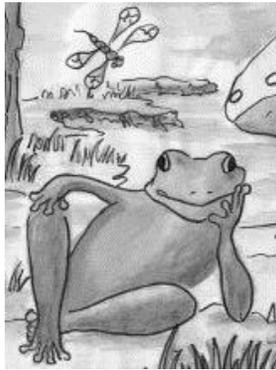


## ALMOST HARDLY'S LANGUAGE ARTS STUDY GUIDE & WORKSHEET

(Parent, teacher, or tutor version)



### **That pesky old "th" sound in English.**

Compare the sounds made to speak the following sentence: “Let’s *discuss this* customer’s suggestion.” This sentence illustrates two separate sounds in English that are sometimes confused by new speakers of English as well as by those whose spoken word dialect interferes with their choice of the sound represented by the symbol “th.” They might speak the sentence in this manner, “Let’s discuss *dis* customer’s suggestion” rather than using the SE version, *this* customer’s.

To say the word *discuss*, we make a sound while the tip of our tongue touches the alveolar ridge (that boney bump in the roof of your mouth just behind the top front teeth) but does not touch the back of the teeth. Try it by making the sound *duh* as in “Duh, Dude!” Depending on the sound you make while the tongue touches the boney ridge, you will say words like these: *dis*, *dat*, *d’s* (more than one *d*), *does* (plural of *doe*), *day*, *den*, *dare*.

If you make the same sounds but move your tongue a little lower so that it contacts the back of the top front teeth just below the boney ridge, you will say the following words: *this*, *that*, *these*, *those*, (*fromthey*, *then*, *there* (or *their*)). Some speakers of another language who are just learning English have a difficult time making the sounds of our *th* words, and some speakers whose primary language is English have difficulty because the speech environment they are constantly participating in ignores the *th* sound in favor of the *d*. In written Standard English (SE) the phoneme *th* is spelled “th.” In spoken SE as well, the sound of the symbol *th* is pronounced the same as it is in the words *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*.

### Some Activities with *th* Sounds

***This, That, These, Those*** (adapted from *Lesson Plans and Activities for Tutors and Teachers of ESL . . .*, by David Keith; used by permission)

*This* is a word that, when used as an adjective, describes a singular person, place or thing that is close to the speaker. *That* is a word that, when used as an adjective, describes a person, place, or thing that is singular and some distance away from the speaker. *These* describes a plural noun that is close to the speaker while *those* describes a plural noun that is away from the speaker.

Provide the appropriate word -- *this, that, these, those*-- based on this lesson.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ frog in my hand is very worried.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ frogs in my bag are too excited.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ frog over there on the log is very smart.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ frogs over there in the pond are very happy.

Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ papers here have to be completed.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ papers there have to be completed.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ paper here has to be completed.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ paper there has to be completed.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ gentleman here is my friend.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ gentlemen here are my friends
7. \_\_\_\_\_ gentlemen over there are my friends.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ gentleman over there is my friend.

**Fill in the blanks with the SE form of *de, dis, dat, dey*, Or write “C” for correct.**

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ frog what an odd bird he am. \_\_\_\_\_.

Oh, de frog what a rare bird he are. \_\_\_\_\_.

Oh, this frog what a dumb bird he be, \_\_\_\_\_

A true prince I will be, \_\_\_\_\_ Almost Hardly!”

Now, our frog what a sly bird he is. \_\_\_\_\_

“Some day I \_\_\_\_\_ be back, Almost Hardly,” (HINT: Future tense)

An' fin' you somewhere, be \_\_\_\_\_ it here or be \_\_\_\_\_ there, (VERY TRICKY!)

Now, you know what a strange bird he were. \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, de snake his eyes be \_\_\_\_\_ too big.

Now de butt of de jokes was \_\_\_\_\_ Tout Suite (A little tricky!)

Our frog's \_\_\_\_\_ in a mess, almost hardly. (This is a contraction of "frog" and \_\_\_\_\_)

Oh, this serpent a bad bird, he is \_\_\_\_\_ .

'N'est Pas is my name. Eatin' frogs is \_\_\_\_\_ my game" (Eatin' = eating)