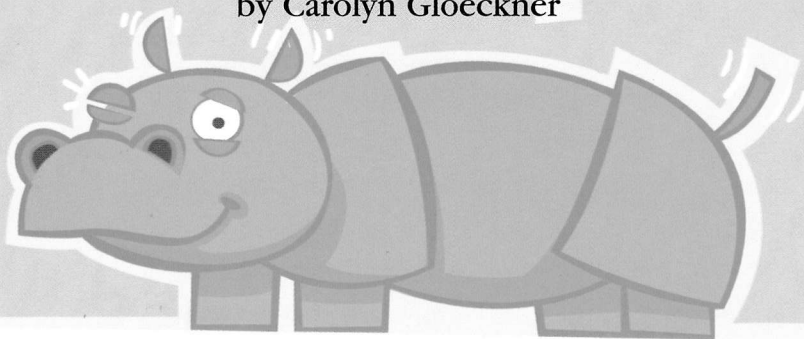


# The Electric Hippopotamus

by Carolyn Gloeckner



**HIPPOPOTAMUS**  
**MARKET**



Sale  
2 For 1

**ED'S MARKET**

The sign in front of Ed's store read ED'S MARKET. Ed didn't like it. He wanted a big, showy sign. He wanted people to notice his store.

So he called George. George made signs.

"I want a big sign," said Ed. "I want more color. I want lights!"

George thought about it. A big sign would need big words.

The longest word he could think of was *hippopotamus*.

HIPPOPOTAMUS MARKET. That would make a big sign!

George lettered the new sign. Then he painted it—red, purple, and green. He looked at the sign. Was it showy enough? Well . . .

George decided to add something special. He sawed wood. He painted. He used wire and lights. Soon he was done. George nailed it to the roof. What was it?

An electric hippopotamus! The eyes winked on and off. The tail twitched. The ears flapped.

Ed came out to see it.

He turned red, purple, and green.

"What have you done?" he shouted.

He made George put the old sign back. However, he kept one thing.

On the roof is the electric hippopotamus.

"People notice my store now," says Ed.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

**1** Another good name for this story is

- a** Ed's New Store.
- b** George's Big Idea.

**2** George used the word *hippopotamus* because it was the

- a** funniest word he knew.
- b** longest word he knew.

**3** Ed turned red, purple, and green because he was

- a** surprised and angry when he saw the sign.
- b** happy and wanted to look just like the sign.

**4** Ed got people to notice his store

- a** by keeping the hippopotamus on the roof.
- b** by making George put the old sign back.

**5** Now that the hippopotamus is on the roof,

- a** Ed might make more money.
- b** people might go to another store.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Ed's store  
the painters' brushes

Add an 's to *Ed* to show that he owns something. The mark (') is an apostrophe. Add only an ' to *painters* to show that more than one painter owns something.

Add an 's or an ' to each word to show ownership. Write the word.

- 1** George
- 2** market
- 3** sign
- 4** Ed
- 5** eyes

**C** Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

**6** Ed had the idea of making a big sign. The big sign was \_\_\_\_\_ idea.

**7** George used bright colors. \_\_\_\_\_ colors could be seen for miles.

**8** Ed wanted a showy sign. George painted the \_\_\_\_\_ letters red, purple, and green.



## LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

- 9 The eyes winked on and off.  
The \_\_\_\_\_ winking could  
be seen far away.

- 10 George made one mistake.  
He used *Hippopotamus* as  
the \_\_\_\_\_ name.

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D Most verbs add *-ed* to show that  
something happened in the past.

Last week they *liked* the sign.

This week they *like* another sign.

Read each sentence. If it could  
be happening now, write *now*.

If it happened in the past,  
write *past*.

- 1 Ed wanted a big sign.
- 2 George paints signs.
- 3 The hippopotamus's  
ears flapped.
- 4 Ed looked up at George's  
sign.
- 5 George nails it to the roof.

- E Read each story. Write *a* or *b* to  
answer each question.

**Ed told George he wanted a  
new sign for his store. George  
got out his brushes. He mixed  
his paints.**

- 6 What did George do next?  
a Painted the sign  
b Washed his brushes

- 7 What did Ed do when the  
sign was finished?

- a Closed the store  
b Looked at the sign

- 8 How do you know what  
George and Ed did?

- a George was a sign painter.  
Ed asked George to paint  
a sign.  
b Ed painted signs. George  
owned the store.

**George made a large  
hippopotamus. He put lights  
and wires in its eyes. He  
plugged the lights in.**

- 9 What happened next?

- a The lights came on.  
b The tail twitched and the  
ears flapped.

- 10 How do you know what  
happened?

- a The lights and wires were  
in the ears.  
b The lights and wires were  
in the eyes.