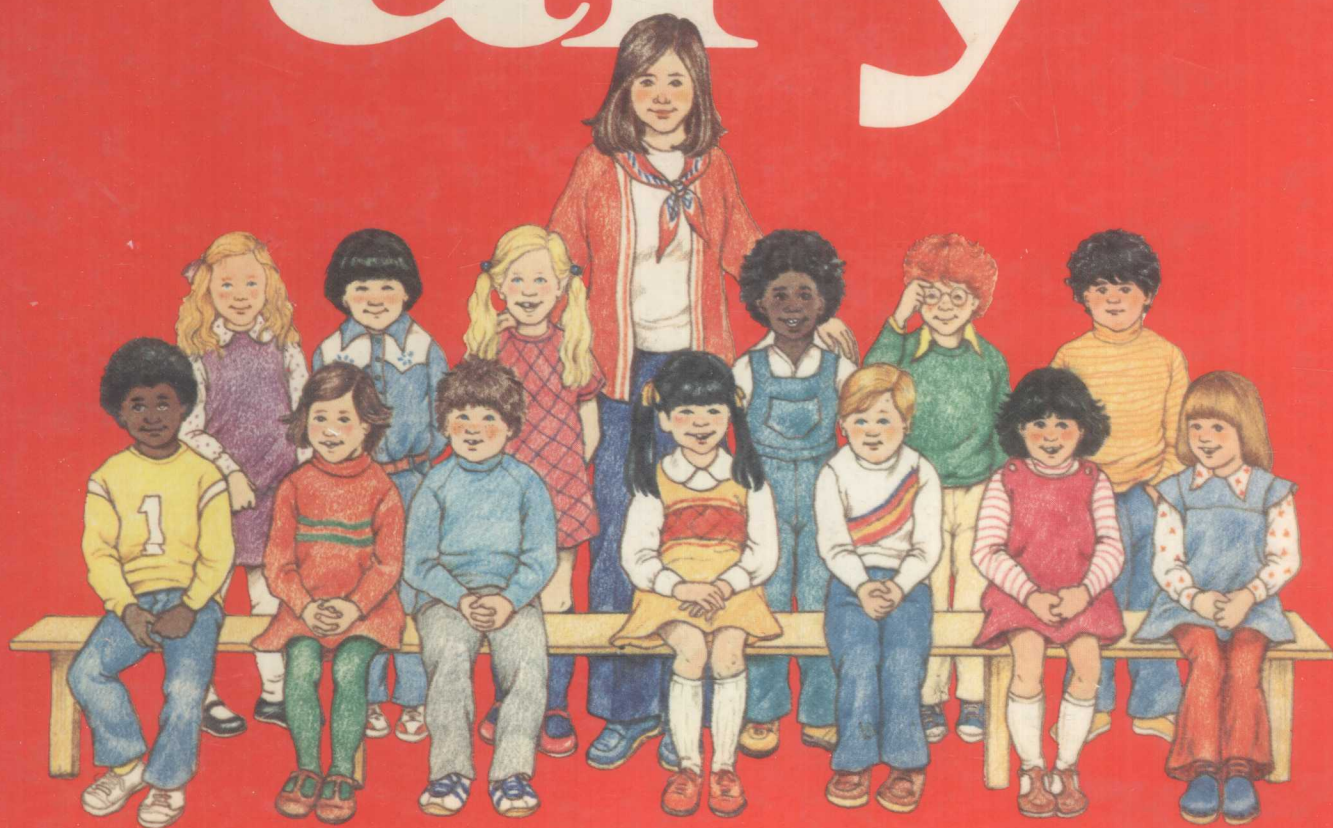
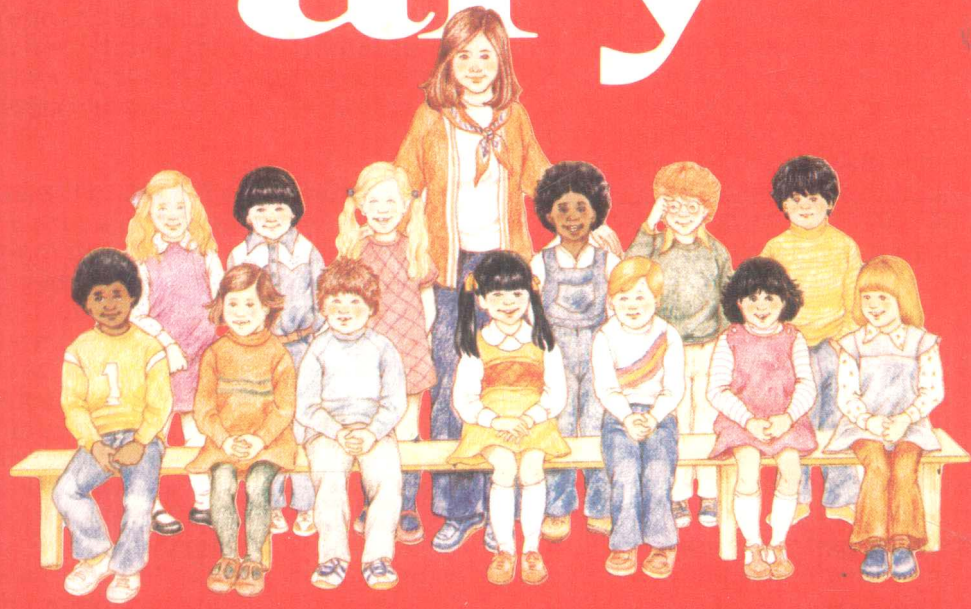


