How to start

The first thing to do when meeting a new student is to find out what they already know. Ask them to write their name. This is the most important thing to know, one's own name. If they can't, check in their ID book how to spell their name, and write it neatly and clearly for them, using lower case and capitals, like this: John Smith.

If they can already write their name, write I am …… and then their name, in large clear script, and ask them to read what you have written. If they hesitate, teach them what the words say, and then have them copy them a few times.

Then begin with phonics. The phonics charts I use are based on the principle **"People love to learn, but do not love to be tested."** I do use sounds on cards, but not for testing people, because I find that it makes them tense and sometimes sad! They underperform when sad. So the early sound charts use the **"quest"** principle, rather than **"test".** Instead of presenting a sound, telling what it is, and then asking, "what is this?", we use a chart with many copies of a given letter on it. The student will be searching for the letter they are busy with from among several others. This "quest" idea, people enjoy.

Look at the first sound chart, on the next page.

The person first identifies the pictures, and then the teacher teaches the first sound, saying a ….. apple, a ….. apple, a … apple, each time **finding** the letter in a different place, saying its sound, and pointing back to the picture. You then invite the student to do the same. To him or her this feels like a quest, it is fun finding all the a's on a page.

You then, on a blank page, write a few a's nice and big and clear, and invite the student to copy them, each time saying the sound as they write.

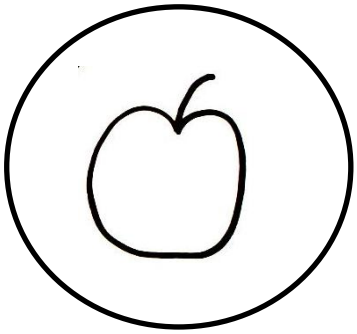
Note that you never say the NAME of the sound, ay, but rather always the SOUND it makes, a as in apple.

Once they can easily find all the a's, proceed to the next sound. People find these charts less intimidating than sounds on cards, because they feel they are searching for something, and not being tested. However, I always make sounds on cards and use them later for word-building. This is always most enjoyable. I do not have word-building worksheets in English, but many many are available online elsewhere.

Towards the end of the sound charts you will find some that require you to colour in some empty ovals, in order to provide the various colours required. Actually, I find that all sound charts look better with colour, and I either get my pupils to colour each page as they receive it, or I colour them in myself.

Try to make little stories of the charts, where you can. For example, there is one with "monkey, tree, snake". Much can be made of that, with the monkey getting a huge fright when it climbs the tree and sees the snake….

