Name: _____ Date: _____

The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

Circle group

Fitz was the new waiter at the Sunny Spoon Diner. He had one small problem. When he got nervous, he swapped the first sounds of his words.

"Welcome," Fitz told the first family. "May I take your order? Our special is a bowl of peas and carrots."

What came out was: "May I bake your torder? Our special is a *pole of beas* and *parrots*."

The family stared. A little girl named Dot giggled. "Do you have any belly jeans?" she asked. She meant jelly beans.

Fitz felt his ears turn hot. "Sorry," he said. "I mean, *dorry*."

Dot tugged her mother's sleeve. "He is mixing up the sounds, Mom. It's a game."

Dot grinned at Fitz. "Say it slowly," she said. "Take a breath. Think of the first sound. Then say the word."

Fitz took a big breath and tried again. "Would you like some peas and carrots?"

It came out just right. The family clapped. Dot made a sign for the window: "Ask Fitz for a *fish dandwich*." Now people come from all over town to order from Fitz. When he swaps a sound, the whole diner laughs with him.

Questions

1. What was Fitz's job?

_____

_____

2. What happened to Fitz's words when he got nervous?

_____

_____

3. What did Dot mean by belly jeans?

_____

_____

4. What advice did Dot give Fitz?

_____

_____

5. How did Dot help Fitz feel better?

_____

_____

6. Why do people come to the diner now?

_____

_____

Words to know

diner: a small, casual restaurant
nervous: feeling worried or jumpy
special: a meal a restaurant offers for that day

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: _____

The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

Triangle group

Fitz was the new waiter at the Sunny Spoon Diner, and he had one small problem. When he got nervous, he swapped the first sounds of his words.

"Welcome," Fitz told the first family. "May I take your order? Our special today is a bowl of peas and carrots."

What came out was: "May I bake your torder? Our special today is a *pole of beas* and *parrots*."

The family stared at him. A little girl named Dot giggled. "Do you have any belly jeans?" she asked. She meant jelly beans.

Fitz felt his ears turn hot, because he knew that everyone could hear his mistakes. "Sorry," he said. "I mean, *dorry*."

Dot tugged her mother's sleeve and explained that the waiter was only mixing the sounds up, like a word game. Then she grinned at Fitz and suggested that he say each word slowly, breathe in, and think of the first sound before he spoke.

Fitz took a big breath and tried again. "Would you like some peas and carrots?"

The words came out just right, and the family clapped. Dot was so proud that she made a sign for the diner window: "Ask Fitz for a *fish dandwich*." Now people come from all over town to order from Fitz, and when he swaps a sound, the whole diner laughs along with him.

Questions

1. What was Fitz's job?

_____

_____

2. What happened to Fitz's words when he got nervous?

_____

_____

3. What did Dot mean when she asked for belly jeans?

_____

_____

4. What advice did Dot give Fitz?

_____

_____

5. How did Dot help make Fitz feel better?

_____

_____

6. Why do people come to the diner now?

_____

_____

Words to know

diner: a small, casual restaurant
nervous: feeling worried or jumpy
special: a meal a restaurant offers for that day
suggested: offered an idea

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: _____

The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

Square group

Fitz was the newest waiter at the Sunny Spoon Diner, and he had one peculiar problem. Whenever he grew nervous, he swapped the first sounds of his words.

"Welcome," Fitz told the first family. "May I take your order? Our special today is a bowl of peas and carrots."

What actually came out was: "May I bake your torder? Our special today is a *pole of beas* and *parrots*."

The family stared at him in astonishment. A little girl named Dot giggled. "Do you have any belly jeans?" she asked. She meant jelly beans.

Fitz felt his ears burn. "Sorry," he mumbled. "I mean, *dorry*."

Dot tugged on her mother's sleeve. "He is mixing the sounds up, Mom. It's like a game."

She turned to Fitz with an encouraging grin. "Try saying it slowly," she suggested. "Breathe in. Think about the first sound. Then say the word."

Fitz took an enormous breath and tried again. "Would you like some peas and carrots?"

The words came out perfectly, and the family applauded. Dot was so proud that she painted a sign for the diner window: "Ask Fitz for a *fish dandwich*." Now people travel from all over town to order from Fitz, and whenever he swaps a sound, the entire diner laughs along with him.

Questions

1. What was Fitz's job at the diner?

_____

_____

2. What happened to Fitz's words whenever he grew nervous?

_____

_____

3. What did Dot mean when she asked for belly jeans?

_____

_____

4. What advice did Dot offer Fitz?

_____

_____

5. How did Dot make Fitz feel better about his problem?

_____

_____

6. Why do people travel to the diner now?

_____

_____

Words to know

diner: a small, casual restaurant
nervous: feeling worried or jumpy
special: a meal a restaurant offers for that day
suggested: offered an idea

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: The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

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

Circle: The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

Easier · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. He was a waiter at the Sunny Spoon Diner.
2. He swapped the first sounds of his words.
3. She meant jelly beans.
4. Say it slowly, take a breath, and think of the first sound.
5. She treated it like a game and gave him a helpful idea.
6. They like ordering from Fitz and laughing along with his mixed-up words.

Triangle: The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

This passage · 224 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. He was a waiter at the Sunny Spoon Diner.
2. He swapped the first sounds of his words.
3. She meant jelly beans.
4. Say it slowly, breathe in, and think of the first sound.
5. She treated it like a game and gave him a helpful idea instead of laughing at him.
6. They enjoy ordering from Fitz and laughing along with his silly mixed-up words.

Square: The Waiter Who Swapped His Sounds

Harder · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. He was a waiter at the Sunny Spoon Diner.
2. He swapped the first sounds of his words.
3. She meant jelly beans.
4. Say it slowly, breathe in, and think about the first sound.
5. She treated it like a game and offered a helpful idea instead of laughing at him.
6. They enjoy ordering from Fitz and laughing along with his mixed-up words.