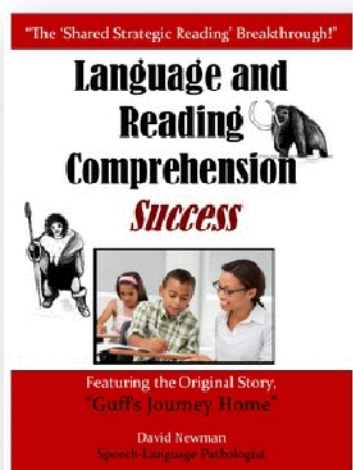


Language and Reading Comprehension Success

by David Newman BAppSc (Speech-Language Pathology)



Thank you for taking the time to look at the Language and Reading Comprehension Success program. All of the activities have been tested on many of my students over a long period of time.

The questions and activities in the program have been designed to be as user friendly as possible. The activities will assist your students to sharpen and improve their oral and written expressive language skills. I believe the activities do this very well.

I have included a full table of contents and thumbnails of some of the exercises and activities included in the program to give you a sense of the look and feel of the activities.

I give you my personal assurance that the activities will engage your students' attention and deliver results.

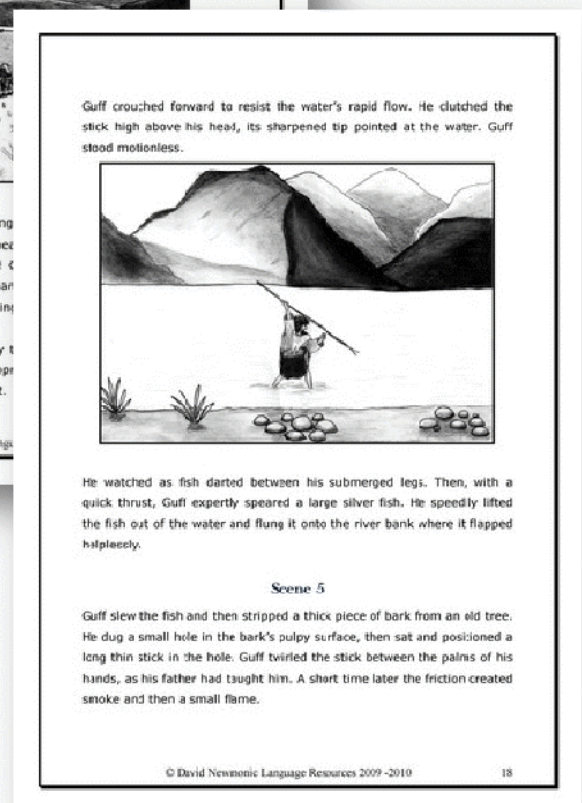
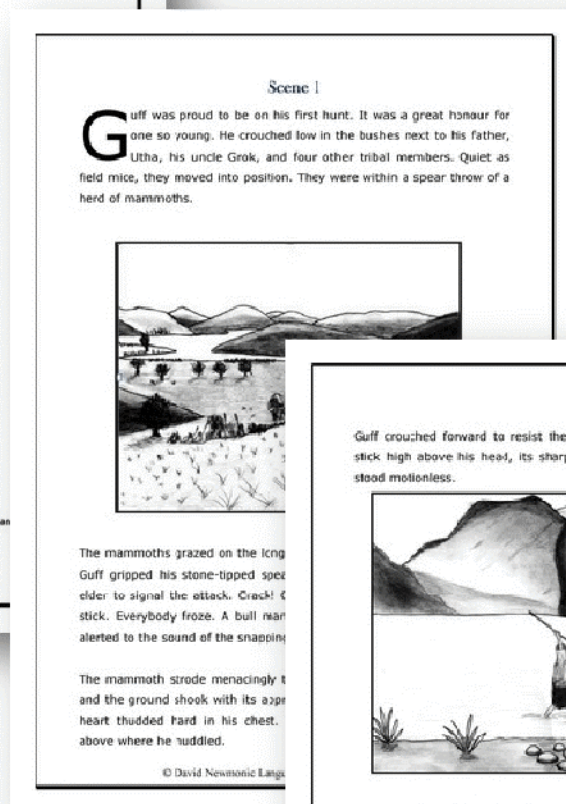
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Some thumbnails of activities in the program...