a g d a



apple

a d g

a d

dog

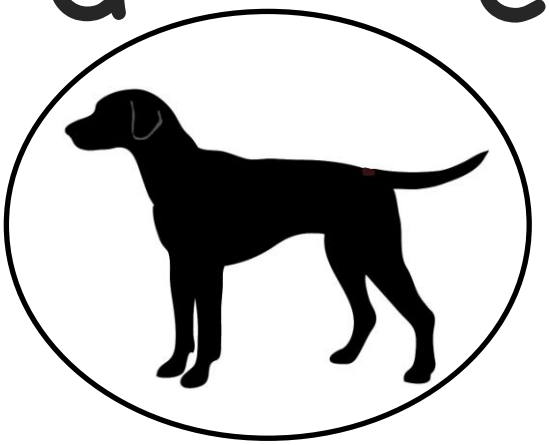
g

g d g a

goat

g a d

d c g c



dog

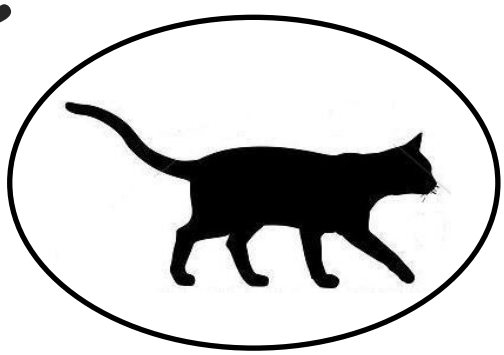
d g c

c d g g

goat

g d g

c c g d



cat

d g c

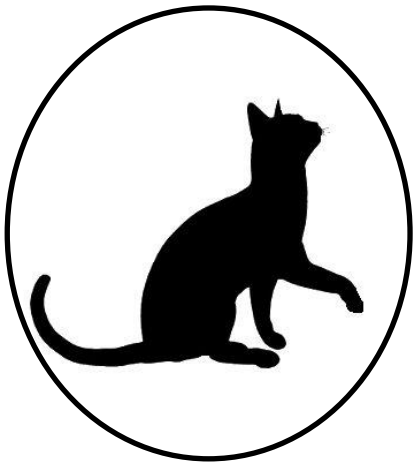
b c d c

bird

b d c

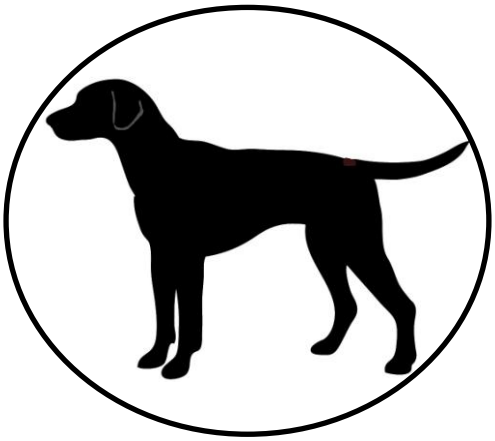
c d b d

b c c



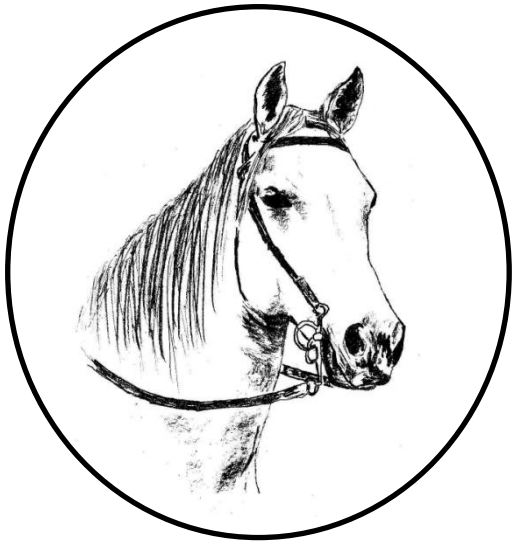
cat

d d c b



dog

b d c



h b m

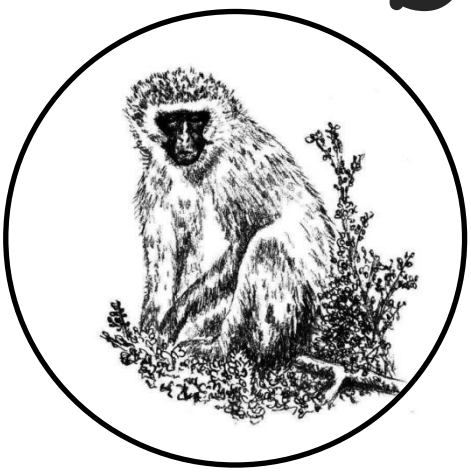
b m h

horse

h b m b

h b

bird

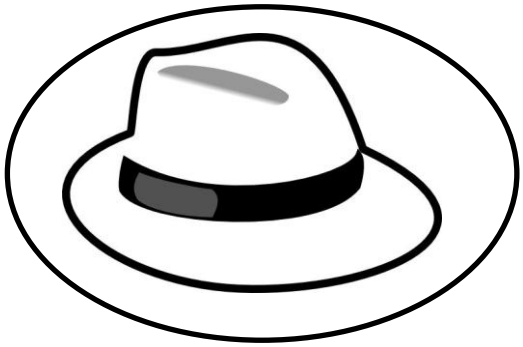


m b h

monkey

h m b m h

h c m c



hat

h m c

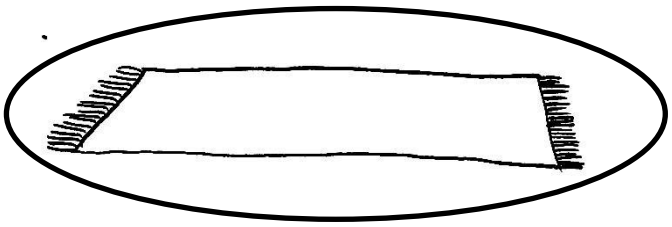
c m h m

h c

cat

c

m

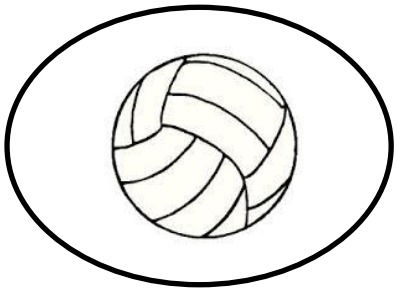


mat

c h

h m c m h

b p d p

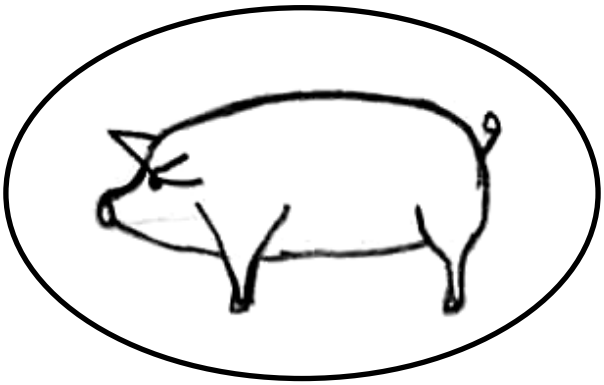


b d p

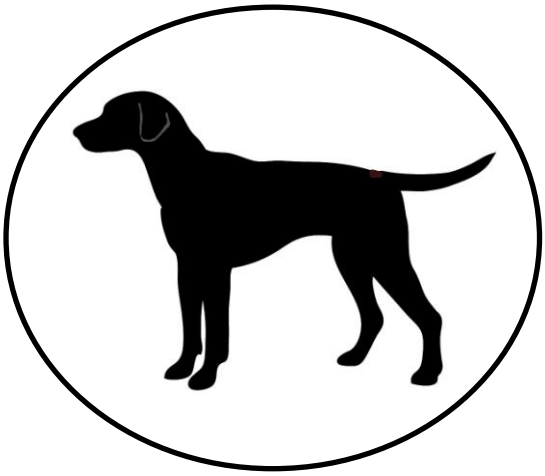
ball

p d b d

b p



pig

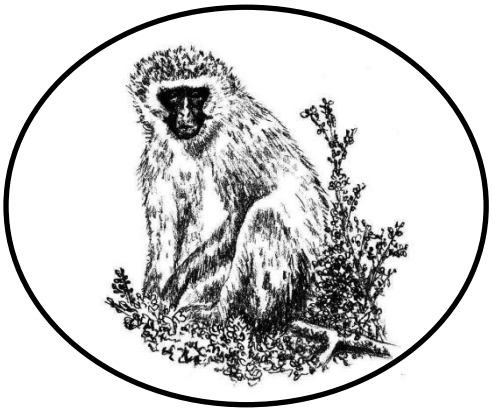


dog

d p b

d b d p

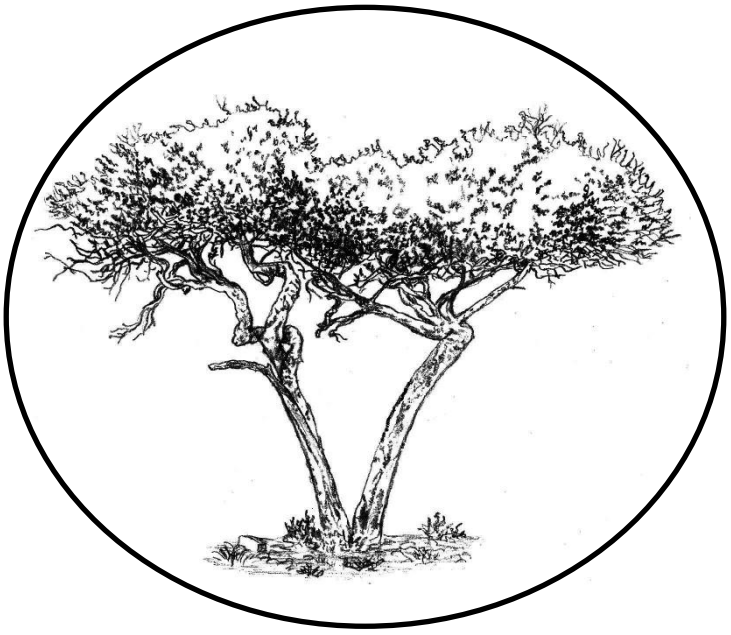
m t s



monkey

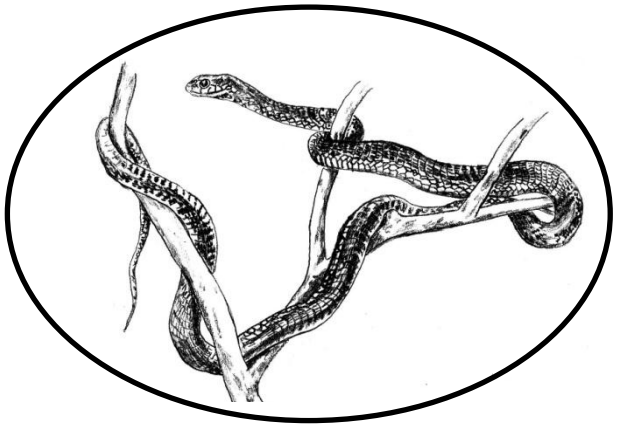
t s m

s m



tree

t s



snake

s t

t m s m t

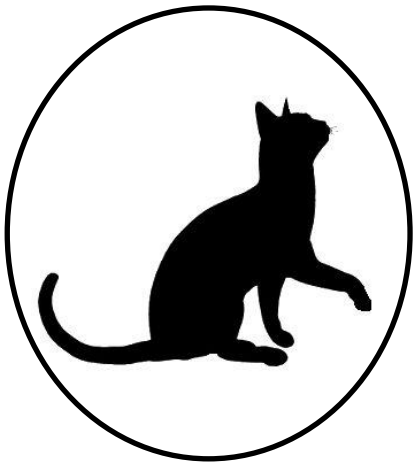
b c e c

bird

b e c

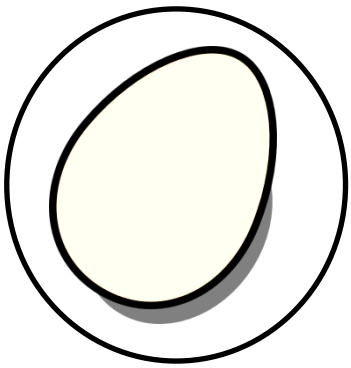
c e b e

b c c



cat

e e c b



egg

b e c

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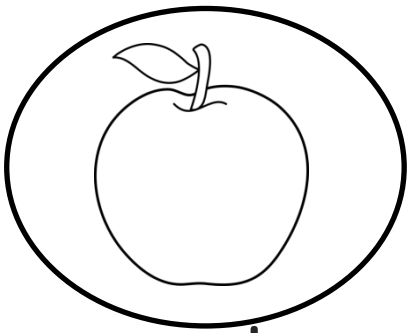

