

Name _____

FastTrack Phonics for Roots



Booklet



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graph

gopher

phony

phone

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A handwriting practice section featuring a set of three horizontal lines (top, middle, and bottom). The first set of lines contains the letters 'p' and 'h' formed by a grid of grey dots, intended for tracing. The second and third sets of lines are empty, providing space for independent practice.

③

A set of three horizontal lines for independent handwriting practice.

My friend Phillip came to visit me. It was fun! We went to the river and walked on the rocks. We went to a field and saw a big bird called a pheasant. It flew over us and I took a photo of it.

It got very dark, and the trees looked like phantoms. We felt frightened and used Phillip's phone to call my mom to come get us. While we waited, we counted five gophers on the ground!

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My sister's bird Jack escaped its cage! My sister was on the verge of tears and rage! "Act your age," my brother John jeered. He jumped to close the door, but Jack flew out with a page of newspaper from his cage. He perched high on a huge hedge and would not budge. John tried to nudge him down with a wedge of cardboard. Then Jack flew to the ledge of a courtroom building down the street! A kind judge rode the elevator to the roof and caught the silly bird. We celebrated Jack's return by making fudge!

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A pirate's life seems lots of fun to me! I bet they sit on their ship eating a lunch of fish and chips with bunches of bananas. Then they sing and march around the ship wearing patches over their eyes. Next they set sail, because pirates have an itch to get rich. They may catch a lot of fish, but fish are no match for treasure! So they sail the far reaches of the world until they find gold. When I grow up, I will ask a pirate to teach me how to find treasure!

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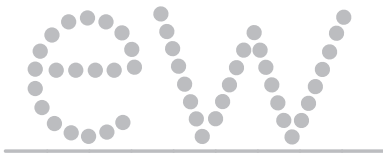
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A cockatoo is a bird I saw at the zoo. My friend Sue has one too. He's as bright as a blue jewel. He can say "Sue." It's true! He can sing a tune too! Her jolly cockatoo lives in her room. But he can swoop down and fly loose in the afternoon after school. He will land on the kitchen counter where Sue's mother brews coffee. He will chew on a cracker. Sometimes he leaves crumbs and Sue must sweep the room with a broom. I will ask for a new cockatoo for my birthday.

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Gail and Fay love to play by the bay. I went with them today.

“Don’t stray,” we heard Gail’s mother say. “Always stay on the trail.”

“Okay,” said Gail.

We played all day! We ran to the marsh and back again. We gathered rocks in a pail. I almost stepped on a tiny gray snail.

“Watch your step!” said Gail.

“The shore is full of life,” she and Fay explained.

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We live by Lily Lake. It's shaped like a giant plate! We sail almost every day. Yesterday was rainy, so we stayed inside and played. My brother Jay hated staying inside.

He waited by the window all day, making a face at the rain.

I said to my sister Kay, "Let's bake a cake to cheer Jay."

Jay ate it and smiled. He said, "Hooray! You have saved the day!"

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stay + ed = _____

make + ing = _____

stay + ing = _____

hate + ed = _____

play + ed = _____

save + ed = _____

play + ing = _____

take + ing = _____

What do we see when we go to the sea? We see seashells, seagulls, green crabs, and seaweed. If you look in the sand, you may find the real teeth of a shark. Sometimes we see seals. I feed them bread and peanuts with my brother, Neal.

The sea is easy to reach. Just walk three blocks to the end of our street. The breeze from the nearby sea blows each leaf on the big oak trees. It is a great place to be!

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Honey is sweet to eat. I spread it on bread for a tasty treat. I put it in oatmeal. It's sweeter than candy! Mom says, "Too much is not good for your teeth."

I was reading a book about honey. Did you know that bees make honey in a hive? Sometimes a hungry bear reaches its heavy paw into the hive to steal the honey! I bet that makes a bee angry!

We have honey at home. When it's eaten, we won't be looking for bees. We will buy more at the store. I'm happy we don't have to keep bees to get honey!

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I hope the big full moon is shining high and bright tonight. I want to camp out back with Mike. I asked Mom if we could.

She said, “Yes, that would be nice! Take your flashlight. Don’t stay up all night.”

We will sleep in a tent outside! I will put it beside my slide. We might play hide-and-see*k*. We will shine the light in my sister’s window. It will give her a fright!

