Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

Circle group

Do you want shoes that tie themselves? Here is how to teach them. It takes a lot of patience, and it may not work.

Step one: Sit on the floor and put your shoes in front of you. Look at them in a friendly way. Shoes like to be looked at.

Step two: Say in a calm voice, "Loop, swoop, and pull." Say it ten times. Say it slowly so the laces can follow.

Step three: Wiggle your fingers to show how. Make the bunny ears. Ask the shoes to copy you. Your shoes will do nothing. That is normal.

Step four: Wait one hour. If the laces have not moved, say "Good try" in a kind voice.

Step five: Tie them yourself with a loop, a swoop, and a pull. Check the knot. Your shoes did not learn a thing, but you did.

Questions

1. What do you want to teach your shoes?

_____

_____

2. What words do you say to the shoes?

_____

_____

3. How many times do you say the words?

_____

_____

4. What do the shoes do when you show them how?

_____

_____

5. Who ties the shoes in the end?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say it may not work?

_____

_____

Words to know

patience: being able to wait calmly without getting upset
calm: quiet and relaxed
laces: the strings that tie shoes shut
loop: a curve made when a string or lace bends around
knot: a tie made by twisting string together tightly

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

Triangle group

Do you want shoes that tie themselves? Here is how to teach them, but it takes lots of patience and it may not work.

Step one: Sit on the floor and set your shoes in front of you. Look at them in a friendly way, because shoes like to be looked at.

Step two: Say in a calm voice, "Loop, swoop, and pull." Say it ten times, and say it slowly so the laces can follow along.

Step three: Wiggle your fingers to show how it is done, and make the bunny ears. Ask the shoes to copy you. Your shoes will do nothing at all, which is normal.

Step four: Wait for one whole hour. If the laces still have not moved, say "Good try" in a kind voice.

Step five: Tie them yourself, using the loop, swoop, and pull. Now check the knot. Your shoes did not learn a thing, but you sure did.

Questions

1. What are you trying to teach your shoes?

_____

_____

2. What words should you say to the shoes?

_____

_____

3. How many times should you say the words?

_____

_____

4. What do the shoes do when you show them how?

_____

_____

5. Who ends up tying the shoes?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say the plan may not work?

_____

_____

Words to know

patience: being able to wait calmly without getting upset
calm: quiet and relaxed
laces: the strings that tie shoes shut
loop: a curve made when a string or lace bends around
knot: a tie made by twisting string together tightly

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

Square group

Have you ever wished for shoes that could tie themselves? Here is how to teach them, although it requires tremendous patience and may not work at all.

Step one: Sit on the floor and set your shoes in front of you. Gaze at them in a friendly way, because shoes enjoy being admired.

Step two: Say in a calm voice, "Loop, swoop, and pull." Repeat it ten times, and say it slowly so the laces can follow along.

Step three: Wiggle your fingers to demonstrate how it is done, and make the bunny ears. Ask the shoes to copy you. Your shoes will do absolutely nothing, which is perfectly normal.

Step four: Wait for one whole hour. If the laces still have not moved, say "Good try" in a kind voice.

Step five: Tie them yourself, using the loop, swoop, and pull. Now inspect the knot. Your shoes did not learn a thing, but you certainly did.

Questions

1. What do you hope to teach your shoes to do?

_____

_____

2. What words are you supposed to say to the shoes?

_____

_____

3. How many times should you repeat the words?

_____

_____

4. What do the shoes do when you demonstrate how it is done?

_____

_____

5. Who ends up tying the shoes?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer warn that the plan may not work at all?

_____

_____

Words to know

patience: being able to wait calmly without getting upset
calm: quiet and relaxed
laces: the strings that tie shoes shut
loop: a curve made when a string or lace bends around
knot: a tie made by twisting string together tightly

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

Easier · 144 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. To tie themselves.
2. Loop, swoop, and pull.
3. Ten times.
4. Nothing at all.
5. You do.
6. Shoes cannot really learn, so it is a joke.

Triangle: How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

This passage · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. To tie themselves.
2. Loop, swoop, and pull.
3. Ten times.
4. Nothing at all.
5. You do.
6. Shoes cannot really learn, so the how-to is a joke.

Square: How to Teach Your Shoes to Tie Themselves

Harder · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. To tie themselves.
2. Loop, swoop, and pull.
3. Ten times.
4. Absolutely nothing.
5. You do.
6. Shoes cannot really learn anything, so the how-to is a joke.