

Captions and Activities Containing Tricky/Common Exception Words

These captions were originally published in the UK government's [Letters and Sounds](#) programme, but we've highlighted some of the tricky/exception spellings in them for your convenience. We've also included unhighlighted versions of the captions at the end of this document.

Captions and from phase 2 Letters and Sounds with irregular spellings highlighted in red.

pat a dog	dad and nan
a cat in a hat	a nap in a cot
a sad man	a kid in a cap
a pin on a map	a tin can
pots and pans	cats and dogs
a red rug	rats on a sack
get to the top	a pup in the mud
socks on a mat	run to the den
a cap on a peg	mugs and cups
a run in the sun	an egg in an egg cup
a hug and a kiss	a cat on a bed
on top of the rock	to the top of the hill
a bag of nuts	get off the bus
to huff and puff	no lid on the pan
go to the log hut	pack a pen in a bag
a hot hob	a doll in a cot
sit back to back	a cat and a big fat rat
a duck and a hen	

Notes:

The letter a, which represents the /a/ (æ) sound in words such as 'can' and 'at' is sometimes spoken as an 'uh' when it's a separate word in sentences, which is why



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we've highlighted it. The technical name for a vowel pronounced as an 'uh' this is the schwa sound.

The letter s highlighted in some words in the above captions represents the sound normally represented by the letter z. The following link from [Pearson Longman](#) publishers explains when this normally happens in words.

All the letters in the word 'the' are irregular for children in the early stages of a phonics programme. However, they later learn about the 'th' digraph which is found in other common words such as 'this' and 'that'. And they can also be taught that the letter e in 'the' often represents the schwa sound but can sometimes represent the /ee/ (i:) sound found in words such as shee**p**.

We have assumed that children will already be familiar with double consonant digraphs at this stage, so we haven't highlighted these. Examples are found in words such as ki**ss** and hu**ff**. We have also assumed children will be familiar with the 'ck' digraph found in words such as sa**ck** and so**cks**.

Captions and sentences from phase 3 Letters and Sounds with irregular spellings highlighted in red.

Is **the** sun wet?

Can men jog **to** get fit?

Can wax get hot?

Has **a** pot of **f** jam got **a** lid?

Has **a** fox got six leg**s**?

Can **a** taxi hop?

Can **a** vet fix **a** jet?

Can **a** van go up **a** hill?

Will **a** pen fit in **a** box?

Has **a** cat got **a** web?

Can **a** duck **quack**?

Can **a** rabbit yell at **a** man?

Is **a** zebra **a** pet?

Can **a** hen peck?

Can dog**s** yap?

Is **a** lemon red?

Can **a** fox get wet?

Is **a** robin as big as **a** jet?

Will **a** box fit in **a** van?

Can **a** web buzz?



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Notes:

Children might be familiar with the correct pronunciation for some of the highlighted letters at this stage so they may no longer consider them tricky. You could choose to show the same captions and sentences without the letters highlighted. We've included unhighlighted versions of the captions at the end of this document.

Some of the words in these captions and sentences can contain other sounds with irregular spellings that we haven't highlighted. For example, the word 'zebra' is pronounced 'zeh-bruh' in the UK, with the letter a representing the schwa sound. The American pronunciation is 'zee-bruh'. Native speakers will often pronounce these words correctly without any help, but some kids might need some extra help with identifying the schwa sound in words. See our article on [the schwa sound](#) for more information about this.

Some new [digraphs](#) and [trigraphs](#) are taught in this phase and we've highlighted these in the sentences below to make it easier for kids to identify them. Again, you could choose to show the same captions and sentences without the letters highlighted.

She will fill the bucket at the well.

He did up the zip on Zinat's jacket.

If the dog has a bad leg, the vet can fix it.

The fox and vixen had cubs in a den.

Will Azam and Liz win the quiz? Yes!

We can get the big bed into the van.

I am in such a rush to get to the shops.

A moth can be fat, but its wings are thin.

A man is rich if he has lots of cash.

The ship hit the rocks with a thud.

Natasha sang a song to me.

Lots of shops sell chicken as well as fish and chips.

The van will chug up the long hill.

Josh had a shock as he got a bash on the chin.

Sasha had a quick chat with Kath and me.



