your book, *Fabulous Fritz*. Never before have I read/read about a dog like Fritz.

I just got the book two weak/weeks ago and have already memorized it. My favorite part is when Fritz pretends to be a rock star and everybody stares/stairs at him. You are so/sew creative! And when Fritz put peanut butter on his nose/knoss, I thought I was going to dye/die of laughter. I, to/too, love peanut butter, though such antics are not/knot tolerated in my house.

I am saving my allowance to bye/buy a pair/pare of Fabulous Fritz night-vision goggles. My hole/whole room is covered with Fritz stickers. And guess what I named my pet Burmese python? If you guessed “Fritz,” you’re/your correct. I would/wood change my name to Fritz, too, but my parents say I’m not aloud/allo wed. I heard/herd that you mite/might right/write a 10-book series about Fritz. That seems/seams like a great/grate idea. I will never get bored/board with my favorite pooch.

Your #1 fan,

*Jeremy Jenkins*
I'm the wolf from “Little Red Riding Hood.” You probably know me as the guy who ate Grandma. I’m here to tell you all a big lie.

Every bedtime story needs a bad guy. But I didn’t eat Grandma. I didn’t dress up in Grandma’s nightgown and chase Little Red Riding Hood. I didn’t get killed by a hunter. A big mistake.

Very simple. I was walking through the woods and I saw a basket with lid open. I peeked inside and saw some cookies. I took just one cookie.

All of a sudden someone yelled, “Hey! Put that cookie back! Mine!”

I looked over and there was a little girl wearing a red cape and hood. She ran over and started yelling at me. She looked so scary! So I dropped the cookie. Crumbs flew behind me. I ran all the way home.

Little Red Riding Hood was so mad about her cookie. She started telling everyone that I had tried to eat her up. All lies. You have to believe me. So the next time someone tells you the story of Little Red Riding Hood, tell my side of the story.

The truth!
Dear Santa,

______ is a problem with some of the elves. ________ acting very lazy. I know that Christmas isn’t until the end of December, but the elves aren’t ready. Many of them don’t have ________ tools in shipshape. I caught a group of doll-making elves playing with ________ Gameboys. I saw some of the candy makers having a sword fight with ________ candy canes. I inspected ________ sleeping area and I must tell you it’s a disgusting mess down ________. I found candy wrappers and soda cans everywhere.

Santa, I know that the elves are a good bunch. ________ all very sweet and nice. But ________ like a bunch of kids. We must ask them to improve ________ work habits. We must make sure ________ ready for the big day. We need to make them responsible for cleaning all of ________ garbage. Most of all, we must make them understand that ________ Santa’s elves! Let’s hope they get the message.

Very sincerely,

Rocko, your head elf

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of their, they’re, and there:

• **Their** is the possessive form of they. You use it when you want to say that something belongs to a group of people. (Example: They went sledding, but they forgot *their* mittens.)

• **They’re** is a contraction of they are. (Example: Mindy and Jessica are best friends. *They’re* always together.)

• **There** is a place. It is the opposite of here. (Example: Australia is far away. I wonder if I’ll ever go *there.*) *There* is also a pronoun used to introduce a sentence. (Example: *There* is someone at the door.)
The Case of the Stinky Dragon

Whoever wrote this advertisement doesn’t know the difference between their, there, and they’re. Can you help?

Directions: The word their, there, or they’re belongs in each of the spaces below. Choose the correct word and write it in.

New, IMPROVED Dragon Breath!

The brand new mouthwash just for dragons and __________ loved ones!

Finally, __________ is a new mouthwash for dragons and __________ families! Many dragons say __________ breath smells like a burnt hamburger. Some say __________ embarrassed when __________ breath causes __________ dentists to faint. But now __________ is a solution: new, improved Dragon Breath, the only mouthwash just for fire breathers. Dragons who use Dragon Breath find that __________ breath smells smoky fresh. __________ friends and families are thrilled. And __________ thrilled, too. So, try Dragon Breath! Or give a bottle to a dragon you love.

