

PAW & PEN ENGLISH CLUB

pawandpen.online

■ Funny & Fabulous English Words

Rhyming reduplicatives & wonderfully weird expressions

VOCABULARY REFERENCE ● Study these words before completing the exercises

Chit-chat

casual conversation about unimportant things

Willy-nilly

without planning; in a disorganised way

Nitty-gritty

the most important details of a situation

Shilly-shally

to be unable to make a decision; to hesitate

Wishy-washy

weak, feeble, or lacking in character

Hanky-panky

mildly dishonest or suspicious behaviour

Artsy-fartsy

trying too hard to seem artistic or cultured

Harum-scarum

reckless and disorganised

Higgledy-piggledy

in a confused or disordered manner

Hurly-burly

a busy, noisy, and confused situation

Hocus-pocus

meaningless talk used to deceive or distract

Hoity-toity

acting superior; snobbish and arrogant

Helter-skelter

in a confused rush; disorderly haste

Hobnob

to socialise with important or famous people

Heebie-jeebies

a feeling of anxiety, fear or discomfort

Rumpy-pumpy

romantic activity (humorous/informal)

Hotch-potch

a confused mixture of different things

Dilly-dally

to waste time by being slow or indecisive

PAW & PEN ENGLISH CLUB

pawandpen.online

Exercises

Use your vocabulary list to complete the activities below

EXERCISE 1 | Match the Word to its Meaning

Draw a line to match each word with the correct meaning.

Hoity-toity

a) a feeling of fear or discomfort

Dilly-dally

b) in a confused, disordered way

Higgledy-piggledy

c) to waste time; be indecisive

Heebie-jeebies

d) snobbish and arrogant

EXERCISE 2 | Fill in the Blank

Choose the correct word from the box to complete each sentence.

nitty-gritty | chit-chat | helter-skelter | hobnob | wishy-washy

1. She loves to _____ with celebrities at fancy events.
2. Stop being so _____! Just make a decision!
3. Let's skip the _____ and get down to the _____ of the matter.
4. The children ran _____ through the garden, laughing wildly.

EXERCISE 3 | True or False?

Read each sentence. Write TRUE or FALSE on the line.

1. "Artsy-fartsy" is a compliment for a very talented artist. _____
2. "Hurly-burly" describes a calm, peaceful afternoon. _____
3. If someone is doing "hanky-panky," they may be up to something suspicious. _____
4. "Hotch-potch" could describe a very messy, mixed-up room. _____

EXERCISE 4 | Your Turn! ■

Choose ANY 3 words from the vocabulary list and write your own funny sentence for each.

Word 1: _____

Word 2: _____

Word 3: _____