apple

a e o

e a o e

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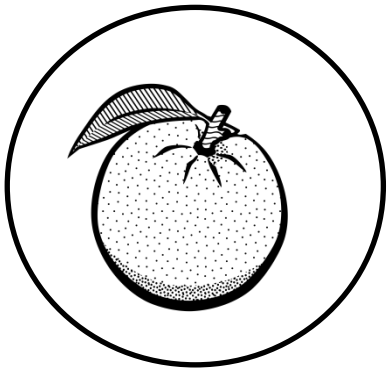

orange

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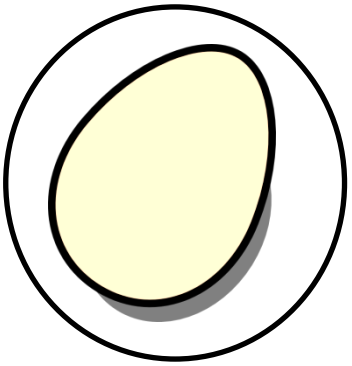

egg

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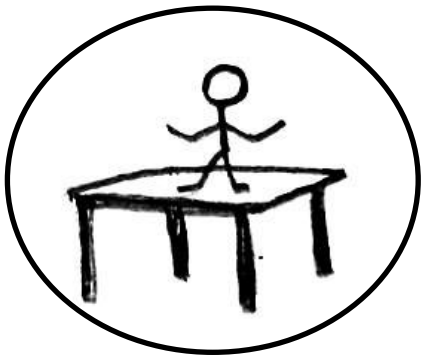

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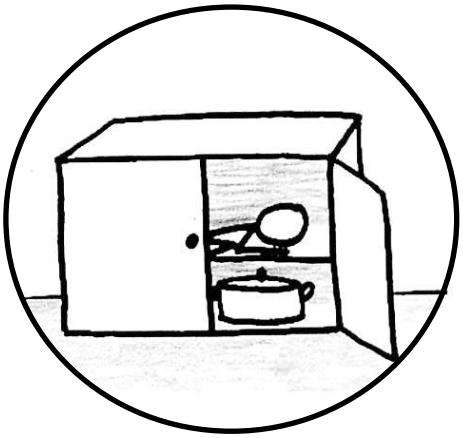

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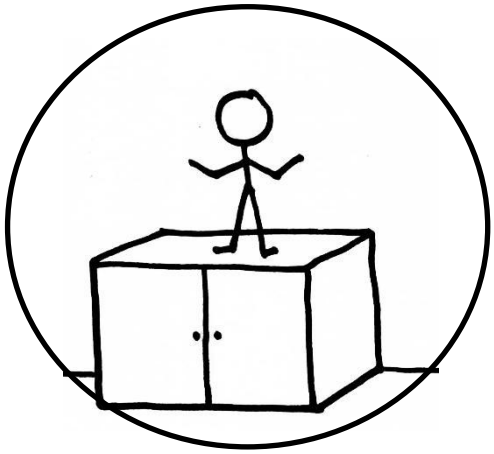

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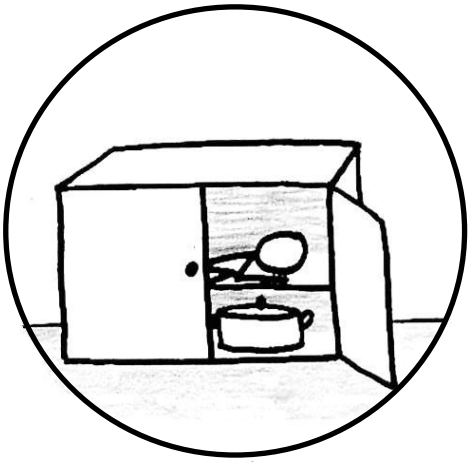

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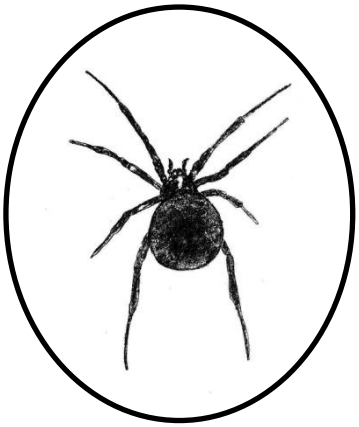


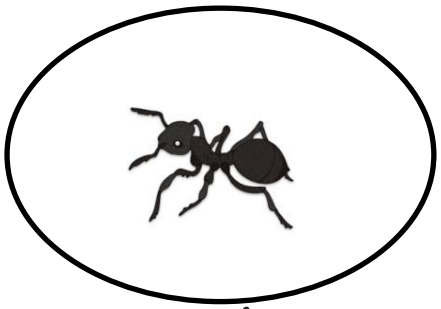
spider

f a s

fly

f s a f

a e o a



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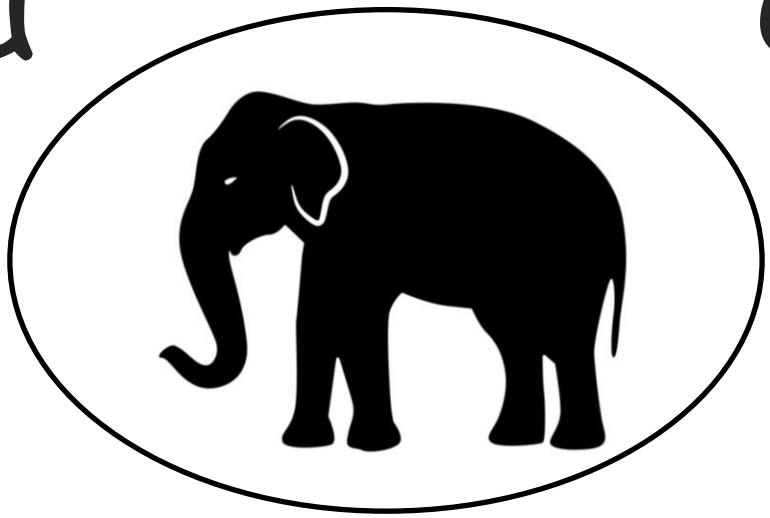
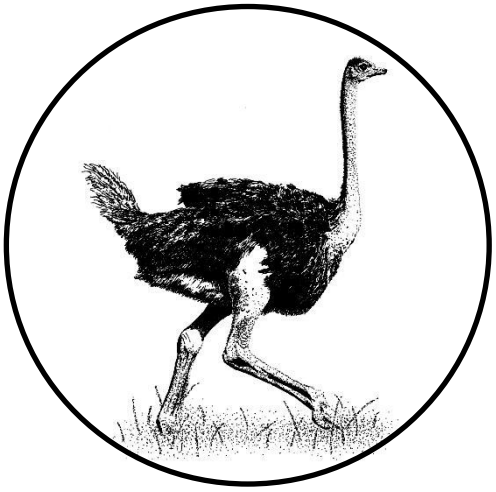