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of their, they’re, and there:

• Their is the possessive form of they. You use it when you want to say that something belongs to a group of people. (Example: They got their kiwis in New Zealand.)

• They’re is a contraction of they are. (Example: If they live in New Zealand, they’re called New Zealanders.)

• There is a place. It is the opposite of here. (Example: Auckland is the capital of New Zealand. I wonder if I’ll ever go there.) There is also a pronoun used to introduce a sentence. (Example: There is nothing for me to do but wait.)
To/Too/Two

The Case of the Itsy Bitsy Spider

The Itsy Bitsy Spider wants to explain a few things, but he doesn’t know the difference between to, two, and too. Can you help?

Directions: Write either to, two, or too on each blank below.

From the Desk of the Itsy Bitsy Spider

I’m the itsy bitsy spider and I need ________ set some things straight:

Number one: I’m not ________ itsy. I’m ________ inches long, and hairy, ________. If I landed on your shoulder, you’d jump nearly ________ the moon.

Number ________: I don’t really like spending every day of my life climbing up that water spout. Just when I get ________ the top, down comes the rain and washes me ________ kingdom come. And then the sun comes out, dries up the rain, and bakes me like a Poptart. You think that’s fun?

And then I have ________ get back up there and climb up ________ the top of that spout all over again. I wish I didn’t have ________. I wish I could retire to the back of your sock drawer and eat a fly or ________. But you know what the song says. In the end, the itsy bitsy spider climbs up the spout again. So that’s what I do. Otherwise, I’ll be out of a job. Maybe you’d like to climb with me, ________.

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of to, too, and two:

• To is a preposition. (Example: I returned the book to the library.)

Sometimes the word to also comes before a verb. (Example: Lamont needs to pick up his younger brother.)

• Too means “also” or “too much.” (Example: I have too much homework!)

• Two is a number. (Example: Linda was so hungry, she ate two huge hotdogs.)
The Case of the Surfing Elephant

Mr. Brandon L. Phant is looking for a new job. But he doesn’t know the difference between to, too, and two. Can you help him?

Directions: Write the word to, too, or two in each of the blanks below.

The Hang Ten Surfboard Company
100 Enormous Wave Lane
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Allow me _______ introduce myself. My name is Brandon L. Phant. I am a _______-ton gray elephant and I believe I would make an ideal spokesperson for your surfboards. I came _______ Hawaii from South Africa, where I first learned _______ surf. My mother wasn’t _______ thrilled when I began surfing. She said it was _______ dangerous. I told her _______ just relax. I move through the water like a graceful whale. I promised _______ wear a strong sunblock. I assured her that other surfers move out of the way when they see a _______-ton elephant riding a wave.

I used _______ be a personal trainer, but I was _______ big for the Stairmaster. I’m interested in changing my career. My idea is that you hire me _______ be in commercials for your surfboards. I look great in a swimsuit. (Not _______ many elephants can say that!)

I look forward _______ hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Brandon L. Phant

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of to, too, and two:

• To is a preposition. (Example: I went to the doctor yesterday.)

Sometimes the word to also comes before a verb. (Example: Before crossing the street, you need to look both ways.)

• Too means “also” or “too much.” (Example: I’ll join you for lunch. I’m feeling hungry, too.)

• Two is a number. (Example: Those two cats were making too much noise last night.)
Dear Dwarfs,

_________ probably wondering why I left. I have to admit, I have gotten tired of __________ strange habits. It seems like if __________ not sneezing, then __________ sleeping, or __________ acting grumpy.

Also, it turned out the prince wasn’t for me. As I said to him, “_________ really nice, but I don’t want to sit around __________ castle all day while __________ off slaying dragons.”

The other day, I took a good look in the mirror. Sure it said, “_________ the fairest of them all.” But it also said, “Plan for __________ future. What about __________ education? __________ career?”

That was it. “Snow,” I said, “say good-bye to __________ dwarfs. __________ going back to school.”