First  
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Macmillan

# First Dic tion ary



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# PREFACE

The *Macmillan First Dictionary* is a new book in the Macmillan dictionary program. It is part of a complete series of school dictionaries published by Macmillan to cover the entire range of student dictionary needs. As its title indicates, this is the lowest-level book in the series.

**A "PRE-DICTIONARY":** The *Macmillan First Dictionary* can be termed a "pre-dictionary," in that it introduces students to dictionary skills and prepares them for the use of a more conventional reference book later on. The book concentrates on the two most important kinds of dictionary information: spelling and meaning. Surveys of reference book use have shown that virtually all dictionary consultation at this age level is for either the correct meaning or spelling of a word.

**A READING SUPPORT:** The *Macmillan First Dictionary* provides support for a basal reading program because its word list is drawn from the vocabulary used in primary-grade materials. During the development of this book, Macmillan conducted a special survey of the words that appear in the basal programs of leading publishers, including Macmillan's own SERIES r. The leading source for this survey was the Macmillan book, *Basic Elementary Reading Vocabularies*, by Professors Albert J. Harris and Milton D. Jacobson. Professor Jacobson, the readability consultant for SERIES r, is also the developer of the computerized readability control formula used in the Macmillan dictionaries. Through this formula, the reading level of a definition is keyed to the grade level of the entry word.

**NATURAL LANGUAGE:** The philosophy of the *Macmillan First Dictionary*, and indeed of the Macmillan dictionary program, is essentially this: the information in a dictionary should be presented in a form that is as close as possible to the way students learn about words on their own, through their everyday experience. Linguistic studies have conclusively shown that human beings have an enormous potential for learning language. The best way to tap this potential is to create, within the artificial world of a book, a language-

learning situation that closely resembles a language-learning situation in the real world.

This philosophy is carried out in the *Macmillan First Dictionary* in the following ways: First, all words are entered in a single alphabetical list, rather than being grouped separately by meaning, function, or the like. Second, entry words are printed in solid type, without syllable division, exactly as the students would see them in other reading material. Third, definitions are phrased like the answer to a question about the word. They read as if a student had just asked, for example, "What does *agree* mean?" (When you **agree** with someone, you think the same way they do.") Fourth, the example sentences show how words are used within the context of a child's world. ("Karen thought it would be a good idea to go on a picnic, and Fred **agreed**.") All textual information is given in the form of complete sentences, since the sentence is the basic unit of our language as we use it naturally. Finally, all illustrations show real-life situations, with accurately-depicted people and animals, rather than cartoon figures.

**ILLUSTRATIONS THAT TEACH:** The illustrations in the *Macmillan First Dictionary* have been developed especially for this book. Those that appear on the special 'alphabet' pages show familiar objects beginning with the particular letter, and they serve to draw the student into the body of the book. Within the running text, illustrations are used to explain abstract and conceptual words, such as *enough*, *have*, or *across*. These conceptual words are the ones that young students have the most difficulty in grasping; they are also the words whose meaning is hardest to convey with a verbal definition alone. For these illustrated words, the example sentence serves in effect as a caption for the picture. Thus the same information is being conveyed to the student by two different means—the visual and the verbal.

