

February 2nd is Groundhog Day.

Groundhog Facts:

- Groundhogs are also known as woodchucks. They are closely related to squirrels, although groundhogs live in underground burrows rather than in trees.
- Groundhogs are diggers! Their burrows can have up to 66 feet of tunnels, several exits, and multiple rooms, including separate areas that they use as bathrooms and sleeping rooms.
- Groundhogs are true hibernators which means they're able to lower their body temperature and slow their heart rate to conserve energy when they hibernate. They spend autumn fattening up.
- According to folklore, the groundhog emerges from his burrow on February 2nd, looking for his shadow. If he sees it (sunny morning), winter will last another six weeks. If the groundhog doesn't see his shadow (cloudy morning), the legend says that spring will arrive early.
- The first official USA Groundhog Day celebration was on February 2, 1887, at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA, and introduced a groundhog named Phil. The town has continued the holiday for over 125 years. When not predicting the weather, the current Phil lives at the Punxsutawney Library. He weighs 15 pounds and eats dog food. He also really likes ice cream!



Shadow: A shadow is a dark shape that occurs on a surface when something blocks light rays from it. Visit the NAEYC website (www.naeyc.org/blogs/what-is-a-shadow) for additional shadow activities for students.

Fun Reading About Shadows and Groundhog Day:

Danny's Shadow (level 6/C, 76 words)

Danny's Groundhog Day (level 10/F, 126 words)

Hands-On Groundhog Day Craft Activity

Materials:

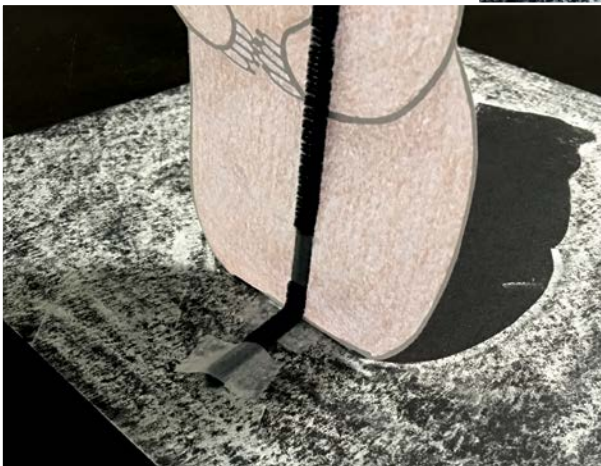
Each child will need: 1 groundhog image (included in this activity); 1 sheet black construction paper, 1/3 pipe cleaner; black and brown crayons; 1 piece of white chalk; and tape

1. Have each child use the brown and black crayons to color in their groundhog image and then cut it out.

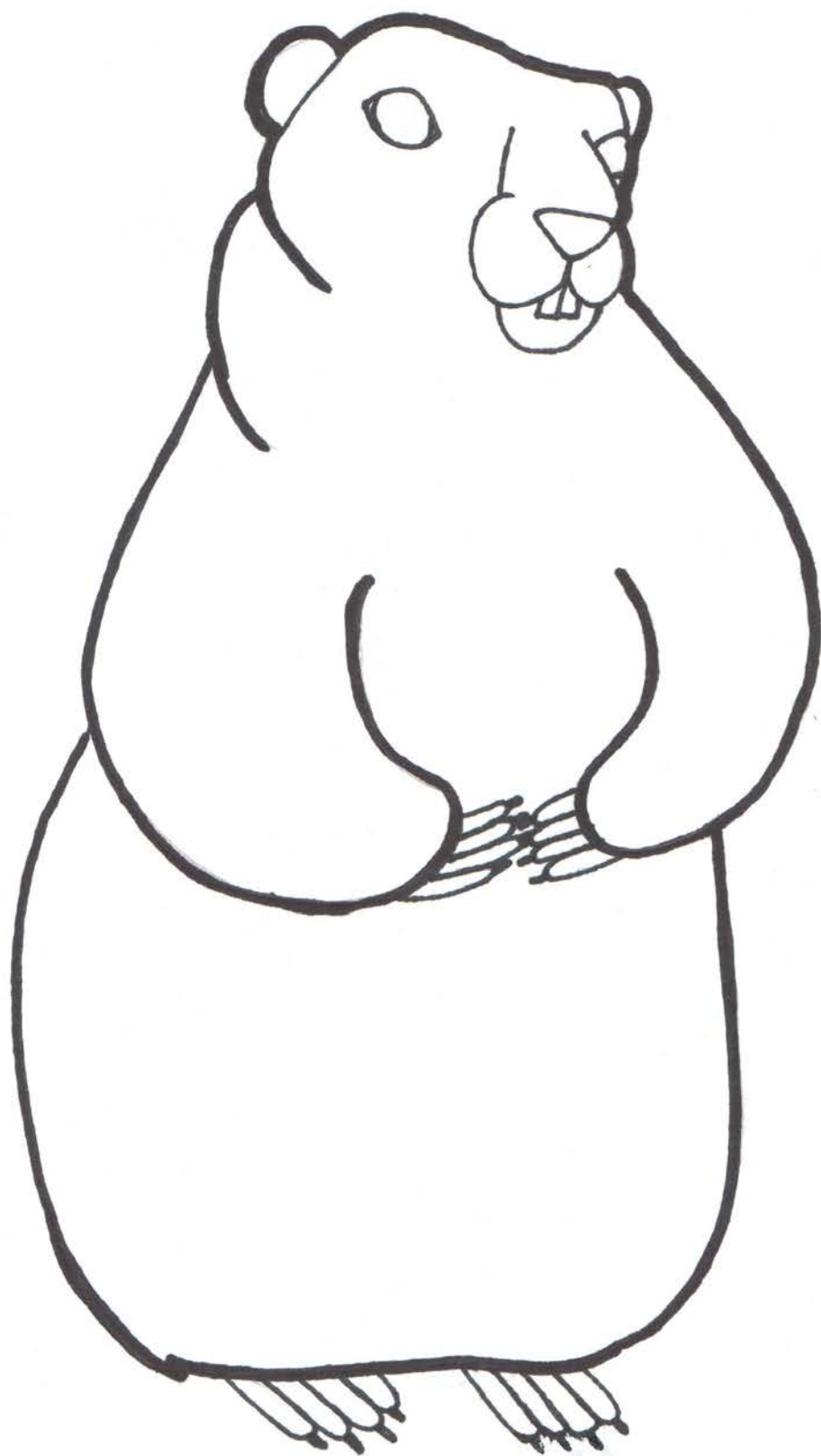
2. Lay each cut-out groundhog face down on a vertical sheet of black paper and trace around the image with white chalk. Instruct students to color the black sheet white, around the face-down groundhog image, using the chalk.

