

Read Words in Context

Vocabulary Words

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|-------|---------|
| ah | croak |
| boom | gurgle |
| buzz | hush |
| clang | ping |
| creak | screech |

Word Learning Tip!

Some people believe that the first words people spoke imitated sounds they heard. For this reason, for some words in our language, saying a word out loud and hearing how it sounds can help you understand its meaning. The words in this lesson sound like their meanings.

Vocabulary Building Strategy

When you “sound out” a word and it sounds like a sound you have heard before, think about the meaning of this sound that the word makes. The sound of such words are what this word means. These words are called onomatopoeia words.



Fluffy's Rescue



“**Hush!** Let’s be quiet,” Marco whispered to his friend, Fred. They were walking into the yard of the old empty house on the corner. Marco’s cat, Fluffy, was lost again. Marco hadn’t seen Fluffy in a week. Fred thought that he’d seen Fluffy run into the old house yesterday.

Marco pushed open the gate. It was so old and rusty that it squeaked and **creaked**. Suddenly, it shut behind them with a loud **clang**. Marco and Fred jumped.

It was windy and almost dark. There were all kinds of funny noises. Whoosh! went the wind. Snap! went a tree branch. Crunch! went the grass under their feet. Water spluttered its way down an old leaky pipe into a birdbath. There were no birds though, and no Fluffy. A huge frog leaped out of the birdbath. It just missed Marco’s head. Marco shook as the frog **croaked** over and over again as it hopped towards Grackle’s Brook, which was **gurgling** in the distance. Then, Fred noticed a wasp’s nest. He thought it was empty. He tapped it with a stick. In no time, they were surrounded by hundreds of angry **buzzing** wasps. Buzz, buzz, buzz, the wasps filled the air with their humming sound.

“Yikes! This is horrible!” **screeched** Marco as they ran to the back porch.

Then pebbles started to fall off the roof. The pebbles hit a bunch of cans. **Ping! Ping! Ping!** Marco and Fred looked up. They were afraid of what they might see next!

“**Ah**, Fluffy, not again!” Fred screamed.

Just then, a voice **boomed** from the next yard. “Who’s on that porch?” Fred looked up and was relieved. He recognized his neighbor. It was Mr. Jenkins.

“It’s Fred, Mr. Jenkins. Fluffy’s stuck on the roof again.”