The *Macmillan First Dictionary* has been developed to help young students learn about words, but it is meant to be more than an effective teaching tool. We hope that it is also a book that students will enjoy looking at and reading on their own, and that it will create in them an enduring interest in our language.

Christopher G. Morris  
Editor

# 1 HOW TO USE YOUR BOOK

This is *your* book. It will teach you many things about words. But first you have to know how to use it.

There are only four steps you have to follow to learn how to use this book.

This book has a lot of words in it. They are put in the book in the same 'ABC' order as the letters of the alphabet. 'ABC' order is the first thing you have to know to use this book.

ABCDEF GHIJKLMN  
OPQRSTU VWXYZ

All the words that begin with 'A' come together at the beginning of the book, then the 'B' words, then 'C', and so on. Before the 'A' words, there is a special letter page. Each of the other letters also begins with the same kind of letter page.

**Try This**

Find each of the letter pages in your book.

# 2

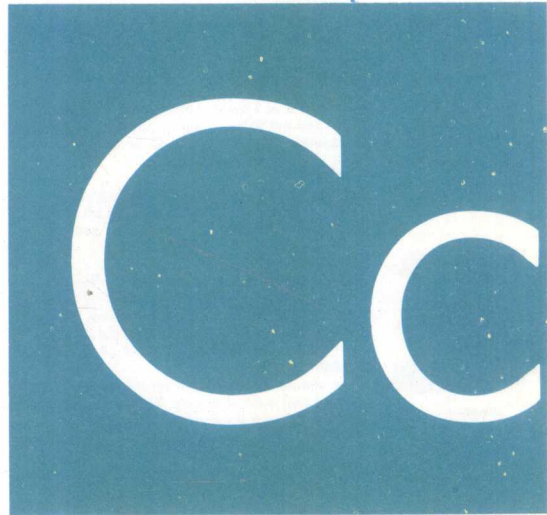
Now you know where the different letters are in your book. The next thing you have to know is how to find a word. To do this, you look at the first letter of the word.

## Try This

Put these words in 'ABC' order.

change      balloon      empty  
airplane      room

Now, let's take just one letter of your book—'C'. Find the 'C' letter page. It's on page 34. You can see that there are a lot of 'C' words after this page. They are in 'ABC' order, too—'CA' words come first, and so on.



## Try This

Put these 'C' words in 'ABC' order.

change      close      cute  
can      cent

Now try to find each word in your book.

# 3


Did you find each word? The next thing you have to know is how to find out what the word means. Let's take one of these words—**change**.

If you found **change**, you know that it is on page 42. It has big black letters to make it easy to see:



change


## change

**Change** means to make something different from what it is. I have to **change** my clothes before I go out to play. Mom **changed** the tire because the old one was flat.  See the picture.

## channel

A **channel** is a place that sends out television programs. Frank **changed** the **channel** on the TV set so he could watch the baseball game.

## chase

**Chase** means to run after something. When you **chase** something, you try to catch it. The dog is **chasing** the birds.  See the picture. Frank **chased** the ball after Joan kicked it.

## cheap

When something is **cheap** it means that it does not cost a lot of money. This piece of candy was **cheap**; it only cost two cents.

## change

Under the word, you will see a group of words called a *sentence*. This is the *definition* for the word **change**. A definition tells you what the word means:

• **Change** means to make something different from what it is.

Then comes another sentence. This is called the *example sentence*. It tells you how the word is used.

• I have to **change** my clothes before I go out to play.

## Try This

**Change** is on p. 42. On the next page, 43, are three words that mean "something to eat." There are also two words that mean "a part of your body." Can you find these words?

# 4

You can see on page 42 that your word **change** has a picture with it.

The last thing you have to know to use the book is how the pictures go with the words.



change

## change

**Change** means to make something different from what it is. I have to **change** my clothes before I go out to play. Mom **changed** the tire because the old one was flat. ☀ See the picture.

## channel

Look at the last example sentence for **change**. It says "☀ See the picture." after it. This sentence tells you what is in the picture. And the picture helps you read the sentence. The words and the picture go together.

## Try This

There are two more pictures on pages 42 and 43. Can you find the words that go with these pictures?

Those are the four steps. That's all you have to know about your book. Good luck!



