

Lesson 20

or (as in “motor”)

Review: short and long vowels

1. Words to Read and Know

taper	breaker	vapor	penchant
stout	anchor	sundae	furnish

2. Reading Aloud

Exercise A

1. Our neighbor said that the stout sailor was not afraid when the breakers dashed against the ship.
2. Our neighbor, who just fixed his motor, was overspread with grime.
3. The sailors stayed in the cabin, reading by the light of some tapers.
4. We enjoyed the strong flavor of the meal that John cooked for his neighbor and us as a favor.
5. The heavy anchor of the ship was speckled with rust.
6. The children had a memory of watching the vapor stream out of the old woman's boiling pot.
7. My pastor almost cut himself with his razor before he went to the church to preach.

8. The stout captain's ship was battered by the breakers before he lay down an anchor.
9. The smith sharpened the ax, which was speckled with rust.
10. We could not budge the heavy anchor from where it was lying.

Exercise B

1. Tom would like to stick to his plan of taking a plane to Rome this winter.
2. After hiking and biking for five hours, Rick began picking up sticks for the camp fire.
3. After taking the wrapping off the newspaper, the old man read about the earthquake while he ate crackers.
4. The lady and the nanny each held a baby while the flabby man held his fork and knife and ate.
5. Willy watched his dogs chase the wily fox.
6. After he ate his savory meal, Mr. Bonner threw the flabby, moping dog a bone.
7. The man stared at the lion's mane, and the lion stared at the man's puny, funny hat.
8. While Nate and Tommy were wrapping and taping their gifts, they heard a tapping at the front door.
9. The lasses chased the kittens while the lads watched the kites.

10. The plumes of the small bird made a humming noise when it flapped its wings.

3. Phonics

Exercise A

Circle the word that fits the sentence, then write it below.

1. The captain yelled for his crew to lay down the ____.

anchor sailor flavor

2. The car's ____ was broken.

favor savory motor

3. Even if he came down with the flu, Tom would not go to a ____.

sailor doctor pastor

4. Your ____ has a very green lawn in his backyard.

memory motor neighbor

5. What is your favorite ____—yellow, red, green, blue or orange?

color honor minor

6. After such long, hard ____, Tom was ready for a rest.

minor major labor

7. David's father cut himself with his ____ while shaving.

razor manor doctor

8. The knight held a sword and was wearing shining white ____.

vizor armor work

9. We met the ____ who wrote the recent popular book.

motor word author

10. The ____ was starring as Hamlet in Shakespeare's famous play.

major actor professor

Exercise B

Use an *or* or *er* to complete the word and write it below.

1. anch____

2. arm____

3. pap____

4. lab____

5. auth____

6. mot___

7. w__d

8. wint___

9. bigg___

10. raz___

4. Reading Selections

Pink

By William Walter

There was once was a little girl named Cindy who loved everything pink. She liked smelling pink roses and gazing at pink sunsets. She wore pink skirts and pink blouses. She insisted that her parents paint her

bedroom pink and furnish it with a pink desk, a pink bed and a vintage pink record player. And one day when she was sent home from school with a note from the nurse that she had pinkeye—a nasty disease of the eye that makes it itch—, she was happy as a lark in spring.

“The doctor,” her mother told her with a smile, “said that your eye will get better in just a few days with this medicine.” The news made Cindy cry and cry for hours.

Her mother and father accepted her penchant for pink. They were very patient. They bought her pink notebooks and pink pencils and pink erasers for school and birthday presents wrapped in pink wrapping paper. They bought her a pink pocketbook and pink-rimmed eyeglasses. But their patience wore out one day when her father and mother went to buy a new car. Cindy insisted that her parents buy a pink Volkswagen beetle.

“But my dearest Sundae with a pink cherry on top,” the father said to his daughter. He always called her *Sundae*, and when he wanted to be especially endearing he added the cherry on top. “The good salesman that’s helping us doesn’t *sell* pink cars. And we don’t like Volkswagens.”

