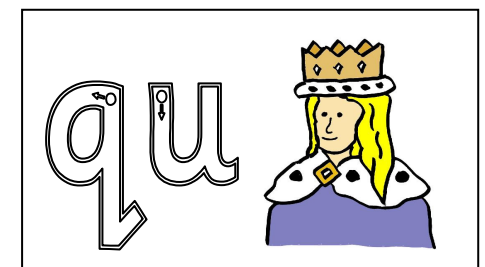
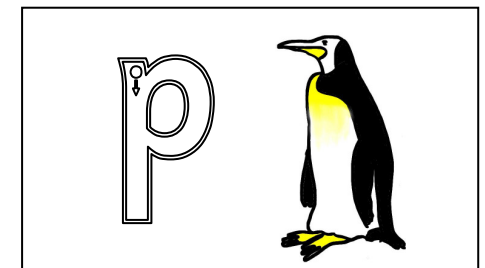
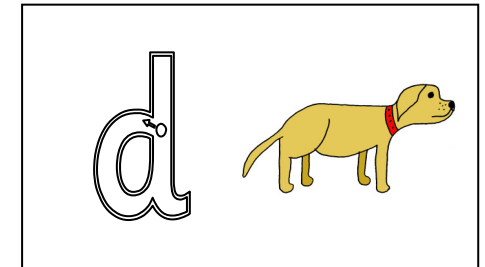
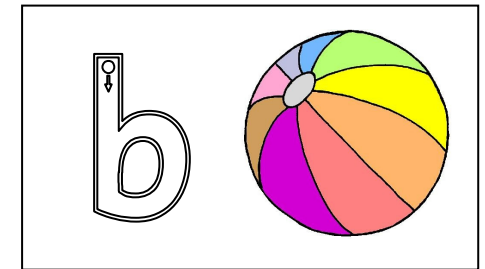


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Connectives

Extend your sentences – use a connective.

and – ‘I went to the park **and** I played on the swings.’

then – ‘I went to the park **then** I went to the shops.’

but – ‘John pulled his wobbly tooth **but** it wouldn’t come out.’

so – ‘The field was wet **so** we played in the playground.’

because – ‘Tom ran home **because** it had started to rain.’

when – ‘We have to get our coats **when** it is time to go home.’

while – ‘Amber read to Mrs. Smith **while** the rest of the class were in assembly.’

before – ‘I had to tidy my room **before** I could go out and play.’

after – ‘We washed our hands **after** we finished in the garden.’

although – ‘Mia smiled **although** she wasn’t feeling very well.’

until – ‘Billy was allowed to stay up **until** his parents got home.’

despite – ‘Poppy is the best basketball player in our class **despite** being one of the shortest children.’

Try not to start sentences with ‘and’, ‘but’, ‘so’ or ‘because’.
Although it is not wrong, it is difficult to do properly.

Story Starters

How can I start my story?

Like a fairytale, e.g. 'Once upon a time, in a far away land...'

With a question, e.g. 'Have I ever told you about my cousin Adam?'

With a setting, e.g. 'Nanny Maureen lives in a small village at the end of a long, winding country lane.'

By describing a character, e.g. 'The new girl was shorter than your average seven-year-old with neat black hair, squeezed into a ponytail by a fluffy, pink band.'

With some action, e.g. 'Just as we were about to go out onto the field there was a brief whistle, a shadow and then a tremendous explosion of mud and grass just a few metres from where we stood.'

By making the reader want to know more, e.g. 'It all began when...' or 'Saturday started just like any other. Little did I know that it would end up being the worst day of my life so far.'

With some speech, e.g. "Wednesday is definitely the worst day of the week," muttered Tom.

Think – does your story starter make the reader want to find out more?

Time Connectives

Start your sentences in different ways – use a range of time connectives...

first

after that

initially

once that's complete

next

then

while we waited for

later that day

having done that

meanwhile

all of a sudden

before long

later now

after a while

shortly after that

afterwards

at the end of

eventually

finally

suddenly

Show a clear beginning and ending – use a time connective pair, e.g. 'To begin with.....Finally' or 'First.....Eventually'

What was it like?

Don't use boring grey words: good, nice

Try...

spectacular

fantastic

awesome

incredible

amazing

brilliant

excellent

marvellous

out of this
world

wonderful

superb

great

magnificent

sensational

Make it sound even better – use an exclamation mark !

Don't Use Said!

Don't use boring grey words: said

Try...

asked

replied

shouted

whispered

moaned

cried

yelled

screamed

suggested

joked

ordered

answered

enquired

complained

announced

sobbed

laughed

sighed

“ ”

Don't forget speech marks around the words being spoken.

Big or Small?

Don't use boring grey words: big, small

Try...