elephant

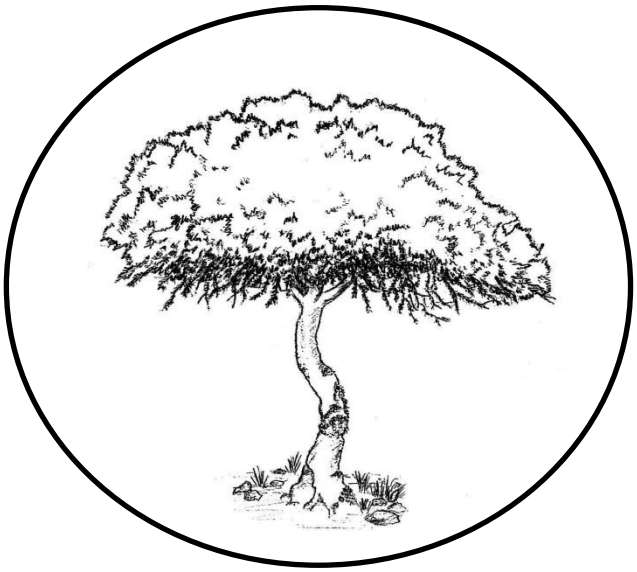
a e



ostrich

o a e

o e a o



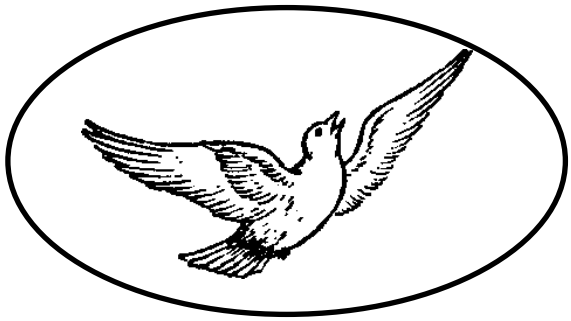
tree

t b n

n t b

b n t n

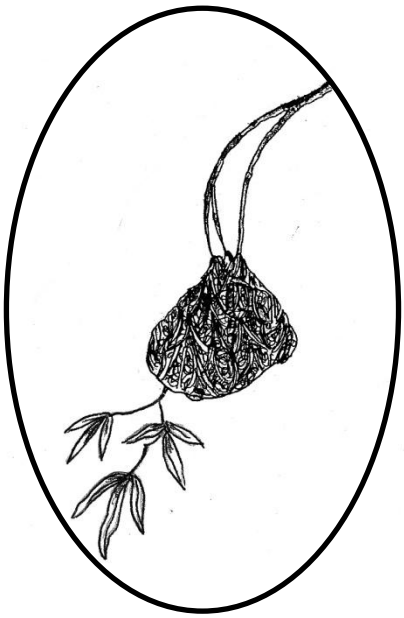
t b



bird

n

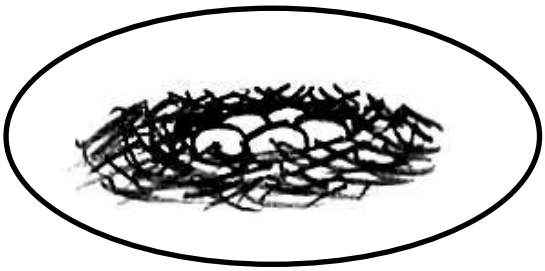
n t n b



nest

b n t

n e f n

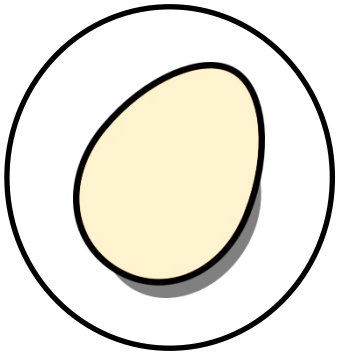


nest

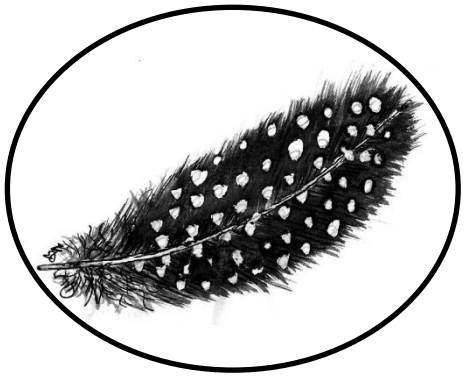
n f e

f e g e

n f



egg



feather

f n e

f e n f

f d g

g f d

frog

f g d

d g

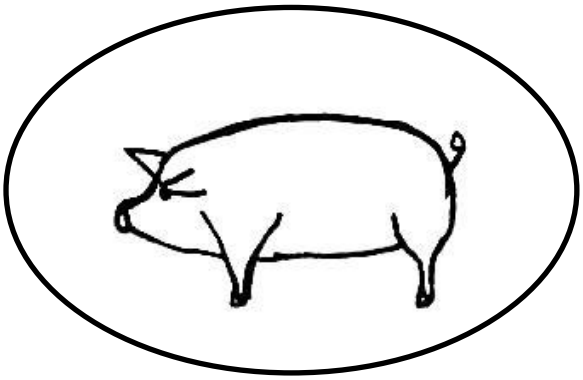
dog

d g f

goat

f d g f

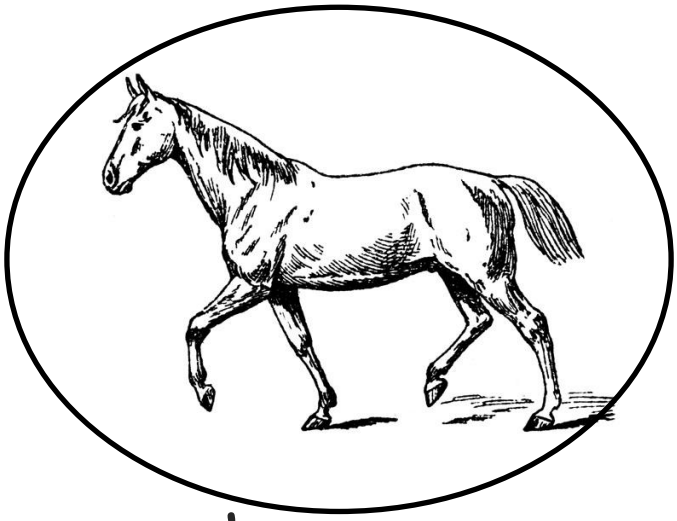
p h c



pig

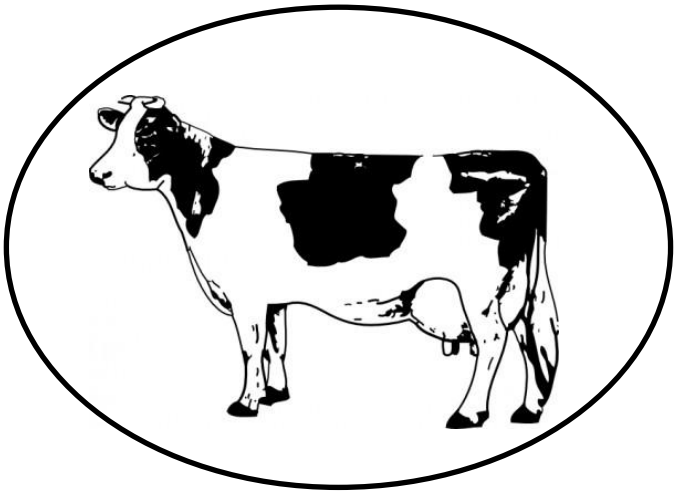
c p h

h c p



horse

c h

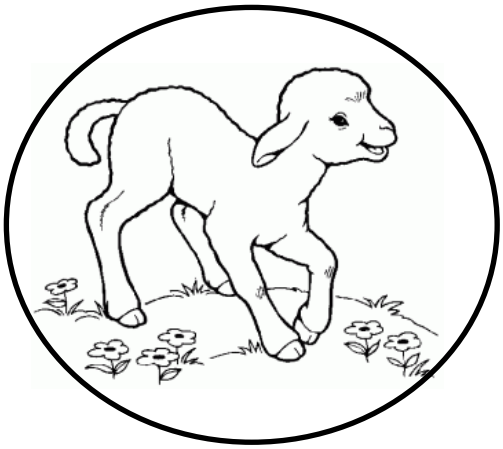


cow

p h c

p c p h

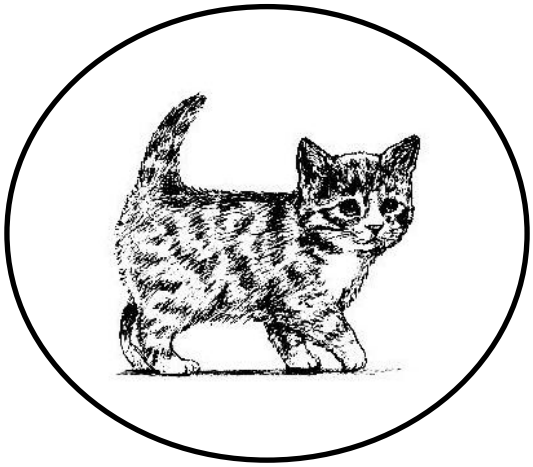
l k c



c l k

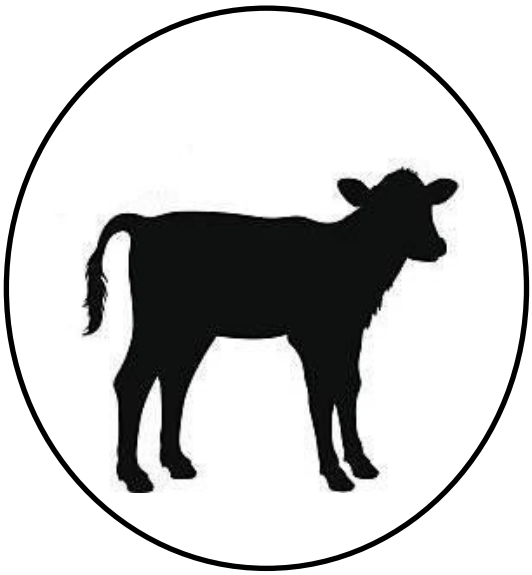
lamb

