

1 The Bell of Atri



This is a drawing of a famous bell called the Liberty Bell. Liberty means *freedom*. This bell is over 250 years old. Located in Pennsylvania, USA, this bell is a symbol of American independence. Mark the path for the children to reach the Liberty Bell.



Now let us read a story about another old bell—the bell in the town of Atri in Italy.

Long, long ago, in Italy, there ruled a king named John. King John was well known for his goodness and wisdom¹. One day, the king and his ministers came to a small town called Atri.

When King John reached the town square², he announced³, ‘By my royal order, a great bell shall hang here. Whenever something wrong is done to a person, he or she shall ring the bell and the town judge shall correct whatever wrong has been done.’

¹**wisdom:** the state of knowing and understanding a lot about many things ²**town square:** an open space in the middle of a town used for gatherings ³**announced:** told a lot of people about something important

So a great big bell was hung in the town square. The people of Atri rang the bell each time someone did something wrong to them. When somebody stole the farmer's sheep, the farmer rang the bell. When someone ate Grandmother's special fruit pie without her permission⁴, she rang the bell. When a bully teased a child, the child rang the bell. In each and every case, the town judge came and corrected the person who had done wrong.

Give three examples of when the bell was rung.



After a while, whenever people thought of doing something wrong, they would think of the sound of the bell and change their mind. So the bell rang less and less. The bell rusted⁵ and the rope became ragged⁶.

The townspeople almost forgot about the bell but the judge did not. He called one of the town workers and said, 'Please go out into the woods and get a long vine⁷. We will tie the vine to the bell so that it can be rung once again.'

At this time in Atri, there lived a soldier. He had been a good soldier, and tales of his bravery and adventures were still told. Yet, as you know, people, just like bells, grow rusty when they are not used! The soldier had grown lazy—all day long he just sat and counted his piles of gold coins.

The soldier had an old faithful⁸ horse. The soldier and his horse had shared many adventures but now the soldier

How do you think people can get *rusty*?


How do you think you would get *rusty* if you did not use magic words like *please*, *thank you* and *sorry*?

⁴**permission:** allowing somebody to do something ⁵**rusted:** become covered with a reddish brown substance that is sometimes seen on iron ⁶**ragged:** old and torn ⁷**vine:** a plant that grapes grow on

⁸**faithful:** loyal; ready to help friends and fulfil promises

did not take good care of the horse. The poor horse looked thin and sad. 'Why should I feed this old horse?' the old soldier thought. 'I hardly ever ride him anymore, so why should I have to feed him all the time?'

One afternoon, looking for something to eat, the sad old horse wandered⁹ into the town of Atri. But food was hard to find. The dogs of the town barked at him. The people of the town had shut their doors and windows to keep the heat out.




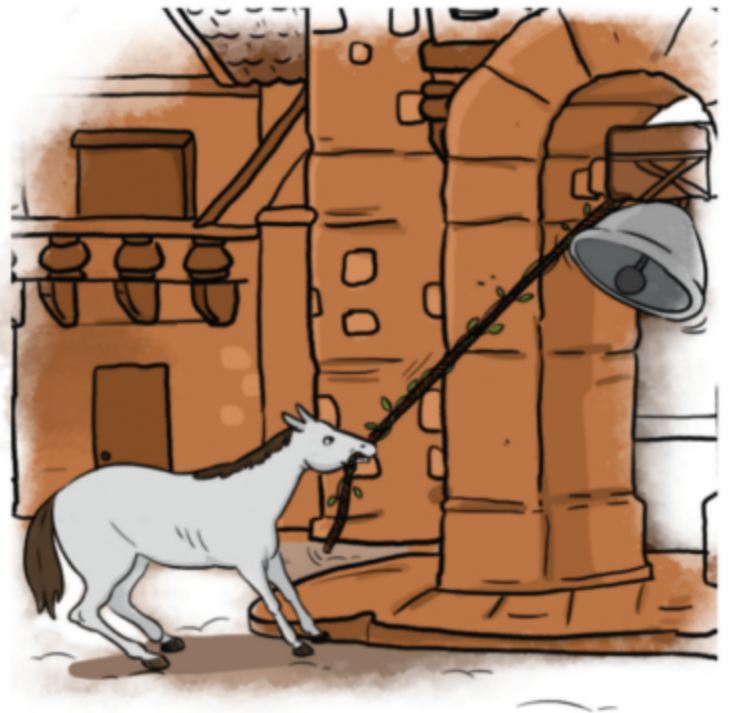
Why were there no people on the streets?