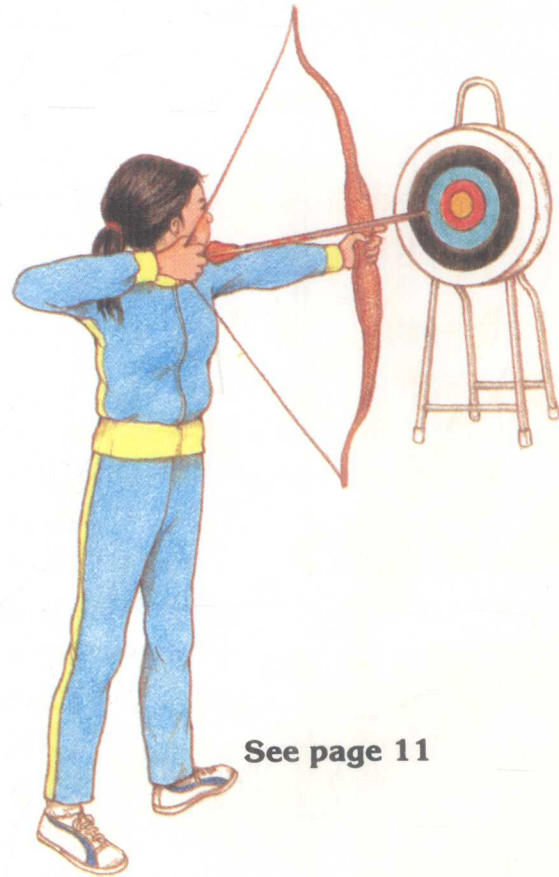


See page 10



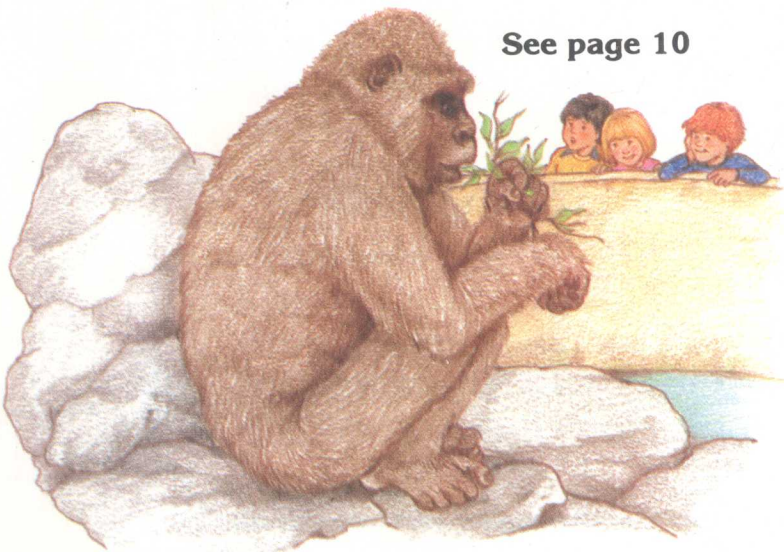
See page 5

Aa



See page 11

See page 10



On this page are pictures of words that begin with the letter "A". Can you find each word in your book? Turn to the page number you see near the picture. When you find the right word you will see this: ■

## a

I have a pet cat. The mailman comes to our house once a day. The rose is a flower.

## able

When you are **able** to do something, it means that you know how to do it. Harry is **able** to count up to twenty. Mary is **able** to ride her new bicycle.

## about

My sister is reading a book **about** horses. The airplane was **about** to take off. There are **about** twenty boys and girls in my class at school.

## above

The birds flew **above** the trees. The sun is shining **above**.<sup>the air.</sup>

## absent

When you are **absent**, you are away from a place. Sally is **absent** from school today because she is sick.

