

★ Lesson 1 ★

Word List

Study the words below. Then do the exercises for the lesson.

calf
claw

couple
cushion

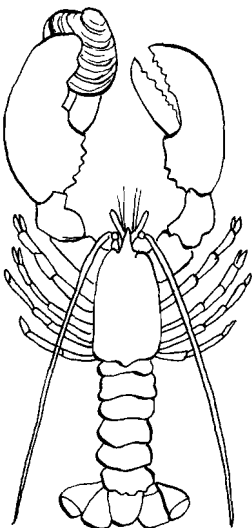
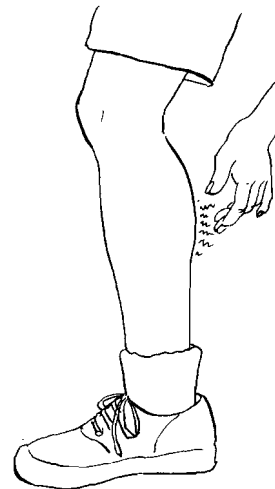
flap
groom

share
shelter

yard
zero

The **calf** is the back part of the leg between the knee and the ankle. My left calf itches where the poison ivy touched it.

A **calf** is a young cow or bull. The baby calf stays close to its mother.



A **claw** is the sharp curved nail on the toe of a bird or animal. Karl held out his hand, and the parrot wrapped its claws around his finger.

A **claw** is the part of a crab or lobster used for gripping. The lobster grabbed the clam with its big claw and held it.

To **claw** something is to scratch or dig it with sharp nails. Our dog clawed at the back door so that she could come in the house.

Exercise 1

Words and Their Meanings

Look at the group of words on the left. Then circle the letter of the word on the right that has the same meaning.

- 1 to move up and down (a) claw (b) shelter (c) flap (d) groom
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- 2 to use with others (a) groom (b) claw (c) shelter (d) share
-
- 3 the number equal to 0 (a) couple (b) zero (c) yard (d) calf
-
- 4 the land around a building (a) yard (b) groom (c) claw (d) cushion
-
- 5 something that protects (a) calf (b) shelter (c) cushion (d) couple

Now look at the word on the left. Then circle the letter of the group of words on the right that has the same meaning.

- 6 claw (a) a person who takes care of horses (b) the curved nail of a bird
(c) a length of three feet (d) the curved horn of a cow
-
- 7 calf (a) a baby sheep (b) the arm between hand and elbow
(c) a baby horse (d) the back part of the lower leg
-
- 8 couple (a) a large number of things (b) a man who is getting married
(c) two things of the same kind (d) a woman who is getting married
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- 9 groom (a) to make clean and neat (b) to use with others
(c) to move up and down (d) to swing from side to side
-
- 10 cushion (a) food for horses (b) a pad with a soft filling
(c) a feeling of happiness (d) a young cow

Story

Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow it.



Sandra Adams and Ken Hodkinson live at Sugar Wood Farm in New Hampshire. They have a cat named Bailey, but he did not always live with them. If Bailey could talk, he might tell you how he came to live with Sandra and Ken. Let's imagine he can.

At first, Ken and Sandra didn't want me. Many times I waited outside their door for them to return home. I knew I only had a **couple** of seconds to make my move, so I would rub against Sandra's **calf**, purring loudly and looking up at her face. But Ken always said, "Don't let him in. Don't let him in." And they shut the door in my face.

It's true that I already had a home. But I had to **share** it with two other cats, who liked to bully me, and that was no fun. I wanted something better. Sugar Wood Farm was just around the corner, and I checked it out carefully. I counted the cats that lived there. The number I came up with was **zero**. As we cats say, "Purr-fect!"

Weeks went by, and it was the same every time. I hung around the door for hours and Ken and Sandra always closed it in my face. But I never gave up. Then, one dark and stormy night, my chance came. I was waiting for them to come home, as usual, when it started to rain. Now, cats know enough to get out of the rain. I could have taken **shelter** in their woodshed. But I wanted to be right there on the doorstep when they came home.

Before long, the rain turned to snow. This was even better. I was sure that no one would turn a cat away on such a night. I heard their car pull into the **yard** and then watched them hurry toward the house. As soon as they saw me, I started to meow like a little lost kitten.

In no time, I was inside the house, and Sandra was drying me with a warm, fluffy towel. Ken kept saying, "Don't feed him. Don't feed him." But I wasn't looking for food just then. I was looking for a new home. At last, I thought I had found it. I was right. Before long, they were feeding me. Sandra talked to my old owners about me. They missed me, but they had two other cats. I didn't feel bad.

Cats spend a lot of time sleeping, so Sandra made a soft **cushion** for me to use. To be honest, I prefer their bed. They also made a cat door for me with a little **flap**. I just push it open with my nose and it closes behind me. Sandra likes to **groom** me. I think I do it better myself, but it gives her a lot of pleasure. I try not to sharpen my **claws** on their furniture. I think they are happy to have me around.

Hidden Message

In the boxes next to each sentence, write the word that is missing from the sentence. Put one letter in each box. All the words are from Lesson 1 except for 3 and 10. If you spell correctly, the shaded boxes will answer the following riddle:

Joanne bet Joe that her dog could jump higher than a house. How did she win the bet?

1. The cloth was one _____ wide.

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2. Sue forgot her lunch, so I offered to _____ mine with her.

--	--	--	--	--

3. _____ is the opposite of bad.

4. Ramon needs a _____ of stamps for his letter.

5. Ellen put the _____ back on the sofa, after it fell.

6. Three, two, one, _____.

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7. The kitten scratched my arm with its _____.

8. The baby _____ followed its mother to the barn.

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9. The children ran for _____ as soon as the rain started.

10. The opposite of in is _____.

11. The _____ leads the horse to the stable.

12. Large birds must _____ their wings to get into the air.