

Life of Fred®
Classes

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A Note Before We Begin

This is the third language arts book in the Life of Fred® series. In these books, we will cover English from every angle.

In this third book you will learn:

- ★ the seven parts of speech
- ★ how you first learned what the word *dog* meant (hint: it wasn't from the dictionary.)
- ★ more of the continuing story of *Ducky Sings Opera*
- ★ four common errors in using adjectives
- ★ four uses of italics
- ★ how to determine if a verb is irregular
- ★ easy ways to tell if the tense is progressive or perfect or both
- ★ which adjectives don't have a comparative or a superlative form
- ★ how the present tense can exist outside of time
- ★ transitive verbs with direct and indirect objects
- ★ the nominative, possessive, and objective cases
- ★ what a simile is and the schwa in the word *simile*

. . . and that's only up to page 39!

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

Each chapter is a daily lesson. There are four pages of reading about the adventures of Fred and a Your Turn to Play.

Have a paper and pencil handy before you sit down to read.

Each Your Turn to Play consists of about three or four questions. Write out the answers—don't just orally answer them.

After all the questions are answered, then take a peek at my answers that are given on the next page.

Don't just read the questions and look at the answers. You won't learn as much that way.

A NOTE FROM STAN

This was in my father's collection of photographs. It made me think about how some things have changed . . . and some have not.



I bet the trees are larger now.

Back then, an important part of schooling was “readin’, writin’, and ’rithmetic.”

Today English and mathematics remain at the heart of education.

The *Life of Fred* math series takes you up through two years of college calculus, a year of college statistics, and one upper-division math course.

In the four books of the *Life of Fred* language arts series, you will learn more English than 95% of American high school graduates know.

And, as a bonus, in this book you’ll also learn about making minestrone soup.

Contents

Chapter 1	The Central Meaning of Life. 13 an overview of learning about business, math, football, life, and English the seven parts of speech the three forms of pronouns <i>tense</i> is the Latin word for <i>time</i>
Chapter 2	Prepositions in 30 Seconds. 19 multi-word prepositions when <i>none</i> is the subject of a sentence introduction to proofreading a sentence with 16 prepositional phrases
Chapter 3	Teaching by Giving Examples. 25 adjectives sharpen the meaning of a noun three mistakes in using adjectives in your writing four uses of italics
Chapter 4	A Piece of Cake. 31 what you shouldn't do if others are blushing a two-year-old writes the 12 tenses
Chapter 5	Simplifying the Tenses. 37 how to tell if it is a progressive tense how to tell if it is a perfect tense what word tells you that it is in both the progressive and perfect tenses. positive, comparative, and superlative adjectives ə = a schwa proper nouns suffixes turning nouns and verbs into adjectives prefixes scare quotes

Chapter 6	Hoppy..... 43
	transitive verbs
	direct and indirect objects
	connecting the mid-points of any four-sided figure
Chapter 7	Cases. 49
	nominative, objective, and possessive cases
	genitive, dative, and ablative cases
	similes
	Christina Rossetti's poem "A Birthday"
	auxiliary verbs
Chapter 8	Gray Skies. 55
	<i>which</i> vs. <i>that</i>
	smoking in a classroom
	"my house is burning up" vs. "my house is burning down"
	elliptical constructions
	four varieties of English: formal, informal, nonstandard, and general
	two ways our brains work
Chapter 9	A Place to Stay..... 61
	emotion and reason
	counterwords
Chapter 10	Wolfie. 67
	small towns in Kansas
	the three uses of writing
	one guideline to good writing
Chapter 11	Cooking. 73
	the second exception to the I-before-E rule
	making minestrone soup
	adverbs
	the three essential parts of good mothering

Chapter 12	Cleaning..... 79
	must adverbs ending in <i>-ly</i> come right before the verb?
	when to double the final consonant in a verb
	<i>refer</i> ⇒ <i>referring</i> but <i>kneel</i> ⇒ <i>kneeling</i>
Chapter 13	How to Dust..... 85
	intersection of sets
	the six rules for using a dustcloth
	<i>less</i> vs. <i>fewer</i> and the exceptions for time and money
	<i>still</i> as an adverb, an adjective, a noun, a conjunction, and a verb
Chapter 14	Infinitives..... 91
	what to do if you are locked out of your house
	using infinitives to change verbs into (1) subjects of a sentence, (2) objects of a transitive verb, (3) adjectives, and (4) adverbs
	setting a table
Chapter 15	Know What You're Saying. 97
	minced oaths
	euphemisms
	subjunctive, indicative, and imperative moods
Chapter 16	What Wolfie Ate. 103
	antecedents of pronouns
	<i>nauseous</i> vs. <i>nauseated</i>
	pronouns with broad reference
	appendicitis symptoms
	<i>cash</i> as an adjective, noun, and verb
Chapter 17	A Fifth Alternative..... 109
	facts of life
	the two parts of life
	Rudolph Boysen
	stream of consciousness writing

