

# MAD ENGLISH GAMES

*for college and high school*

## 麦德 英语游戏

〔美〕麦德 (Michael A. DeRabo) 编



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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藏书章

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# FOREWORD

We live in an “infotainment” age where information is delivered as entertainment for better efficiency. In today’s hectic world, in order for information, of any sort, to be readily acceptable and absorbed, it has to be tailored in a way that attracts the recipient’s attention. The same principle applies in the education field.

In today’s China, students are overloaded with coursework delivered in a routine and boring fashion. Many students easily sleep through or even skip classes. This book’s objective is to remedy that kind of situation in the English learning area. The principle it adopts is instruction through entertainment; the students have fun while learning.

The main problem that non-native speakers of English, such as Chinese students, encounter when learning English is the lack of speaking practice. This problem is the result of an outdated education that has emphasized learning by rote. Students may accumulate a lot of knowledge, but they don’t know how to express it.

This book is all about practicing and honing the students’ speaking skills. Through the games in this book, the students will enjoy having fun and competing with one another. Without even realizing what they are doing, the students will develop speaking fluency and confidence through this method. Nothing can bring a shy student out of his shell more easily than a fun game of English.

I have tried this book with students who came from all levels of education, not only from the university but also from high school and middle school. The students enjoy playing different games. This book contains more than forty games, thus, providing a rich variety to keep any class interested. Again, while the games cover different strategies and areas, they all have the same purpose: making the students practice their speaking skills.

This book can also be used as a self-study tool since the answers are included.

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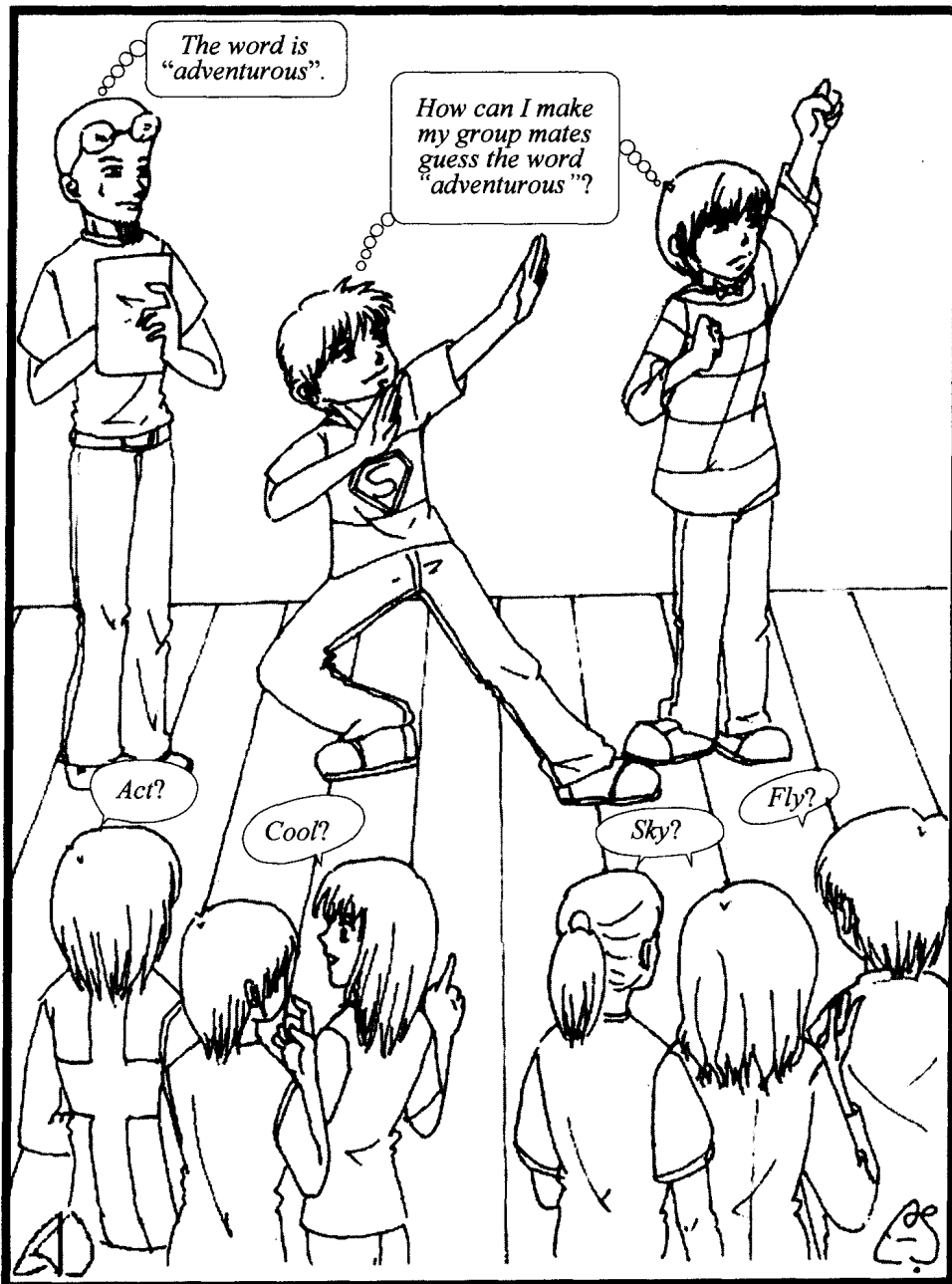
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GAME 1