Cindy then looked at her dad and said, “Then, Father, I don’t want us to buy a new car.”

“But we must, my dear Sundae,” said Cindy’s father. “Our old one will go to your older brother who

needs it for school.” You may have noticed that Cindy’s father didn’t put a cherry on top of the sundae this time. He hadn’t forgotten. The fact is, he was starting to get a little impatient with his daughter’s demanding tone. When Cindy’s parents came home in a classy dark green station wagon, their daughter cried all the way home.

Just the week before, Cindy used the same demanding tone when her parents had agreed to buy her a dog. They didn’t want a dog, but their dear little Sundae did, and they were good, patient parents who wanted the best for their daughter. When they got to the pet store, Cindy scanned the cages. Not one dog was pink. “What kind of pet store is this anyway? No pink!” Her parents could not convince her that there was no such thing as a pink dog. They were relieved when the store manager came out and confirmed that there were indeed no pink poodles. Cindy argued with the store manager, and he got angry. After about two minutes, he finally yelled, “There are no pink dogs—no pink poodles, Labradoodles or for that matter pink Goldendoodles!” He shouted so loudly that the other customers in the store turned around and stared. The store manager apologized to Cindy’s parents for speaking so rudely to their daughter, but the father was very understanding. “Goldendoodles!” Cindy exclaimed. “Now, that’s the dog for me!” Her parents, though, were suspicious. Cindy always insisted on everything pink.

One day the parents finally decided to have a heart-to-heart talk with their daughter. Even for patient parents, as Cindy's parents were, enough is enough. When the father came from work, he yelled upstairs to his wife, "Dearest, what happened to our Goldendoodle?"

The mother shouted down, "I don't know, dear. What's wrong?"

"Our golden doodle is no longer golden," the father said. "It's pink!" Cindy had secretly dyed the beloved family pet with special dye that her mother had used for a neighborhood circus show. The Goldendoodle now looked like a hot pink inflatable pool toy.

"My dear sundae with a pink cherry on top," the father said to his daughter, while the mother looked on, "you must expand your color palette. There are silly children who will eat only cookies. And do you know what happens to them? They get sick."

"People can't get sick from liking only pink," his clever daughter said.

"That was not my point," the father said. "The point is that you will be very unhappy as you get older. You will be very lonely if you make friends who only wear pink."

Cindy's mother decided to chime in: "Cindy, what if you meet a boy that likes blue. What will you do, then?"

"I hate blue!" she said. "And I will never, ever, ever, ever marry anybody who likes blue!"

Years passed and Cindy became a young woman. She had never grown out of liking pink. And her mother's words had indeed come to pass. She fell in love with a young man named Fred who loved blue, and more importantly, hated pink even more than Cindy hated blue. On second thought, that's overstating the case. Nobody hated a color more than Cindy hated blue.

But love conquers all, and one day while they were sitting down, a pretty pink next to handsome blue on a park bench, Fred said, "Will you marry me?"

Cindy then started to cry. Fred put his arm around her shoulder, and said, "Dear, what is wrong?"

"You know what's wrong. Can it ever be?"

"Can what ever be?"

"Must I mention it?"

"Yes, you must tell me."

"How can I marry anyone who likes . . ."

Fred, who was just as patient as Cindy's father, said, "Finish your sentence, my dearest daffodil."

"How can I marry anyone who likes *blue*?"

"But Cindy. Is liking blue a crime? Some of the best people like blue. Didn't George Washington like blue?"

"What does that matter? I don't love George Washington. I love you, Fred."

They then promptly wept in each other's arms. They were soon married, and on the wedding day all the groomsmen were dressed in blue and all the bridesmaids were dressed in pink.

Now what does a marriage look like between a person who loves only blue and a person who loves only pink? A barber shop pole with pink and blue stripes—something very odd, but something that will definitely attract your attention.