I hope I haven’t hurt __________ little feelings. I appreciate __________ kindness. __________ all very generous. But for now, __________ on __________ own.

_________ friend,

Snow White
The Case of the Unemployed Princess

Sleeping Beauty wrote this letter to the Royal Mattress Company. But she doesn’t understand the difference between your and you’re. Can you help?

Directions: The word your or you’re belongs on each of the lines below. Choose the correct word and write it in.

From the Desk of Sleeping Beauty

The Royal Mattress Company
29 Goose Feather Lane
Wunsuhponna Kingdom

To Whom It May Concern:

___________ not going to believe this. I’ve been asleep for one hundred years on one of ___________ mattresses! And I feel great! I’ve been telling everyone how terrific ___________ beds are.

Is ___________ company looking for a spokesperson? I’d be perfect. After all, I have tons of sleeping experience! If ___________ interested, I could come to ___________ factory and test ____________ new mattresses. Just think what a good word from me could do for ___________ company.

___________ probably saying to yourselves, “Hire a princess? Never!” Well, ___________ wrong. Times have changed since I fell asleep. I just w oke up an hour ago, and a handsome prince said to me, “I w ant to marry you. But ___________ going to have to get a job.” So I sat right down to write this letter.

___________ welcome to contact me at the palace. I look forward to ___________ reply.

___________ biggest fan,

Sleeping Beauty

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of your and you’re:

• Your is the possessive form of you. Use it when you are talking about something that belongs to the person with whom you are speaking.
  (Example: You dropped your bag.)

• You’re is a contraction of you are. Here’s a tip: Whenever you write you’re, read over the sentence again and substitute the words you are for you’re. If the sentence makes sense, you’ve made the right choice.
  (Example: You’re so busy, I hardly see you anymore.)
Your/You’re

The Case of the Slimy Aliens

The slimy aliens from the planet Gooeygoopiter need to read this important advertisement. Can you help the writer fill in the blanks?

Directions: Write either your or you’re on each blank.

If ______ an alien from the planet Gooeygoopiter, listen up!

Do you have an embarrassing slime problem?

Does it positively ooze from ______ ears and toes?

Do ______ feet leave embarrassing gooey marks on the carpets of ______ human friends?

______ in for a wonderful surprise. ______ problems are about to be solved with SLIME AWAY, the first slime remover especially engineered for ______ embarrassing problem. Here is how SLIME AWAY will change ______ life. Simply apply it to ______ toes and ears. Wait five minutes. Then watch as SLIME AWAY works. Like magic!

______ going to be amazed.

Never again will you have to wear slime-catching buckets on ______ ears. Never again will you have to pay ______ friends’ carpet-cleaning bills. Never again will you hear ______ friends whisper, “Uh-oh, here comes the slime machine” as ______ walking through their door. ______ problem will disappear—and so will ______ worries.

______ only moments away from relief.

SLIME AWAY! $49.00 plus tax.

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic laws of your and you’re:

• Your is the possessive form of you. Use it when you are talking about something that belongs to the person with whom you are speaking.
(Example: I promise I’ll return your CD tomorrow.)

• You’re is a contraction of you are. Here’s a tip: Whenever you write you’re, read over the sentence again and substitute the words you are for you’re. If the sentence makes sense, you’ve made the right choice.
(Example: You’re really such a good friend.)
Dear Miss Muffet,

I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to scare you, honest. I just wanted to be ________ friend! All I did was sit down beside you and . . . well, it doesn’t matter now. ________ gone.

Listen, this is a bit awkward, but I need to talk to you about ________ dish of curds and whey. You left it sitting here by ________ tuffet. I was thinking that if ________ not going to eat it, maybe I could. It’s ________ call, though! If you want the curds, the whey, or both, just let me know!

You don’t have to tell me ________ reasons for leaving. Maybe ________ shy. Maybe ________ used to eating alone. Maybe spiders just aren’t ________ thing. It’s ________ business, not mine. But honey, I need to know what to do with ________ food.