Features an original story with illustrations, purpose built to be mined by your students for language learning opportunities...

Some thumbnails of activities in the program *cont...*

Pre-story Background Information - Chapter 1

Instructions:
Read the information about Neanderthal man and the prehistoric world to your student/s. The goal here is to provide background information about *'Guff's Journey Home.'*

Neanderthal Man
Neanderthal man was a **species** of prehistoric human that lived in Europe and parts of Africa about 150 000 years ago.



Neanderthals had similar features to modern humans but differed in that they had much more **robust** (*rough*) bodies, and bigger brains.

Neanderthal man had a complex f...
Many researchers of prehistoric Neanderthal man could speak.


Neanderthals were a **nomadic** people, in that they moved from place to place. They were **excellent** hunters and could make fire.

Neanderthal man used tools such as axes and spears, made from stone and were very sharp. They mostly dressed in clothing made from animal skins.

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Pre-story Background:
Important facts about major characters in the story of *Guff's Journey Home*.

Mammoth
The woolly mammoth was a **prehistoric** type of elephant. The mammoth had a different appearance to modern elephants. It was covered in long hair, had small ears, and had long curved **tusks**. Mammoths were often hunted as food by Neanderthal tribes.



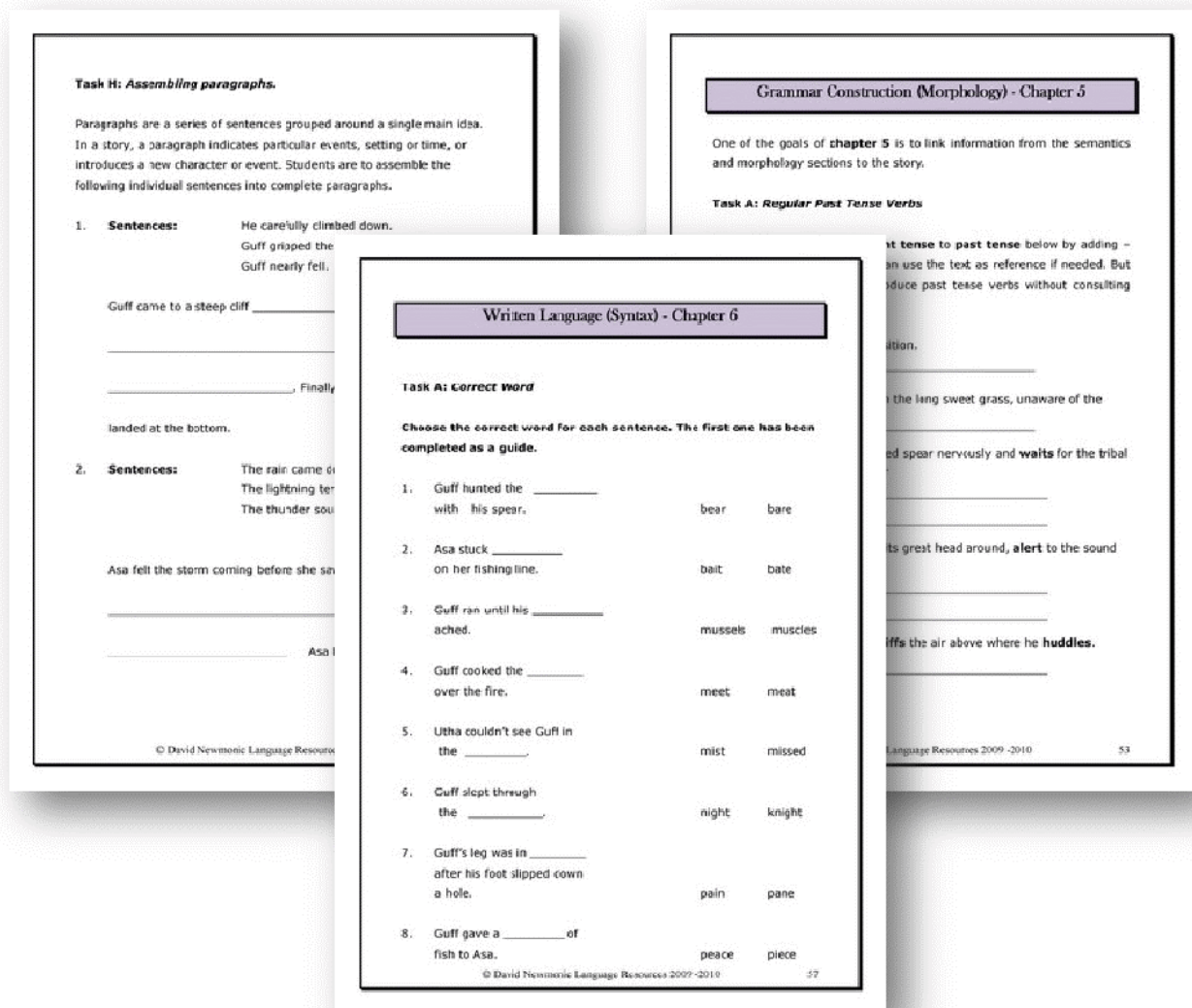
Sabre-Toothed Tiger
Sabre-toothed tigers were ferocious **predators** that lived in pre-historic times. They had enormous tearing teeth on their upper jaw that gave them a **menacing** appearance.