Chapter 18	Missing Hyphens.	115
	frequency of commercials on television	
	metric conversions	
	hyphen, en dash, and em dash—when to use each	
Chapter 19	Exceptions.	121
	literal-minded interpretations	
	what to do when people ask several questions at the same time	
	the rule for hyphens in compound adjectives and the five exceptions to that rule	
Index.		125

Chapter One

The Central Meaning of Life

Fred's second hour of teaching English in Australia began. It had been quite an adventure getting to this point. Fred was looking forward to his nine o'clock class.

The dozen sixth graders from his eight o'clock class decided to stay in the classroom for another hour. Fourteen eleventh graders came into the room.

It was starting to get a little crowded. There weren't enough chairs for everyone. Some of the eleventh graders sat on top of the desks. Some sat on the floor.

All of the jitters* that he had had an hour ago were gone. Fred was ready to teach the way he had taught at KITTENS University for years.

One important thing that a teacher can do is provide the overall picture of his subject so that the students don't get lost in all the details. ☆ In business, it's about succeeding financially.

* His *apprehensiveness* was gone. There wasn't the *anxiety* that he had felt before: no *unease*, no *disquietude*, no *trepidation*.

Do you remember how a **thesaurus** works? You look up an idea, and it will give you words.

- ☆ In math, everything revolves around numbers, shapes, and sets.
- ☆ In football, it's all about winning.
- ☆ In life, it all boils down to two choices: A) me, me, me or B) loving.
- ☆ In English . . . Fred wasn't sure. *How can you organize English?* Fred thought to himself.

Fred did what some teachers do when he can't figure out the answer. He asked his students. "Can anyone tell me how English is organized?"

Sixth grader Helen said, "That's easy. There are seven parts of speech."

Fred was thinking: *the tongue, the lips, the lungs*—but those aren't the parts of speech.

Helen continued, "As everyone knows, they are (1) nouns, (2) pronouns, (3) verbs, (4) conjunctions, (5) prepositions, (6) adjectives, and (7) adverbs. Every word in a sentence is one of these."

Time Out!

Some of these seven parts of speech we have looked at before.

* Nouns are persons, places, or things.

* Pronouns stand in place of nouns: I, we, you, he, she, it, they.

* Verbs are the action words in sentences.

* Conjunctions join two simple sentences together to prevent a run-on: and, but, or, after, although, as if, because, before, if, though, till, unless, when, where, and while. Betty washed the dishes while Alexander dried them.

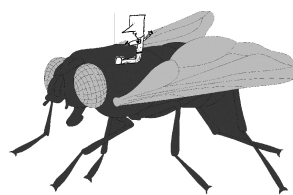
It would be a run-on to write: Betty washed the dishes, Alexander dried them.

We have done four out of the seven.

Fred hadn't had a chance to read some books on language arts. (past perfect) Reading is often the fastest way to learn. But right now he needed to get through these Wednesday (silent d) classes. Then, he hoped he could get to the library or the bookstore and study in the evening.

He had to teach on the fly.*

Helen had said that every word in a sentence is one of the seven parts of speech. At this point Fred wasn't quite sure what prepositions, adjectives and adverbs were, but he was going to find out.



What you get when you take an idiom literally

* *On the fly* = something done without preparation. (an idiom)

Fred said, “Please turn to the second page in your textbook, *Ducky Sings Opera*.”

comma before direct quote

appositive phrase

(Fred had already done the first page with the eight o'clock class.)

The producer of the opera was overjoyed. A real Duck had applied for the role and not a man.

Fred started with the parts of speech that he knew. “Can anyone identify the nouns in these two sentences?”

Twenty-six students raised their hands. Peter copied the two sentences on the blackboard and circled the nouns.

The producer of the opera was overjoyed. A real Duck had applied for the role and not a man.

Nouns are persons, places, or things: car, Christina Rossetti, freedom, Kansas, music, pizza.

“Can anyone identify the verbs?”

Hans copied the two sentences on the blackboard and underlined the verbs.

The producer of the opera was overjoyed. A real Duck had applied for the role and not a man.

The conjunction was easy to find.

The producer of the opera was overjoyed. A real Duck had applied for the role and not a man.

There weren't any pronouns in those two sentences.

Your Turn to Play

The next sentence in the book was:

Ducky lost a feather in his excitement because jobs for tenors are hard to find.

1. List the nouns in that sentence.
2. List the verbs.
3. List the conjunction(s).
4. The only pronouns that we have mentioned so far are: *I*, *we*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, and *they*.