Respectfully,

A. Spider
Dear Family,

As ______ aware, I have been ______ loyal dog for five happy years. ______ great people, and _______ always been a pleasure being _______ dog. That’s why what I’m about to say is difficult for me. But I think _______ important, so here it goes.

I hate the doghouse you built for me. too small and _______ design is not practical. I have nowhere to entertain and nowhere to store my toys. Plus, _______ not safe! There is no lock, let alone an alarm system. Perhaps _______ not aware of this, but the skunks in this neighborhood are looking for a new clubhouse!

I hope _______ not offended, but I have hired an architect to draw up some plans for a new house. _______ going to love her work! She designed the house of the star of Air Bud. (_______ pictured in the latest issue of Dog Fancy, if you want to see it.) The new house will be a great addition to _______ property, I promise. So whenever _______ convenient, let’s get together and talk.

_________ pet,

Poochie Doodles

Your/You’re, Its/It’s

The Case of the Dissatisfied Dog

Poochie Doodle wants a new doghouse and has written this letter to his family. Problem is, he doesn’t know when to use your or you’re and its or it’s. (Big surprise!) Can you help him?

Directions: On each underline, write either your or you’re. Inside each box, write either its or it’s.

Grammar Cop’s Clues

Remember these basic rules:

• Your is the possessive form of you. Use it when you are talking about something that belongs to the person with whom you are speaking.
  (Example: Can I borrow your bat during practice?)

• You’re is a contraction of you are. Whenever you write you’re, read over the sentence again and substitute you are for you’re. If the sentence makes sense, you’ve made the right choice.
  (Example: So you’re the one who won.)

• It’s is a contraction of it is or it has. (Example: It’s going to start raining soon.)

• Its is the possessive form of it (the fancy name is “possessive pronoun”). Its shows that “it” owns something. (Example: The dog buried its bone in the backyard.)
Answers

The Case of the Strange Playground Equipment (p. 7)

**Nouns:** company; letter; one; roller coaster; school; back yard; opportunity; plans; letter; shame; crayon; ideas; picture; loop; cook; cafeteria; roller coaster; name; suggestion; kids; thing; spelling; signature; kid; R’s; education; reading; writing; rides; water parks; manager. **Proper Nouns:** Principal Billsley; Super-Riders Construction Team; “Kara Has Cooties Coaster;” “Multiplication Shockers;” “Research Report Terror;” Pickens Elementary; Tim Showtime

The Case of Rapunzel’s Long Hair (p. 8)

**Nouns:** hair; hairdresser; boys; jobs; door; name; witch; tower; stairs; hair; ladder; hair; witch; locks; feet; hair; bottle; week; expense; room; problem; date; ball; hair; boots; feet; bo y s; women; style; hair; shoulders; dancers. **Proper Nouns:** Hair Innovations; Royal Ball; Cute Clips; Fine Styles; Rapunzel; Wanda; Fairytale Shampoo; Prince Charming; King Phillip; Rapunzel

The Case of Jack and Jill (p. 9)

him; he; He; he; him; he; He; him; he; Him; him; he; he

The Case of the Old Woman in the Shoe (p. 10)

me; I; I; me; I; I; me; I; me; I; me; I

The Case of the Letter to Old MacDonald (p. 11)

1. we 2. we 3. We 4. We 5. us 6. us 7. We 8. us 9. we 10. We

The Case of the Bumbling Cupids (p. 12)


The Apology of Goldilocks (p. 13)

guys; germs; everyone’s; Baby Bear’s; bears’; woods; rocks; jumper’s; Baby Bear’s; rocks’; family’s; parents’

The Case of Mary Had a Little Rooster (p. 14)


The Case of the Dog Who Eats Homework (p. 15)

1. want 2. comes 3. ask 4. replies 5. has 6. confess 7. eat 8. tra vel 9. get 10. like 11. is 12. was 13. shows 14. typed

