SPAG Activities

Name..
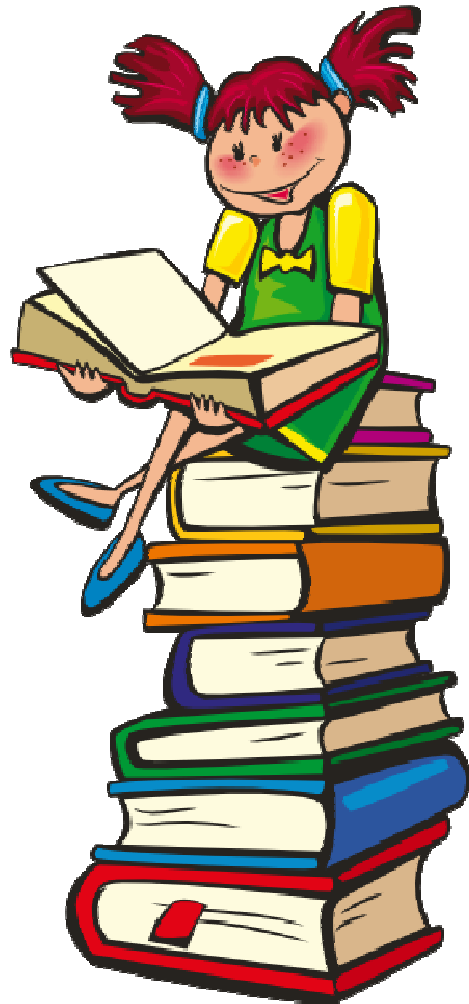
Descriptive Sentence Openers

There are many ways to open a sentence. One is way is to use a **descriptive** sentence opener.

Example:

A sly old fox crept sneakily towards the clucking hens.

Can you think of some descriptive sentence openers for each of the pictures below?

Apostrophes for Contractions

Apostrophes are used to contract words together. This means that we can write them down as we say them.

Instead of saying

*Ella wore the new dress **she had** bought,*

People often say

*Ella wore the new dress **she'd** bought.*

When we write this we use an **apostrophe**.

It shows where something has been removed.

*Ella wore the new dress **she**   ↓ **d** bought.*

ha

*Ella wore the new dress **she'd** bought.*

Look at the contractions below and write them next to the original phrases. The first one has been done for you.

Contraction		Original Phrase	Contraction
I'll *it's*		she will	
mustn't		it is	
		must not	
didn't *she'll*		I will	
		did not	

More Contractions

Contraction	Original Phrase	Contraction
I'm *let's*	we will	
doesn't	he will	
don't *we'll*	does not	
	he would	
	have not	
he'll isn't	is not	
can't	cannot	
	let us	
couldn't *you'll*	do not	
	you will	
he'd she'd	you are	
	we have	
you're	she would	
	I am	
haven't *we've*	could not	

Read the sentences below and turn the words in **bold italics** into a **contraction** (shortened form).

Remember that the apostrophe is written where letters have been removed. The first one has been done for you.

1. Billy ***does not*** like carrots. _doesn't_

2. Jane always laughs when ***she is*** dancing.

3. Ted can run but he ***cannot*** jump.

4. "***It is*** not fair!" cried the little boy.

Apostrophes for Contractions and Possession

As well as using apostrophes for **contraction**, we can also use them to mark **possession**.

A possessive apostrophe is used to show when something (a noun) **owns** or **possesses** something else.

Example: **Jane's hair is brown.**

The apostrophe shows that the hair belongs to Jane.

Read the sentences below. Some use apostrophes to mark possession and some use them to mark a contraction. Sort them into two groups by putting a P in the box for an apostrophe to mark possession or a C to mark contraction.

Peter **couldn't** find his pencil.	
Janet's friends are coming for dinner.	
On **Dad's** birthday, we made him a cake.	
We've decided to go to the zoo today.	
The lights on the Christmas tree **didn't** work.	
The **dog's** ears are long and flappy.	
Don't go to the party without me!	
Grandma's cooking is delicious.	
Dad said **he'd** really enjoyed himself at the football match.	
Samantha **doesn't** like chocolate.	
Mum's favourite colour is yellow.	
We've helped the farmer to milk his cows.	

