

Spelling Words in Action

Was the name "Underground Railroad" a good one? Why or why not?

Passage to Freedom

In the years before slavery was illegal, the Underground Railroad helped escaping slaves to find freedom in the north. Everyone who took part in the Underground Railroad was **guilty** of breaking the law, but their efforts were **fruitful**. An estimated 40,000 to 100,000 escaped slaves reached freedom this way.

On the plantations, slaves readied themselves in many ways. They listened to stories or songs about escape routes. Other clues might have come in **quilted** form. It is possible that quilt patterns showed the slaves how to prepare for the journey.

The success of the "railroad" depended on its "conductors." Some helped the runaways by **building** hiding places for them. The houses along the Underground Railroad were known as "stations." **Bruised** and hungry runaways would reach a station and stay in a **suitable** hiding spot.

Then they would be sent on their way with a **biscuit** or a **juicy** apple to eat. Some "conductors," like the famous Harriet Tubman, personally accompanied the runaways. When prospects looked **gloomy**, Tubman would use clever disguises to throw off slave catchers who **pursued** them. She is one of the Underground Railroad's many heroes.



Write the boldfaced words in the definition. Which words in the definition do you hear in the words? Which words give the sound you hear in the words?

TIP

The sound of **yoo**, as in curfew, can be spelled **ew**.

The **oo** sound, as in smoother, can be spelled in the following ways:

ew, as in mildew

ue, as in pursued

oo, as in gloomy

ui, as in fruitful

The letters **ui** also can spell the short **i** sound you hear in biscuit.

Spelling Practice

Write each **list word** under the correct heading.

ew spells the sound of **oo** or **yoo**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ui spells the sound of **oo**

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

ue spells the sound of **oo**

10. _____

oo spells the sound of **oo**

11. alo _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____

ui spells the short **i** sound

15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

LIST WORDS

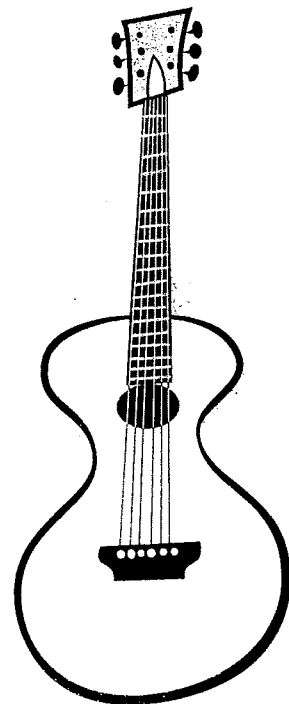
1. *mildew*
2. *guitar*
3. *gloomy*
4. *cruise*
5. *guilty*
6. *curfew*
7. *pewter*
8. *juicy*
9. *smoother*
10. *bruised*
11. *quilted*
12. *building*
13. *fruitful*
14. *shampoo*
15. *soothing*
16. *suitable*
17. *pursued*
18. *biscuit*
19. *circuit*
20. *nuisance*

Use the **list words** below to fill in the blanks in the paragraphs. Write the words on the lines.

In my family, we have an old mug made of _____ that has a very special story. It once played a part in helping people to escape on the Underground Railroad! My ancestors had been _____ a small room behind a wall to hide the fleeing slaves. Though they tried to conceal the door, it was _____ than the rest of the wall. The first time people were hidden in the room, they were followed by an official who had _____ them for miles. When he came to the house, he became suspicious about the wall. My great-great-great-grandmother Anne distracted the man by offering him a _____ piece of apple pie and a hot _____ on her best plate, with a cool drink of cider in the mug. He said the refreshments were _____ for a king, and he apologized for being a _____ before he left the house. The runaways were safe, thanks to Anne's quick thinking and _____ ways!

Add and subtract letters to form **list words**.

1. mild + few - f = _____
2. gust - st + silt - s + y = _____
3. quill - l + wanted - wan = _____
4. go - o + suit - s + art - t = _____
5. brush - ush + disguised - disg = _____
6. curtain - tain + f + new - n = _____
7. shame - e + pool - l = _____
8. circus - s + item - em = _____
9. g + look - k + enemy - ene = _____
10. crust - st + bruise - bru = _____
11. fry - y + quit - q + fully - ly = _____



Spelling and Writing

Proofreading

This scene from a TV show about the Underground Railroad has nine mistakes. Use the proofreading marks to fix the mistakes. Then, write the misspelled **list words** correctly on the lines.



MAMA: "This way, George! Move quickly, now, because I think we are are being persooed!"

GEORGE: "I'm running as fast as I can, Mama. I brewsed my my foot, and I'm so hungry. I'd do anything for a biskit or a joocy piece of fruit."

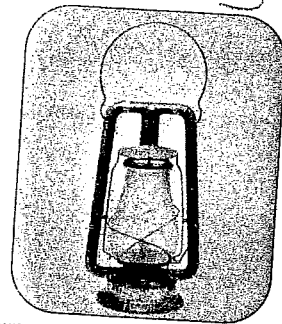
MAMA (in a suithing tone): "We'll eat after we meet up with our conductor. Where could she be? At the the last station, they said we'd find her holding a lantern and waiting by a big oak tree!"

GEORGE: "Mama, look! That's her her, right over there!"

Proofreading Marks

-  spelling mistake
-  take out something

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Writing a Journal Entry

Write a journal entry from the point of view of a young person helping his or her family to participate in the Underground Railroad. Use any **list words** that you can. Remember to proofread your paragraph and fix any mistakes.

BONUS WORDS

steward
typhoon
undue
recruit
monsoon