3. After coloring is complete, have students tape one end of a pipe cleaner to the bottom of the face-down image. Bend the pipe cleaner to a 90 degree angle and tape it to the black paper, making the image stand up.

4. If the groundhog can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter!



This activity is based on a craft we found at owlsandowlsoffun.blogspot.com/2013/02/groundhog-day.html.



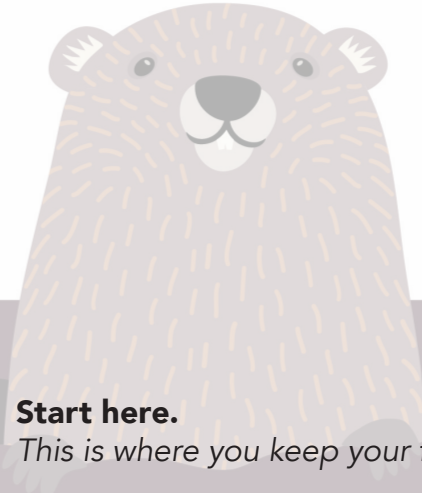
Groundhog Word Ladder

Will the groundhog and his friends see their shadows? Start at the top with the word **ground**.

Read and follow the directions beside each white box to add, subtract, or change letters.

Each clue will also give you a hint about the meaning of the new word.

Write the new word in the box. Work your way down the list to get to the word **hog**.



ground

Start here.

This is where you keep your feet firmly planted.

Take away the g at the beginning.

The shape of a circle.

Change the r to f at the beginning.

Something that is lost hopes to be this.

Take away the o in the middle.

This is a supply of money set aside for a special purpose.

Take away the d at the end.

Danny and his friends like to have this.

Change the f to b at the beginning.

A hot dog or a hamburger goes inside one of these.

Change the n to g at the end.

Another word for an insect.

Change the u to o in the middle.

A swampy place.

hog

Change the b to h at the beginning.

Another word for pig.

Bee Mine Word Ladder

Bee has a Valentine message for you! Start at the top with the word **Bee**. **Read** and follow the directions beside each box to add, subtract, or change letters. Each clue will also give you a hint about the meaning of the new word. **Write** the new word in the box. Work your way down the list to get to the word **mine**.

Bee

Start here.

Danny's Best Friend.

Change the B to s at the beginning.

What you do with your eyes.

Change the e to t at the end.

You do this to your alarm clock so you wake up on time.

Change the e to i in the middle.

A bird does this on her eggs while waiting for them to hatch.

Add an e at the end.

A place where something important has happened.

Change the s to b at the beginning.

To grab a big piece of apple with your teeth.

Change the b to wh at the beginning.

The color of snow.

Change the t to n in the middle.

Another word for complain.

Change the w to s at the beginning.

The sun does this.

mine

Change the sh to m at the beginning.

A place to dig for coal or gold.



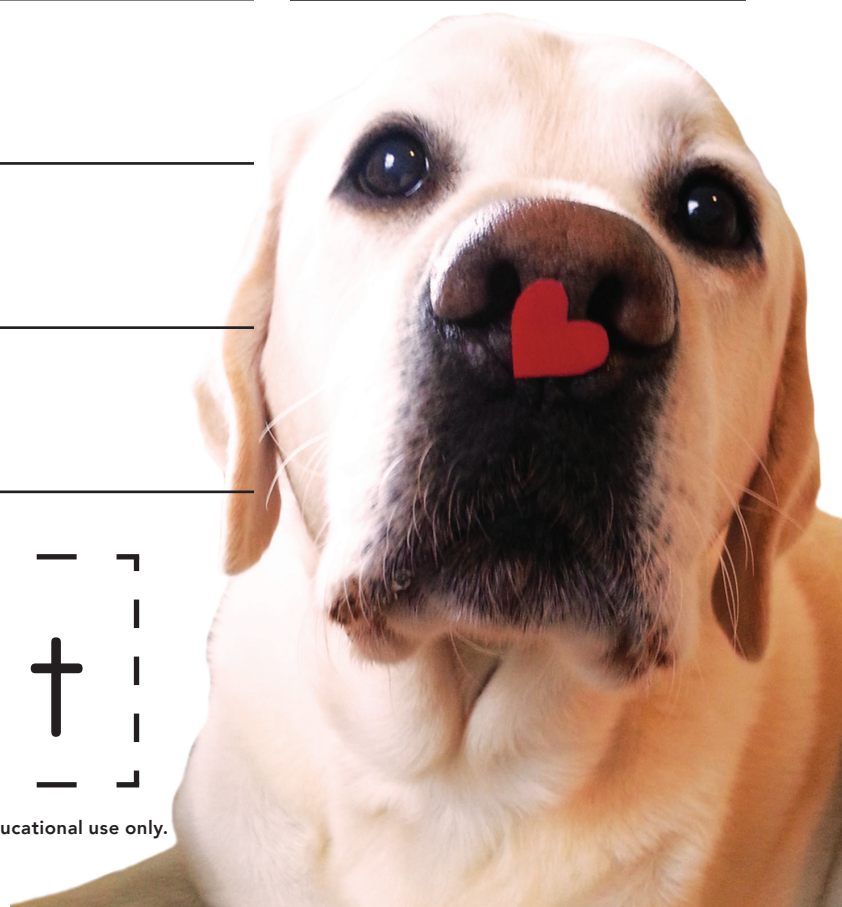
LITTLE RED HEARTS ARE MEANT TO SAY, I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU ON VALENTINE'S DAY!



