

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Adjectives and Articles

An **adjective** describes a noun or pronoun. It tells what kind, how many, or which one.

<b>What Kind</b>	a <u>gigantic white</u> iceberg
<b>How Many</b>	<u>numerous</u> icebergs; <u>several</u> chances
<b>Which One</b>	<u>this</u> lifeboat

The **articles** *a*, *an*, and *the* appear before nouns or other adjectives.

- Use **a** before words that begin with a consonant sound: a disaster, a rapid speed.
- Use **an** before words that begin with a vowel sound or a silent *h*: an ending, an eerie noise.
- Use **the** before words beginning with any letter: the site, the passengers.

An adjective formed from a proper noun is a **proper adjective**. Proper adjectives are capitalized: American newspapers.

**Directions** Underline the articles and circle the adjectives in each sentence.

1. An iceberg is a huge mass of ice that has broken off from a glacier.
2. A large iceberg can weigh a million tons and stretch many miles.
3. In the Atlantic Ocean, most icebergs come from the island of Greenland.
4. Icebergs are made of frozen fresh water.
5. For travelers, they are beautiful and deadly.
6. As they float south, icebergs melt in the warm sun.

**Directions** Write *a*, *an*, or *the* to complete each sentence. Use the article that makes sense.

7. Some icebergs are carried by wind into \_\_\_\_\_ Atlantic Ocean.
8. Only \_\_\_\_\_ small part of an iceberg is visible above the water.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ iceberg is quite impressive to behold.

**Directions** Complete each sentence with an adjective or adjectives of your own.

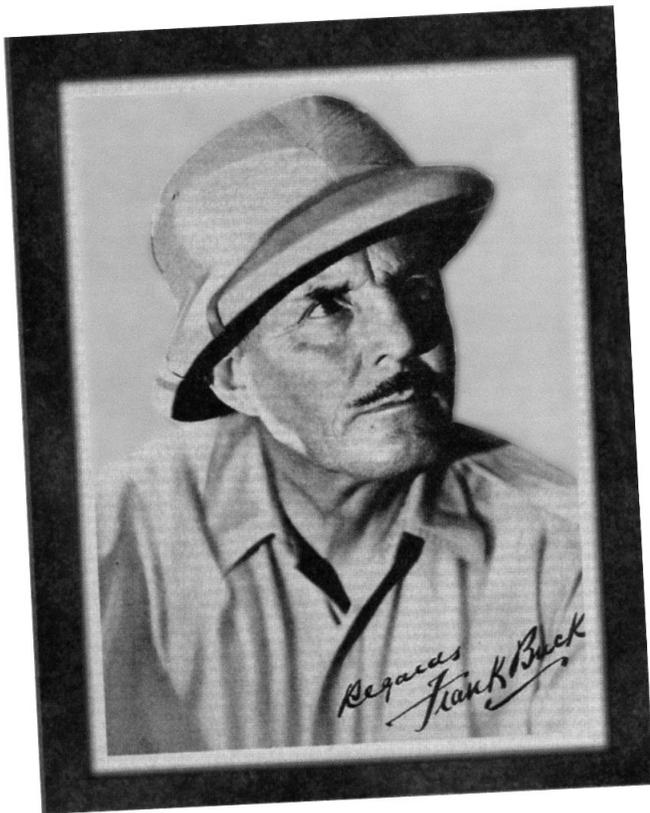
10. The wreck of the \_\_\_\_\_ ship lies in \_\_\_\_\_ pieces on the ocean floor.
11. A litter of belongings tells the \_\_\_\_\_ tale of lost life.
12. The once \_\_\_\_\_ ship is now a \_\_\_\_\_ heap on the ocean floor.



**Home Activity** Your child learned about adjectives and articles. Ask your child to expand sentences such as the following by adding adjectives and articles: *The ship sank. It struck an iceberg. People died. Today it's a legend.*

## Directions

Read this article about Frank Buck, an early 20th-century adventurer who captured wild animals for zoos. Then answer questions 11 through 15.



