

## Speed loops

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

- ❖ Speed loops should be small because they are meant to join letters in the shortest possible way.
- ❖ Use less pressure on the loop than on the down stroke of the letter itself.
- ❖ Use crisp turns on the loops as well as on the letters themselves.
- ❖ The loop should be no more than half as wide as the body of the letter.

shoes things

calf judge

gg jj yy zz

enjoy jigsaw

### Joining from descenders g j y z

- ❖ Make sure that the up stroke of the loop crosses the tail of the letter at the base line. Then continue up to the top of the body of the letter.

### Joining to ascenders b f h k l

- ❖ *From a diagonal exit:* Continue the exit stroke straight up, almost to the top of the ascender. Then make a small loop and continue the downstroke.
- ❖ *From a horizontal exit:* Move from the horizontal exit stroke up to a small loop, then continue down.

bb ff hh kk ll

shall lambs

Practise speed loop joins here and on page 9. The writing on page 41 also has speed loops.

### Speed loops from descenders

get agree jump ajar yes bye zoo jazz

### Joins to ascenders from diagonal exits

web life shine pack sail climb shelf

### Joins to ascenders from horizontal exits

col off soh cork curl shook whirl



## Practising speed loops

All these words below include speed loop joins. Copy them carefully, then use some or all of them to write a report on elephants. You could use the text in the box, or write your own.

elephants huge largest animals mammals

tusks trunks finger-like flexible only

gather bathing herbivorous weigh kilograms

unmistakable giant tall majestic ivory

Elephants are the largest terrestrial animals. There are two species of these huge mammals: African and Asian. African elephants are bigger than Asian elephants, and have much larger ears and tusks. They also have two finger-like extensions at the end of their trunks, whereas Asian elephants have only one.

Elephants use their flexible trunks to gather food, as well as to scoop up water for bathing and drinking. Elephants are herbivorous, and eat up to 200 kg of food a day. African elephants can weigh up to 5900 kg and be 7.5 metres tall.

a aa A aa aa A  
ae ai al as at ba fa ha sa wa  
ame able ear tain sha dea

**Spelling: 'air' sound pairs**

hair ~ hare stair ~ stare fair ~ fare  
bare ~ bear wear ~ where pair ~ pear

Albatrosses are large web-footed seabirds that spend most of their time at sea. They can glide for many hours at a time over the open ocean, feeding on many types of squid and fish. They come ashore only to breed, and to raise one offspring each year. They usually mate for life.

The wandering albatross has the largest wingspan of any bird, reaching up to 3.5 metres.

b B bb B  
 ba bi bl bo bs ab eb mb rb ub  
 bri bean aby ibe rib carb

**Spelling: animal noises**

bray bellow bark bay bleat buzz  
 gobble warble baa gibber jabber

Birds and beasts

Birds brolga babbler buzzard bellbird

Insects bee beetle butterfly

Marsupials bilby bandicoot wallaby

Primates baboon gibbon

Crustaceans crab lobster yabbie

Reptiles blue-tongue lizard

Amphibians bullfrog gastric brooding frog



EXTRA: How many animals can you add to this list? (Don't worry about having the letter **b** in the names.)

c cc C cc cc C  
 ce ch ck cr cu ac nc oc rc uc  
 de comp ice atch lac atic

**Spelling: anagrams**

CATER crate trace CAUSE sauce

CAPERS scrape pacers spacer

Circle: a curved line that passes through  
 a set of points which are all the same  
 distance (the radius) from a centre;  
 OR something that has the general shape  
 or sense of this line, for example, a circle  
 of rose bushes or a circle of friends

Circumference: the distance around a circle;  
 its perimeter

d dd D dd dd D  
da de dl ds dy ed id nd od ud  
dra ding ude reds ted ised

**Spelling: words in words**

directions — diner done dose dice direct  
cost snored ride rode side stride iced

Darwin is the capital of the Northern Territory.

On Christmas Day in 1974 Cyclone Tracy struck

Darwin, causing much damage and sorrow.

Most of the buildings were damaged or destroyed,

but since then Darwin has been rebuilt. Now it

is bigger and better than ever!

Darwin was first settled in about 1870, and was

named after the scientist Charles Darwin.

e ee E ee ee E  
ei el em es ey de ne pe oe ue  
ear ette men iest ike ible

**Spelling: eye- words**

eyeball eyebath eyebright eyebrow eyelash  
eyelid eyeliner eyesight eyetooth eyewitness

A solar eclipse takes place when the Sun appears to become dark, as the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth.

At places on the Earth where an eclipse is total (because of the angles of the Sun, the Moon and the Earth), the sky darkens, and insects and animals seem to be confused.

It is a still, eerie experience for everyone.



f ff F fa fe fi fl ft af ef if lf of  
fro fore afe soft off half

**Spelling: number words**

four fourteen forty fourth fortieth  
five fifteen fifty fifth fiftieth

Most flour is made from wheat, but it can also be made from other grains or even potatoes.

Hard varieties of wheat produce hard-wheat flour, which is used in making bread and pasta.

Soft-wheat flour is used for cakes and biscuits.

Wholemeal flour uses about 90% of the whole wheat grain, which means it has more B vitamins, minerals and fibre than white flour.



g gg G gg G  
ga gh gl go gs ag gg ig rg ug

gra gent ggy ight org ting

**Spelling: silent g, and g + silent h**

gnat gnaw gnash gnome gnarled gnu  
ghost ghastly ghoul gherkin ghetto

The Great Barrier Reef

- \* a major underwater wilderness area
- \* the largest living reef system on earth
- \* made of living corals that grow on a layer of built-up limestone (dead corals)
- \* length: 2300 km      \* area: 350 000 sq. km
- \* goes from Gladstone on the central Queensland coast almost to Papua New Guinea

