

CHAPTER 1

It was a sunny Saturday in Hope Street. My sister Lee phoned from Canberra.

“Can I come and stay with you next month?” she asked. “Just for a few days?”

“Wonderful!” I said. I felt really happy.

When I told my wife, Tori, she wasn’t so happy.

“Next month? You’re joking! Where’s she going to sleep?”

“In Simon’s old room,” I said. Simon was our 24-year-old son. He lived in New York.

“Look inside Simon’s room,” said Tori. “Please, just take a look.”



I opened the door of Simon's old bedroom and looked inside. Uh-oh. I felt worried.

There was a bed in the room, but I couldn't see it. There were too many things on top of the bed, next to the bed, in front of the bed and under the bed.



I could see a lot of old toys and games. I could see football boots and football jumpers. I could see three old CD players and a hundred CDs and DVDs. I could see two old office chairs and an exercise ball, but I couldn't see anywhere for my sister to sleep.

“We’ve got too many things,” said my wife.
“Let’s look around the rest of the house.”

We looked around—really looked. She
was right.

The kitchen cupboards were full of plates
and cups and glasses—too many for two
people. We had seven frying pans—two new
ones and five old ones.



Our wardrobe was full of old clothes, and there were boxes on top of the wardrobe.

Our bookcases were full of books, and there were more books on top of the bookcases.

There were two old bicycles in the carport, and six old umbrellas in the bathroom.

“You’re right,” I said. “We’ve got too much stuff! What are we going to do?”



QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS TO ASK

CHAPTER 1

> **Before reading**

- What is a garage?
- What is a garage sale?
- Why do people have garage sales?
- Have you been to a garage sale?
- Have you seen signs for garage sales?

Vocabulary wonderful, joking, could (past tense of can), exercise ball, cupboard, wardrobe, carport, stuff

> **Picture prediction**

- Look at the family picture. How many people in this family? Who are they?
- Now look at the first picture in the story. What's happening?
- What about the second picture? What's in the room? Does it look tidy?
- What about the other pictures?
- What do you think about this house? Is there a problem?

> **After reading**

- What was Ben's sister's name?
- Where did she live?
- What did she want?
- Was Ben happy about that?
- What was Ben's wife's name?
- Was she happy too? Why not?
- Where was Ben and Tori's son?
- Can you show me New York on a map?
- Was his old room a good place for a visitor? Why not?
- What was in the room?
- What was in the rest of the house?
- Why were Ben and Tori worried?

> **Language to note**

- take a look/look around
- full of
- too many things/too much stuff
- going to (future plan)

> **Discussion: extending the text**

What do you think Ben and Tori should do now? Buy more wardrobes? Tidy up? Give some things away?

> **Discussion: about learners' lives**

- How long have you lived in your house?
- Do you have 'too much stuff' in your house, things you don't need?
- What do you do with extra things? (street collection, car park sale, e-Bay, charity shop, friends?)

> **Extra work on spelling/sounds: short vowel sounds a/e/i/o/u**

Standard spellings:

- *Saturday, Canberra, happy, pans*
- *next, felt, bed, rest, seven*
- *sister, things, kitchen*
- *office, boxes, top*
- *sunny, just, hundred, cupboards, cups, umbrellas, much, stuff*

Unexpected spellings:

- *anywhere*
- *wasn't*
- *come, wonderful, month, son*

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 1

Ben's sister lived in Canberra...

BRING IN *Large map of Australia, smaller maps for learners, today's paper or online weather coverage.*

- Do you know any people in other parts of Australia? Where do they live?
- Where is Canberra? What is special about Canberra? Why does Ben's sister live in Canberra? (She might work for the Australian Government.) How long does it take to fly to Canberra from here? Is it as big as Sydney or Melbourne? Is it cold or hot there?
- Do you know all the capital cities and the states and territories? Have you seen photos? (Can you find pictures of cities online?) How about the smaller cities or towns in our state/territory? How far away are they? (Look at the 'scale' on the map, if it has one.) What are the postcodes for the different states and territories?
- Can you guess the weather and temperature today in different cities around Australia? Now look at the newspaper or online to check. Were you surprised?

Ben and Tori looked around the house...