Each of these seven pronouns has three forms.

For example, the three forms of *I* are *I*, *my*, and *me*.

With that hint, list the one pronoun in the Ducky sentence.

.....ANSWERS.....

Ducky lost a feather in his excitement because jobs for tenors are hard to find.

1. The nouns are Ducky, feather, excitement, jobs, and tenors.
2. The verbs are lost, are, and find.
3. The conjunction is because.
4. The pronoun is his.



Just for fun, the first three sentences of this chapter were written in different past tenses. *Tense* is the Latin word for *time*.

Fred's second hour of teaching English in Australia began. (Past tense.)

It had been quite an adventure getting to this point. (Past perfect tense. In the perfect tenses, the action stops.)

Fred was looking forward to his nine o'clock class.

(Past progressive tense. The "ing" on the verb emphasizes the action in progress.)

Index

- ablative case. 52
- accusative case. 51
- adjectives 25, 26
 - overusing 28
 - the three forms. 39
 - unnecessary. 26
 - weak. 27
- adverbs. 75, 76
- alliteration 21, 43
- antecedent 103
- appendix—biology lesson. . . 107
- appositive 72, 79
- area of an ellipse. 112
- auxiliary verbs. 54
- broad reference of a pronoun
 - 106
- capitalization in poetry 53
- cases of nouns and pronouns
 - 50
- cash* as an adjective, noun, and
 - verb. 108
- central meaning of life. 14
- Christina Rossetti. 53
- commercials and the truth. . . 118
- compound adjectives
 - the six rules. 123, 124
- conjunctions 15, 17
- counterwords. 63, 65
- dative case. 52
- direct object. 46
- doubling the final consonant
 - when adding an ending
 - the seven rules 82, 83
- dustcloth—how to use one. . . .
 - 81, 85, 86
- elliptical construction 57, 59
- euphemism 98
- exceptions in math. 124
- facts of life. 109
- formal, informal, nonstandard,
 - and general forms of
 - English. 57
- genitive case 51
- hanged* vs. *hung*. 102
- hyphens, en dashes, and em
 - dashes. 118, 119
- I before E rule. 73
- idioms 15, 35, 51
- imperative mood. 99
- indicative mood. 99
- indirect object 45, 46
- infinitive form. 92
- italics—three uses. 30
- James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. 111
- least effective way to teach. . . 46
- less* vs. *fewer*. 86, 87
- life—its two parts 110
- literal-mindedness. 122
- litotes. 33, 116
- lying* vs. *laying*. 86

Index

- metric system
 - 1 meter equals 39 inches 117
 - 2 inches equals 5 centimeters 117
- minced oath. 98, 99
- mothering—the three parts . . . 77
- nauseous* vs. *nauseated*. 105, 106
- nominative case. 50
- nouns. 14, 16
- nouns into adjectives. . . . 40, 41, 66
- nurses—a special note to them 106
- objective case. 50
- positive, comparative, superlative 39-41, 47, 53, 59
- possessive case 50
- prefix. 41
- prepositional phrases. 20
- prepositions. 19, 20
 - multi-word. 21
- prepositions at the end of sentences. 96
- present tense—to indicate something always true 44
- pronouns. 14
 - the three forms. . . . 17, 49, 50
- proofreading . . . 23, 24, 113, 119
- proper nouns. 40
- question marks and close quotes 65
- quotations extending for more than one paragraph . . . 27
- quote inside of a quote. 28
- Robinson Crusoe*. 111
- Rudolph Boysen. 111
- run-on sentences 15
- scare quotes. 42
- schwa (ə). 29, 39, 51, 64
- sentence fragment. 56, 57
- setting a table. 94, 95
- seven parts of speech. 14
- simile 51, 53, 116
- simple tenses. 102
- slang. 57
- small essays
 - A Writer's Imagination. . . . 69
 - Not "If I *Was* You". . . . 99-101
 - Our Inner Life. 61, 62
 - The Meaning of Your Words 98
 - The Proper Use of Pronouns and Their Antecedents 104
 - Two Ways Our Brains Work 58, 59
- smoking in the classroom. . . . 56
- still* as an adverb, adjective, noun, conjunction, and verb. 90
- stream of consciousness writing 111
- subject-verb agreement. 21
 - with multiple subjects 22
- subjunctive mood 99, 100
- suffix. 41, 107
- tenses—all 12 of them. . . . 35-38
- that* vs. *which*. 55, 59
- thesaurus 13, 97

Index

tiny towns in Kansas.	67
verbs	15, 16
direct object.	45
irregular verbs.	35
regular verbs.	34
transitive.	34, 44
verbs into adjectives.	41, 93
verbs into adverbs.	93
verbs into objects.	93
verbs into subjects.	93