Words inside words: answers and notes

What your child practised: using hidden words as memory tricks for words on the Years 3 and 4 statutory spelling list, such as separate, believe and grammar.

Page 1 · Warm up

is**land** (land, also is and and) · h**ear**t (ear, also hear and art) · **know**ledge (know and ledge, also now and owl) · **bus**iness (bus)

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Some to look for: separate: **rat**, **par**, **rate**, **ate**. Potatoes: **pot**, **toe**, **toes**, **tat**. Therefore: **the**, **her**, **here**, **there**, **for**, **fore**, **ore**.

Page 2 · A. Clues

grammar: **ram** · heart: **ear** · peculiar: **liar**
knowledge: **ledge** · island: **land** · potatoes: **toes**

Page 3 · B. Right spellings

separate · **believe** · **grammar**
therefore · **heart** · **peculiar**

Page 3 · C. Missing letters

sep**arat**e (a rat) · b**elie**ve (lie)
h**ear**t (ear) · pecu**liar** (liar)

Page 3 · D. Same hidden word

ear. Sentences will vary, for example: "I heard that the earth has ears!"

Challenge: No. We say the middle of separate quickly, so it sounds like "sep-er-ate", but it is spelt with an **a**: **separate**. The trick: there's **a rat** in sep**arat**e.

Watch out for

- **Swapping vowels in the middle** (seperate, grammer). The middle vowel is hard to hear. Point to the hidden word that covers it: a r**a**t, a r**a**m.
- **Swapping i and e** (beleive). "Never believe a **lie**": the l, i, e come in that order.
- **"Hidden words" that aren't there.** The letters must be side by side and in order. Spell them out together to check.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Sign spotting:** on a walk, hunt for little words hiding in longer words on signs.
- **Teach it back:** ask your child to explain the rat, the lie and the ram to someone else in the family.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Spelling Voice, shows how saying words slowly in chunks helps you hear every letter, as in February.