**GUESS THAT WORD**



## GAME NAME: GUESS THAT WORD

### HOW TO PLAY

*The class is divided into two groups. Each group sends a representative to the front of the class. The teacher shows a word to the representatives who try to explain it to their groups and make them guess the word. The same word is simultaneously shown to both representatives in order to maintain fairness. The group, which first guesses correctly, gets a point. Then, the next word is shown and the game goes on. From time to time, the groups should change their representatives in order to give a chance to all group members to participate.*

### EXAMPLE

*Depending on the English proficiency level of the class, the words can be chosen from the following lists for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Note that the words are not arranged alphabetically or by topic so as to make the game more challenging.*

#### Beginner level

Taste	Place	Beach	Skin	Address
Follow	End	Same	Problem	Idea
Graduate	Damage	Evening	Become	Date
Music	Company	Hobby	Body	Excited
Simple	Power	Luck	Catch	Honest
Great	Support	Family	Champion	Hurt
Noise	Agree	Solution	Distance	Lesson
Imagine	Crime	Know	Culture	Next
Apartment	Decision	Name	Island	Party
People	Government	Thing	Map	Perfect
Enter	History	Meat	Model	Practice
Traffic	Letter	Visit	Count	Ride
Rice	News	Relax	Popular	Size
Pay	Program	Clear	Divide	Station
Understand	Say	Computer	Repeat	Thank
Copy	Number	Die	Criticize	Top
Dream	Bank	Email	Village	College
Equal	Year	Time	Wait	Fruit
Accept	Light	Necessary	Guide	Vegetable
Introduce	Attack	Artist	Touch	Stand

Send	Leave	Guess	Panda	Office
Child	Welcome	Sport	Job	Waiter
Empty	Invite	Stop	Lazy	Mirror
Spend	Try	Think	Move	Cash
Family	Help	Language	Receive	Famous
Center	Meet	Travel	Picture	Nurse
Color	Busy	Pet	Kangaroo	Ice
Copy	Miss	Tired	Price	Horrible
Return	Answer	Actress	Soap	

***Intermediate Level***

Carry	Local	Brand	Technology	Feel
Crowd	Meal	Nightmare	Volunteer	Future
Forgive	Neighbor	Season	Improve	Ready
Allow	Patience	Rent	Encourage	Chimney
Bother	Progress	Borrow	Consumer	Public
Average	Real	Lend	Cost	Sign
Error	Result	Beg	Court	Surprise
Furniture	Major	Chat	Desert	View
Believe	Show	Department	Habit	Voice
Own	Soldier	Discuss	Magic	Poem
Greet	Success	Limit	Meaning	Environment
Treat	Accident	Design	Service	Apologize
Agree	Person	Defeat	List	Belong
Save	Complain	Skill	Use	Ceremony
Create	Dessert	Direction	History	Prepare
Describe	Coin	Destruction	Replace	Comment
Score	Brave	General	Account	Detail
Shout	Shape	Camel	Advertisement	Factory
Education	Novel	Position	Sound	Congratulate
Doubt	Author	Attractive	Ant	Mask
Lead	Eagle	Passport	Math	Document
Regret	Shake	Punish	Bridge	Hurry
Arrange	Plan	Grow	Hill	Consider
Collect	Major	Produce	Cover	Mix
Convenient	Course	Command	Delete	Lock
Fan	Fail	Part	Enjoy	Temperature
Forecast	Invent	Machine	Discover	Organize
Forgive	Leader	Math	Exist	