How many words can you make out of the letters in HEART?

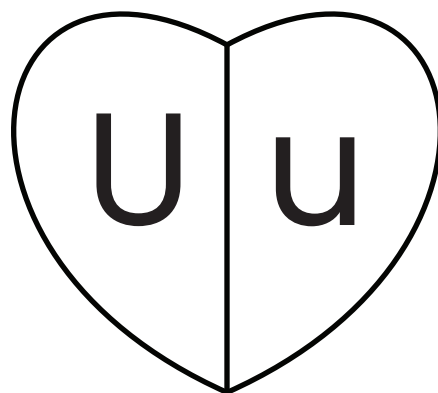
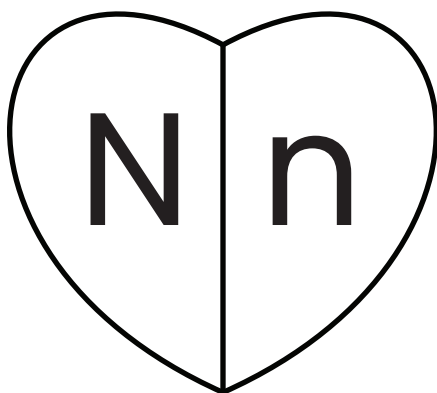
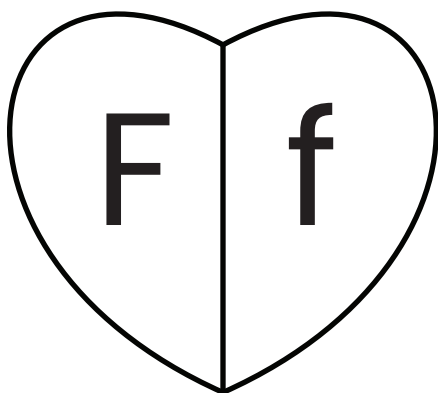
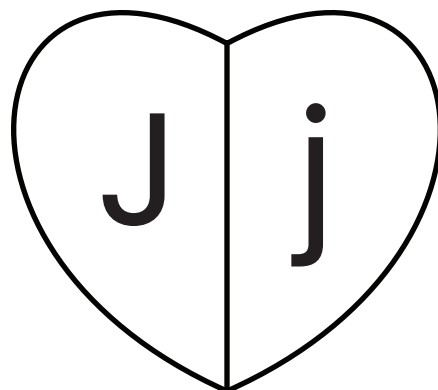
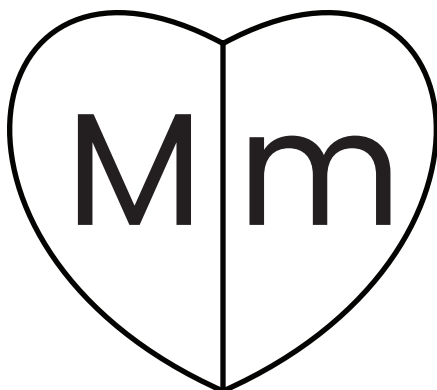
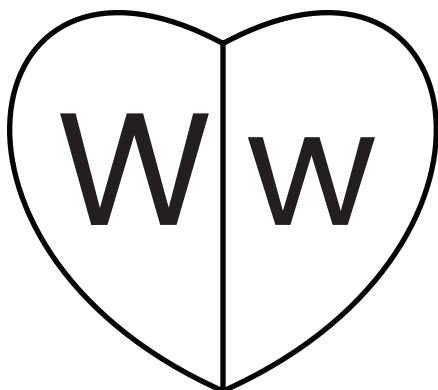
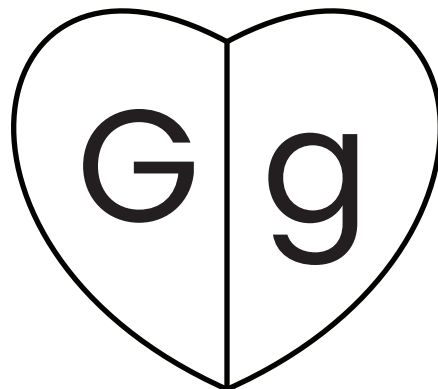
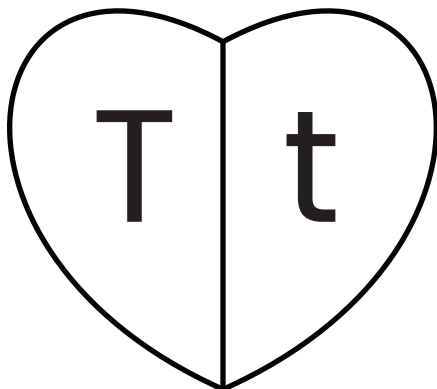
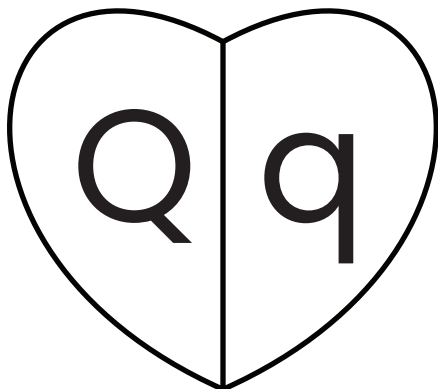
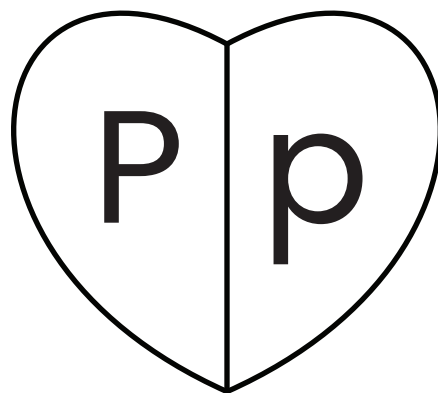
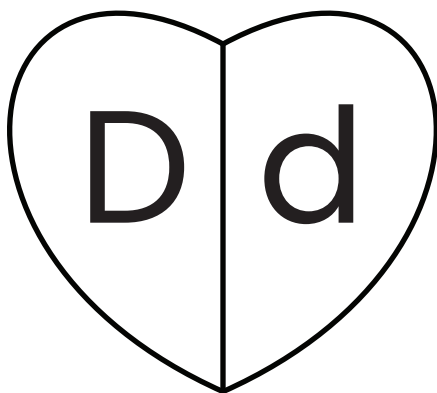
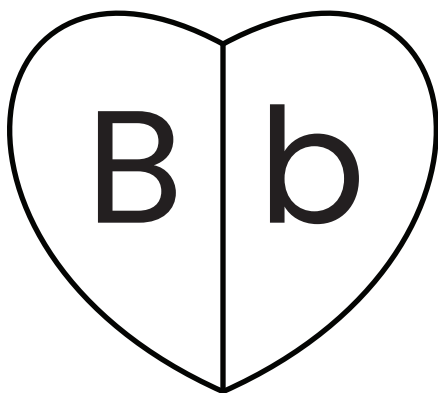
Cut out the letters at the bottom of the page. **Rearrange** the letters to make words, then **write** your list of words on the lines below. What is the longest word that you made? Do any of your words rhyme?