Reading Questions A

1. Why does the story say that Cindy insisted that her parents paint her room pink?
 - a) to show that she needed her room changed
 - b) to hint at the fact that her parents do not keep up with house repairs
 - c) to show that Cindy loved everything pink
2. Why does Cindy cry when her mother tells her that she would get better in a few days after getting pinkeye?
 - a) She cried very often, even for ridiculous things.
 - b) She loved the attention in being sick.
 - c) Cindy likes having pink eye because the disease makes her eyes pink.
3. The story pictures Cindy as being ____.
 - a) pampered or spoiled
 - b) respectful to her parents

- c) very smart
4. When talking about buying a car, why does the father call his daughter *Sundae* without adding “with a pink cherry on top”?
- a) He does not like cherries.
 - b) He is reacting to Cindy’s demands for a pink car.
 - c) He is getting tired of using so many words for her name.
5. Cindy thinks that Fred’s mentioning George Washington is ____.
- a) very cruel
 - b) not important to the conversation
 - c) very sad

The Captain’s Daughter

By James Fields

We were crowded in the cabin,
Not a soul would dare to sleep,—
It was midnight on the waters,
And a storm was on the deep.

’Tis a fearful thing in winter
To be shattered by the **blast**,
And to hear the rattling trumpet
Thunder, “Cut away the mast!”

So we shuddered there in silence,—
For the stoutest held his breath,

While the hungry sea was roaring
And **the breakers talked with Death.**

As thus we sat in darkness,
Each one busy with his prayers,
“We are lost!” the captain shouted
As he staggered down the stairs.

But his little daughter whispered,
As she took his icy hand,
“Isn’t God upon the ocean,
Just the same as on the land?”

Then we kissed the little maiden.
And we spoke in better cheer,
And we anchored safe in harbor
When the morn was shining clear.

Reading Questions B

1. What is the most likely setting (time and place) of this poem?
 - a) at sea sometime in winter
 - b) on a river sometime very long ago
 - c) on a lake in spring
2. Why do the people on the ship not want to sleep?
 - a) Their cabin is too noisy.
 - b) The captain has told them not to sleep.
 - c) There is a raging storm and they sense the danger of it.

3. What is the meaning of the word *blast* (printed in bold)?
 - a) captain
 - b) sails
 - c) wind
4. What does “the breakers talked with Death” (printed in bold) mean?
 - a) The daughter told them they should pray.
 - b) The people heard the captain say that they were about to die.
 - c) The people were in danger of dying from the high sea waves.
5. Who is the speaker of the poem?
 - a) the captain of a ship
 - b) crew on a ship
 - c) the waves of the ship

5. Literary Words: Simile and Metaphor

In order to write poetry, a poet has to see a thing as something it is not. That sounds strange, doesn't it? But it is true. To make his poetry effective, the poet has to see, for example, that the sky is a stone, or that daffodils are dancers, or that a poem is nature, or that a patch of dirty snow is a newspaper full of print. When you read “The Captain's Daughter,” you might have been surprised by the poet's line “And And to hear the rattling trumpet.” No, there was no

trumpet aboard the ship. The poet is just comparing something *to* a trumpet.

There are different ways to make comparisons in poetry, or to say something is something else. One is called a simile. Suppose you say something like *John works like a horse*. Obviously you do not mean that John is really a horse. In comparing John to a horse, you are not saying that he likes to eat hay, or that he runs fast, or that he is graceful. Instead, you are saying that John works hard. When we make a comparison using *like* or *as*, it is called a simile.

Another kind of comparison is called a metaphor. Suppose you said *Laura is a real jewel for helping me!* You would not be saying that Laura is hard like a stone, or that she glitters when the sun shines on her. You are saying that Laura is special and precious. Notice that neither *like* nor *as* is being used in this comparison. A comparison without using the words *like* or *as* is called a metaphor.