k c l



c

kitten

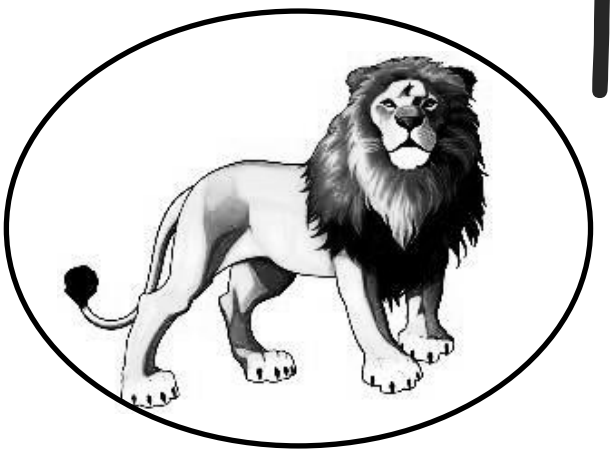


k c l

calf

l k c l

l k z



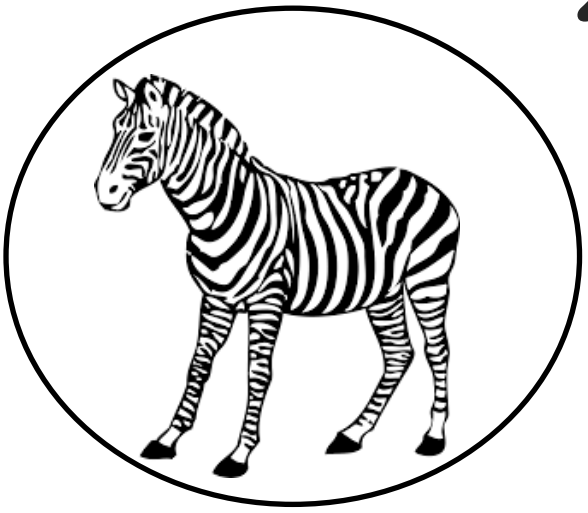
z l k

lion

k z l

z

kudu

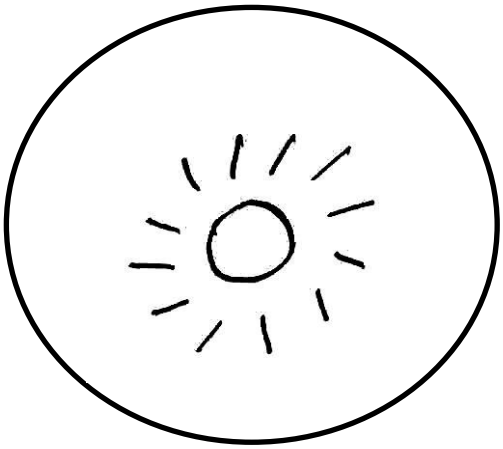


k z l

zebra

z k z l

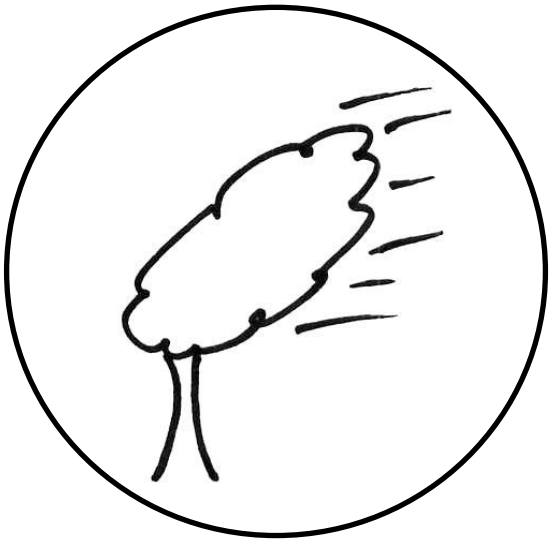
s w r



w s r

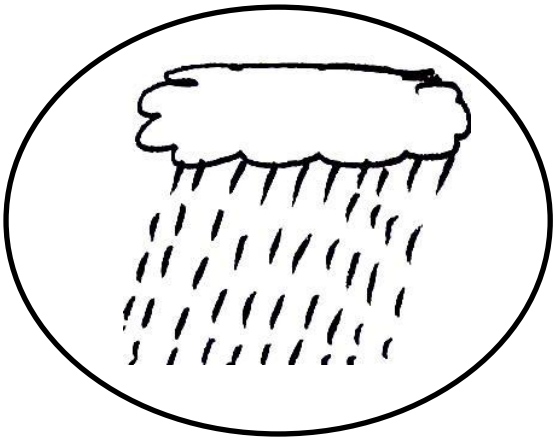
sun

r w s



r s w

wind

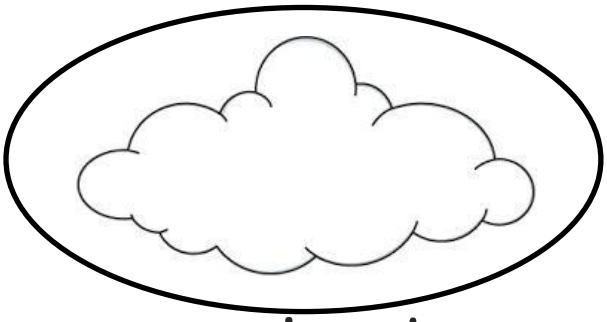


r s w

rain

w r s w

c r w r

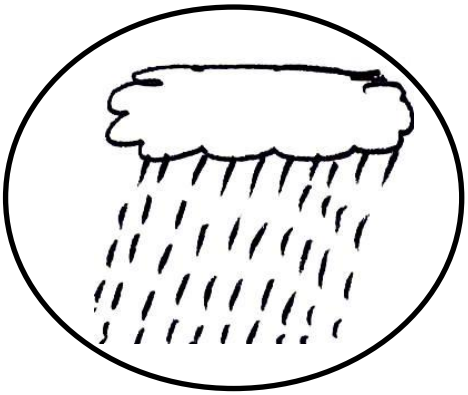


cloud

c w r

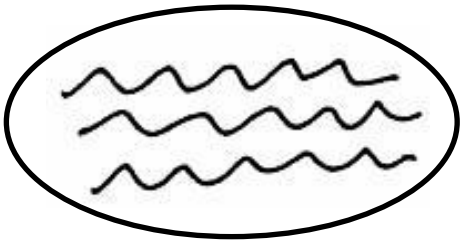
r c w r

c r



rain

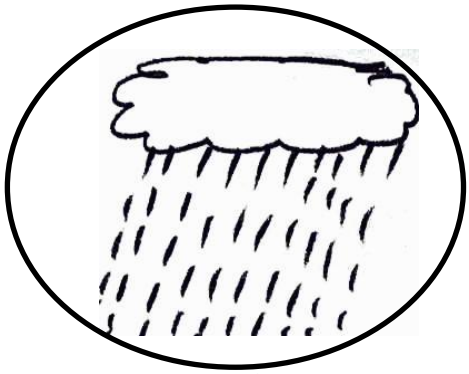
w r c



water

w r c w

r w t

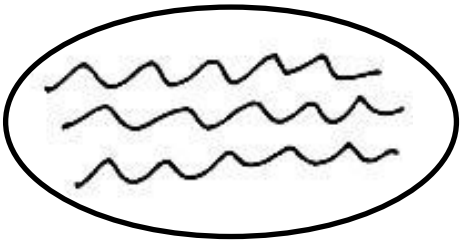


rain

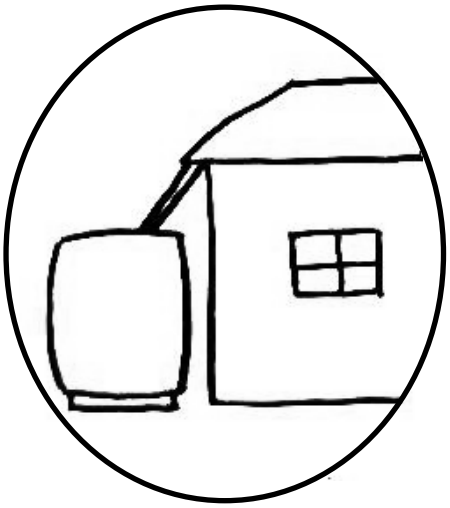
t w r

r t w r

t r



water



tank

w r t

w r t w

v d g

d g v

violin

g v d

g

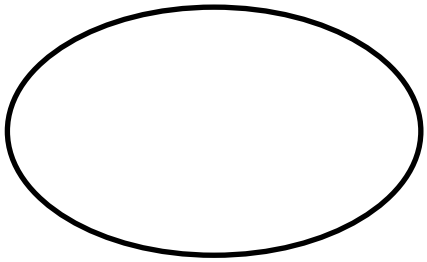
