

Intervention 1: Determiners

Information for teachers

- **Determiner** is a term that linguists use to describe words including:
 - **Indefinite articles** (*a, an*)
 - **Definite articles** (*the*)
 - **Demonstratives** (*this, that*)
- Linguists place these words in the same category because they go in the same place in a sentence, and you can only have one of them at a time:
 - *A house*
 - *The house*
 - *This house*
 - *That house*
 - ~~*The that house*~~
- Many children who speak other languages have trouble with determiners in English
 - Some languages have no articles at all (e.g. Polish)
 - Some languages have articles, but use them differently from English (e.g. Portuguese)
 - Some languages have fewer than two, or more than two, demonstratives, and divide up space in different ways (e.g. Polish, Spanish)
- Children who speak some of the languages most commonly found in NI schools, such as Polish, Arabic, and Chinese, will benefit from this intervention
- However, this intervention is not just for specific languages
 - It may be of use to any Newcomer pupil
 - It can also help English-speaking pupils to understand English better

How to use this resource

- This resource contains stories with deliberate mistakes in them
- Children can go through the stories looking for mistakes
- There are also questions for children to answer, based on the stories
- A teacher or assistant should be present to explain these tasks to children, make sure they understand the questions, and help with any areas where they may be struggling
- You can use the stories and questions included here as a template, and create your own resources based on other stories
- These resources are intended for children in Key Stage 2, but similar methods may be useful for older or younger children.

Classroom Materials

Story 1

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Once upon a time there was little girl who had the golden yellow hair. Her name was Goldilocks. One day she decided to go for the walk in a forest. In the middle of the forest, she saw a little house.

Goldilocks thought, ‘There’s the house in the middle of the forest! I wonder who lives here?’

She went into the house, where she saw a table with three bowls and three spoons on it. Goldilocks looked at the table. She saw that the bowls were full of porridge. Seeing the porridge made her hungry.

Goldilocks thought, ‘That bowl of porridge is too hot. This bowl is just right.’

Goldilocks wanted to rest. She went upstairs and found a bedroom with three beds.

Goldilocks thought, ‘This bed is too big. That bed is just right.’

She got into the bed that was just right and fell asleep.

While Goldilocks was sleeping, three bears arrived: a big bear, a medium bear, and a little bear. It was their house.

‘Someone’s been eating our porridge!’ they said.

They went upstairs.

‘Someone’s sleeping in my bed!’ said the little bear.

When Goldilocks heard their voices, she woke up. She was so frightened that she jumped out of a bed and ran all the way home.

Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did Goldilocks know about the house before she saw it?
3. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. Goldilocks ate _____ bowl of porridge.
 - b. Goldilocks didn’t want to sleep in _____ biggest bed.
 - c. After her walk in _____ forest, Goldilocks went home.

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would Goldilocks have said?



A. 'This bowl of porridge is too hot.'

B. 'That bowl of porridge is too hot.'

ii. Which would Goldilocks have said?



A. 'This bed is too big.'

B. 'That bed is too big.'

iii. When she got home, which would Goldilocks have said?

A. 'Now I'm out of a forest again.'

B. 'Now I'm out of the forest again.'

5. If Goldilocks thought, '*This bowl of porridge is too hot. That bowl is just right,*' which bowl of porridge would be closest to Goldilocks?

Story 2

The Three Little Pigs

Three little pigs set off one day to find the homes.

A first little pig met a man with some straw. He asked for some straw and the man gave it to him.

The first little pig built a house from a straw. He thought, 'That's really strong house!'

Then a wolf came along.

'Oh, no! The wolf!' said the first little pig.

The wolf huffed and he puffed and he blew the house down.

The second little pig met a man with some twigs. He asked for some twigs and the man gave them to him.

The second little pig built a house from the twigs. He thought, 'That's really strong house!'

Then the wolf came along.

'Oh, no! The wolf!' said the second little pig.

The wolf huffed and he puffed and he blew the house down.

The third little pig met a man with some bricks. He asked for some bricks and the man gave them to him.

The third little pig built a house from the bricks. He thought, 'That's the really strong house!'

Then the wolf came along.

'Oh, no! The wolf!' said the third little pig.

The wolf huffed and he puffed, but he couldn't blow the house down. The third little pig was safe.

Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did the first little pig know there was a wolf about?
3. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. The first little pig built _____ house.
 - b. The wolf blew _____ house down.
 - c. The third little pig saw that there was _____ wolf outside.