# Trapped by a King Cobra

by Robert Kraske

“We want a king cobra! A big one!” read the cablegram from Dr. Raymond Ditmars at a New York zoo.

Frank Buck hesitated. Of all the creatures in the jungles of Asia, the king cobra is the most vicious.

Buck knew jungle animals. In the early part of the 20th century, the world-famous adventurer collected elephants, tigers, leopards, orangutans, Indian rhinos, monkeys and tropical birds in the jungles of Southeast Asia. He sent the creatures to zoos in America.

Although this type of career might not be acceptable to some today, he was known

then as an animal lover and preservationist.

He personally cared for the animals he captured.

And he sold only to zoos that he knew would treat the animals with respect.

Buck had been in danger before the snake hunt. A man-eating tiger once swatted a powerful paw and missed Buck’s face by inches. A spitting cobra temporarily blinded him with a jet of venom. An angry orangutan nearly caught him in a death grip.

Buck, whose first catch was a 28-foot python in 1912, knew the king cobra was

preservationist = one who protects animals
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the only animal that would deliberately attack a man.

### **Biting Evidence**

Most poisonous snakes bite and inject a few drops of venom, then retreat. A king cobra bites, chews and pumps in a tablespoon of venom until its poison sacs empty. The venom attacks the nervous system. Victims feel dizzy. Vision blurs. The heart beats rapidly. Breathing becomes hard. Death soon follows.

One day an old trapper arrived at Buck's camp in the jungles of Southeast Asia. The man placed a rotting box on the ground. Carefully, Buck raised the lid. Inside coiled a huge, olive-brown king cobra. Quickly, he jammed the lid shut.

The camp carpenter built a teakwood box for the cobra. As a camp worker carried the trapper's old box toward the new one, he stumbled and fell. The old box broke apart, and the snake wriggled free.

### **Can't Run, Can't Hide**

Workers in the shed ran. Buck was caught

in a dead-end walkway. The king cobra raised its hooded head. Bronze eyes fastened on Buck. Hissing, the snake glided toward Buck.

The big snake lunged, barely missing his knee as Buck side-stepped.

Instantly, the king cobra whipped back, ready for a second strike.

Desperately, Buck pulled his white duck jacket over his head. He threw himself at the cobra's raised head and caught it in the folds of the jacket. He fell on the squirming reptile. With the help of camp workers, he squeezed the angry cobra into the new box.

"I was more afraid than at any other time in my long years of handling wild animals," Buck said.

Months later, the king cobra was delivered to Dr. Ditmars in New York. He was delighted with the "big one" he ordered. From nose to tail, it measured  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet. It was the largest king cobra ever captured alive.

**11** Why was Frank Buck considered an animal lover?

- A** He took good care of the animals he trapped.
- B** He kept many of the animals he caught as pets.
- C** He sold the animals to any zoo that wanted them.
- D** He captured deadly snakes to protect other animals.

**12** According to the article, why is the king cobra considered so dangerous?

- A** It will purposely attack people.
- B** It is bigger than any other snake.
- C** It can escape from any container.
- D** It can move faster than any other snake.

***Go On***

**13** Which idea from the article expresses an **opinion**?

- A** “He sent the creatures to zoos in America.”
- B** “The camp carpenter built a teakwood box for the cobra.”
- C** “Buck had been in danger before the snake hunt.”
- D** “This type of career might not be acceptable to some today.”

**14** Based on information in the article, how did Frank Buck feel about the animals he captured?

- A** He disliked them.
- B** He respected them.
- C** He felt sorry for them.
- D** He was angered by them.

**15** Read this sentence from the article.

**A spitting cobra temporarily blinded him with a jet of venom.**

In this sentence, what does the word “jet” mean?