drum

g v d

guitar

v d g v

y y r g y

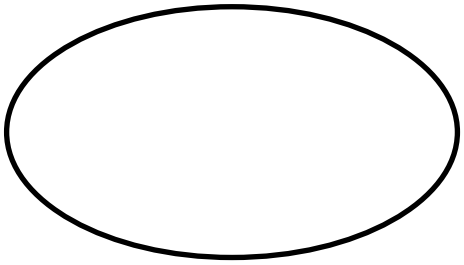


r g y

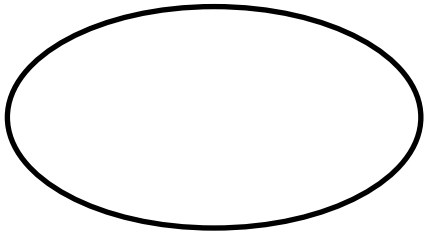
yellow

g r y y g

r g y



red

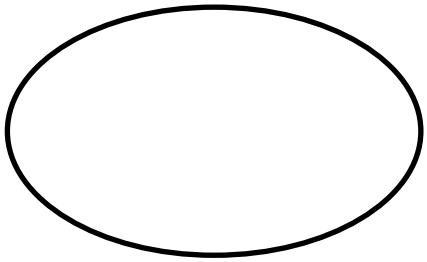


g r y

green

y r g y

p b g p

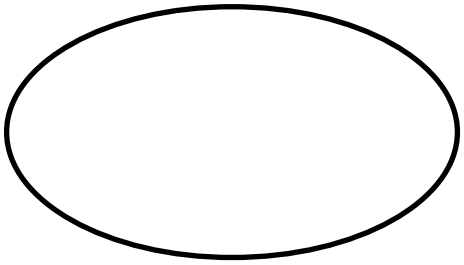


pink

b g p

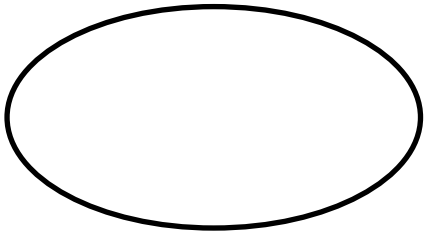
g p b p g

p g b



blue

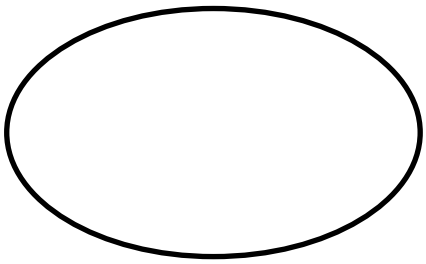
g p b



grey

g p b g

y y b g y

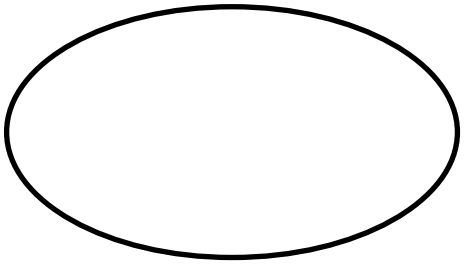


b g y

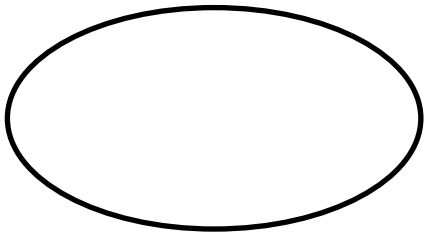
brown

g b y y g

b g y



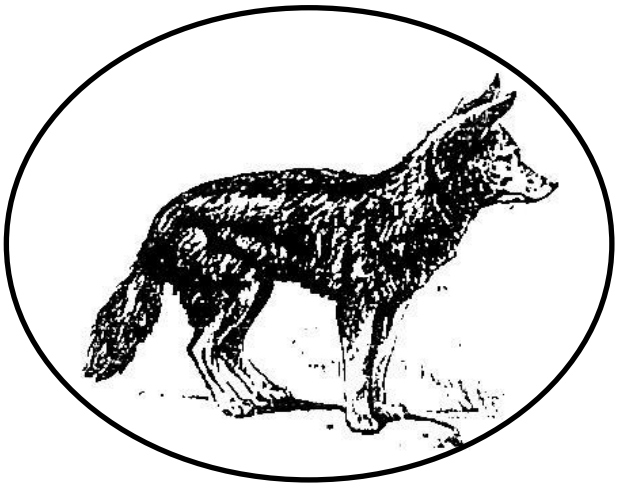
yellow



g b y

green

y b g y



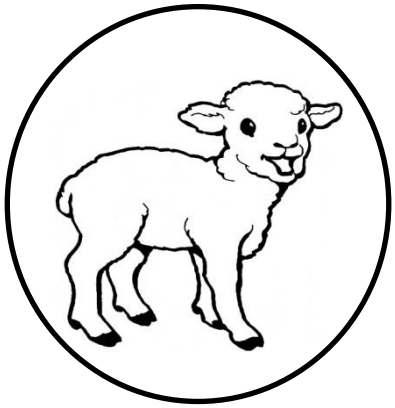
jackal

j l g

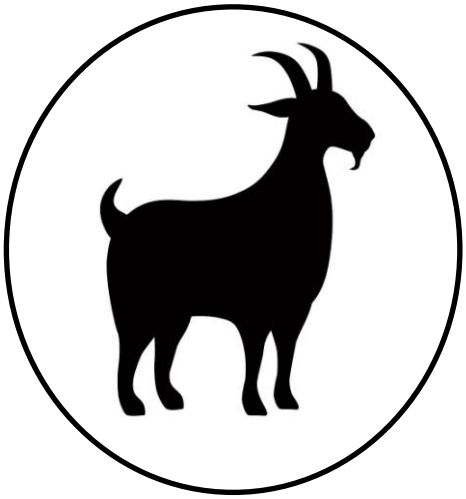
l g j

g l j l

g



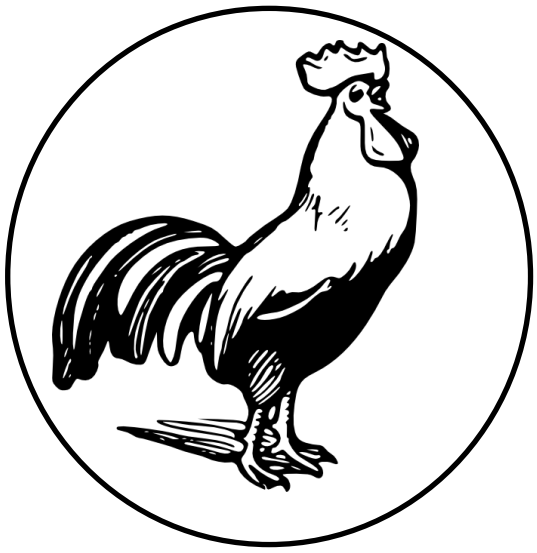
lamb



goat