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tools in the shed

sixteen trees

ships in port

looking at books

boats on the river

the light of a torch

fish and chips on a dish

digging in the soil

a goat and a cow

goats in a farmyard

Mark and Carl got wet in the rain.

The farmer gets up at six in the morning.

Jill has fair hair but Jack has dark hair.

Jim has seven silver coins.

I can hear an owl hoot at night.

Nan is sitting in the rocking-chair.

Bow down to the king and queen.

Gurdeep had a chat with his dad.

I can see a pair of boots on the mat.

It has been hot this year.

Sentences for the end of Phase Three with different themes...

On the farm

I will soon visit my nan at her farm.

She will let me feed the hens and chickens.

They peck up corn in the farmyard.



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She has goats and cows as well as hens.

She gets the hens into a shed at night – foxes might get them.

In town

You and I can meet on the corner.

We can get the bus to the fish and chip shop.

Janaki and her sister may join us.

They can get fish and chips, too.

Then we can all run to the park.

In a wigwam

Kevin has a wigwam in the garden.

Alex, Jon and Jeevan visit him.

Kevin's dad cooks chicken for them on hot coals.

Having food in the wigwam is fun.

Then they sing songs.

At the river

Max and Vikram sail a wooden boat.

Jeff chucks bits of bun in the river for the ducks.

Yasmin sits on a rock and looks for fish.

Tanya and Yasha see an eel.

Shep the dog sits down in the mud and gets in a mess.

In the woods

Chip the dog runs to the woods.



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He is looking for rabbits but sees a fox.

The fox sees him and rushes off to its den.

Chip dashes after it but cannot see it.

He feels sad and runs back to his kennel.

Phase 3 Activities

We've included some examples of activities from the Letters and Sounds programme below.

Sentences and substitute words for 'Sentence substitution'

Procedure (Example sentences and substitute words are provided below).

1. Write a sentence on the whiteboard (e.g. **Mark fed the cat**).
2. Ask the children to read the sentence with their partners and raise their hands when they have finished.
3. All the children read it together.
4. Using the toy or puppet, rub out one word in the sentence and substitute a different word (e.g., **Mark fed the dog**).
5. Ask the children to read the sentence with their partners and raise their hands if they think it makes sense.
6. All the children read it together.
7. Continue substituting words to make new sentences – **Mark hid the cat**; **Gail hid the cat**; **Gail hid the moon** – asking the children to read each new sentence to decide whether it makes sense or is ridiculous.

Sentence

Mark fed the cat
The sheep are in the shed
You can hear a goat
They might meet in the town
The shop is on the corner
She has worn red shorts
He sat down on the carpet
She has had lots of good books
Join me in the pool
This is a good shop for chips

Substitute Words

dog hid Gail moon
bedroom farmyard cars wait
toad song see coin
market summer we fish
church right shark boat
boots boats seen He
chair fell soil weeds
food seen hard Joan
them park keep coach
coats year coffee bad



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Yes/no questions suitable for the end of Phase Three

Procedure

1. Give pairs of children yes/no cards.
2. Display a yes/no question for the children to read.
3. Ask them to confer with their partners and decide whether the response is 'yes' or 'no'.
4. Ask the children to show their cards.
5. Invite a pair to read a question.
6. Repeat with another question.

Is rain wet?

Can a boat sail?

Is all hair fair?

Is the moon far off?

Are fish and chips food?

Is it dark at night?

Is a thick book thin?

Can we get wool from sheep?

Will six cows fit in a car?

Can coins sing a song?

Will all shops sell nails?

Can a chicken sit on a chair?

Can a coach zoom into the air?

Are the teeth of sharks sharp?

Are fingers as long as arms?

Can a coat hang on a hook?

Can a hammer chop wood?

Will a ship sail on a road?

Can ducks see fish in rivers?

Can you hear bees buzzing now?

Unhighlighted Versions of the Captions Shown Earlier in this Document.

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Has a cat got a web?

Can a duck quack?

Is a zebra a pet?

Can dogs yap?

Can a fox get wet?

Will a box fit in a van?

Can a rabbit yell at a man?

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Is a lemon red?

Is a robin as big as a jet?

Can a web buzz?

More on the next page...



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