h e a r t



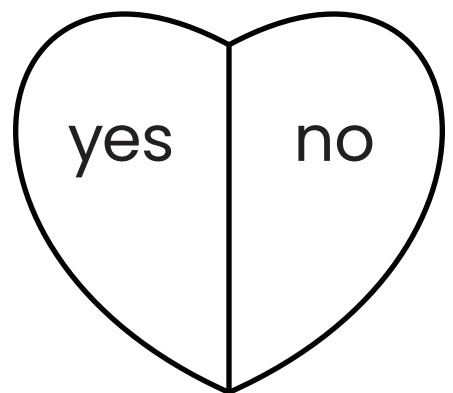
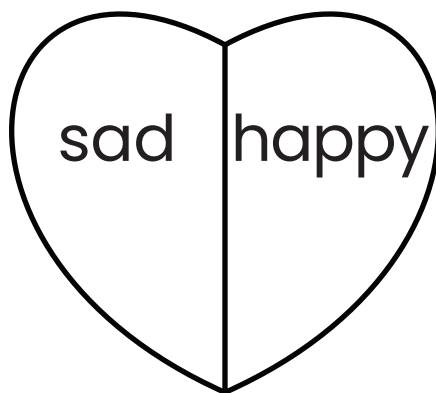
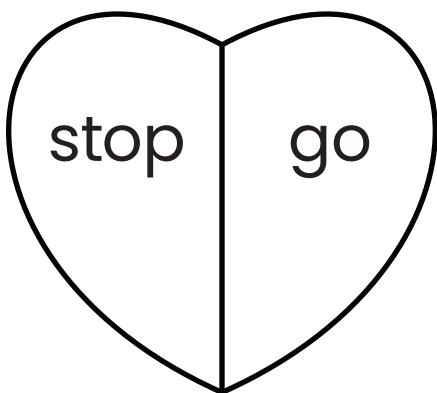
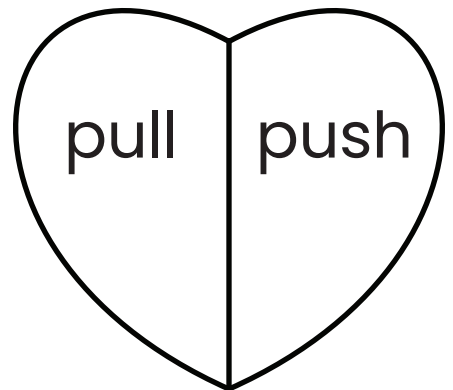
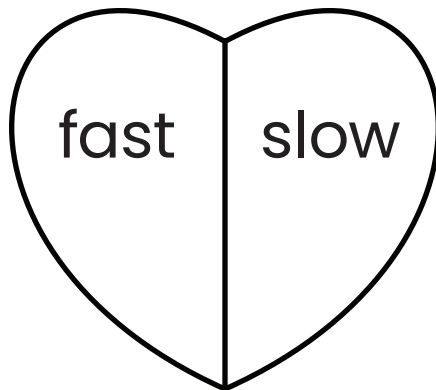
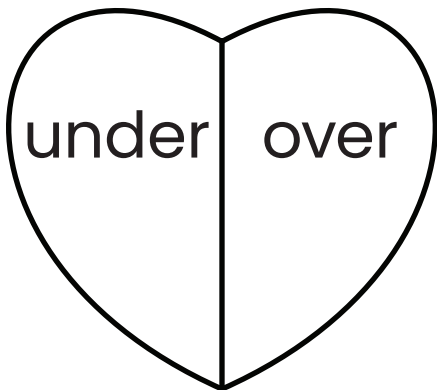
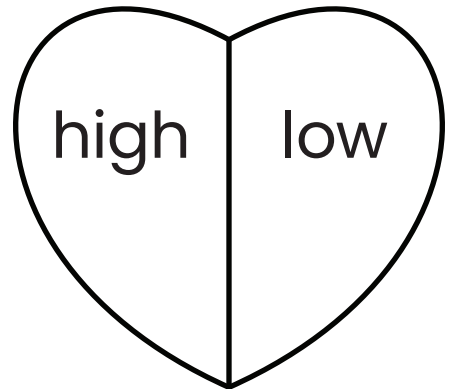
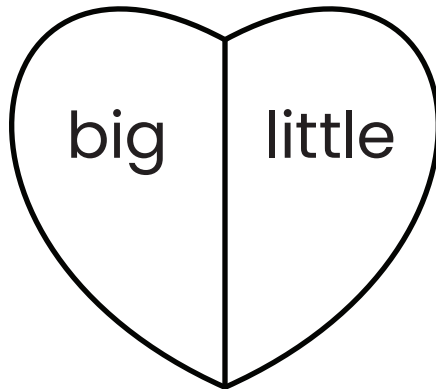
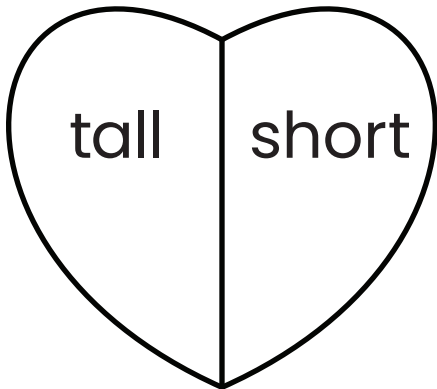
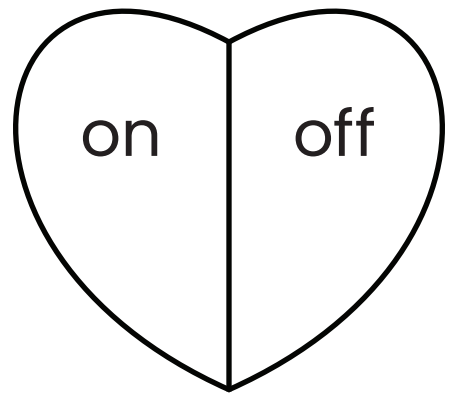
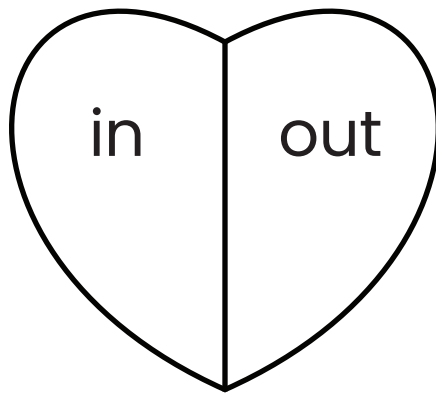
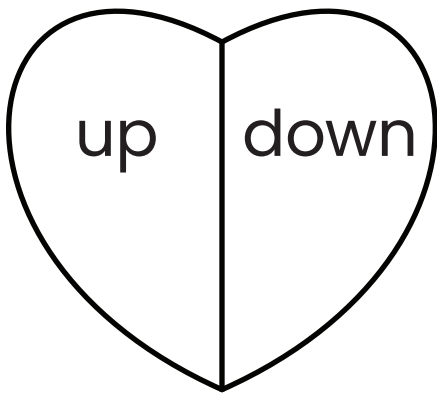
Heart to Heart Letter Match