4. Answer the following questions:

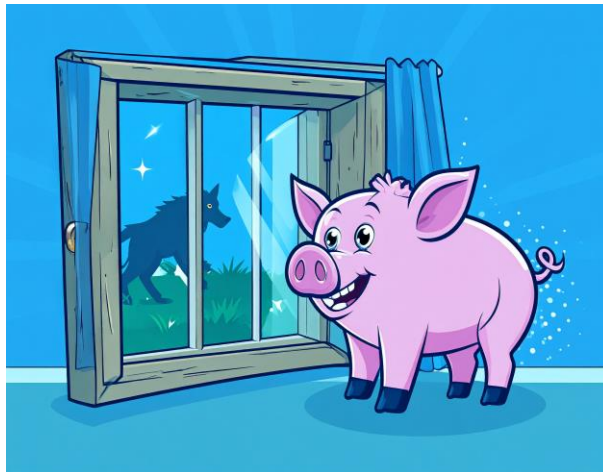
i. Which would the third little pig have said?



A. 'This will be a strong house.'

B. 'That will be a strong house.'

ii. Which would the wolf have said?



A. 'Let me in to this house!'

B. 'Let me in to that house!'

iii. Which would the third little pig have said?

A. 'I'm glad I built a strong house!'

B. 'I'm glad I built the strong house!'

5. The third little pig thought, '*That house is really strong!*' Was he indoors or outdoors?

Story 3

Cinderella

Cinderella's mother died when she was little. Her father married again, and Cinderella ended up with stepmother and two stepsisters.

Cinderella's wicked stepmother made her do all the housework. She had to cook and clean and scrub the floors.

One day Cinderella's stepsisters were invited to a ball at the palace. Cinderella was invited too, but her stepmother wouldn't let her go.

Cinderella's stepsisters left for the ball. Cinderella sat in the kitchen and cried. Suddenly a fairy appeared.

'A fairy!' thought Cinderella.

It was Cinderella's fairy godmother. She waved her wand and gave Cinderella a beautiful dress to wear, with glass slippers for her feet. She waved her wand again and turned a pumpkin into a carriage.

Cinderella's fairy godmother said, 'The spell will only last until the midnight.'

Cinderella got into a carriage and went to the ball.

At the ball, the prince asked Cinderella to dance. They had wonderful time. Then Cinderella heard the clock strike midnight. She ran out, leaving one of her glass slippers behind.

The prince wanted to find Cinderella, but he didn't know who she was. He had someone bring a glass slipper to every girl in the kingdom, so that they could try it on.

Finally the slipper came to Cinderella's house. Her stepsisters tried it on, but the feet were too big. Then Cinderella tried it on. It fitted perfectly.

Cinderella and a prince were married. They lived happily ever after.

Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Was Cinderella expecting to see her fairy godmother?
3. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. Cinderella had _____ wicked stepmother.
 - b. Cinderella lost _____ slipper.
 - c. The prince found _____ slipper.

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would Cinderella have said?



A. 'This is hard work!'

B. 'That's hard work!'

ii. Which would the fairy godmother have said?



A. 'I need a pumpkin!'

B. 'I need the pumpkin!'

iii. Which would the prince have said?

A. 'I must find this girl!'

B. 'I must find that girl!'

5. Cinderella thought, '*That's the clock!*' Was the clock striking?

Story 4

King Midas

King Midas was a king in the Ancient Greece.

One day he helped one of Greek gods, who rewarded him by giving him a wish. King Midas wished that everything he touched should turn to gold.

To see if his wish had been granted, King Midas picked a twig off the apple tree. The twig turned to gold.

King Midas picked up a stone. The stone turned to gold.

Then King Midas picked an apple from the tree. The apple turned to gold.

King Midas was very happy. 'That's wonderful!' he thought.

When King Midas came home, he touched the palace wall and even the wall turned to gold.

But when King Midas sat down to dinner, all his food turned to gold. He picked up some bread, and bread turned to gold. He tried to bite into some meat, and it turned to gold in his mouth. He wasn't able to eat anything.

King Midas was very hungry. He knew that he might starve because of his wish.

Then King Midas's son came in. King Midas patted him on head. His son turned into a golden statue.

King Midas begged the god to undo his wish. He was told that he had to bathe in the river.

King Midas jumped into a river. It was very cold. When he got out, though, he was back to normal. He could touch things without turning them to gold.

Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did the palace have more than one wall?
3. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. King Midas lived in _____ palace.
 - b. He had _____ son.
 - c. _____ river was cold.

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would King Midas have thought?



A. 'This is an apple tree.'

B. 'That's an apple tree.'

ii. Which would King Midas have said?



A. 'A golden apple!'

B. 'The golden apple!'

iii. Which would King Midas have said?

A. 'This river was cold!'

B. 'That river was cold!'

5. When King Midas thought, '*That's wonderful,*' what was he thinking about?