Then the hungry horse spotted the green vine that hung from the bell. The horse hurried to the bell. Now horses do not know about such things as the ringing of bells and the correcting of wrongs, but they do know that a juicy green vine can fill an empty stomach.

The hungry old horse grabbed the vine that was tied to the bell. The vine had been tied to the end of the bell's old, ragged rope rather tightly and the horse could not pull it loose. The horse pulled and pulled, and the bell rang and rang.

The bell rang so loudly and for so long that all the people of Atri awoke from their summer naps¹⁰. They came out into the streets, wondering why the bell was being rung. They found the poor, hungry horse munching¹¹ on the vine. The judge knew that the horse belonged to the soldier and he called him.

The soldier came to the town square. 'Shame on you for not looking after your faithful horse!' said the judge. 'I order you to take care of him! Give him plenty of oats, a warm stable¹² and a green field to graze¹³ in.'



How do you think the judge spoke to the soldier: *strictly*, *kindly* or *jokingly*?

⁹wandered: walked slowly with no plan ¹⁰naps: short sleep taken during the day ¹¹munching: biting and eating something noisily ¹²stable: a building for horses to live in ¹³graze: eat grass

From that day on, the soldier took good care of his old horse, and the people of the town never forgot the good that the bell could bring.

(adapted from an Italian folktale)

Making connections

Quick answers

1. Fill in the story map given below.

story map

Title

Characters (List of people and animals in the story):

Setting

Where:

When:

2. Choose the right answer.

- a. King John gave an order for a bell in Atri because
 - i. Atri was a small town.
 - ii. the people of Atri wanted a bell.
 - iii. he wanted to help the people.
- b. The people of Atri almost forgot the bell because
 - i. the bell rusted and the rope became ragged.
 - ii. the people of Atri hardly rang the bell any more.
 - iii. King John went away.
- c. The judge asked a town worker to tie a vine to the bell because
 - i. he thought someone might need to ring the bell.
 - ii. he knew a hungry horse would eat it.
 - iii. the worker did not have much to do.
- d. The horse grabbed and pulled the vine because
 - i. he wanted to ring the bell.
 - ii. he was so hungry he wanted to eat it.
 - iii. he wanted the judge to help him.

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Reference to context

- 3. *Long, long ago, in Italy, there ruled a king named John. King John was well known for his goodness and wisdom. One day the king and his ministers came to a small town called Atri.*
 - a. What was King John well known for?
 - b. Which word is the opposite of *foolishness*?
 - c. What did the king order for the town of Atri?
- 4. *One afternoon, looking for something to eat, the sad old horse wandered into the town of Atri.*
 - a. Whose horse was this?
 - b. Which two words describe the horse?
 - c. Why was the horse looking for something to eat?

Read, reflect and write

- 5. Why did the bell of Atri ring less and less?
- 6. Why did the soldier stop feeding his horse?
- 7. How did the judge correct the wrong done by the soldier to his horse?
- 8. What are the good qualities that you think the judge had?

Word wall

Words in a word

1. How many words can you make out of the letters in the word MINISTERS?
Here are some picture clues for you.

a.



stir

b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



Professional people

2. Choose words from the box to complete the speech bubbles. One has been done for you.



I correct people who do something wrong. I am a **judge**.

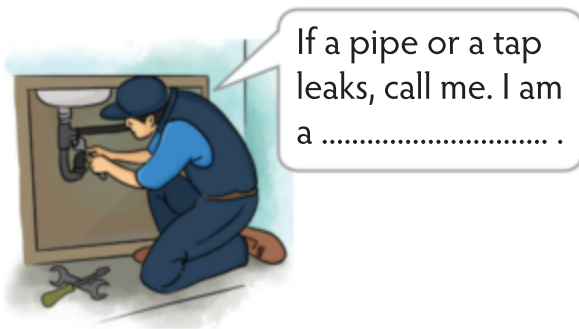
musicians ✦ astronomer
plumber ✦ cashier
acrobats ✦ sculptor
judge

Every night I look at the moon, the planets and the stars. I am an



I make statues. I am a





Grammar time

Nouns: concrete and abstract

Read these sentences.

King John came to a small *town* called *Atri*.

The *soldier* had an old *horse*.

A great *bell* shall hang here.

The words *King John*, *town*, *Atri*, *soldier*, *horse* and *bell* are nouns. They name people, places, animals and things.

Read these sentences.