Cut out the heart halves along the black lines. **Mix** up the pieces. **Match** the heart halves with the same upper and lowercase letters. Then, read **Norman's Candy Hearts**.



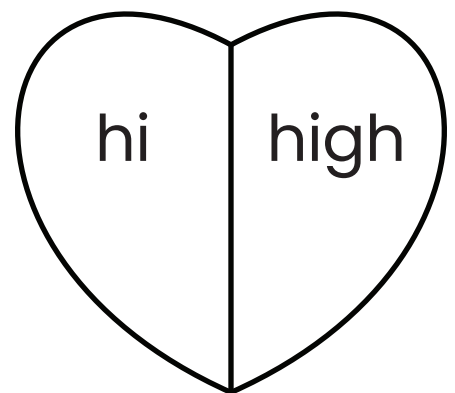
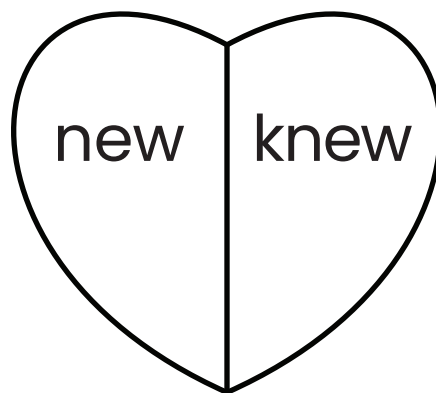
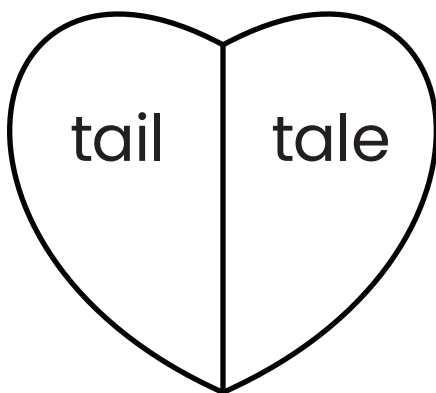
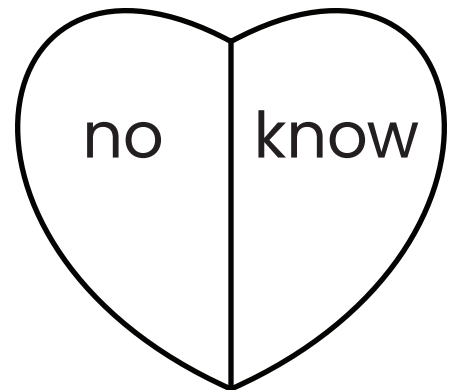
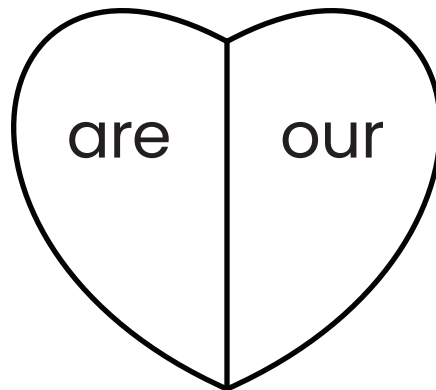
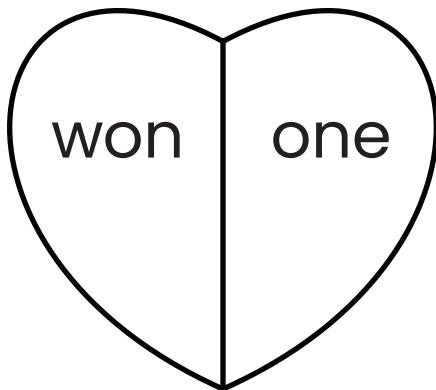
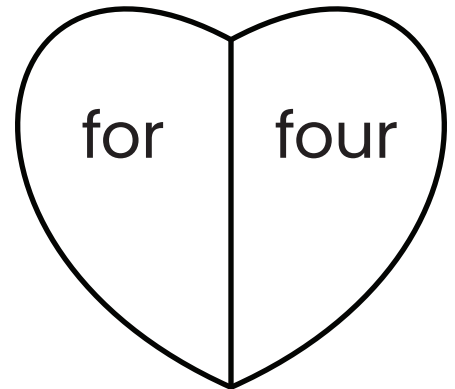