Sabre-toothed tigers were stocky in build, almost bear like. They were unlike modern big cats such as tigers and lions, because they weren't **sleek** and **slender** but broad and thick-set.



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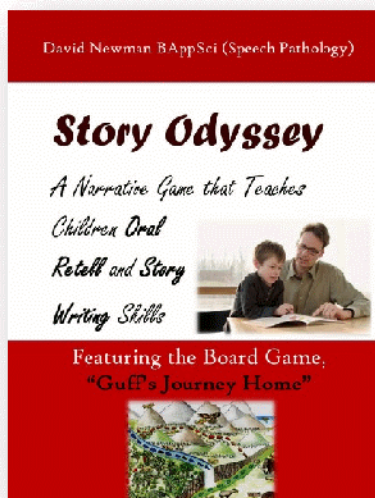
Some thumbnails of activities in the program *cont...*



100's of questions designed to strengthen your students' vitally important language abilities. The questions target skills such as *inference*, *problem solving*, *grammar*, *written syntax*, and *story grammar*.

Free Bonus Offer!

Story Odyssey – Story Grammar Program



Story Odyssey is a narrative-based game that works by involving your students in an exciting game called Prehistoric Trek, while *introducing* story grammar rules. Prehistoric Trek is based on the story 'Guff's Journey Home.'

The Guff's Journey Home game is successful in teaching story grammar skills. It works because is entirely *immersive*. Your students respond to events and challenges *built into the game*,

which they must overcome to help their character reach the safety of the village.

Sample of the A4 or A3 hand drawn board game, ‘Guff’s Journey Home.’



The program comes complete with an extensive rules section plus character profiles, settings and tips on teaching your students how to begin to write their own stories, after first giving an oral retell and a written account of their character’s adventures while playing the board game.

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Some thumbnails of activities in the program...

The Blue River

Sequence: Roll on the chart, marked **beginning** to see whether you are successful in operating the raft.

Review the Special Rules chart for extra information.

Once you reach the waterfall, don't go past it. Consult the **waterfall chart** the following turns. **Read all instruction carefully.**

Dice Roll	The Blue River Chart - Beginning
1-3	You need to repair the raft before launching it into the river. Lose a Turn
4-6	The raft is in good condition. You launch the raft successfully.