Compound Words

A compound word is made when two words are joined to form a new word.

example: **teapot** *is made of* **tea** + **pot**.

Can you find the compound words in the word search below?

t	d	n	f	i	n	m	v	s	e	n	e
r	e	o	s	l	a	d	y	b	i	r	d
a	u	n	d	e	r	l	i	n	e	a	i
r	s	t	a	b	l	e	s	p	o	o	n
m	f	c	k	m	m	o	p	r	d	n	h
c	r	o	s	s	r	o	a	d	t	n	t
h	t	i	s	g	h	a	n	d	b	a	g
a	e	s	c	s	n	o	t	h	i	n	g
i	t	r	s	o	m	e	t	h	i	n	g
r	s	a	n	d	c	a	s	t	l	e	e
z	r	a	c	e	h	o	r	s	e	i	k
g	w	e	e	k	e	n	d	a	d	v	r

grasshopper	crossroad
weekend	sandcastle
handbag	armchair
tablespoon	nothing
ladybird	something
underline	racehorse

Perfect Proof Reading

It is very important to read through your work to check it for mistakes. There is one mistake in each of the sentences below. Practise your proof reading skills by spotting the mistake and writing the corrected version of each sentence. The first one has been done for you.

1. **The duck's were swimming in the pond.**

   The ducks were swimming in the pond.

2. **Kevin was swim in the sea.**

3. **We are going to france to visit our friends.**

4. **Please can I have an ice cream? asked Sarah.**

5. **Lilly and John is going sailing.**

6. **february is the shortest month of the year.**

Adverbial Sentence Openers

There are many ways to open a sentence. One is way is to use an **adverbial** sentence opener.

Example:

Slowly, the old tortoise crept along the dusty road.

Can you think of some adverbial sentence openers for each of the pictures below?

Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms are words that have almost the same meaning.

*example: The words **brilliant** and **excellent** are synonyms.*

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.

*example: The words **up** and **down** are antonyms.*

Read the pairs of words below. Some of them are synonyms and some are antonyms.   Can you tell which is which?

Write them in the correct column in the table.

noisy quiet	happy pleased	hot cold	agree disagree

boiling freezing	smell fragrance	confess admit	huge gigantic

polite rude	guess estimate	pretty ugly	rush hurry

Synonyms		Antonyms	

Happy Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same but have a different spelling and meaning.

example: hare, hair

Can you choose the correct missing word for the sentences below?

Heard or herd?

I _____ the birds singing in the trees.

A _____ of cows were grazing in the field.

Hour or our?

Lunch will be served in one _____ exactly.

_____ family are looking forward to meeting your family.

Their, there or they're?

_____ are ten cream buns on the plate.

My friends are away on holiday. I hope _____ having a good time.

The children kept _____ toys in the toy box.

Too or to?

My woolly jumper is _____ warm.

I went _____ watch the football match.

See or sea?

The fish are swimming in the _____.

I can _____ the monkeys in the trees.

Wear or where?

I can't remember _____ I put my gloves.

It is a good idea to _____ a waterproof coat when it is raining.
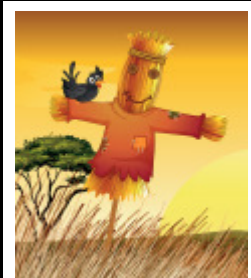
Prepositional Sentence Openers

There are many ways to open a sentence. One is way is to use a **prepositional** sentence opener.

Example:

In front of the Christmas tree, stood a happy snowman.

Can you think of some **prepositional** or **'where'** sentence openers for each of the pictures below?

Matching Syllables

Can you match the syllables below to make 12 farmyard words? The first one has been done for you.

Syllable 1	Syllable 2	Farmyard Words
scare	tor	scarecrow
chick	vest	
hay	ling	
cat	crow	
pig	ey	
duck	dog	
trac	en	
har	ure	
farm	stack	
turk	er	
sheep	tle	
past	let	