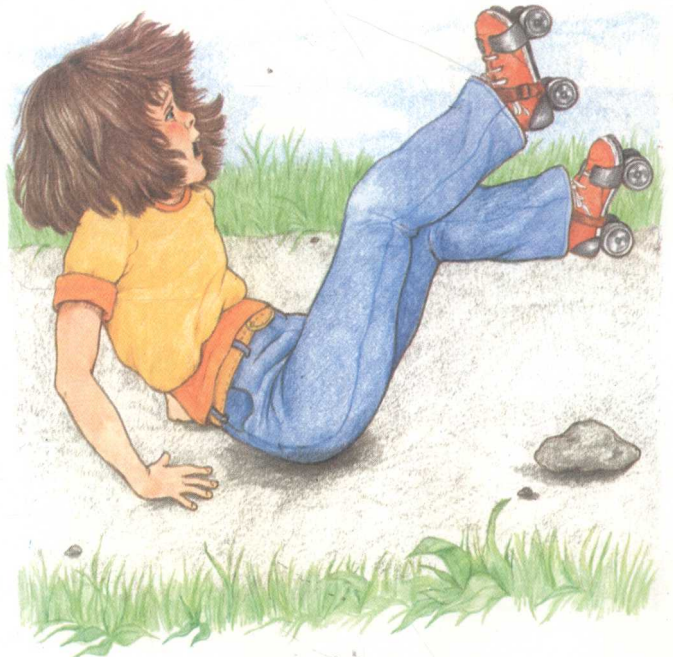
## accident

An **accident** is something that happens. Some **accidents** are bad. Mary had an **accident** while she was roller-skating and fell down.

☀ See the picture. Terry found a dime by **accident** while she was looking for her shoes under the bed.

## ache

**Ache** means that something hurts. Bob's arm **ached** after he pitched the whole baseball game.



**accident**



## across

### across

Bobby sailed his toy airplane **across** the pond.  
☀ See the picture. We walked **across** the street.

### act

**Act** means to do something. The firemen **acted** quickly to put out the fire. George is **acting** the part of an Indian in our Thanksgiving play.

### add

**Add** means to put things together. If you **added** the numbers 5 and 4, you would get 9. Ellen likes **adding** lots of sugar to her cereal.

### address

An **address** is the place where you live. Carol's **address** is 34 James Street.

## adult

An **adult** is a person who is grown-up. Your mother and father are **adults**. My teacher is an **adult**.

## advertisement

An **advertisement** is something that tells about a thing you can buy. There were many **advertisements** in the newspaper about cars for sale.

## afraid

When you are **afraid**, it means you are scared of something. Our dog was **afraid** of the storm and hid in his doghouse. ☀ See the picture.



**afraid**

## after

Nancy ran **after** the ball. Dan came to my house **after** school yesterday. Tuesday comes **after** Monday.

## afternoon

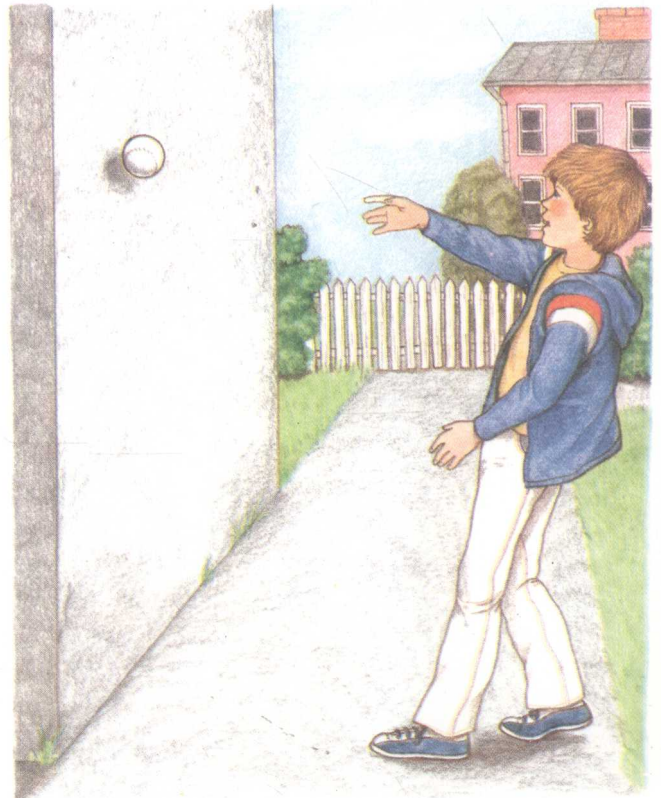
**Afternoon** is a time of day. It is the part of the day between noon and evening. We have play time at school in the **afternoon**.

## again

When you do something **again**, you do it one more time. Diane called her dog and when he didn't come, she called him **again**.

## against

Tom threw the ball **against** the wall. ☀ See the picture. Our school played a baseball game **against** another school.



**against**

## age

Age is how old you are. My sister's **age** is five years.

## ago

Ago means before the time it is now. The movie started a few minutes **ago**.

## agree

When you **agree** with someone, you think the same way that they do. Karen thought it would be fun to go on a picnic, and Fred **agreed**.

## ahead

Peggy was **ahead** of the others in the race.  
☀ See the picture. Our team was two points **ahead** in the game.