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hike + ing = _____

ride + ing = _____

dine + ing = _____

pile + ing = _____

My friends and I like to ride our bikes. When the sun is shining and the wind is blowing, we like to fly kites. My kite always flies the highest. It flies above the pines until it is out of sight.

My brother is too small to fly a kite. I am twice his size. I try to show him how to run with a kite to make it fly. He tries, but then he cries. Mom will dry his eyes and give him some pie. Later, she might stop by the store and buy a small kite just for him.

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cry + es = _____

fry + es = _____

dry + es = _____

My sister Joan and I have a boat. Dad showed us how to row it. He gave each of us an oar. He said, “Put the oar in the water and row. It makes the boat go!”

We rowed, but we were very slow. Joan said, “I know! We must be strong to row fast! We need to eat oatmeal and toast every day. Then we will grow!”

We got strong and rowed faster. One day, we had a race with Dad. Dad’s boat floated by us. Then he lost his oar! He yelled, “Joan! You and your sister need to tow my boat back to the coast!”

We tied Dad’s boat to ours. We towed him back. He said, “Way to go! You can really row!”

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Last night my parents went to see a show. My brother Joe and I didn't go. We stayed home to take care of our new foal. She was all alone. We walked in the snow to the barn. We fed her some oats.

Then the foal fell on some wood. She moaned! I hoped she didn't break any bones! Joe put the wood by the hoe. He said, "I know! We need to help her on her toes."

"Horses have hooves, not toes," I groaned.

The foal was fine. We gave her a bowl of water. We stayed with her so that she wouldn't be alone.

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My school took a trip to the zoo. We knew just where to look for the new kangaroo. She was in the newest part of the zoo. The weather was cool, so there were fewer people.

Outside the birdhouse, a goose walked about on the loose! Inside some caves, bats flew in circles and swooped down for food. The funniest thing was a silly baboon. He was sitting on a stool and chewing a banana. Then he threw it at us! It zoomed by my head!

We went back to school and wrote about our trip to the zoo. It was cool!

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I told my sister Sue that I flew to the moon in a blue hot air balloon last June. She refused to believe me. I said, “It’s true! The wind blew me there. I took clothes, soap and shampoo. I took my blue flute, so I tooted a tune. Then I zoomed home, using my new parachute.”

“What did you eat?”

“Nothing but prunes.”

Sue fumed, “Do you think I’m a fool?”

We did not continue, because Mom waved her broom and said, “Don’t argue, you two!”

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We have a birdbath in our garden. Every morning, the birds come to sip from it. The big, thirsty birds are first to arrive. The small ones have to wait their turn! Last Sunday, I ran into the garden and caused a stir. I twirled around until my skirt was a blur. It scared the birds. Then I turned to run and fell in the dirt! I wasn't hurt, but I burst into tears because Mom said, "You'll just have to go to church in your dirty skirt!"

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The dirtiest place I ever go is to the farm where I ride horses. Even in winter, the dirt stirs up in a swirl when the horses trot. And when we gallop, the air is a blur of dirt! My horse's name is Curly. His coat is as soft as rabbit's fur, but it gets dirty! Once we rode through a shallow river, and after that, Curly's coat returned to its light brown color. I put a purple ribbon on his saddle. "First prize for the cleanest and most perfect horse ever!"

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We have a mouse in our house. We found out about it one night when Dad was prowling around down in the kitchen for some soup. He's always up late, like an owl! We heard Dad growl and our cat gave a loud meow. "What now?" Mom said with a frown. We were too drowsy to check it out. In the morning after his shower, Dad told us about the mouse.

"How do we get it out of the house?" we shouted.

"Oh, the cat will figure that out," Dad vowed.

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The circus is coming to town! We love to go down to the big tent. The clowns are the most fun of all. They run around in funny trousers and make loud, silly sounds. Sometimes they tumble on the ground. Even their frowns are upside down! I like the clown who wears a big round flower and squirts it in a shower. The group of acrobats makes us shout “Wow!” The growling, leaping tigers deserve to wear crowns! But the clown is the king of the circus, and takes the biggest bow.

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If you give a boy a toy cowboy, he will enjoy it. Floyd makes a lot of noise with his toys.

“Floyd, you’re annoying me!” his mother says. “I need some peace and quiet. You’ll destroy me with your noise! Dinner will be spoiled!”

So Floyd tries to avoid shouting. But when he makes his horse and cowboy toys ride fast, he shouts for joy! “What’s the point in trying? I have no choice!” laughs Floyd.

