The and I: answers and notes

What your child practised: reading the tricky words (common exception words, sometimes called sight words) **the** and **I**, and spotting the tricky part of each (Reception reading).

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring the 1st, 3rd and 5th tiles: **3** words say **the**.

Page 2 · Word hunt

3 ticks for **the** and 3 ticks for **I** when all the notes are found.

Page 2 · A. Colour the

Colour **4** boxes: the 1st, 3rd, 6th and 8th (reading from left to right).

Page 3 · B. Draw a heart



the: under the **e** · I: under the **I**

Page 3 · C. Trace and write

Check **I** is a capital letter.

Page 3 · D. Read it

I pat **the** cat. · **I** got **the** hat.

Challenge: No. "t-h-e" doesn't make the word. **t** and **h** join to say one sound, **th**, and the **e** is tricky: it says "uh". We say it all at once: **the**.

Watch out for

- **Sounding out letter by letter** ("t-h-e"). Say: "This is a tricky word. We know it by heart." Then read it together.
- **Pointing to a letter that sounds normal**, like the t in "the". Say each sound with your child: th is fine; the e is the surprise.
- **Writing a small i** for the word I. On its own, I is always a capital letter.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Spot it in books:** at bedtime, ask your child to point to every **the** on one page.
- **"I" game:** take turns saying "I can…" and doing the action: "I can hop!"
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Tricky words: reading 'to', 'no' and 'go'.