**ahead**

## air

Air is what we breathe. Air is all around us. Mary blew **air** into her balloon.

## airplane

An **airplane** is a thing that can fly in the air. It has two wings and an engine to make it go.

An **airport** is a place where **airplanes** land.

## alarm

An **alarm** is a thing that makes a loud noise. The **alarm** of a clock wakes people up in the morning. The fire **alarm** in the building tells people that there is danger.



**alike**

## alike

When things are **alike**, it means they are almost the same. All the puppies look very much **alike**. ☀ See the picture. Betsy and her sister sometimes dress **alike**.

## alive

When something is **alive**, it means it is living. You are **alive**. Harry has to water the flowers if he wants to keep them **alive**.

## all

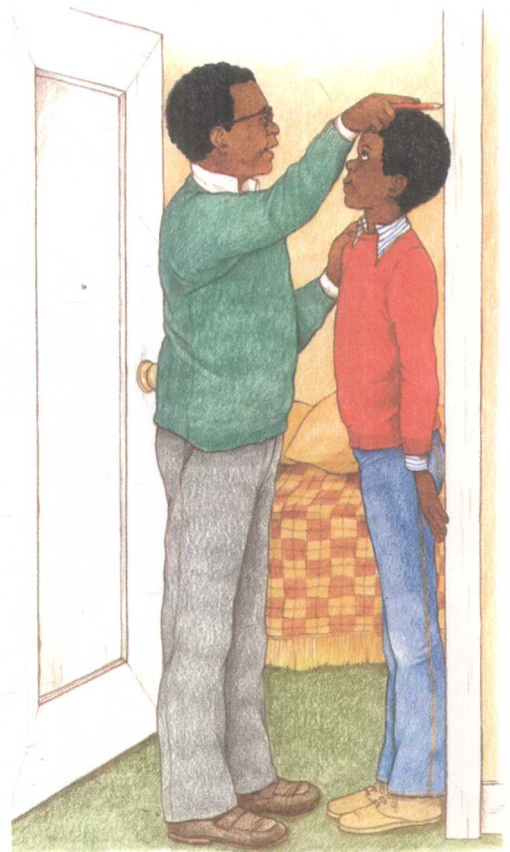
Dick ate **all** the cookies in the box. **All** of us are going to go swimming this afternoon.

## alligator

An **alligator** is an animal. It has a long tail and short legs and a large mouth. **Alligators** live in rivers. ■

## almost

Lewis is **almost** as tall as his father. ☀ See the picture. I am **almost** finished with my homework.



**almost**

## alone

If you are **alone** you are not with anyone. There was just one kitten all **alone** in the window of the pet store.

## along

People stood all **along** the street as the parade passed by. Ruth brought **along** a ball to the park.

## alphabet

The **alphabet** is the letters we use to write words. The letters of the **alphabet** go in a special way. "A" is the first letter of the **alphabet**.

## already

My sister has finished her homework **already**. You are **already** late for school.

## also

Chris is wearing a blue coat and his sister is wearing one **also**. ☀ See the picture.



**also**

## always

If something **always** happens it means that it happens all the time. My dog **always** barks when he sees me coming.

## am

I **am** happy that you can come over to play.

## amaze

When something is **amazing**, it surprises you very much. The children were **amazed** by the magic tricks. ☀ See the picture.

## ambulance

An **ambulance** is a special kind of car. **Ambulances** are used to carry hurt or sick people to a hospital.

