

These are the Words the Little Boy Spoke – *Irregular Simple Past Tense*

Instructions: Fill-in starting with the second verse using the words on the next page. Hint: the lines should rhyme. Notice the syllables to be stressed are in bold. Look up unknown words.

These are **rhymes** to learn how we **say**
Some **verbs** in past **simple** without **any** dismay
For **this** is the **tense** we **use** most of **all**
With **bygone times** and **events** we recall

This is the **language** the little boy **spoke** (**speak**)
This is the **promise** the little boy **broke** (**break**)
This is the **letter** the little boy **sent** (**send**)
This is the **branch** the little boy **bent** (**bend**)

This is the **flower** the little boy **grew** (**grow**)
This is the **plane** the little boy **flew** (**fly**)
This is the **bread** the little boy **cut** (**cut**)
This is the **door** the little boy **shut** (**shut**)

This is the **sweater** the little boy **wore** (**wear**)
This is the **hanky** the little boy **tore** (**tear**)
This is the **tear** the little boy **wept** (**weep**)
This is the **carpet** the little boy **swept** (**sweep**)

This is the **ice** the little boy **melt** (**melt**)
This is the **warmth** the little boy **felt** (**feel**)
This is the **candy** the little boy **bought** (**buy**)
This is the **fish** the little boy **caught** (**catch**)

This is the **toast** the little boy **burnt** (**burn**)
This is the **line** the little boy **learnt** (**learn**)
This is the **saying** the little boy **knew** (**know**)
This is the **picture** the little boy **drew** (**draw**)

This is the **bird** the little boy **found** (**find**)
This is the **book** the little boy **bound** (**bind**)
This is the **monkey** the little boy **fed** (**feed**)
These are the **crumbs** the little boy **spread** (**spread**)

This is the **place** where he **slipped** and then **slid** (**slide**)
This is the **place** where he **ran** and then **hid** (**run/hide**)
This is the **place** where he **sat** when he **thought** (**sit/think**)
This is the **school** where **young** he was **taught** (**teach**)

This is the **song** the little boy **sang** (**sing**)
 This is the **bell** the little boy **rang** (**ring**)
 This is the **place** where the little boy **stood** (**stand**)
 And tried to **remember** whatever he **could** (**can**)

*These are the **words** the little boy **spoke** (**speak**)
 So try to **learn** them, **all** of you **folk**!
 For this is the **tense** we **use** most of **all**
 With bygone **times** and **events** we **recall***

Use the following verbs in the simple past to complete the poem.

bent	burnt	drew	found	learnt	sang	slid	swept	wept
bought	caught	fed	grew	melt	sat	spoke	taught	wore
bound	could	felt	hid	ran	sent	spread	thought	
broke	cut	flew	knew	rang	shut	stood	tore	

*Now use the verbs in the simple past above to complete the sentences below. Use only verbs that are **transitive**, i.e. verbs that can take a direct object.*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. He bought the candy. | 10. He flew a plane. | 19. He burnt the toast. |
| 2. He sent a letter. | 11. He learnt a line. | 20. He grew a flower. |
| 3. He knew the saying. | 12. He rang a bell. | 21. He spread the crumbs. |
| 4. He cut the bread. | 13. He bent the branch. | 22. He broke his promise. |
| 5. He drew a picture. | 14. He bound a book. | 23. He swept the floor. |
| 6. He fed the monkey. | 15. He shut the door. | 24. He tore his hanky. |
| 7. He wore a sweater. | 16. He found a bird. | 25. He wept these tears. |
| 8. He sang a song. | 17. He caught a fish. | 26. He melt the ice. |
| 9. He felt the warmth. | 18. He spoke this language. | |

Complete with a verb in the simple past from the list above. The verbs to be used here are intransitive, i.e. they do not have a direct object, or they are defective verbs.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. He could do it. | 5. He thought about his family. |
| 2. His father taught him how to swim. | 6. He slid down the tree. |
| 3. He hid behind the house not to be seen. | 7. He sat on a chair. |
| 4. He stood on top of the hill. | 8. He ran to the station. |

Activity:

*Read the poem aloud to your partner twice. Then test each other: one student says for instance “**language**”, and his/her partner should say, “This is the **language** the little boy **spoke**”. Another way is for one student to say a verb, e.g. “**break**”, and his/her partner to say, “This is the **promise** the little boy **broke**.” Practice until you make no mistakes. Finally, try to recite the whole poem to your partner, who will help you in case you forget.*