**Advanced level**

Case	Approve	Flavor	Brave	Literature
Claim	Evidence	Favor	Communicate	Introvert
Defect	Compromise	Remove	Effort	Responsible
Continuous	Industry	Factor	Expression	Aggressive
Focus	Device	Nature	Generation	Diligent
Burglar	Budget	Compete	Justice	Liberal
Gesture	Avoid	Blanket	Waterfall	Romantic
Member	Contain	Assume	Legal	Ambitious
Network	Currency	Explore	Engineer	Dumb
Puppy	Attend	Desire	License	Masculine
Frequent	Debate	Propose	Neglect	Rude
Click	Anniversary	Adjust	Praise	Bright
Spell	Aquarium	Investigate	Promise	Mean
Level	Pollution	Appear	Cross	Selfish
Cycle	Architecture	Behavior	Statue	Modest
Expert	Style	Dialect	Survive	Cautious
Cruel	Celebrate	Development	Tax	Sociable
Makeup	Opinion	Effect	Pour	Nosy
Location	Optional	Event	Business	Strict
Humble	Spouse	Organization	Politics	Submissive
Reform	Society	Colony	Schedule	Humorous
Resist	Negative	Theory	Argue	Patriotic
Athletic	Trend	Exchange	Decide	Cunning
Reach	Recommend	Profit	Comedy	Rhythm
Attitude	Insist	Souvenir	Exhausted	Hypocrite
Reaction	Persist	Civilization	Appliance	Tolerant
Album	Contract	System	Satisfied	Lyrics
Respect	Suggest	Attempt	Support	Cynical
Ancestor	Draft	Control	Word	Innovative
Campaign	Retire	Measure	Grammar	Basement
Select	Closet	Absence	Adventurous	Vain
Conflict	Trade	Advice	Dependable	