g l j

j l g j



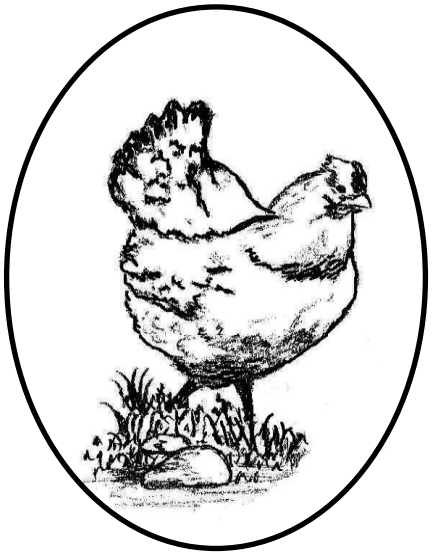
c h ch

h c ch

cock

ch h c

c h ch



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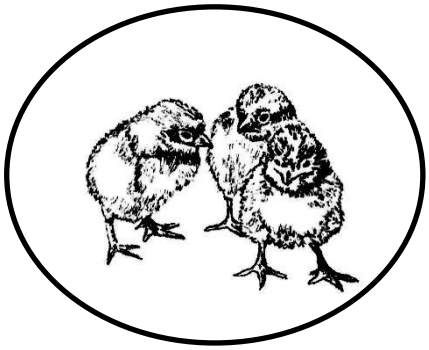
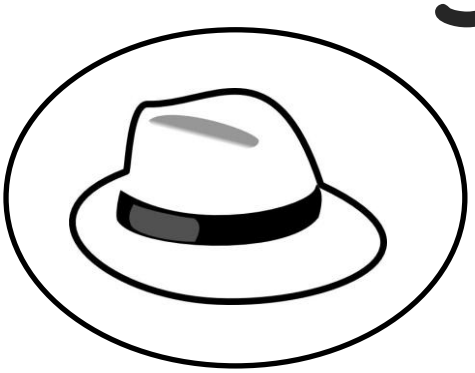


ch c h

chickens

c h ch h

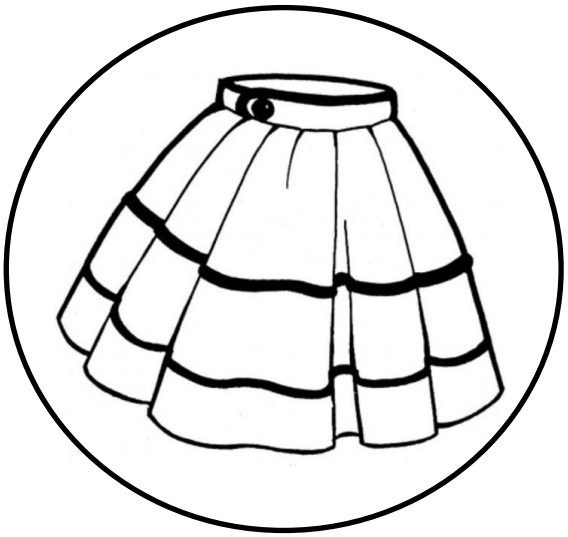
s h sh



h sh s

hat

sh h s



s

skirt

sh s h

shirt

sh s sh h

t th f

thumb

f th t

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finger

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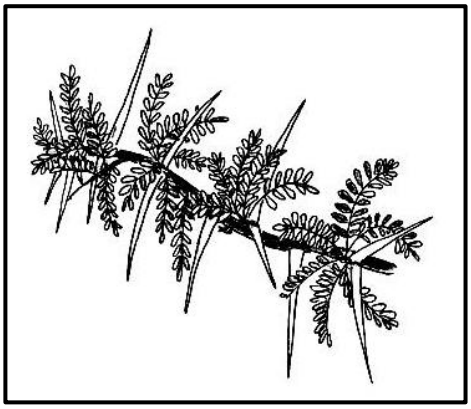
th sh ch



thorns

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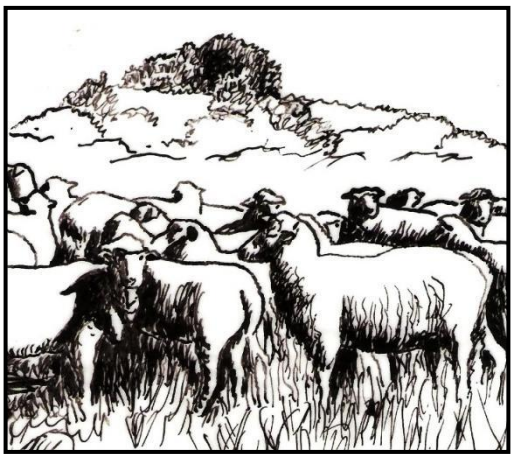

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church

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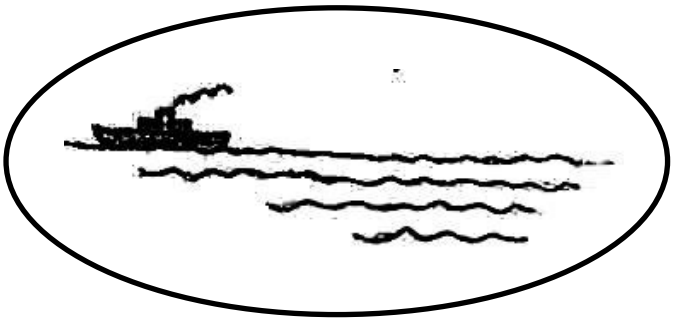