The Case of the Cat Food Casserole (p. 16)

happened; sliced; chopped; cooked; rang; whispered; talked; watched; said; grabbed; dumped; mixed; stuck; loved; felt; was; asked; opened; did; saw; was; emptied; ate; hurt

The Case of the Saxophone Disaster (p. 17)

Adjectives: little; big; whole; last; dear; cozy; messy; right; crazy; pepperoni; fuzzy; purple; poor; pepperoni; little; green; front; ser i ous; next; American; sorry. Adverbs: suddenly; thoroughly; repeatedly; ridiculously; never; happily; eventually; Again; Suddenly; loudly; quickly; angrily

The Case of the Unexpected Delay (p. 18)

Adjectives: bad; big; gingerbread; strange; coconut; stick y; giant; normal; new; loyal; unusual; big; excited; first; purple; giant; short; huge; red; inside; favorite; sick; Heavy; seventeen; Chubby; chubby; graham-cracker; more; physical; wonderful. Adverbs: originally; humbly; joyfully; especially; anxiously; faster; nearly; regularly; Suddenly; professionally; quickly; Sincerely

the case of the missing capital letters (p. 19)

Cinderella; There; The; I; I; I; I; Are; Disney; World; I; Anyway; Florida; So; Cinderella; I; I; I

The Case of the Fairy Godmother for Hire (p. 20)

Molly; Street; York; Dear; the; My; me; she; Luckyfellow; Disney; World; I; Palm; Florida; I; Vegetables; April; Beauty; Sincerely

The Case of Freddy’s Tarantula (p. 21)

(1) Mom (2) Dad (4) Mom (6) Aunt (7) Mom (9) Grandma (12) Uncle (13) Mom (15) Dad

The Case of Frosty’s Rules (p. 22)

Dear; Fellow; Snowmen; Snowwomen; It’s; To; I; Don’t; I; No; Have; Do; I; Minnesota; Vikings; Buffalo; Bills; No; Last; Julius; Iceman; Minneapolis; Police; Department; “How; Grinch; Stole; Christmas;” Melville; He; Do; Gameboy; Do; I; There; I; If; Stop; Shop; Sincerely; Frosty

The Case of Humpty Dumpty (p. 23)


The Case of the Grumpy Goose (p. 24)


The Case of the Sick Bookworm (p. 25)

2. I’m 3. I’ve 4. I’d 5. couldn’t 6. she’ll 7. can’t 8. you’re 9. don’t 10. it’s 11. doesn’t 12. you’ll

The Case of the Chicken That Crossed the Road (p. 26)


The Case of the Wanna-be Superstar (p. 27)

Dear Mom and Dad,

I’m going to be a star! I saw an ad for Starmakers in the back of a comic book. For two years, they have made their name by turning youngsters like me into pop music idols—overnight! I just need $1,000 for their ho w-to book. Can I have a loan?

If I’m going to become a superstar, I’ll need a new hairstyle. A neon green mohawk will look great on stage. Also, you’ll have to buy a limousine. I can’t bear having you pick me up from school in the mini van anymore! It doesn’t fit my new image. I just

Whenever I’m on the job, I’m going to have a personal driver to take me places. I want to be picked up at the airport, the hotel, and the theater at 4:00 p.m. sharp! I hear there’s a limousine company in Minneapolis that offers special rates for rock stars. I need to have a limousine ready for whenever I go to the airport. I’m going to be a star! I saw an ad for Starmakers in the back of a comic book. For two years, they have made their name by turning youngsters like me into pop music idols—overnight! I just need $1,000 for their how-to book. Can I have a loan?

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If I’m going to become a superstar, I’ll need a new hairstyle. A neon green mohawk will look great on stage. Also, you’ll have to buy a limousine. I can’t bear having you pick me up from school in the mini van anymore! It doesn’t fit my new image. I just
the $1,000? Of course, I’ll pay you back when I become a multi-millionaire. I’ll save every cent, honest. Please don’t say no. Do you think the principal would excuse me from school for a world tour with Avril?