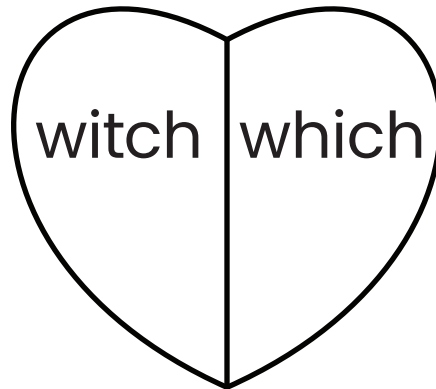
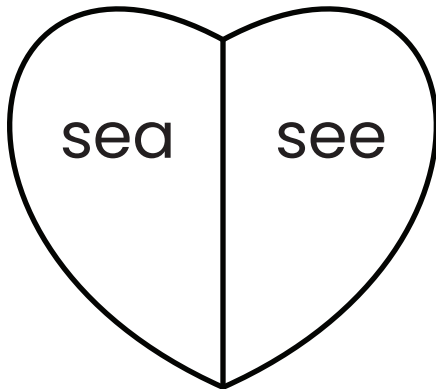
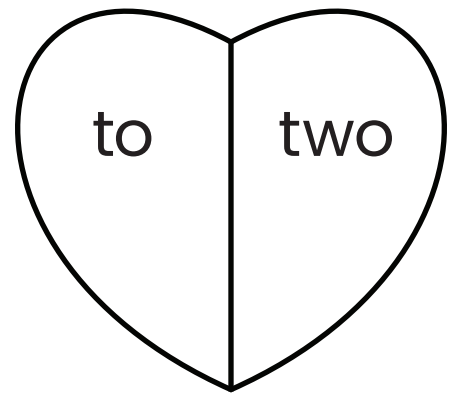
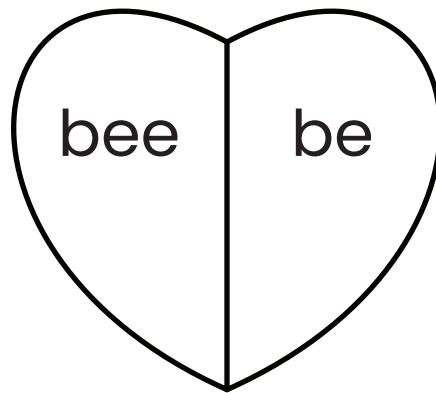
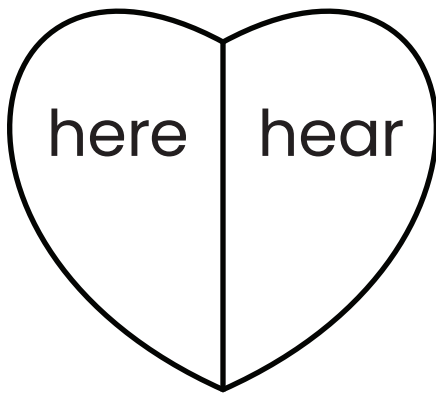
Heart to Heart Opposites Match

Cut out the heart halves along the black lines. **Mix** up the pieces. **Match** the heart halves with the matching pairs of opposite words. Then, read **Danny and Bee's Book of Opposites**.