Exercise

Tell whether the statement is a metaphor or simile. Also, be able to say what is being compared and what is meant by the comparison.

1. Caroline eats like a bird.

metaphor simile

2. Although my father is rather tall, Tom's father is a giant!

metaphor simile

3. The old woman was glad to see the two love birds married.

metaphor simile

4. Amy has a dress that is as pretty as a peacock.

metaphor simile

5. Bob's father gave me handshake as strong as a vise.

metaphor simile

6. Ned was a little mouse in class, afraid to speak and hardly saying a word.

metaphor simile

7. You are a real gem, Samantha!

metaphor simile

8. When she opened the wooden box, her face beamed like the sun.

metaphor simile

9. That salesman was a fox!

metaphor simile

10. Jan smiled and said to her friend, "You look like a pumpkin in that ill-fitting dress!"

metaphor simile

6. Grammar and Punctuation: Commas (1)

Read the sentence below and tell how many people are going to the swimming pool.

David William Russell and Samuel are driving to the swimming pool.

You can see that there are only two people coming. However, if we add one comma to the sentence, the number will change to three and if we add two commas the number will change to four.

David, William Russell and Samuel are driving to the swimming pool. (Three people)

David, William, Russell and Samuel are driving to the swimming pool. (Four people)

You see from the sentences that commas are very important to use in a list of things. That list can be made up of nouns, verbs, adjectives or phrases. If you forget to use commas in the sentence, you will not say what you want to! Note that you do not have to put the comma before the word *and* (or the word *or*) in the sentence.¹ Also, if there are only two things in the list, do *not* use a comma. The items separated by commas (nouns, verbs, adjectives, phrases and clauses) are printed in italics.

For his camping trip, Tim brought *flashlights*, *knapsacks* and *knives*.

Jack, *Rachel* or *Susan* will do it for you.

Tim learned to *swim*, *climb* and *whittle*.

After he came home from his trip, Tom was *stiff*, *sleepy* and *cranky*.

¹ Some people like to put a comma after the second to last word in the series. This comma is often called *the Oxford comma* because Oxford University Press used it in the books they printed.

After they *chopped the wood, lit the fire* and *cooked the meal*, the campers sang songs.

He thought about *what he would eat now for lunch, what he would eat tonight for dinner, and what he would eat the next day for breakfast*.

Exercise A

Put commas where they are needed. Not all the sentences need a comma.

1. Tim Sam and John are three boys that I can trust.
2. I want to know how to play the trumpet flute or tuba.
3. Linus John and Patrick ate apples for lunch.
4. We ate sang and played games last night.
5. John sold all that he had—his new car his beautiful house and his sailboat.
6. Did you see or hear what he was doing?
7. I need to buy cheese bread lettuce and pickles for my sandwich.
8. With all the children whistling banging arguing and screaming outside, I cannot do my work.
9. What a cool and refreshing vacation that was!
10. Harry Jim or Sam will help you set up the chairs.

Exercise B

Put commas where they are needed. Not all the sentences need a comma.

1. Oh, Karen and Susan will take care of the dishes!
2. David his brothers and cousins drove to New York City to meet up with their friends Jim Bill and Richard at Carnegie Hall.
3. Samuel went into the kitchen put the water kettle on the stove and waited for it to boil.
4. Last night Thomas and Jim read books while their sisters Daisy Janet and Madeline played their instruments.
5. We didn't need to put the air conditioner on in May June or July last summer.
6. Would you believe that we had already bought the butter yoghurt cheese and milk at the delicatessen?
7. Mr. Roberts had a bad day at work, as he had forgotten his papers at home and was late at the meeting.
8. After I washed the tea cups and saucers, I swept vacuumed and mopped the entire house.
9. At our uncle's house in Minnesota last summer we swam gardened and rode horses.
10. Somehow a few of the cows horses chickens and goats had escaped the farm.