

Life of Fred[®]
Begin Teaching

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A Note Before We Begin

This is the second book in the Life of Fred® language arts series. These language arts books will cover English from every angle.

In this volume, we will learn about the adventures of Fred from late afternoon on Tuesday until 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Even though Fred is only five years old, the readers of his adventures may/might/should be a little older.

By the end of this book you will be able to answer:

- ✿ What is the past perfect progressive form of the verb *to sing*?
- ✿ What are the five ways to pronounce the letter *a*?
- ✿ What are the meanings of the verbs *affect* and *effect*?
- ✿ What are the meanings of the nouns *affect* and *effect*?
- ✿ What are the 16 ways to create plurals in English?
- ✿ What does it mean to read *Moby Dick* at a deeper level than just as a fishing story?
- ✿ What is the rule for verbs in which the compound subjects are connected by *or*? *The hats or the coat is/are mine.*
- ✿ How can you define a consonant in terms of air flow, instead of just saying that it isn't a vowel?
- ✿ Why is it silly to put anapestic on an iambic foot?
- . . . and many more topics in language arts.

AND MORE

There is an essential body of knowledge that every well-educated person should have. English is important.

Math is important. But so are many other areas of learning. There is no reason why each subject should be kept in water-tight compartments. They flow together naturally.



English!

In this book you will learn:

- ✿ why you can't buy a kangaroo at your local pet store
- ✿ where Tasmania is located
- ✿ how Russian has three numbers when English only has two (singular and plural)
- ✿ how to sing the "Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon" song (The sheet music is included in this book.)

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

Each chapter is a daily lesson. There are about four pages of reading about the adventures of Fred and a Your Turn to Play.

Have a paper and pencil handy before you sit down to read.

Each Your Turn to Play consists of about three or four questions. Write out the answers—don't just orally answer them.

After all the questions are answered, then take a peek at my answers that are given on the next page.

Don't just read the questions and look at the answers. You won't learn as much that way.

A NOTE FROM STAN

Fred spends some exciting and some anxious moments getting ready to Begin Teaching a new subject (English) in a new country (Australia).

Almost every teacher experiences some of those feelings at the beginning of a new school year.

By the time that Fred finished his first hour of teaching, which is at the end of this book, he was feeling good again.

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| Chapter 1 | Meeting Mack. | 13 |
| | ellipses | |
| | litotes | |
| | how to love people | |
| | plurals of lower case letters | |
| Chapter 2 | Teachers Quit. | 19 |
| | how to make someone cry by saying <i>since</i> | |
| | the whole point of English is . . . | |
| | measuring elapsed time from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | |
| | silent letters | |
| | air flow determines vowels | |
| Chapter 3 | Today. | 25 |
| | commas can change the meaning | |
| | 14°C = 57°F | |
| | list of all the countries that use the metric system | |
| Chapter 4 | Arrival at Night. | 31 |
| | mosquito abatement in Tasmania | |
| | nine ways to make plurals | |
| | a tenth way, an eleventh way | |
| Chapter 5 | Searching for Lesson Plans. | 37 |
| | one key to happiness | |
| | 5 cm ≈ 2 inches | |
| | run-on sentences | |
| | how to get a ride on a policeman's horse | |
| | appositive phrases | |
| | conjunctions | |

| | |
|------------|--|
| Chapter 6 | In Custody. 43 the policeman sings an octave below Fred how to provide scansion iambic pentameter and anapestic tetrameter a twelfth way to make plurals |
| Chapter 7 | Helping Margie. 49 using semicolons anxious ≠ eager child protective services doesn't mean that kids go around protecting things <i>a</i> vs. <i>an</i> It's not whether the word starts with a vowel. long u long a long e long i long o |
| Chapter 8 | Intake. 55 idioms <i>affect</i> as a noun definition of a noun |
| Chapter 9 | Rabbits and Kangaroos. 61 <i>to lie = to recline</i> transitive and intransitive verbs (<i>v.t.</i> and <i>v.i.</i>) what herbivore is seven feet tall and shy? why Fred couldn't take a kangaroo back to Kansas $\text{\textcircled{e}}$ is called a schwa |
| Chapter 10 | What We Know. 67 who thinks ATMs give out free money foster and adoptive parents why we say <i>happy as a clam</i> scare quotes a history of early computers in $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches |
| Chapter 11 | Early Morning. 73 sixteen ways to make plurals in English, which means one rule and 15 exceptions three places that are open all night why we say <i>go bananas</i> and not <i>go apples</i> where we got <i>the skin of my teeth</i> (You'll be surprised.) |

