

LESSON 3

Short Article

The following short article includes information about the spider. This article is an example of expository writing. The writer of expository text usually writes for one of three purposes: to present facts or directions, to define terms, or to explain ideas. Here the writer presents facts.

amazing

engineer

escape

insects

patterned

silky

snare

spider

supplied

tangled

thread

weave

The Web Builder

The spider is actually an amazing engineer. It can build a beautifully patterned web in less than one hour.

The spider uses two different kinds of thread to weave its web. One thread is sticky. The spider uses this sticky thread to catch flies and other insects for food. The other thread is dry and silky. The spider walks on this thread. Nature has supplied the spider's eight legs with a special oil. The oil keeps the spider from getting tangled in its own web.

There are times, however, when the spider's web is not a deadly snare for a fly. If the web gets wet, it is no longer sticky, and the fly can easily escape. Then the tale of the spider and the fly has a happy ending, at least for the fly.

1. Suffixes and Prefixes

Add the suffix or prefix to each word. Write the new word in the sentence. Some words need to be changed before adding the suffix.

- a. amaze + -ing She has an _____ smile.
- b. engineer + -ed Who _____ the new plan?
- c. weave + -er She is a _____ of rugs.
- d. supply + -ed Who _____ the workers with shovels?
- e. un- + tangled He _____ the string before he flew the kite.

2. Word Puzzles

Use vocabulary words to complete the puzzle. Then find the hidden vocabulary word formed by the boxed letters. Write the hidden word in a sentence. Use the glossary at the back of the book for help with the meanings.

- a. soft to the touch _____ _____
- b. someone who builds _____ _____
- c. provided _____
- d. to join threads _____ _____
- e. to run away _____ _____
- f. snarled _____
- g. a trap _____

Sentence: _____

3. Word Origin

The word *escape* means “to break loose.” The word is from the Latin *excappare*, *ex-*, meaning “out of,” and *cappa*, meaning “cape”. In ancient Rome, a hooded cape was a common article of clothing. Thieves who were captured would often slip out of their cape and run away from their captors. What do you think an *escapee* is?

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VOCABULARY WORDS

4. Complete Sentences

Write a vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

- a. The camp director _____ us with tents.
- b. The rabbit tried to _____ from its cage.
- c. Each snowflake is _____ differently.
- d. I trimmed a loose _____ from my sleeve.
- e. Butterflies and moths are kinds of _____.

5. Similar Spellings

Read each sentence. Circle the word that does not belong. Change one letter in that word, and write the vocabulary word that does belong.

- a. A slider has eight legs. _____
- b. A net can be a share for fish. _____
- c. Did you leave the cloth? _____
- d. She wore a milky evening gown. _____
- e. The kitten tingled the yarn. _____

6. Letters in Order

Arrange the letters in each box to form a vocabulary word.

Write each word on the line next to the box. Then write each word in the correct sentence.

d	a
h	r
t	e

t	r	a
d	e	e
p	n	t

a	z	
m	i	a
g	n	

p	e	
s		
d	r	i

- a. The cloth is beautifully _____.
- b. I pulled the _____ through the eye of the needle.
- c. An insect has six legs, and a _____ has eight legs.
- d. The dog performed two _____ tricks.

7. Expository Writing

On a separate piece of paper, write a short article about an unusual insect. Include information about how the insect affects people's lives. Be sure to include important facts about the insect and explain ideas clearly. Use vocabulary words in your article and underline them. Before writing, arrange your ideas using a graphic organizer. (See the model short article on page 10.)