King John was well known for his *goodness* and *wisdom*.

Someone ate Grandmother's special fruit pie without her *permission*.

Tales of the soldier's *bravery* were told.

The townsfolk looked at the horse in *amazement*.

The words *goodness*, *wisdom*, *permission*, *bravery* and *amazement* are also nouns. They name qualities, ideas and feelings.

Names of people places, animals and things are called naming words or nouns. Ideas and qualities are also nouns.

Nouns can be concrete or abstract.



Concrete nouns are names of people, places, animals and things. They are sense nouns. You can see, hear, smell, taste and/or touch them.







Abstract nouns are qualities, ideas and feelings. You cannot see, hear, smell, taste and/or touch them.



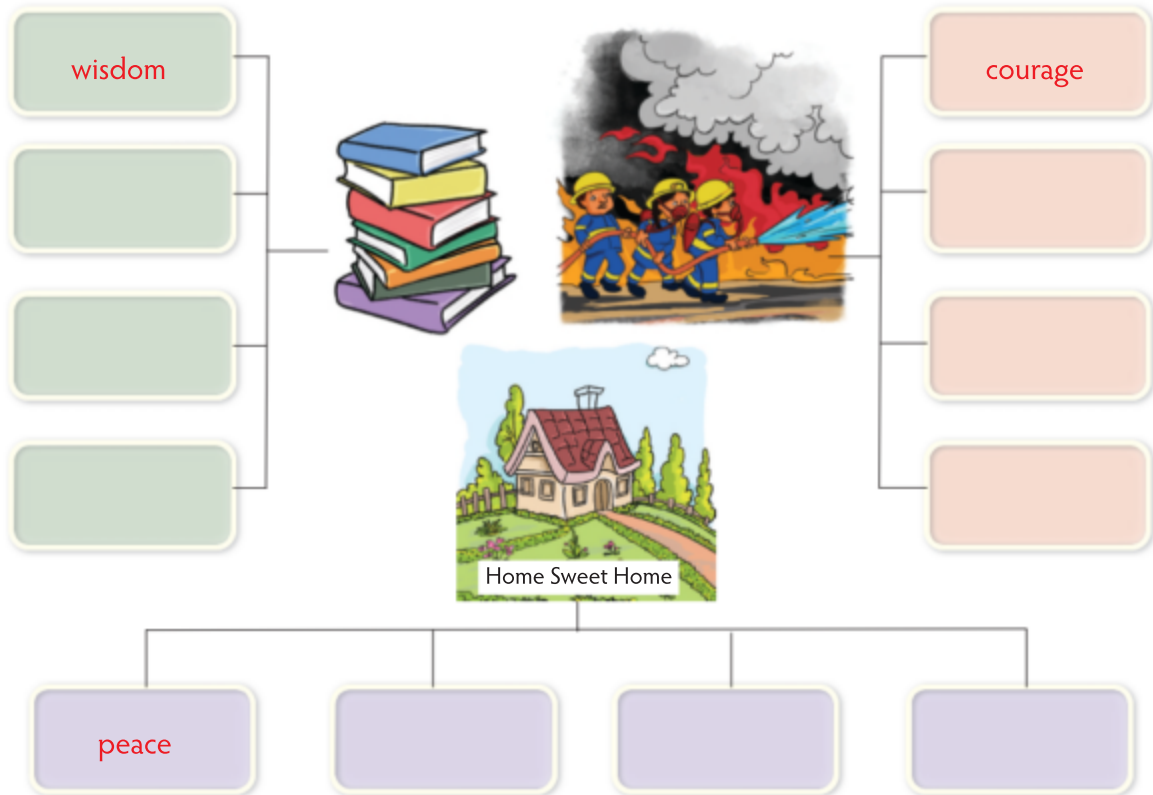
We can see a beautiful *tree* and a beautiful *butterfly*. But we cannot see *beauty*.

1. Look at the table below. We can see a *cake*. We can smell it, taste it and touch it. It is a concrete noun. We cannot see, hear, smell, taste or touch *sadness*. It is an abstract noun. Now fill in the table.