## American

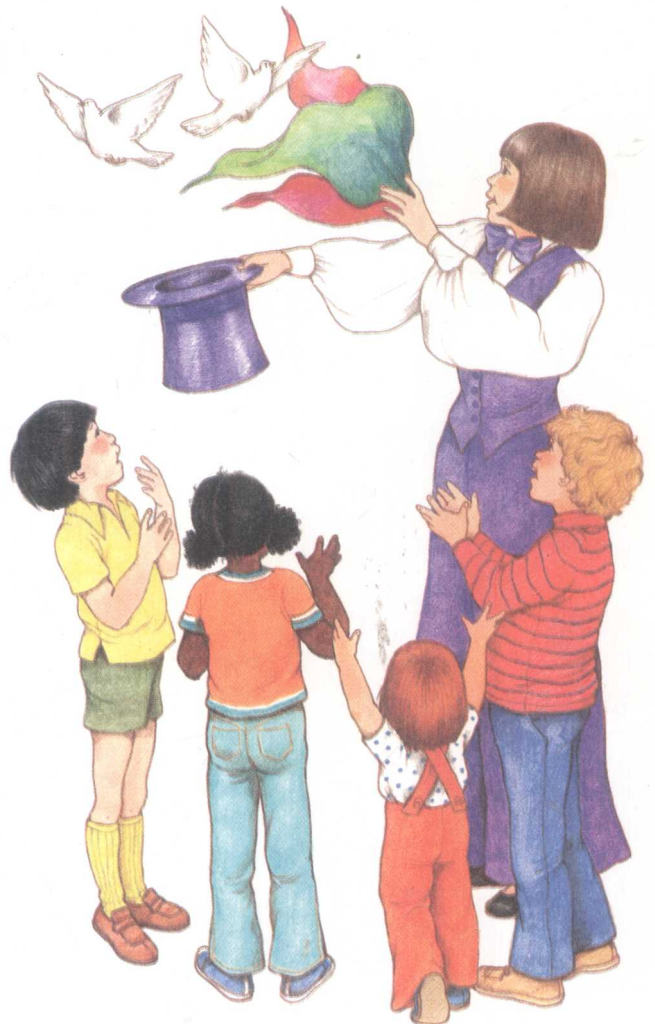
If something is **American** it means that it belongs to the United States. Someone who lives in the United States is called an **American**.

## among

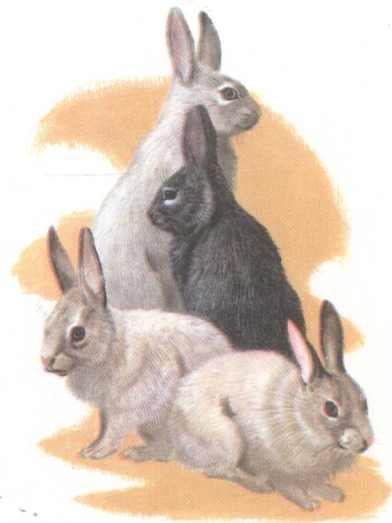
Nan divided the cake **among** her friends. There was one black rabbit **among** the white rabbits. ☀ See the picture.

## amuse

**Amuse** means to make someone happy. When something is **amusing**, it makes you smile or laugh. The clowns **amused** everyone with their silly way of walking.



amaze



among



## an

A bear is **an** animal. Tom ate **an** orange. We saw **an** elephant at the zoo.

## and

Betty has a dog **and** a cat. Sally **and** Tim played ball with me.

## angry

When you are **angry**, you feel very mad. Matt was **angry** because his little brother broke his toy truck. ☀ See the picture.

## animal

An **animal** is any living thing that is not a plant. A boy, a girl, a cow, a bird, a fish, a snake, a mosquito, and a worm are all **animals**.

## ankle

The **ankle** is a part of your body. Your **ankles** are between your feet and your legs.

## answer

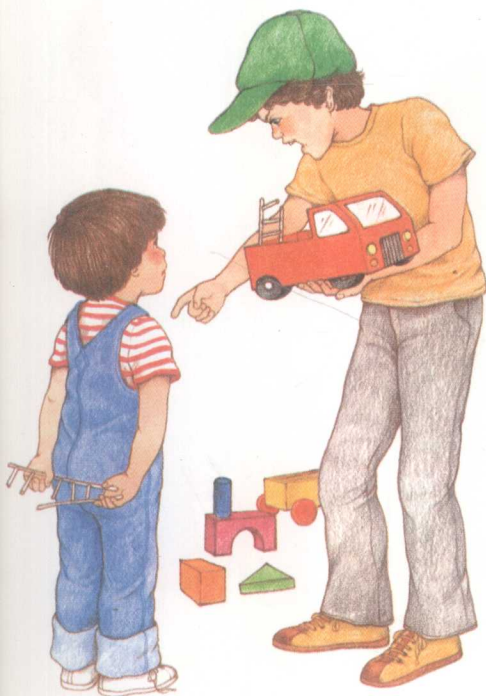
**Answer** means to say something when someone asks you a question or calls you. Amy **answered** the teacher's question. Mother called Barbara three times, but she didn't **answer**. Dick **answered** the telephone. Alice didn't know the **answers** to her father's questions.

## another

Do you want **another** cookie? Joan ate her hot dog and then asked for **another**.

## ant

An **ant** is a small insect. **Ants** live in the ground.



**angry**