BRING IN *Catalogues (e.g. Ikea) or magazines (e.g. Better Homes and Gardens) showing low-to-medium-cost room displays. (Scrounge from friends or find in a charity shop—will be used again for Chapter 6.) OR in a library, find the home décor section and help learners select some books.*

- Look at the catalogue and magazines. Choose a picture of a room and tell a partner all the different pieces of furniture you can see. Use words like on/in/next to/under/behind/on top of/between.
- Now show us something you don't know the name for. Tell us where to find it. Other learners will try to help you. For example:
 - A. "It's on page 14, on the white coffee table. It's orange."
 - B. "I think that's a vase."
- What's in *your* house or *your* room? What's on/in/under/behind/in front of the bookcase/bed/dining table? (NB: Some learners may only be renting a room, not living in a whole house.)



1 Story quiz

Circle the correct answer.

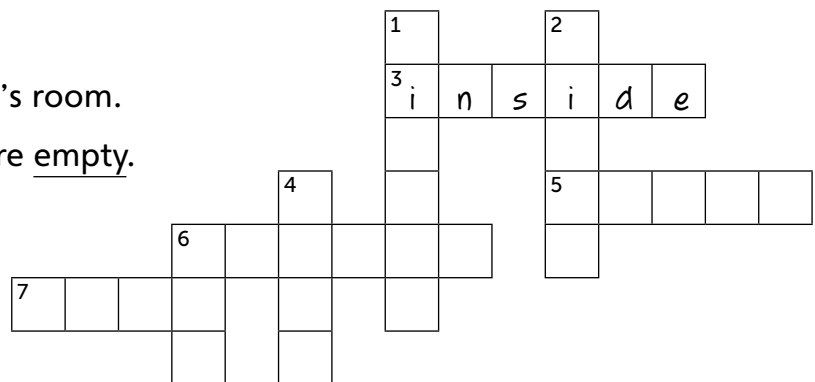
- The story starts on a:
 - Friday.
 - Saturday.
 - Monday morning.
- Lee was Ben's:
 - sister.
 - wife.
 - son.
- Tori was worried about:
 - when Lee could visit.
 - where Lee could sleep.
 - how many days Lee could stay.
- Ben said Lee could sleep in:
 - the living room.
 - Simon's old room.
 - the study.
- Simon's room was:
 - full of old things.
 - very, very tidy.
 - empty.
- Ben and Tori's wardrobe was full of:
 - old frying pans.
 - old books.
 - old clothes.

2 Opposites crossword

The sentences are wrong! Write the opposite word to complete the crossword. You can find the correct words in Chapter One.

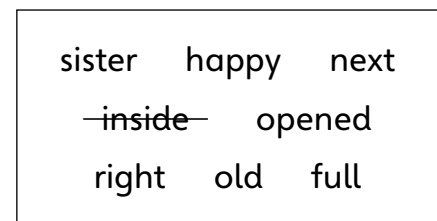
Across

- Look outside Simon's room!"
- I felt really sad.
- I closed the door of Simon's room.
- The kitchen cupboards were empty.



Down

- My brother phoned from Canberra.
- She was wrong.
- "Last month?"
- I could see a lot of new toys.





3 Words that go together

Match the words from the story.

CD	_____	chairs
football	_____	cupboards
office	_____	pans
an exercise	_____	boots
kitchen	_____	players
frying	_____	ball

4 Alphabetical order

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Write the words in alphabetical order. Then look at the shaded letters, reading down ↓, to find a hidden word.