Dice Roll	The Blue River Chart - Waterfall
1-3	If the raft strikes any of the red discs the rocks and you need to leave the raft of spaces .

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The Terror Bird

Dice Roll	The Terror Bird Chart
1	The ferocious terror bird attacks you. Run for your life! You run all the way to the river. Next turn consult the River Crossing Chart .
2-3	The terror bird attacks you. You bravely, or foolishly, fend off the terror bird with your spear. Don't move this turn.

While the terror bird has its back to you, you run to the village. With a loud squawk, the terror bird chases you, a small lead. You just make it to the safety of the village, terror bird can't take you with its massive beak. You've made it!



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The Dark Forest

Sequence: Begin the journey from the first green disc.

If you land on a **red disc** consult the **sabre tooth tiger** chart.

If you land on a **purple disc** you become lost. **Go back 2 spaces**.

Stop when you come to the cliff. Next turn, consult the **cliff face chart**.

Dice Roll	The Dark Forest Chart - The Sabre Tooth Tiger
1-2	With a loud roar, the tiger leaps at you. You evade the tiger's attack and then run for your life! You quickly climb a tree. Lose a turn.
3-4	You hear the tiger approaching through thick scrub. You run back the way that you came, as fast as you can. Go back three spaces.
5-6	The tiger launches at you but you evade its attack by running through the forest. The tiger loses the scent - for now! Go forward one space.

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The game features a range of different scenarios which are built into the rules. Your students will **never play the same game twice**. The vagaries of the dice ensure there are literally *hundreds* of different possible outcomes to each game.

Some thumbnails of activities in the program...

Retelling the Story of Prehistoric Trek

After students have played the game a few times, encourage them to narrate what happened in the game. That is, the students retell the story of Guff's Wilderness Trek. Guff's Wilderness Trek is not just a game, it in fact tells a story and do happen to Guff on his journey. The game is designed to simulate real life experiences.

Because they have just completed the game, the events of the game are fresh in your students mind. Encourage them to retell what happened to Guff.

The events of the game will be different for each player. That is because a large amount of detail has been built into each event.

Fortunately it is not difficult for children to narrate the events of the game. They have experienced every moment with Guff. The fun and excitement of the competitive game will still be fresh in each child's memory.

Character Profiles - Great Eagle and Terror Bird

Character: Great Eagle Words to assist story writing Description: The Great Eagle became extinct about 1900 C.E. The Haast eagle was much larger than a modern eagle. A modern eagle weighs about 5 kg's whereas a Haast eagle weighed 15 kg's. Words to describe the Great Eagle Nouns: eagle, feathers, talons, beak, wing Verbs: swooped, flew, soared, hovered, glide, drifted, dived, attacked. Adjectives: majestic, massive, striking, afraid, fearing, fear, risky, unprotected. Adverbs: quietly, silently, quickly, swiftly. Example: The massive eagle swooped down swiftly. The eagle soared high.	Character: Terror Bird Words to assist story writing Description: The terror bird was a large, carnivorous flightless bird. The terror bird was about 8-10 feet high and was quite ferocious. Words to describe the Terror Bird Nouns: beak, feathers, claws, predator, squawk, strut. Verbs: walked, attacked, hid, squawked, puffed. Adjective: ferocious, huge, enormous, faster, massive. Adverbs: quietly. Example: At the top of the mountain, the terror bird squawked loudly for her prey.
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Setting Profiles

