

Lesson 30: R Influenced Vowels (er, ir, ur)

Directions: Read the list of words, then read the story.

er in her

jerk
herd
verb
perk
pert
clerk
fern
nerd
perch
stern
herd
term
verse
serve
Bert

ir in first

sir
stir
skirt
dirt
thirsty
first
girl
whirl
twirl
swirl
bird
chirp
squirm
firm
birth/day

ur in fur

hurt
turn
burn
burnt
hurry
curb
curve
blur
turf
curl
surf
turtle
nurse
purse
fur

Bert the Cat



Bert is a big tom cat. His **fur** is black and white. His face has a black mask over his eyes. He looks like he has a black suit with a white **shirt** on. He likes to **curl** up on a big **purple** chair to sleep. He **turns** and **turns** and **turns** before he settles down to rest. On **winter** days he likes to **perch** on the back of the chair and watch the **birds chirping** and **squirrels** at the feeder eating corn and seeds.

When **Bert** is **thirsty**, he puts his paw into the water pan and **stirs** and **swirls** the **water** until it spills over on the floor. Then he drinks it.

In the spring, **Bert** goes outside. He likes to dig in the **dirt** and get **dirty**. He **lurks** under the **ferns** to **surprise** the **birds** when he **bursts** out to get them. He does not **hurt** them, but sometimes he gets a mouse that is trying to get into the house, or a mole digging in the yard. He brings them to his person to see that he is doing his job. Then he wants a treat for a job well done.

Bert does not like to be held. He **squirms** and **jerks** until he is free. He also does not like new people. He **turns** and runs away when he hears a car in the drive/way, and hides **under** the bed **skirt** until they are gone. Then he comes out and looks to see if it is safe. Yes **sir**, **Bert** is a funny cat.

An Outfit for Shirley

Shirley is a girl in third grade. It is her birthday, so she is going shopping for a new skirt and shirt for church. She also wants to find a purse to match the outfit. She and her mom will go to the dress shop on Third Street. She asked the clerk to help her. First the clerk will bring her a blue skirt and a white shirt to try on. They did not fit. She wanted to try on a yellow skirt and a green shirt. They were fine. Next, she wanted to find a cute purse to go with her outfit. Some were too big; some were too small. Then Shirley saw the perfect one, a shiny little black purse with a small silver handle. She put on her outfit and twirled around. Perfect. Mom paid the clerk, and they went to get ice cream. Happy birthday, Shirley.