| | | |
|------------|--|-----|
| Chapter 12 | The Proofreading Room. | 79 |
| | how to alienate professional proofreaders | |
| | cardinality of a set | |
| | how to proofread | |
| | homonyms (homophones) | |
| | commas before direct quotes | |
| Chapter 13 | Pineapple Invasion. | 85 |
| | proofreading is like soldiering, gardening, and dentistry | |
| | how scientists can make big mistakes | |
| | how to write sympathy notes that mean something | |
| | writing numbers: words or numerals? | |
| Chapter 14 | Subject-Verb. | 91 |
| | compound subjects connected by <i>or</i> | |
| | English verbs are easier than German ones | |
| | three ways to say <i>you</i> in German | |
| | literary symbolism in <i>Moby Dick</i> | |
| | conjugation of verbs | |
| Chapter 15 | College. | 97 |
| | what it means to be a graduate student | |
| | interpretation of dreams | |
| | what is wrong with <i>The early bird gets the worm</i> | |
| | regular and irregular verbs | |
| Chapter 16 | In the Classroom. | 103 |
| | a dictionary vs. a thesaurus | |
| | a gallon of milk weighs about a quarter of a Fred | |
| | conjugating a verb in the present, past, and future | |
| | using <i>will</i> and <i>shall</i> | |
| Chapter 17 | Begin Teaching. | 109 |
| | how to look like Einstein | |
| | 300 copies of <i>Ducky Sings Opera</i> | |
| | capitalization in titles | |
| | the two numbers in English: singular and plural | |

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----|
| Chapter 18 | Into the Deep. | 115 |
| | more than the present, past, and future tenses | |
| | the three progressive tenses indicate continuous | |
| | action | |
| | what Rodin wrote about “What makes my Thinker | |
| | think.” | |
| | translating the Norwegian idiom: <i>Han er darlig</i> | |
| | <i>utstyrt i oeverst etasje.</i> | |
| Chapter 19 | Six Tenses in Four Pages. | 121 |
| | starting with the six tenses of Chapter 18, we add | |
| | another six | |
| | how to tell Fred, the Thinker, from Rodin’s <i>Thinker</i> | |
| Index. | | 126 |

Chapter One

Meeting Mack

Fred was so happy to have found Mack. Together they hopped into Mack's car and headed to the Board of Missions office.



Mack

On Sunday Fred had written to the Board of Missions, "I want to be a friend, help people in trouble . . . I do love to teach."*

Now, two days later, Fred was in Australia heading to the board office in Wagga Wagga. He was eager to begin teaching. He had taught math at KITTENS University for five years, and he knew he could teach any math course that was needed. It was June 4. He was going to spend the whole summer in Australia. He had never been outside the United States before. When Fred sat in Mack's car, he couldn't see anything except the sky. He was too short.



Fred is there, but you can't see him.

*The three dots (. . .) are called an **ellipsis** (ee-LIP-sis). An ellipsis indicates something has been left out. In Fred's letter he had written, "*I want to be a friend, help people in trouble, teach, dig a well to get clean water, and kill mosquitos. I don't know how to dig a well or kill mosquitos, but I do love to teach.*"

Fred couldn't find any seatbelts. Fred thought *This must be a really old car.*

Mack said, "This car is not brand new."

Time Out!