Setting: The Dark Forest	Setting: The Mountain Pass
Words to assist story writing Description: The dark forest is a place full of trees and bushes. It's hard to see anything even two feet in front of you. Words to describe the Dark Forest Nouns: flora, vegetation, bloom, bush, scrub, trees, vines, branch, trunk, leaves, swamp, shade, hot. Adjectives: overgrown, lush, flowering, leafy, weedy. Example: (Dark Forest) Asa walked along the path through the lush vegetation of the dark forest. Suddenly, she stepped. In front of her was a sabre tooth tiger. She hid behind a flowering bush.	Words to assist story writing Description: The mountain pass is a treacherous place. The mountains are beautiful, but cold and dangerous. Landslides are common here. Words to describe the Mountain Pass Nouns: high altitude, summit, mountain, range, hill, rocks, rocky, landslide, peak. Adjectives: soaring, towering, lofty. Example: (Mountain Pass) Asa climbed the rocks to the top of the mountain peak. She looked at the towering mountains that surrounded her.
Setting: The Blue River Words to assist story writing Description: The blue river is a dangerous waterway that leads to a towering waterfall. Words to describe the Blue River Nouns: water, waterfall, falls, spring, fountain, current, eddy, whirlpool, rapids, cascade, force. Adjectives: flowing, streaming, winding. Example: (Blue River) Guff rode the raft over the rapids. He dove into the water as it cascaded over the falls.	Example: (Blue River) Guff rode the raft over the rapids. He dove into the water as it cascaded over the falls.

The program comes complete with detailed notes and instructions to enable your students to create their own stories, based on their character's actions and the sequence of events.

**Feel free to print out
the bonus problem
solving activities from
the program below...**

Vocabulary Builders (*Semantics*) - Chapter 4

One of the goals of **stage 4** is to link information from the semantics and morphology sections to the story.

Task A: *Defining and Describing nouns*

Describe each noun below. Define what it is and what it means in the context of the story. **I recommend that students use a dictionary and thesaurus for this section.**

1. hunt _____

2. uncle _____

3. herd _____

4. panic _____

5. fatigue _____

6. valley _____

7. prairie _____

8. tribe _____

9. surface _____

10. confident _____

Task B: *Selecting the Correct Synonym*

Synonyms are words that have a similar meaning to others in the language.

The student's task is to select the correct **synonym** from a passage in the story. For instance, **smile** is a synonym of **laugh**.

1. 'Guff ***crouched*** low in the bushes next to his father, uncle, and four other tribal members.'

stood

kneeled

sat

peeked

2. 'A bull mammoth whirled its great head around, ***alerted*** by the sound of the snapping stick.'

alarmed

angry

looked

ran

3. 'He ran until the muscles in his legs cramped and his chest heaved from ***fatigue***.'

pain

tiredness

cramp

ached

4. 'He was ***alone*** in a place he had never seen.'

surrounded deserted stolen isolated

5. '**Refreshed**, he gripped his spear and began to trot across large flat stones, warmed by the morning sun.'

hungry thirsty recovered determined

Synonyms cont...

6. 'Guff searched and found a long thin branch and **pruned** its leaves.'

cut trimmed reduce replace

7. 'Guff then walked to the river's edge stepped into the water until it **flowed** past his knees.'

streamed washed lashed plunged

8. 'Then, with a quick **thrust**, Guff expertly speared a large silver fish.'

parry

attack

dive

wait

9. 'A short time later the **friction** created smoke and then a small flame.'

electricity

fraction

turning

rubbing

10. 'A large sabre-toothed tiger advanced toward him, growling softly, confident. It had been **attracted** by the smell of the cooked fish.'

tempted

revolted

angered

menaced

Task C: *Selecting the Correct Antonym*

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning to others. For instance, **hot** is an antonym of **cold**.

Your students' task is to select the correct **antonym** (*opposite*) from a passage in the story.

1. 'Guff the Neanderthal boy was **proud** to be on his first hunt.'

ashamed empty pleased angry

2. 'Guff gripped his stone-tipped spear nervously and **waited** for the tribal elder to signal the attack.'

argued acted hid delayed

3. 'The **enormous** animal sniffed the air above where he crouched.'

solid big towered tiny

4. 'What happened next was very **confusing** to Guff.'

stunned

afraid

clear-cut

unclear

5. Guff stumbled across a ditch and dropped down into it. **Exhausted**, he placed his spear by his side and rested.

refreshed

tired

alert

peaceful

Antonyms cont...