Your son,

Billy

The Case of the Weary Lunch Lady (p. 28)

Dear Lunch Lady Ruth,

Lately we students have noticed that you seem overworked. You look tired. Your hairnet is always on crooked. You can barely keep your eyes open as we slide our trays by you. Once you dumped a ladleful of gravy on Tommy’s head! His mom was not pleased when she got the dry-cleaning bill for his Boy Scout uniform.

It can’t be easy to feed all of us. It must take hours of chopping broccoli, slicing brussels sprouts, and cooking lima beans to fix lunch for hundreds of students. Things need to change! Don’t get us wrong. We appreciated the liver meatballs you fixed for us last Thursday. Just because that food fight started before we could eat any of them doesn’t mean we wouldn’t have loved the meal. Those meatballs were just so easy to throw! They bounced nicely, too. Oh, and sorry you had to clean up the cafeteria afterwards. Still, it was pretty impressive how high we got those spaghetti noodles stuck up on the wall, wasn’t it?

Let us make a suggestion. Candy Corn and Jelly Beans require absolutely no preparation in the kitchen. Just grab a bunch, set them on the plate, and hand them to us hungry students. We’ll be happy to put them in our stomachs, not on each other. Can Swedish Fish provide us with protein? Candy Corn is a vegetable, right?

We hope you will consider our proposal.

Sincerely,

The Students of Webster Elementary

The Three Little Pigs’ Day in Court (p. 29)

“I hate to be a pig,” Daisy said, “but I think we should sue him.”

“What’s the problem?” asked the judge.

“Wolf won’t leave us alone,” said Hambone. “He keeps blowing down our houses.”

Porky said, “He turned my house into a pigsty!”

“They’re all hogwash,” said Wolf. “I’m not guilty.”

“Do you have witnesses?” he asked the pigs.

“I saw everything,” she said. “The pigs are telling the truth. Wolf is a real beast!”

“What a relief,” Daisy said. “Maybe now we’ll all live happily ever after!”

The Case of the Frog Prince (p. 30)

writing; disappointed; refused; turn; apologized; again; comment; enough; very; wrecking; terrible; although; delicious; palace; afraid; college; doubt; reconsider; where; right

The Case of the Careless Typist (p. 31)

reading; write; pieces; their; favorite; understand; fascinated; different; interesting; where; advice; discover; secret; guess

The Case of the Terrible Tooth Fairy (p. 32)

received; kitchen; whipped; sandwich; Afterwards; dancing; screaming; nearly; heard; quietly; carefully; believe; problem; another; understand

The Case of the Missing Rabbit (p. 33)

(2) variety   (4) weird   (6) cashier   (7) their   (8) belive ve   (9) Neither   (11) thief   (13) field

The Case of Frosty the Snowman (p. 34)


The Case of the Cow Who Jumped Over the Moon (p. 35)

15. weather  16. allowed  17. herd  18. mail

The Case of the Fabulous Fritz (p. 36)


The Case of the Big Bad Wolf (p. 37)

it’s; its; It’s; its; It’s; its; It’s; its; It’s; its; It’s; its; It’s

The Case of the Worried Elf (p. 38)

There; They’re; their; their; their; their; there; They’re; they’re; their; they’re; their; they’re

The Case of the Stinky Dragon (p. 39)

their; there; their; their; their; there; They’re; they’re; their; they’re; their; they’re

The Case of the Itsy Bitsy Spider (p. 40)

to; too; too; to; too; to; too; too; too; two

The Case of the Surfing Elephant (p. 41)

to; two; to; too; too; to; two; too; too; too; too; too; two; too; too

The Education of Snow White (p. 42)

You’re; your; you’re; you’re; You’re; your; you’re; You’re; your; Your; you; You’re; your; your; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; your; You’re; your; you’re; you’re; You’re; your; your; You’re; your; your; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re; you’re; you’re; you’re; You’re