enormous

mountainous

gigantic

tiny

minute

massive

colossal

teensy

hulking

pocket-sized

humongous

gargantuan

minuscule

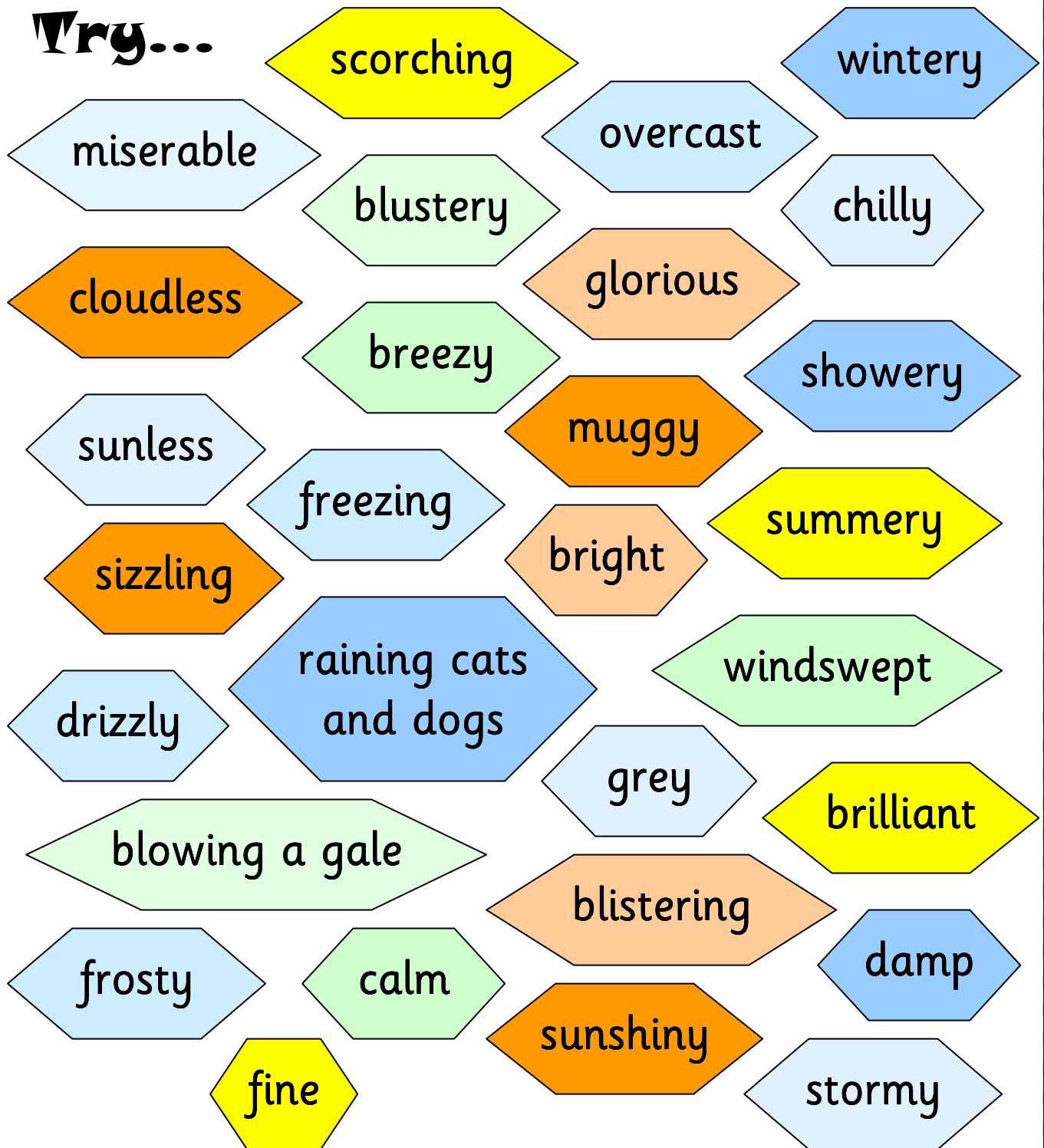
microscopic

Emphasise the size – use an exclamation mark!

What's the Weather?

Don't use boring grey words: sunny, rainy

Try...



Add more description – use more than one word, e.g. ‘Saturday was a bright and breezy day.’

Happy or Sad?

Don't use boring grey words: happy, sad

Try...

glum

miserable

delighted

disappointed

upset

devastated

ecstatic

gloomy

over the moon

cheerful

down in the
dumps

thrilled

on cloud
nine

overjoyed

Make your feelings even stronger – use an exclamation mark !

Scared or Angry?

Don't use boring grey words: scared, angry

Try...

furious

terrified

red with rage

petrified

enraged

frozen with fear

fuming

shaking like
a leaf

hopping
mad

trembling

bad-
tempered

on the
warpath

Make your feelings even stronger – use an exclamation mark!

Other Feelings (1)

Don't use boring grey words.

Try...

envious

irritated

annoyed

embarrassed

exhausted

hot and
bothered

lonely

ashamed

disinterested

bursting
with pride

astounded

flabbergasted

shocked

Make your feelings even stronger – use an exclamation mark !

Other Feelings (2)

Don't use boring grey words.

Try...

awestruck

confused

courageous

creative

determined

eager

nervous

inspired

jittery

anxious

shy

sleepy

regretful

Did you know – you can add –ly to many feeling words to make them into adverbs and explain how you or somebody else did something, e.g. ‘I nervously waited for my turn.’ or ‘Courageously, my little sister swam into the deep end.’

-ly words

Improve your writing - begin a sentence with a -ly word and a comma.

abruptly

amazingly

amusingly

angrily

anxiously

bizarrely

bravely

carefully

ordinarily

cheerfully

clumsily

exhaustedly

eventually

excitedly

eagerly

gloomily

generously

foolishly

greedily

gradually

happily

nervously

naughtily

luckily

patiently

proudly

quickly

shyly

sadly

reluctantly

quietly

usually

slowly

suddenly

Similes

Improve your writing – use a simile.

as big as a bus

as brave as a lion

as clean as a whistle

as busy as a beaver

as cold as ice

as dry as a bone

as easy as ABC

as dull as dishwater

as good as gold

as happy as a clown

as keen as mustard

as hungry as a bear

as pleased as punch

as proud as a peacock

as quiet as a mouse

as quick as a wink

as tall as a giraffe

as wise as an owl

as tricky as a box of monkeys