

Gerri's Horn

by Bruce Mays



Gerri was excited! She played a horn in the school band. The band was going to play on Friday, and Gerri would play a part all by herself.

She practiced hard. She shined her horn. She even wore her lucky charm.

On Friday, the whole school came to listen to the music. Soon it was Gerri's turn. She stood up and blew.

There was no sound. Gerri blew harder. Her horn croaked like a frog. Everyone in the school laughed. Gerri *felt* awful. Her horn *sounded* awful.

The band finished playing. Everyone shook their heads. Mr. Foo, the band leader, stared at Gerri. Gerri swallowed hard. Then Mr. Foo nodded his head.

"That was good," he said. "You practiced hard. You tried. That's the most important thing."

Then he took Gerri's horn. He looked inside. He gave it back to her and smiled. "But next time, be more careful," he whispered. "Don't let your lucky charm fall into your horn!"

COMPREHENSION

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

- 1 This story shows that
 - a you must have a lucky charm to play well.
 - b lucky charms do not always bring good luck.
- 2 Gerri felt bad because
 - a she had lost her lucky charm.
 - b the people in school laughed at her.
- 3 Mr. Foo said, "That was good," because he wanted Gerri to
 - a feel better.
 - b try harder.
- 4 Mr. Foo looked inside Gerri's horn because he knew
 - a the lucky charm was in it.
 - b something was wrong with the horn.
- 5 The next time Gerri plays, she will most likely
 - a leave her lucky charm at home.
 - b be sure to bring her lucky charm.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Gerri's horn the boys' horns

Add an 's to *Gerri* to show that she owns something. The mark (') is an apostrophe. Add only an ' to *boys* to show that more than one boy owns something.

Add an 's or an ' to each word to show that it owns something. Write the word.

- 1 boy
- 2 girls
- 3 Gerri
- 4 Mr. Foo
- 5 band



LEARN ABOUT WORDS (*continued*)

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

- 6 Everyone wanted to hear the school _____ music.
- 7 _____ horn sounded awful.
- 8 Gerri was glad for the two _____ smiles.
- 9 One _____ hand shot up quickly.
- 10 _____ kind words made Gerri feel better.

THINK ABOUT IT

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

Last week I *played* music after school.

This week I *play* sports after school.

Read each sentence. If it could be happening now, write *now*.
If it happened in the past, write *past*.

- 1 Gerri and a friend practice their horns.
- 2 The whole school listened to the band.
- 3 Gerri's horn sounded like a frog's croak.
- 4 People laughed at the noise of the horn.
- 5 Mr. Foo and his helper lead the band.