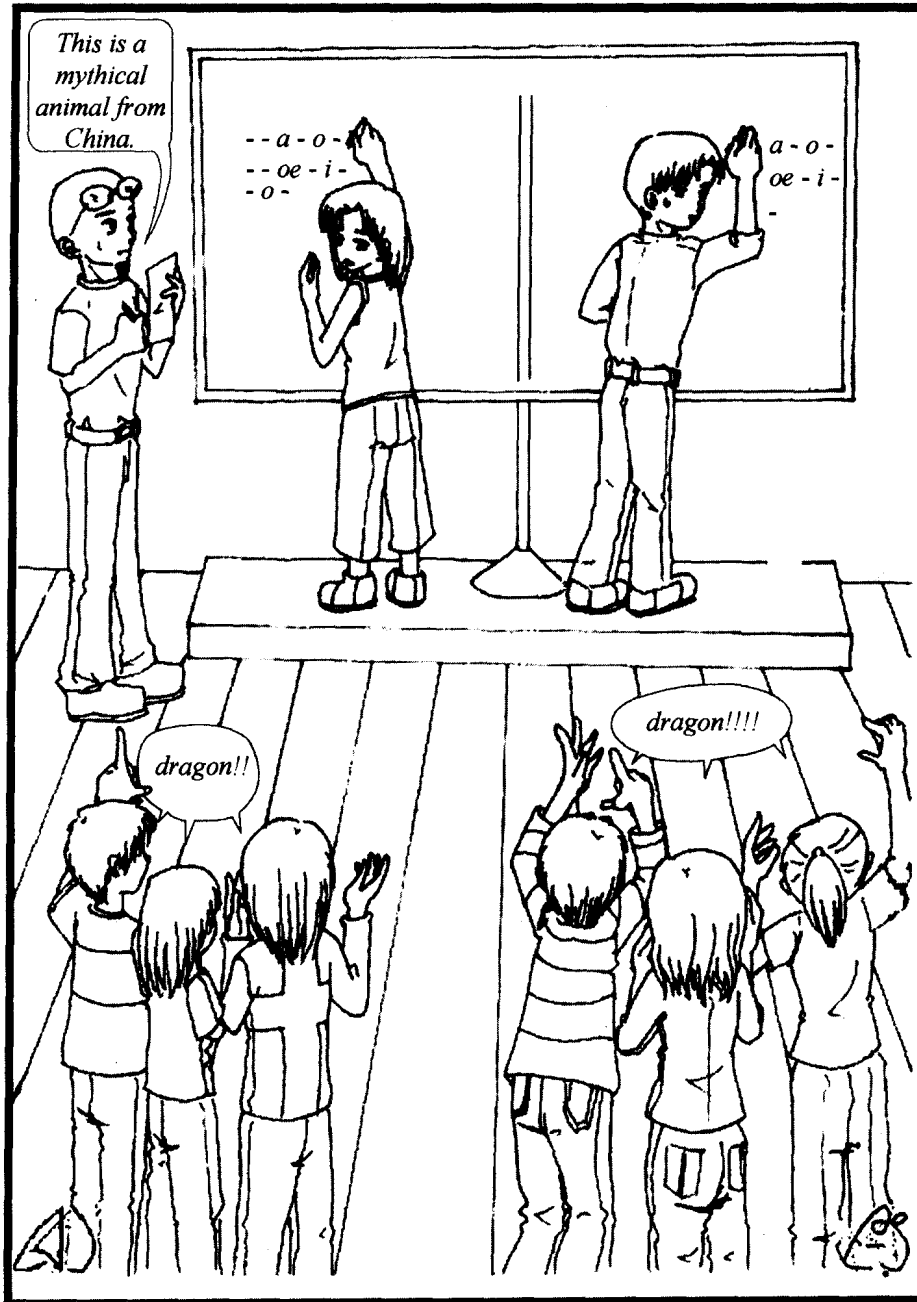
**EXTRA**

*In a variation of this game, the teacher shows the word to the groups who then explain it to their representatives and make them guess the word.*

*Additional words, to play this game, can be found in the appendix.*

GAME 2

# COMPLETING WORDS



## GAME NAME: COMPLETING WORDS

### HOW TO PLAY

Before this game begins, the teacher draws a vertical line in the middle of the blackboard to divide it into two equal halves. Then, he/she writes lists of words, with blanks in them, on each half of the board; for example, a word such as "keyboard" might be written as "\_ ey \_ oa \_ \_". Each list is about one topic, such as computers, animals and so on. The words on both halves of the blackboard are similar.

Next, the class is divided into two groups. Each group sends a representative to the front of the class. The two representatives stand next to their half of the board, ready to fill in the blanks. The teacher gives clues about the first word in order to help the representatives fill in the blanks. Each group can shout help to its representative. The party, which first fills in the blanks correctly, gets a point. Then, the teacher gives clues about the next word and the game goes on.

From time to time, the groups should change their representatives in order to give a chance to all group members to participate.

### EXAMPLE

Examples of this game follow below. First, the teacher writes these word lists, or a subset of them, on each half of the blackboard. The word lists are the same on both sides of the blackboard.

Computers	Animals	China	School	Plants
_ ey _ oa _ _	_ a _ _ a	e _ e _ e _ _	_ o _ _ i _ o _ y	_ _ i _ a _ _
_ ur _ or	_ _ a _ o _	_ an _ _ _ e	_ oo _ _ _ o _ e	_ a _ _ o _
a _ _ _ ica _ ion	e _ e _ _ an _	_ ui _ i _	_ i _ _ a _ y	_ e _ _ u _ e
_ _ ow _ er	_ _ a _ e	_ i _ _	_ a _ e _ e _ ia	_ o _ a _ o
_ ow _ _	_ o _ y	_ _ a _ ea _	_ _ a _ _ _ oo _	_ _ a _ es
_ _ in _ er	_ o _ _ _ in	_ ai _ a _	_ a _ e	_ e _ o _
_ i _ _ o	_ _ ar _	_ i _ o _ i _ y	e _ e _ _ i _ e	_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ ee _	_ a _ e _	_ a _ a _	_ a _ o _	_ ea _
_ _ ann _ r	_ _ oe _ i _	_ i _ _ ua _	_ _ o _ e	_ a _ _ oo
_ o _ ie _	_ _ _	_ u _ _ a _	_ _ a _ ua _ e	o _ io _
_ e _ ique _ _ e	_ i _ _	_ u _ i _ i _ a _ i _ y	a _ u _ _ u _	_ a _ a _ a
_ i _ u _	_ _ a _ e	_ an _ a _ i _	_ _ _ o _ ars _ i _	_ o _ a _ o
_ _ _ _	_ u _ e	_ a _ _ o _ e _ e	_ _ a _ _ _ ipts	_ e _ _ e _