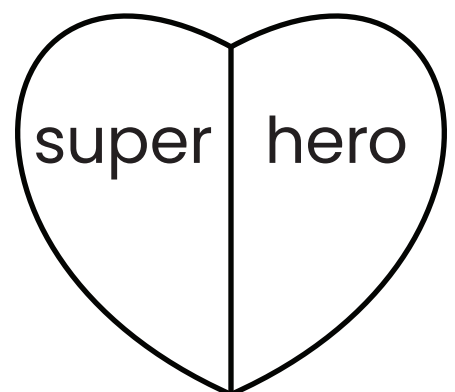
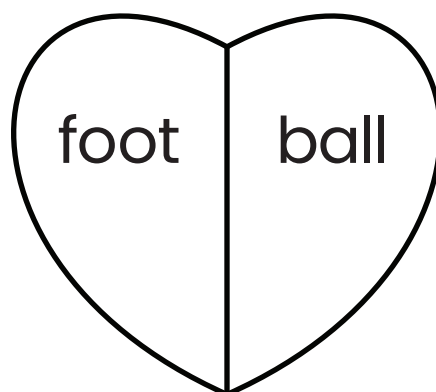
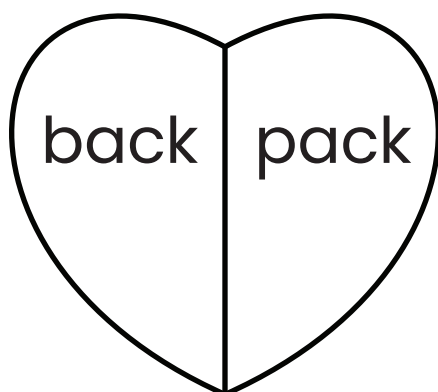
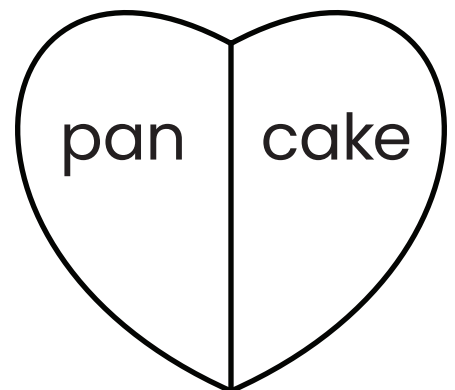
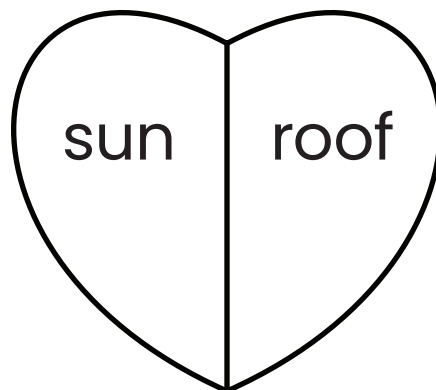
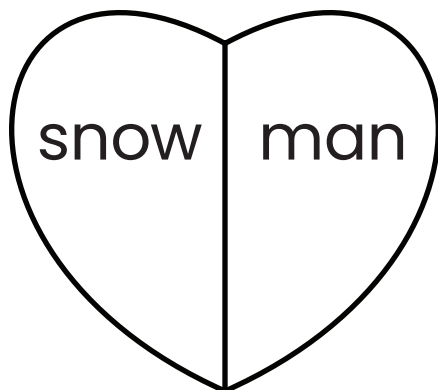
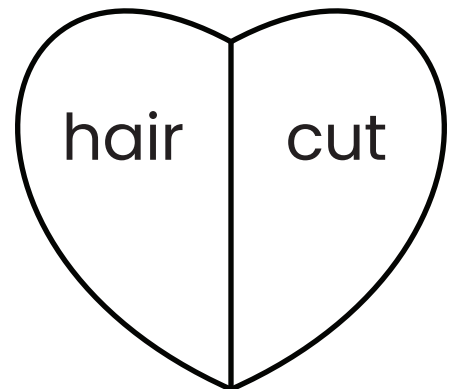
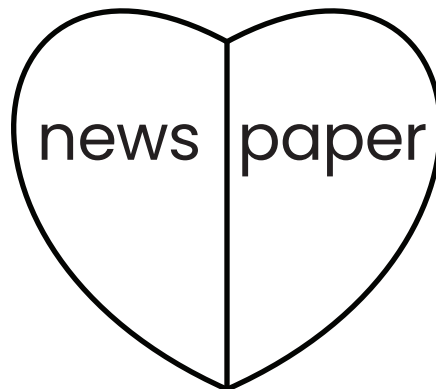
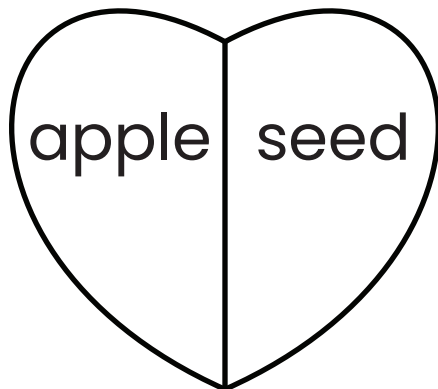
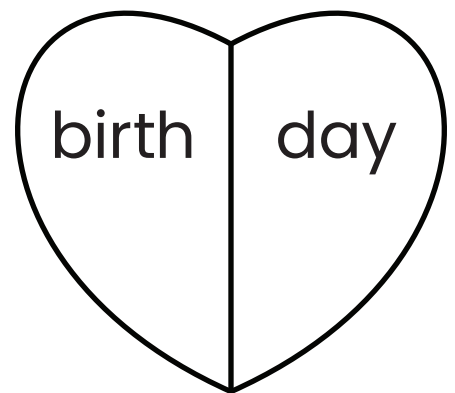
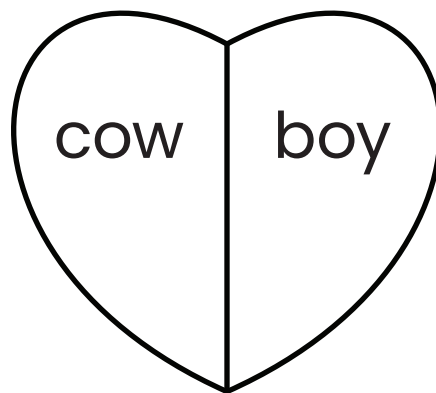
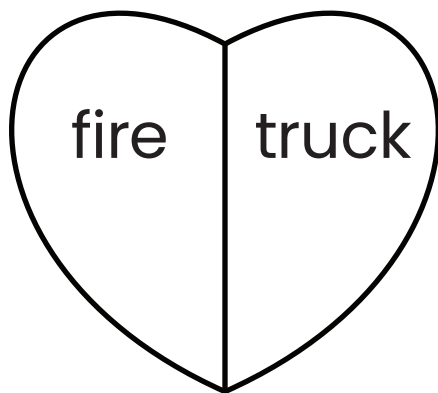
Heart to Heart Homophones Match

Homophones are words that sound alike, but have different spellings and different meanings. **Cut** out the heart halves along the black lines. **Mix** up the pieces. **Match** the heart halves with the matching pairs of homophones. Then, read **Danny Looks for a Honeybee Yard**.