6. He was in a place he had never seen. It was a valley with high cliffs and a river that **twisted** and turned noisily through its base.

bent

ran straight

wrapped

winding

7. Guff traveled all **morning** until the sun was high in the sky.

evening

daylight

midnight

day-break

8. He speedily lifted the fish out of the water and **flung** it onto the river bank where it flapped helplessly.

caught

threw

launched

speared

9. He wrapped the fish in large wet leaves from a nearby river plant and **roasted** the fish in the flames.

heated

baked

picnic

froze

10. The sabre-toothed tiger desperately tried to climb the tree but could not **grip** the trunk with its long claws.

camp

crushing

release

hold

Task D: *Selecting the Best Adjective*

An adjective is a word that is used with a noun, to describe a quality or circumstance. For instance, the sunset was a **dazzling** red.

Choose the **adjective** that best *describes* a scene from the story. If needed, reread the section from the story to help the student picture the scene.

1. The mammoths grazed on the long sweet grass.

peaceful fighting aggressive lazy

2. Guff could scarcely breathe as his heart thudded hard in his chest.

ordinary stubborn fearful foggy

3. The mammoth roared loudly and caused several members of the tribe to panic and flee.

confident nervous terrified calm

4. He ran until the muscles in his legs cramped and his chest heaved from fatigue.

exhausted

fresh

uneasy

lifeless

5. Refreshed, he gripped his spear and began to trot across large flat stones, warmed by the morning sun.

tired

cautious

energetic

weak

Adjectives cont...

6. Guff rested awhile under the shade of an old tree to catch his breath. His stomach grumbled. He needed food.

satisfied

hasty

bitter

hungry

7. He clutched the stick high above his head, its sharpened tip pointed at the water. Guff stood very still.

carefree

downhearted

focused

greedy

8. Guff threw some dried leaves on the flame and gently blew on it. The leaves caught fire and Guff built the flames into a small fire. Guff was in high spirits and hummed a tune as he worked.

harsh

fierce

annoyed

cheerful

9. Guff was in terrible danger. His only chance was to climb the tree. But the tree was many paces away.

mild

threatened

safely

comfortable

10. Guff looked down through the branches and saw a small party of his tribe running toward the old tree. His father and uncle were among them. Guff was safe.

miserable

impatient

delighted

disappointed

Answer Section

Answers – Synonyms

1. 'Guff ***crouched*** low in the bushes next to his father, uncle, and four other tribal members.'

stood kneeled sat peeked

2. 'A bull mammoth whirled its great head around, ***alerted*** by the sound of the snapping stick.'

alarmed angry looked ran

3. 'He ran until the muscles in his legs cramped and his chest heaved from ***fatigue***.'

pain tiredness cramp ached

4. 'He was ***alone*** in a place he had never seen.'

surrounded deserted stolen isolated

5. '***Refreshed***, he gripped his spear and began to trot across large flat stones, warmed by the morning sun.'

hungry thirsty recovered determined

6. 'Guff searched and found a long thin branch and **pruned** it of its leaves.'

cut trimmed reduce replace

7. 'Guff then walked to the river's edge stepped into the water until it **flowed** past his knees.'

streamed washed lashed plunged

8. 'Then, with a quick **thrust**, Guff expertly speared a large silver fish.'

parry attack dive wait

9. 'A short time later the **friction** created smoke and then a small flame.'

electricity fraction tuning rubbing

10. 'Two large sabre-toothed tigers advanced toward him, growling softly, confident. They had been **attracted** by the smell of the cooked fish.'

tempted revolted angered menaced

Answers - Antonyms

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning to others. For instance, **hot** is an antonym of **cold**.

The student's task is to select the correct **antonym** from a passage in the story.

1. 'Guff the Neanderthal boy was **proud** to be on his first hunt.'