Sports	Places	Travel	People	Cartoons
_ _ oo _	_ _ ua _ e	_ ack _ ack	_ ayo _	_ o _ e _ e
_ i _ _	_ e _ _ _ e	_ o _ _ a _ _	_ _ air _ an	_ _ oo _ y
_ a _ _	_ a _ a _ e	_ _ e _ k	_ i _ ister	_ i _ _ ey
_ e _ _ e	_ a _ a _	_ _	_ olun _ eer	_ o _
_ _ o _ e	_ a _	_ oo _ _	_ _ _ _ onaut	Bu _ _ Bu _ _ y
_ ou _	_ _ y _ _ _ aper	_ a _	_ _ _ _ inee _	Winnie the P _ _ h
_ _ i _ _ _ e	_ o _ _ el	_ e _ _	_ o _ e _	_ ello Ki _ _ y
_ ie	_ i _ _ o	_ i _ _ _ hike	_ _ ee _ ancer	_ a _ _ ie _ _

*After the class is divided into two groups and each group sends a representative to write on one half of the blackboard, the teacher gives them the following clues to help them fill in the blanks.*

### **Computers**

_ ey _ oa _ _	If you want to input something in a computer, you use this device.
_ ur _ or	As you move the mouse, this small symbol moves in step on the screen.
a _ _ _ ica _ ion	This is a software unit such as Word or Excel or PowerPoint.
_ _ ow _ er	This is the software application, e. g. IE, that allows you to surf the net.
_ ow _ _	When you turn on the computer, you have to push this button.
_ _ in _ er	To make a paper copy of the computer screen, you use this device.
_ i _ _ o	If you want to see the person you chat with online, you use this.
_ _ _ ee _	This part of the monitor is what you look at when you use a computer.
_ _ ann _ r	To put some old paper photos on the computer, you use this device.
_ o _ ie _	If you want to make a duplicate of a document, you use this device.
_ e _ ique _ _ e	This is a set of behavior rules when surfing online.
_ i _ u _	This kind of software is generated by hackers and can destroy data.
_ _ _	This is the central chip inside a computer.

### **Animals**

_ a _ _ a	This cute animal is native only to China.
_ _ a _ o _	A mythical animal that symbolizes manhood in China.
e _ e _ _ an _	This is the biggest land animal in existence.
_ _ a _ e	This is the biggest sea mammal.
_ o _ y	A small horse you can find in Inner Mongolia. A hairstyle is named after it.

_ o _ _ _ in	This is a playful sea animal with a long snout.
_ _ ar _	This big sea animal is very dangerous.
_ a _ e _	This animal can have one or two humps and lives in the desert.
_ _ oe _ i _	This mythical animal represents femininity in Chinese culture.
_ _ _ _	This is man's best friend (at least in American culture).
_ i _ _	This fierce animal lives in a pride.
_ _ a _ e	This animal tricked Eve into partaking from the forbidden tree.
_ u _ e	This beast of burden is very stubborn.

### China

e _ e _ e _ _	This is the highest mountain peak in China and the world.
_ an _ _ _ e	This is the longest river in China.
_ ui _ i _	This scenic city in south China is famous for its beautiful karst scenery.
_ i _ _	In ancient times, China used to trade with other countries through this road.
_ _ a _ ea _	This is a high-altitude area. One example is the Tibet-Qinghai area.
_ ai _ a _	This is the second biggest island in China.
_ i _ o _ i _ y	China has fifty-five such groups.
_ a _ a _	This Portuguese colony came back to China in 1999.
_ i _ _ ua _	This land in China is famous for its spicy food.
_ u _ _ a _	This province in China has the highest number of minorities in China.
_ u _ i _ i _ a _ i _ y	There are four such administrative areas; one example is Chongqing.
_ an _ a _ i _	This is another way to call Putonghua, China's language.
_ a _ _ o _ e _ e	This dialect is spoken in Guangdong and Hong Kong.