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My friend, Roy, has a pond full of koi. They look like big goldfish. I often visit Roy, and enjoy watching the koi. “I keep the pond free of twigs, leaves and soil. They would spoil the water,” says Roy. “Be very still; koi don’t like noise. And we must avoid touching the koi, as it will annoy them.”

But once Roy let me touch the orange and black fish called Troy. Troy’s scales felt oily! When Roy goes to camp in June, a boy on his street feeds the koi. I’m going to join Roy when he buys his next koi.

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Last Saturday, Kate and I had a date to fish and play with our friend, Jake. He lives by a bay. The rain made us wait. Then a ray of sunshine came through and saved the day. We put the bait on a hook and waited. Soon Jake caught a fish, and cheered, “Hurray!” He placed it in a pail. It made a funny sound when it flapped its tail. Kate and I hated to see the look on the fish’s face.

“Let it go!” wailed Kate.

Jake threw the fish back into the bay. “Next time, we’ll just play,” laughed Jake.

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In many places, the leaves in autumn are no longer green. On a breezy day, you can watch them fall from the trees. Each leaf has a pleasing color. My brother, Neal, and I rake them into neat, high heaps. “Me first!” Neal squeals. He’s always happy to jump in. A windy day scatters our piles of leaves. It isn’t easy to keep them together, but we hurry and help Dad quickly fill bags with the raked leaves.

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When the weather is nice, my family takes a drive to Crystal Lake. It's high in the hills. My brother and I tie our bikes to the top of the car. We like to ride the wide, lakeside trail. We even try to ride in July, when the weeds are highest. When we're tired, we lie beside the lake and watch the birds wade and fly. The water sparkles blue and bright, by day or by night, in sunlight and moonlight. It's a beautiful sight!

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“Let’s grow vegetables,” I said to my brother, Joe. “To grow our own garden, we must sow seeds.”

We borrowed a hoe from our neighbor, Farmer Brown, who grows oats.

“A hungry doe can be a foe to things you grow. And watch out for crows!” said Farmer Brown.

We thanked Farmer Brown for the wise words he spoke, and for loaning us the hoe. At home, we hoed and sowed for hours. “Even my toes are tired!” groaned Joe.

“Don’t moan,” I said. Next summer, our garden will be overflowing with the vegetables we’ve grown.”

“I hope so,” sighed Joe.

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Have you ever heard a loon? It's a water bird who toots an odd tune. We camped in the Oregon woods last June. We were a few miles from the ocean and a coast full of dunes. We hiked at noon, when the sky was clear and blue. Many birds flew above us, in all sizes and hues. Suddenly, we heard something new.

“What is THAT? A baboon?” shouted my rude cousin, Sue.

“You're kooky!” I said.

“No need to argue,” said my uncle Lew. He knew the sound was a Pacific Loon. “We won't see any this afternoon. They stay in the sea to be close to their food.”

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Yesterday after church, I went to the river. I sat on the trunk of a fir tree that fell over after a windstorm. At first, I was watching thirsty birds dip in the water. Then I turned my gaze to the earth and saw hundreds of squirrels!

I ran home and told my brother, Kurt. He didn't believe me. I hurried back to take pictures. But I lurched forward and fell in the dirt. My camera got dirty, so I returned home.

"Take a shower," said my mother, the nurse. "It's a wonder you didn't get hurt!"

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Owls are nocturnal birds. That means that they fly at dusk or at night when everyone else is drowsy. Their eyes are very large and round to help their sight. Owls often make a loud “hoooo, hoooo” sound.

They hunt in woods and meadows, swooping down low to the ground when a rabbit or field mouse is around. If your house is in a busy town, you may see many birds, but you probably won’t see any owls. I live in the country, and sometimes I see an owl. Once I even found an owl feather! It was black, white, and brown.

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My friend, Roy, likes to juggle. There's nothing he enjoys more! He and his brother, Troy, juggle apples and toys! They study with the Royal Jugglers of Des Moines. They toil to be the best jugglers ever, and call themselves "The Amazing Juggling Boys."

My sister, Joy, and I are their loyal fans. We mustn't make any noise, or it would annoy Troy and Roy, and spoil the show. Someday I'm going to join them on stage, even though I'm not a boy!

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FastTrack Phonics for Roots Partner Practice Booklets

were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation family of programs.

The mission of the Success for All Foundation is to develop and disseminate research-proven educational programs to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, achieve at the highest academic levels.

These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

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