Both Fred and Mack said the same thing. Mack's way of saying it is called an understatement.

Understatements:

Oceans have some water in them.

Being run over by a car is irritating.

Understatements with "not":

This car is not brand new.

Fred is not extremely tall.

Having a pizza, a milkshake, and a piece of pie for lunch is not a starvation diet.

Understatements with "not" in them have a special name. They are called litotes. (LIE-toe-tease)

When someone learns that he has just won a million dollars, he might say, "That ain't bad." That's litotes.

Mack said, "The Mission Board here in Wagga Wagga does not have a lot a money (litotes). This car may be old, but it still runs. We are so happy that people like you, Fred, would volunteer to come and help."

"I'm too small to help dig wells," Fred said. "But I'm not bad at teaching (litotes)."

Mack was a little confused. He was told to pick up a famous college professor from KITTENS University. He was also told that Fred Gauss had been teaching there for five years and had won many teaching awards.

Mack said, “You mention being small. Looking at you, some people might think that you were just a child rather than a man who is very short. You are about a meter tall.”

“Not quite,” Fred said. “A meter is about 39 inches. I’m 36 inches tall, which is one yard.”

Mack said, “I like your bow tie. That makes you look older. Have you ever thought of growing a beard? Then people wouldn’t mistake you for a child.”



Mack didn’t know that he was talking to a five-year-old.

They arrived. Mack got out of the car. Fred reached down to unfasten (silent *t*) his seatbelt and then realized he hadn’t been wearing one. Fred realized that if Mack had crashed the car, he might have been thrown through the windshield.*

* Have you ever noticed that there are no seatbelts on motorcycles?

Fred had imagined that the Wagga Wagga office building of the Board of Missions would look very fancy.

He knew they were doing important work: helping people in trouble, digging wells to get clean water, teaching, and killing mosquitos. What he didn't realize was that the work was the important thing—not making a big name for itself.



How Fred pictured it

Every member of the Board had received this memo:

Notice
to All Board Members

**Our job is to love people. It's that simple.
Do that without showing off. Don't go around
bragging. No special titles for any of you.**

Give them h's:

- Hold the hand of those who are crying.**
- Help the poor.**
- Heal the sick.**

Wait a minute! I, your reader, have a question.*

What did you have in mind?

There’s an English error in that notice. In the previous book you told us the eight ways to make something plural.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. one cat → two cats | – → s |
| 2. one calf → two calves | f → ves |
| 3. one foot → two feet | irregular plurals |
| 4. one deer → two deer | no change |
| 5. one toss → two tosses | s → es |
| 6. one mystery → two mysteries | y → ies |
| 7. one hippopotamus → two hippopotami | us → i |
| 8. one alumna → two alumnae | a → ae |



In this “Notice to All Board Members,” the plural of h was h’s. That’s not any of the eight ways to make a plural.

You are right. That’s the ninth way to make a plural. Lower case (uncapitalized) letters are special. There are seven e’s in the previous sentence.

Your Turn to Play

Write your answers down before looking at my answers.

If you don’t remember the spelling, turn to earlier pages to find it.

1. (Fill in the blank) “This Your Turn to Play is not very long” is an example of _____.
2. (Fill in the blank) A, B, C, D, . . . , X, Y, Z uses an _____.

* Life of Fred books are the only books in the world in which the reader can talk back to the author.

.....ANSWERS.....

1. “This Your Turn to Play is not very long” is an example of litotes .

Instead of saying it was not very long, you could have said that it was short.

2. A, B, C, D, . . . , X, Y, Z uses an ellipsis .

small essay

Sometimes English Makes Sense

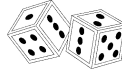
I can't tell you why yacht is spelled y-a-c-h-t.



I can't tell you why the plural of die is dice.



die



dice

But I do have a guess as to why we use an apostrophe to make the plurals of lower case letters. If we didn't use an apostrophe, then I might write, “There are eight as you can see in the previous sentence.”