### School

_ o _ _ i _ o _ y	This is the place you reside at.
_ oo _ _ _ o _ e	This is the place you buy textbooks at.
_ i _ _ a _ y	If you want to find a quiet place to study, you go here.
_ a _ e _ e _ ia	This is the place where you have meals.
_ _ a _ _ _ oo _	This is the place where a teacher lectures to students.
_ a _ e	If you want to go inside the campus, you need to go through this.
e _ e _ _ i _ e	This kind of course is not mandatory.
_ a _ o _	This is your area of study.
_ _ o _ e	When a teacher grades your paper, he gives you this.
_ _ a _ ua _ e	After four years of college, you do this.
a _ u _ _ u _	The school, which you graduate from, considers you as this.
_ _ _ o _ ars _ i _	If you have high grades, a school may give you this to help you enroll.
_ _ a _ _ _ _ pts	These documents show the courses you took and grades you got.

***Plants***

_ _ i _ a _ _	This is the favorite vegetable of Popeye the sailor.
_ a _ _ o _	Rabbits enjoy nibbling on this vegetable.
_ e _ _ u _ e	This leafy green vegetable is used in salads.
_ o _ a _ o	French fries are made from this vegetable.
_ _ a _ e s	Wine is made from this fruit.
_ e _ o _	This sour fruit is from the orange family and has a green peel.
_ _ _ _ _	Newton got his inspiration when he was hit on the head by this fruit.
_ ea _	In China, it is considered bad luck to share this fruit with a loved one.
_ a _ _ oo	Pandas spend hours enjoying munching on this favorite plant.
o _ io _	This layered vegetable can bring tears to your eyes.
_ a _ a _ a	An "abc" (American-born Chinese) is sometimes called this.
_ o _ a _ o	Ketchup is made from this vegetable.
_ e _ _ e _	This vegetable gives Sichuan dishes their spicy flavor.

***Sports***

_ _ oo _	If you want to score, you need to do this to the ball.
_ i _ _	In soccer, players do this to the ball.
_ a _ _	This word means you give the ball to another player.
_ e _ _ e	In tennis or volleyball, you start the play by doing this.
_ _ o _ e	This word means you successfully shot a goal.
_ ou _	This word means a game rule is broken.
_ _ i _ _ _ e	When a foul is committed, the referee does this.
_ ie	This word means that both teams in a contest scored equally.

***Places***

_ _ ua _ e	This is a large public place; one example is Tian An Men in Beijing.
_ e _ _ _ e	This is a building where Buddhists go to pray.
_ a _ a _ e	This is a royal building; one example is Potala in Lhasa.
_ a _ a _	A man-made waterway such as the one between Hangzhou and Beijing.
_ a _	A structure that blocks a river flow and can be used to generate power.
_ _ y _ _ _ aper	This is a very tall building.
_ o _ _ el	An accommodation popular with backpackers and low-budget travelers.
_ i _ _ o	This is a place where you go to dance.

**Travel**

_ack _ack	Many students carry this kind of bag when traveling.
_o _ _a _ _	This device points you in the right direction.
_ _e _k	This type of paper money is safer than cash.
_ _	This item proves who you are.
_oo _ _	You need these kinds of shoes when hiking in the mountains.
_a _	This shows you the location of places.
_e _ _	If you want to camp out, you sleep in this.
_i _ _ _hike	If you want to get a free ride, then you do this.

**People**

_ayo _	This is the head administrator of a city.
_ _air _an	This is the head of the board of directors of a company.
_i _ister	This is a member of a government cabinet.
_olun _eer	Engage in social activities to help others without monetary compensation.
_ _ _ _onaut	A person who goes into space.
_ _ _ _inee _	This person can design all kinds of devices and machines.
_o _e _	This person shows the works of fashion designers.
_ _ee _ancer	This person works for himself.

**Cartoons**

_o _e _e	This sailor gets his strength from spinach.
_ _oo _y	This cute dog comes from the cartoon series Peanuts.
_i _ _ey	Disney's representative.
_o _	This cat is always fighting with Jerry the mouse.
Bu _ _ Bu _ _y	This rabbit enjoys munching on carrots and saying "what's up doc?"
Winnie the P _ _h	This cute bear only wears a t-shirt.
_ello Ki _ _y	This cute cat without a mouth comes from Japan.
_a _ _ie _ _	This lazy fat cat enjoys eating and sleeping.

**EXTRA**

*Additional topics can be found in the appendix.*