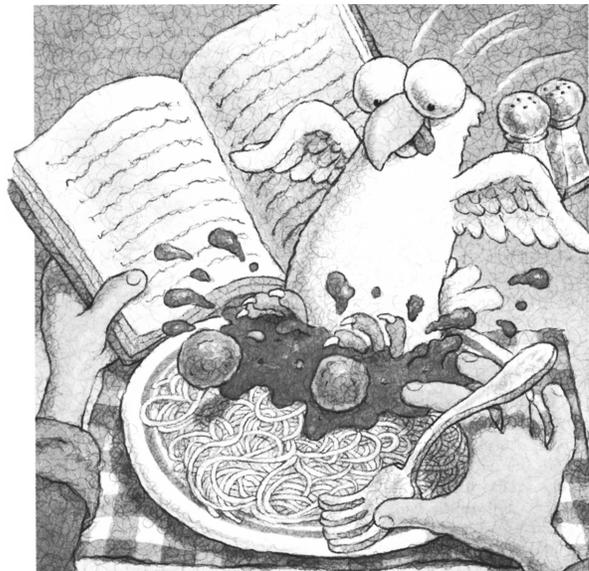
- A** a dark color
- B** a bright flash
- C** a forceful spray
- D** a hissing sound

# Directions

Read this passage. Then answer questions 16 through 21.

# A Spaghetti Tale

written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold



I visit schools often and talk with children about my job. Once in a while they'll ask personal questions, such as "What's your favorite food?" and "What are your hobbies?"

Spaghetti and meatballs is my favorite food. Why? Because it tastes good and because—admit it—spaghetti is funny food.

And reading is my favorite hobby. Reading, however, can be dangerous. When you are deeply absorbed in a book, you stop paying attention to what's going on around you. People describe it as being "lost in a book." It's a wonderful feeling, but it can be hazardous.

One day, when I was a teenager, I was home alone doing two of my favorite things: I was eating a huge plate of spaghetti and meatballs, and I was reading.

At the time, my family had a pet bird—a big white cockatoo named Luke. He was free to leave his perch and fly around inside the house. Luke enjoyed "talking" to people, but he wasn't trained to use real words. His talking often sounded like chuckling.

As I was reading and eating, Luke was chuckling away, talking to me, but I wasn't paying attention to him. I was lost in my book.

So Luke decided to get closer. He flew from his perch, and before I knew it, he'd landed *right on top of my spaghetti and meatballs!*

I was so surprised—I didn't even have time to think. My reaction was the same as yours would be: I shooed him off my food! This wouldn't have been so bad except for one thing: When Luke had landed on my plate, he had grabbed

**Go On**

my spaghetti with both feet. So when Luke took off again, the spaghetti—still tangled in his feet—went flying everywhere.

It landed on my shirt. It hit me in the face. Red sauce splattered up the wall and onto the ceiling.

As I pulled noodles out of my hair, Luke flew back to his perch, dripping spaghetti sauce all the way. He wasn't hurt, except for his dignity—

the sauce in his beautiful white feathers turned him splotchy orange for several weeks.

See how funny spaghetti can be? And see how dangerous reading can be? So go ahead and enjoy a good book. But if you like to read while you eat, you'd better keep one eye on your food. And if you find a spy novel at the library with red, greasy spots on two pages near the middle, you'll know that I've read that book, too!

**16** Luke **most likely** flew onto the author's plate because

- A** he was angry
- B** he was hungry
- C** he wanted some attention
- D** he wanted to make a mess

**17** The author would **most likely** describe the whole event as

- A** amusing
- B** annoying
- C** frightening
- D** lucky

**18** According to the passage, the author's favorite hobby is

- A** writing
- B** reading
- C** training birds
- D** eating spaghetti

**19** The setting for the events of this passage is **mostly**

- A** in a library
- B** in a home
- C** in a school
- D** in a restaurant

**20** Read this sentence from the passage.

**He wasn't hurt, except for his dignity—the sauce in his beautiful white feathers turned him splotchy orange for several weeks.**

Which word means about the same as “dignity”?

- A** appetite
- B** chatter
- C** motion
- D** pride

**21** The author says that reading can be dangerous. What does he mean by this statement? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

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**STOP**