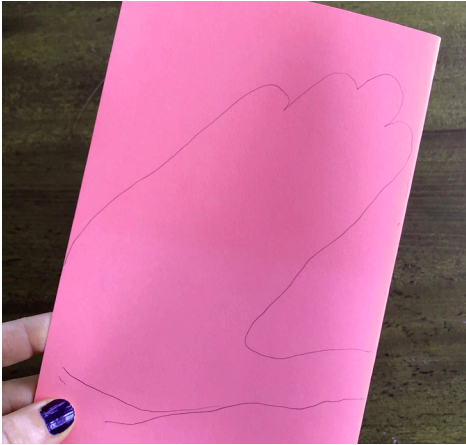
Heart to Heart Compound Word Match

Compound Words are two words that are put together to create a new word with a new meaning. **Cut** out the heart halves along the black lines. **Mix** up the pieces. **Match** two words together to create a compound word. Then, read **Hold Still, Danny!**



Heart Hands Valentine Activity

Create a handmade Valentine with your own hand! Follow the directions below to trace, cut out, and decorate a heartfelt Valentine card for your loved one. To make this handy Valentine, you will need: two different colored sheets of 8 1/2 x 11 paper, pencil, scissors, glue, small sheet of white or patterned paper, and markers or crayons.



Fold one piece of paper in half. Place end of thumb and pointer finger on fold and trace hand with a pencil.



Using scissors, cut out the hand. Cut a curved line at the bottom of the hand to connect pinky to thumb.



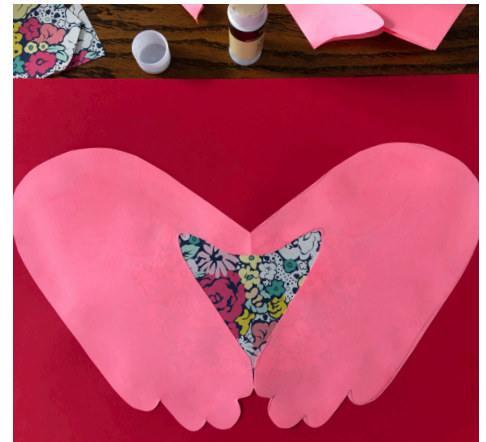
Open the hands and point the fingers down. Can you see the open heart formed in the middle?



For the heart opening, glue a small white or patterned piece of paper on the back side of the hands.



Put glue on the entire back side of the hands.



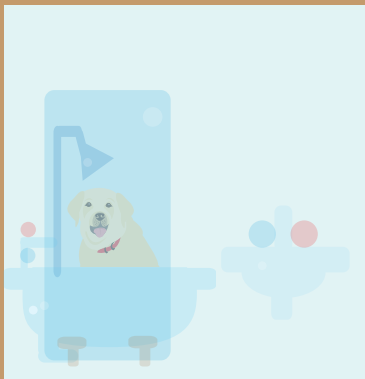
Glue the hands to a different colored sheet of paper.



Write a message inside the heart, on your hands, or on the background paper. Then, deliver to your Valentine.

Danny & Bee's INDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT

- ☐ Something yucky
- ☐ A movie with "B" in the title
- ☐ Five lego blocks that are different
- ☐ Sunglasses

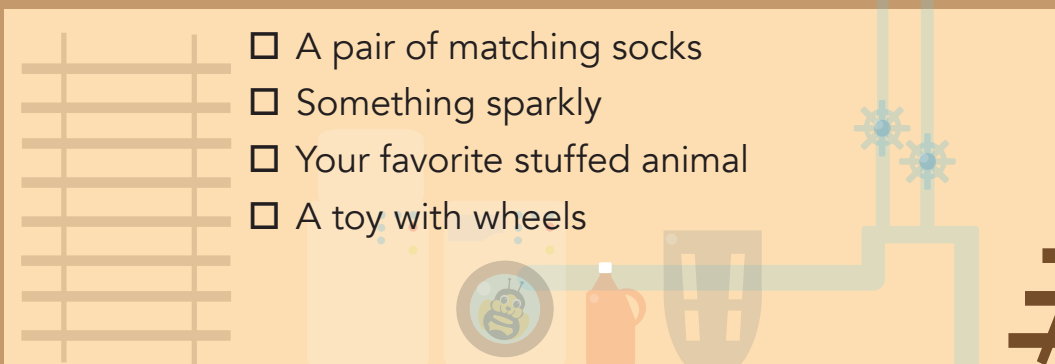


- ☐ Four things that are green
- ☐ Something very soft
- ☐ An empty toilet paper tube
- ☐ A photo of someone that you love
- ☐ An item that you can see yourself in
- ☐ A band-aid

- ☐ A box of macaroni
- ☐ A book with numbers in it
- ☐ Something shaped like a star
- ☐ A toy that has three different colors
- ☐ Something round
- ☐ Something that starts with the letter "D"



- ☐ A pair of matching socks
- ☐ Something sparkly
- ☐ Your favorite stuffed animal
- ☐ A toy with wheels



How many of these items can you find in your house?