Noun	See 	Hear 	Smell / Taste 	Touch 	Type of Noun Concrete or Abstract?
cake	✓	✗	✓	✓	concrete
sadness	✗	✗	✗	✗	abstract
idea					
crayons					
rain					
fear					
joy					
mango					

2. Choose abstract nouns from the box to match the concrete nouns given in the word webs. You may choose the words that you think fit the concrete nouns the best.

knowledge ♦ happiness ♦ danger ♦ friendship ♦ safety
 peace ♦ strength ♦ information ♦ bravery ♦ fun
 love ♦ wisdom ♦ courage ♦ education ♦ respect



3. Use any five abstract nouns from the box in sentences of your own.

goodness helpfulness bravery brilliance amazement
 imagination opportunity determination relaxation

Pronunciation

Syllable

Every word is made from at least one syllable. The sound of a vowel is called a syllable.

Some words have only one syllable or vowel sound.

fan	met	hid	dog	bun
king	meet	heat	poor	bell

Some words have two syllables or vowel sounds.

wis/dom	sum/mer	peo/ple	bul/ly	ta/ble
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Some words have more than two syllables or vowel sounds.

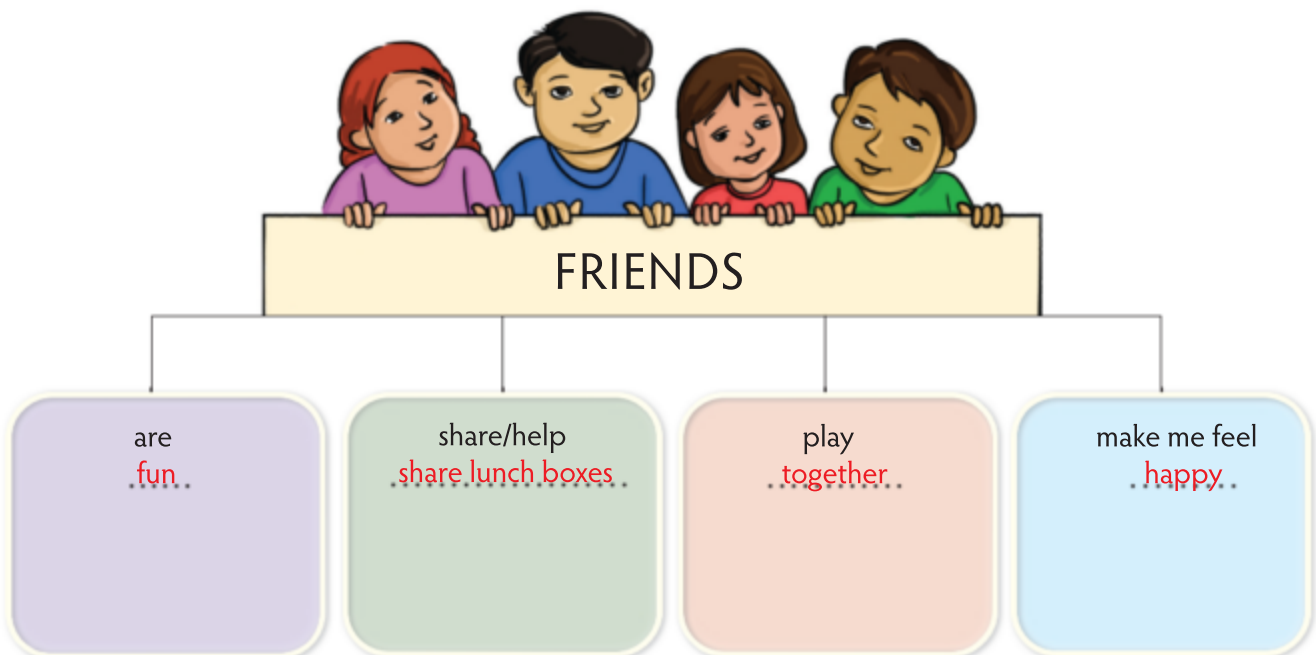
per/mis/sion	grand/mo/ther	mi/nis/ter
in/tel/li/gence	pro/fes/sion	

Listen to your teacher read these words aloud. Then, repeat the sounds.

mo/ther	al/so	sis/ter	rus/ty	cor/rec/ted
he/li/cop/ter	ro/yal	faith/ful	a/woke	ka/lei/do/scope
in/de/pen/dent	mun/ching	ad/ven/ture	af/ter/noon	in/for/ma/tion

Write well

How should friends behave with each other? Use this graphic organizer to think of ideas and then write a paragraph.



Listen and speak well 🎧

1. Listen to a short description of these horses. Then match the horses to their names.

a.



b.



c.



d.



Black Beauty

Sandy

Sultan

Maya

Star

Benji

2. In groups of three, take turns in describing these flowers to one another. As one person describes the flower, the other two must guess which picture it is. Do not mention the colours in the description.

a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.

