



All Kinds of Toys

by Sally Kraft

- 1 What was your favorite toy last year? What toy do you like best today? Have you ever thought about what you have learned from toys? It may be more than you think.
- 2 Children have always had toys. Small, clay horses have been found in Egyptian tombs. The tombs were more than 2,500 years old. Children

in Greece and Rome played with balls, tops, dolls, and rattles. In ancient China, as well as other places, the yo-yo was a popular toy.

- 3 Some toys were simple. They were made from common materials. Other toys were more complex and costly. Whatever their value, the children who owned the toys enjoyed them.

- 4 Some of the oldest toys are dolls. They have been made of clay, wood, fabric, and straw. Some had clothing made from scraps. Others had beautiful outfits of velvet or satin.
- 5 Stuffed animals are another type of companion toy. The most famous of these is the teddy bear. This toy was named after President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. On a hunting trip in 1902, he refused to kill a bear cub. It was reported in the newspapers. A store owner read about it. His wife made some cuddly bears. The store owner began selling them. He called them "Teddy bears." Today this toy is still among the best sellers.
- 6 In more recent times, action figures have become popular. They are not dolls in the traditional sense. They come from movies, comics, and television. Children make up stories and act them out with the figures.
- 7 Miniatures seem to delight children. Cars, trucks, boats, planes, and trains are favorites. The doll house is another example. Some are made in amazing detail. Many have become quite valuable. They are collected by both children and adults.
- 8 Some children build their own miniatures. Kits are available for the child who wants to build his or her own car, boat, or plane. These models are quite accurate and detailed.
- 9 Construction toys are also favorites. Simple wooden blocks have square shapes. Plastic blocks with interlocking parts make it possible to build more complex structures. With other construction sets, the structures can have moving parts.
- 10 Some types of toys are more practical. Mechanical banks encourage people to save. When a coin is put into the bank, a part of the bank moves. For example, a horse might buck. A clown might jump through a hoop. Many of these banks have become valuable.
- 11 Still other types of toys are educational. The earliest puzzles, for example, were developed in the eighteenth century. They were called "dissected puzzles." A map or a scene from history was painted on a large piece of wood. The wood was then cut up into small, irregular pieces. Children still put together "dissected puzzles" today.
- 12 The jigsaw puzzle was invented in the second half of the nineteenth century. These puzzle pieces interlocked. Pieces with straight edges were also added to puzzles. They formed a frame, or border. Today there are all kinds of jigsaw puzzles. Some are simple. They have a few large pieces and are meant for young children. Others are complex. There are puzzles with a different picture on each side. There are even puzzles that have no picture. The puzzle must be built based entirely on the colors and shapes of the pieces.
- 13 Today there is a whole line of toys that teach as well as entertain. Some teach shapes or colors. Other toys teach letters and numbers. These toys may or may not be electronic.
- 14 Many children love toys that move. These toys used to be wound up with a clock spring. Each time the toy stopped moving, the child wound it up again. Modern toys are often powered by batteries. The child presses a button to make the toy move.
- 15 Toys help imaginations to expand and intellects to grow. They prepare us for learning adult skills. Most of all, they make us happy. Here is one more thing about toys. We never really outgrow them. Adults love toys as much as children do. We all like to play and have fun.

COMPREHENSION

- A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.
- Another good title for this article is
 - Toys That Teach.
 - My Favorite Toys.
 - A History of Toys.
 - The store owner called the stuffed animals "Teddy bears" because
 - he liked to hunt bears.
 - he read an article in the newspaper about President Roosevelt.
 - he had a son named Teddy.
 - Adults who collect toys probably
 - were bored by toys when they were children.
 - enjoyed toys when they were children.
 - gave their toys away when they were children.
 - We know that some toys were present in ancient times because
 - they have been found in Egyptian tombs.
 - they are for sale in toy stores.
 - children still play with them.
 - As a type of toy becomes scarce, it becomes
 - more valuable.
 - harder to take care of.
 - easier to find.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in an article or a story. The other words give you clues.

Find the word in the article that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- cloth (4)
- sets of clothes (4)
- copies of things in a much smaller size (7)
- correct (8)
- cut apart (11)
- not following a pattern (11)
- to become larger (15)

- C** **too** = also

two = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type**. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone for the word in **bold type**. Which of the homophones fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

- 8 cents** (6)

Many years ago, you could buy a toy for a few _____.

- 9 threw** (10)

The child _____ the brightly colored ball into the air.

- 10 peace** (11)

That puzzle is missing a _____.

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read each sentence. If the sentence is about toys of long ago, write *then*. If it is about toys today, write *now*. If it is about both, write *both*.

- 1 Children play with "dissected puzzles."
- 2 Children love toys.
- 3 Children play with battery-powered toys.
- 4 Children play with teddy bears.
- 5 Children play with dolls.

E Some verbs do not add *-ed* to show that something happened in the past. These verbs are called irregular verbs because they do not follow a regular pattern when they tell about the past.

Some toys *break* easily.

I *broke* a toy last week.

Read each sentence. Which verb in parentheses () makes sense in the sentence? Write the verb.

- 6 You can (ride, rode) on larger toys such as bicycles.
- 7 Last year she (get, got) a bicycle for her birthday.
- 8 My little sister always (takes, took) her teddy bear wherever she goes.

9 Yesterday, I (give, gave) my wooden blocks to my little brother.

10 Every day he piles one on top of the other until they all (fall, fell) down.

F A pronoun can take the place of many words.

Read the sentences. Which pronoun in parentheses () makes sense in each sentence? Write the pronoun.

- 11 Teddy Roosevelt wouldn't shoot the bear cub and the newspapers reported it. (His, Their) name was then used to sell a toy.
- 12 Parents used to encourage their children to save their money in special banks. Some of (its, their) parts were moveable.
- 13 My brother and I build model cars. (Their, Our) collection is getting big.
- 14 This is the hardest puzzle that we have ever worked on. (Its, Their) pieces are all the same color.
- 15 Rachel's collection of dolls is (her, their) most prized possession.