office sister people joking things ~~inside~~

i	n	s	i	d	e

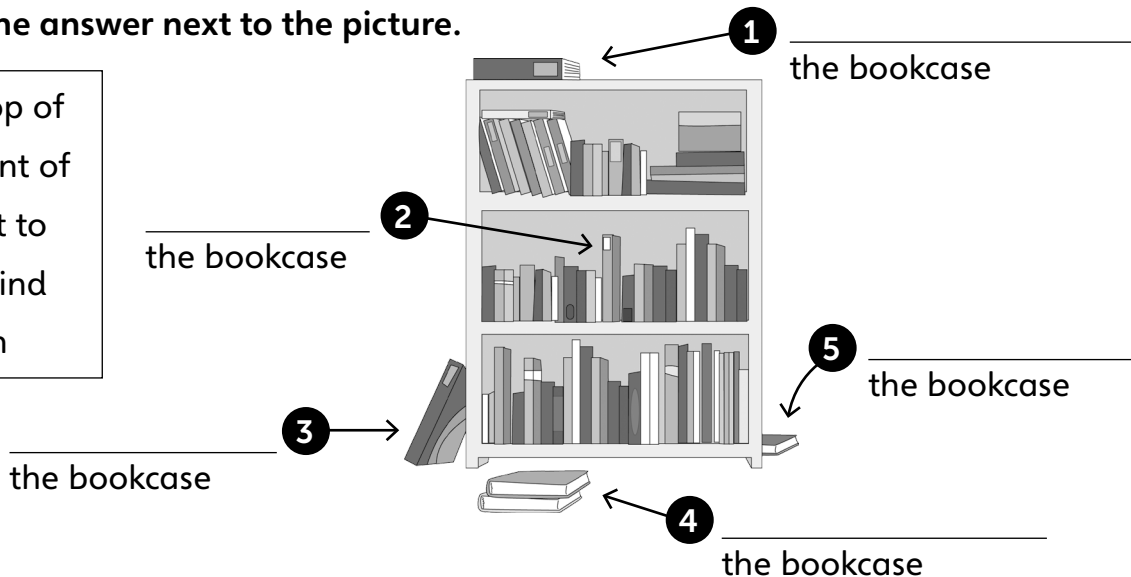
The hidden word is _____.

TIP Use a pencil! You may want to change your answers.

5 Where are the books?

Write the answer next to the picture.

on top of
in front of
next to
behind
in



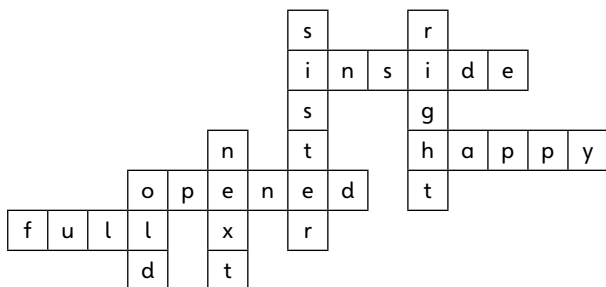
WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

CHAPTER 1 ANSWERS

1 STORY QUIZ

1. Saturday.
2. sister.
3. where Lee could sleep.
4. Simon's old room.
5. full of old things.
6. old clothes.

2 OPPOSITES CROSSWORD



3 WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER

- CD players
- football boots
- office chairs
- an exercise ball
- kitchen cupboards
- frying pans

4 ALPHABETICAL ORDER

inside, joking, office, people, sister, things
The hidden word is **kiss**.

5 WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?

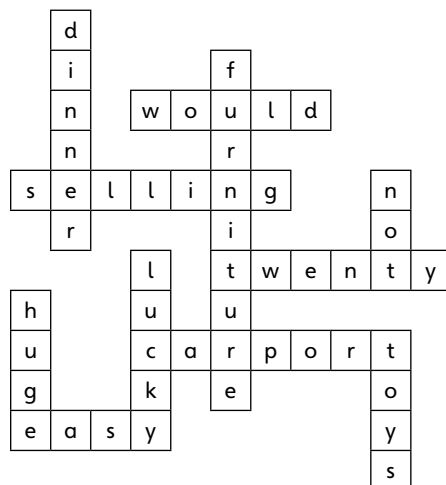
1. on top of the bookcase
2. in the bookcase
3. next to the bookcase
4. in front of the bookcase
5. behind the bookcase

CHAPTER 2 ANSWERS

1 STORY QUIZ

1. a student.
2. *Lucky Luke*.
3. good at making money.
4. advertisement.
5. Saturday 1st March.
6. on the internet.

2 CROSSWORD



3 WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER

- fish curry
- a tidy house
- a garage sale
- a bad joke
- the local newspaper
- huge bargains

4 WHO IS IN THE FAMILY?

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 1. husband | 5. son |
| 2. wife | 6. nephew |
| 3. father | 7. brother or sister |
| 4. mother | 8. aunt |

5 WORD WALL

The extra word is **book**.