If we use the apostrophe, the sentence becomes clear: “There are eight a's you can see in the previous sentence.”

end of small essay

Index

- 100 Best First Lines from
 Novels. 96
- a* vs. *an*. 52, 53
- affect* vs. *effect*. 57-59
- anapestic 46, 48
- anxious* vs. *eager*. 50
- appositive phrases.
 41, 98, 103, 104
- capitalizing titles. . 110, 111
- cardinality of set. 80
- Celsius. 27
- centimeters and inches. . . 37
- Christina Rossetti. 47
- closing salutations
 —capitalization. . . 90
- comma before a direct quote
 84
- comma splice. 38, 86
- commas can change the
 meaning. 25-27
- computers—a short history
 72
- conjugation of verbs. 42, 96
 in three tenses.
 107, 116, 117
 in six tenses. 119, 120
- consonants. 24
- dactylic 46
- dimeter. 46
- ellipsis 13
- Environment Protection and
 Biodiversity
 Conservation Act
 64
- existentialism defined. . 109
- Fahrenheit. 27
- five ways to pronounce the
 letter *a*. 66
- foreshadowing in literature
 112, 113
- future perfect progressive
 124
- future perfect tense. . . . 123
- future progressive tense
 119
- George Gordon Byron. . . 47
- George Orwell's *1984*. . . 99
- Green's Theorem in Space
 22
- herbivores. 63
- hexameter 46
- homonyms. 30, 82

Index

- homophones. 82
- iambic foot. 45, 46, 48
- iambic pentameter. 46
- idioms. 55, 70, 77,
78, 85, 119
- intransitive verbs. 62, 111
- irregular verbs. 101
- it's* vs. *its*. 82
- kilograms vs. pounds. 55
- letter writing. 88
- lie* vs. *lay*. 62, 81, 99
- litotes. 14, 35, 57
- long a, long e, long i, long o
. 54
- long u. 53, 54
- lyrics. 45, 114
- meter of a poem. 45
- metric system. 27
- countries not using the
 metric system. 30
- countries using the metric
 system. 30
- Moby Dick*. 94, 95
- nouns 60
- numbers in a language:
 singular and plural
 112
- numbers—when do you
 spell them out. 89
- old sayings. 40, 100
- past perfect tense.
 122, 123
- past progressive tense. 118
- pentameter 46
- plurals. 17, 18, 23, 33,
 36, 48, 73-75
- present perfect progressive
 124
- present perfect tense. 123
- present progressive tense
 117
- proper names. 84
- quotation marks—a second
 use. 71
- reading a novel at a deeper
 level. 95
- regular verbs. 101, 115
- Rodin's *The Thinker*. 119
- run-on sentences.
 38, 41, 86, 114
- scansion 47
- scare quotes. 72, 85
- schwa. 66, 79
- semicolon. 42, 49
- Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*
 47
- shall vs. will. 108
- silent letters. 15, 23, 34, 51

Index

- since* vs. *because*. . . . 20, 21
- small essays
- “Sometimes English
Makes Sense”. . . . 18
 - “The Dangerous Word
Since” 20
 - “What Does It Mean to
Be a Graduate
Student?” 97
 - “What Some People
Know” 67
- songs
- “Alpha, Beta, Gamma,
Delta, Epsilon”. . . 80
 - “I Don’t Believe”. . . 44
 - “I Teach” 44
- subject-verb agreement. . . .
. 84, 91, 92
- Tasmania 32
- tetrameter 46
- that* vs. *which*. . . . 114, 123
- thesaurus vs. dictionary
. 104
- titles—how to capitalize
. 110, 111
- transitive verbs. . . . 62, 111
- trimeter. 46
- trochaic 46
- two forms of *you* in German
. 93, 94
- understatements. 14
- verbs 59
- intransitive. 62
 - transitive. 62
- vowels. 24
- who* vs. *that*. 82
- why you never see
kangaroos in pet
stores. 63, 64
- words without vowels.
. 53, 54