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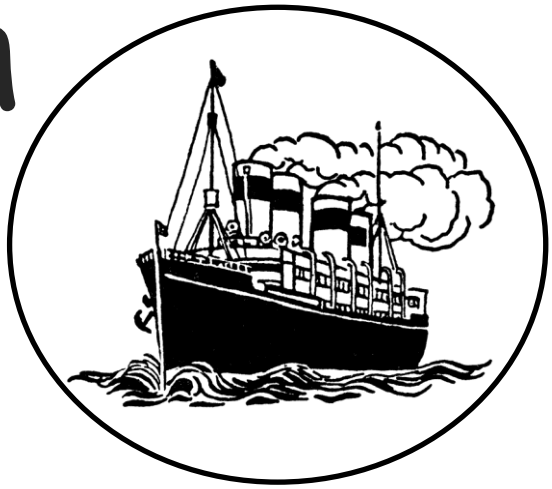

sh s

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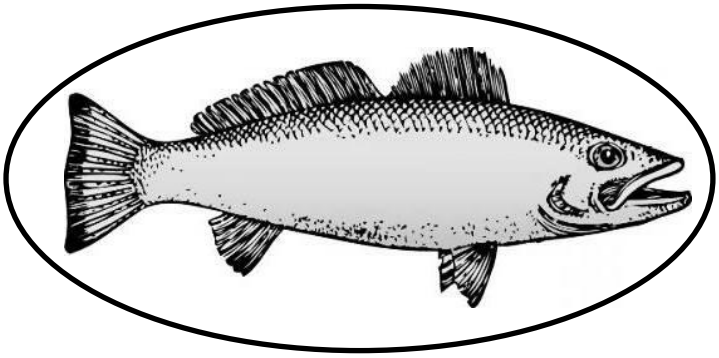

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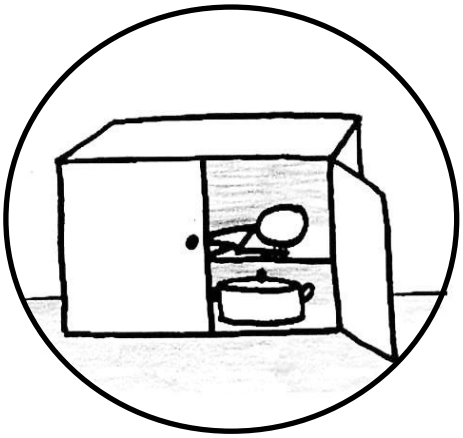

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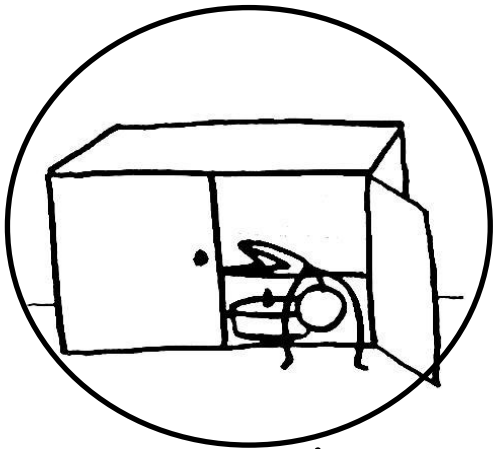

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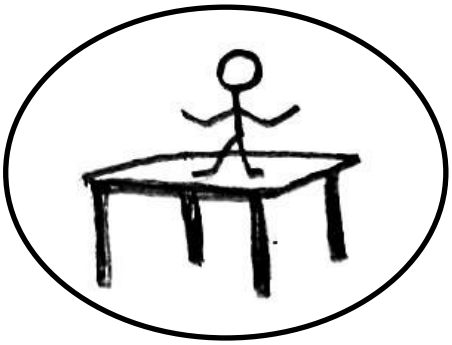

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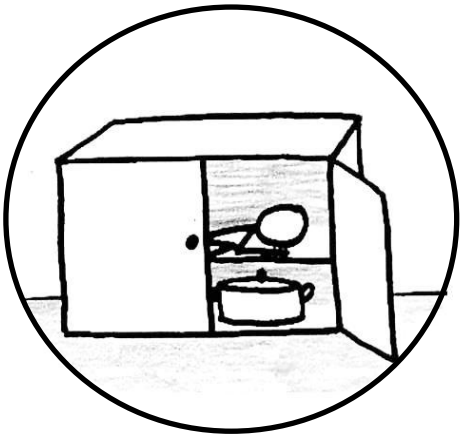

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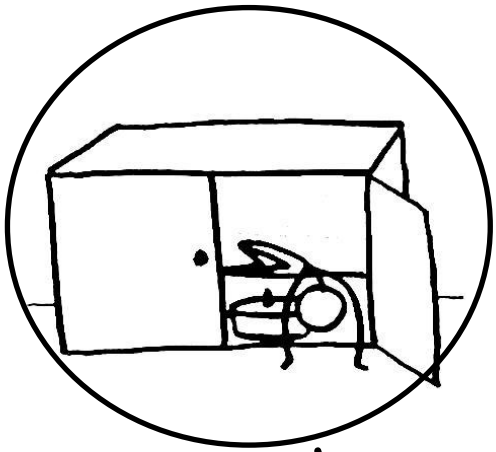

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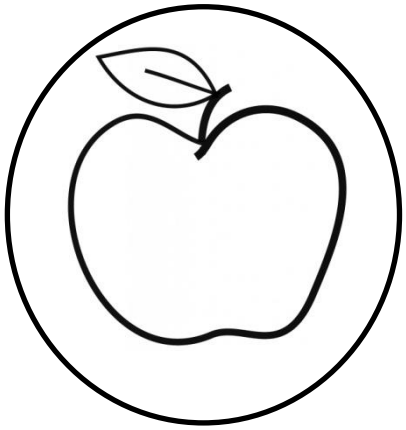

ow ar

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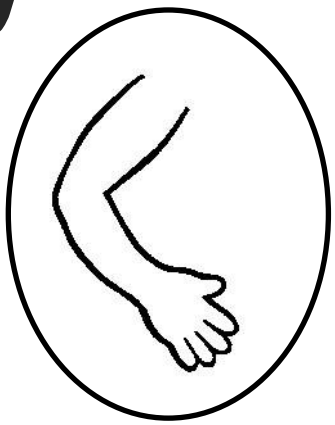

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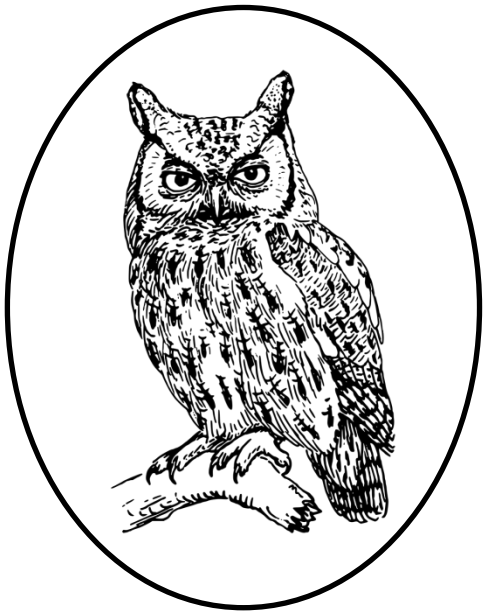

ow ar

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