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2. 'Guff gripped his stone-tipped spear nervously and **waited** for the tribal elder to signal the attack.'

argued acted hid delayed

3. 'The **enormous** animal sniffed the air above where he crouched.'

solid big towered tiny

4. 'What happened next was very **confusing** to Guff.'

stunned afraid clear-cut unclear

5. Guff stumbled across a ditch and dropped down into it. **Exhausted**, he placed his spear by his side and rested.

refreshed tired alert peaceful

6. He was in a place he had never seen. It was a valley with high cliffs and a river that **twisted** and turned noisily through its base.

bent straight wrapped winding

7. Guff traveled all **morning** until the sun was high in the sky.

sun-set daylight midnight day-break

8. He speedily lifted the fish out of the water and **flung** it onto the river bank where it flapped helplessly.

caught threw launched speared

9. He wrapped the fish in large wet leaves from a nearby river plant and **roasted** the fish in the flames.

heated baked picnic froze

10. The sabre-toothed tigers desperately tried to climb the tree but could not **grip** the trunk with their long claws.

camp crushing release hold

Answers - Adjectives

1. The mammoths grazed on the long sweet grass.

peaceful

fighting

aggressive

lazy

2. Guff could scarcely breathe as his heart thudded hard in his chest.

ordinary

stubborn

fearful

foggy

3. The mammoth roared loudly and caused several members of the tribe to panic and flee.

confident

nervous

terrified

calm

4. He ran until the muscles in his legs cramped and his chest heaved from fatigue.

exhausted

fresh

uneasy

lifeless

5. Refreshed, he gripped his spear and began to trot across large flat stones, warmed by the morning sun.

tired

cautious

energetic

weak

Adjectives cont...

6. Guff rested awhile under the shade of an old tree to catch his breath. His stomach grumbled. He needed food.

satisfied

hasty

bitter

hungry

7. He clutched the stick high above his head, its sharpened tip pointed at the water. Guff stood very still.

carefree downhearted **focused** greedy

8. Guff threw some dried leaves on the flame and gently blew on it. The leaves caught fire and Guff built the flames into a small fire. Guff was in high spirits and hummed a tune as he worked.

harsh fierce annoyed **cheerful**

9. Guff was in terrible danger. His only chance was to climb the tree. But the tree was many paces away.

mild **threatened** safely comfortable

10. Guff looked down through the branches and saw a small party of his tribe running toward the old tree. His father and uncle were among them. Guff was safe.

miserable impatient **delighted** disappointed

Answers: Regular Past Tense Verbs

1. The tribe **moved** into position.

2. The mammoths **grazed** on the long sweet grass, unaware of the hunters.
 3. Guff **gripped** his stone-tipped spear nervously and **waited** for the tribal elder to signal the attack.
 4. A bull mammoth **whirled** its great head around, **alerted** to the sound of the snapping stick.
 5. The enormous animal **sniffed** the air above where he **crouched**.
 6. Guff **stumbled** across a ditch and **dropped** down into it.
 7. Guff dimly **remembered** a river **flowed** near to where his tribe **camped**.
 8. Guff **rested** awhile under the shade of an old tree to catch his breath.
 9. His stomach **grumbled**. He **needed** food.
 10. Guff then **walked** to the rivers edge and **stepped** into the cold water until it **flowed** past his knees.
-

Answers: Irregular Past Tense Verbs

1. The ground **shook** with its approach.
2. He **ran** blindly...
3. He **fell**, **got** up and **ran** again.
4. Guff **heard** screams and shouts from members of his tribe...
5. He **ran** until he **could** no longer hear any roaring.
6. Guff **stood** very still.
7. He lifts the fish out of the water and **flung** it onto the riverbank.
8. He **dug** a small hole in the bark's pulpy surface, then **sat** and positions a long thin stick in the hole.

9. Guff **threw** some dried leaves on the flame and gently **blew** on it.

10. The leaves **caught** fire and Guff **built** the flames into a small fire.

To learn more about this program and others like it make sure you visit www.speechlanguage-resources.com

On the site you will discover a wealth of valuable information and free downloads to help improve your students' language and literacy skills.