

Syllables

In a dictionary, a word may be divided into **syllables**, or word parts.

Look at this example of a dictionary entry. How many syllables does **supply** have?

This part shows how to divide the word into syllables.

sup•ply *noun* A supply is the amount you have of something.

Try It Together

Use the dictionary entries to answer the questions.

in•ter•act *verb* To interact means to act together.

scarce *adjective* When something is scarce, it is hard to find or get.

1. How many syllables does interact have?

- A one
- B two
- C three
- D four

2. Scarce is a one-syllable word. How can you tell?

- A It is hard to say.
- B It is not divided.
- C It is an adjective.
- D It has only six letters.

Making Connections Read about more silly things that could happen when nature is out of **balance**.

Genre A **riddle** is a question that has a funny answer. The answer may have playful language, such as words within words, rhyming words, or words that sound alike but mean different things.

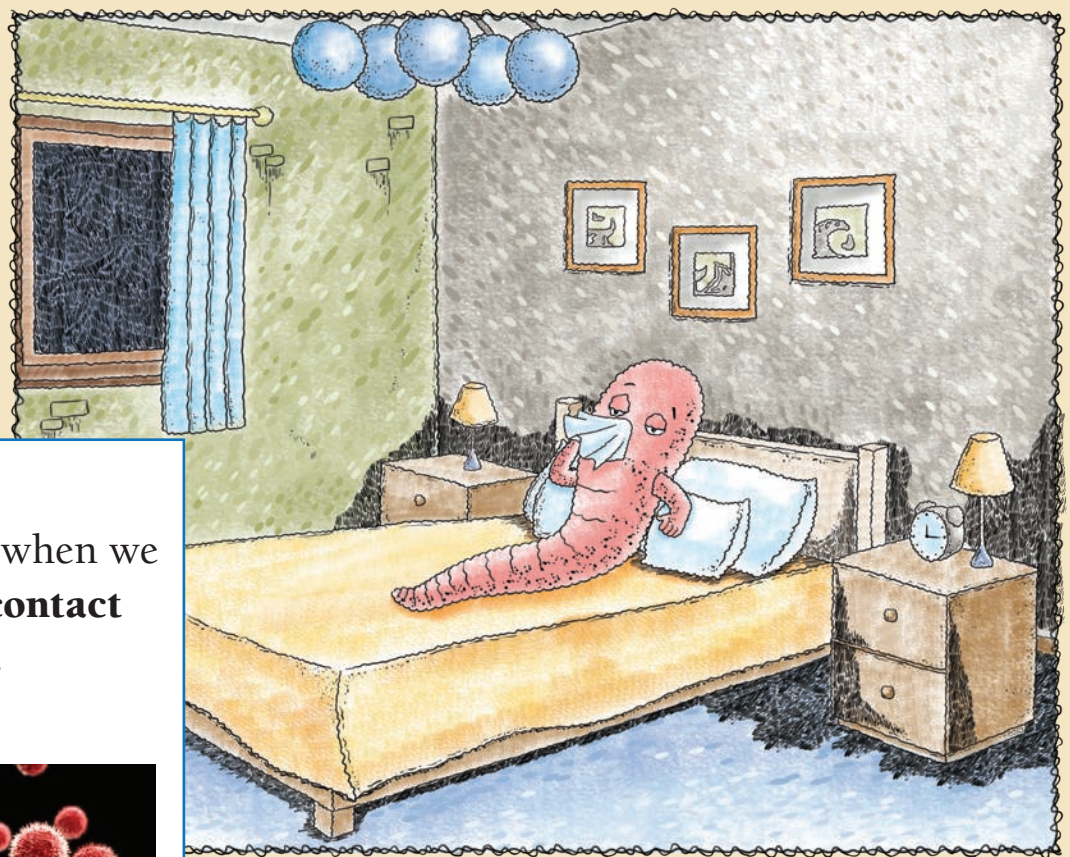
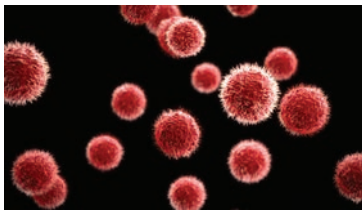
🔊 Animals, More or Less

by Mike Thaler * illustrated by Jared Lee

What did
the sick
worm have?

Hint:

We get sick when we
come into contact
with germs.



a worm germ

come into contact with touch

► Before You Continue

1. **Identify** What kind of playful language does this riddle use?
2. **Apply** Using one or two words from this page in a playful way, make up a riddle of your own. Try it on a partner.

What can too many **hares** in the air cause?



Hint:

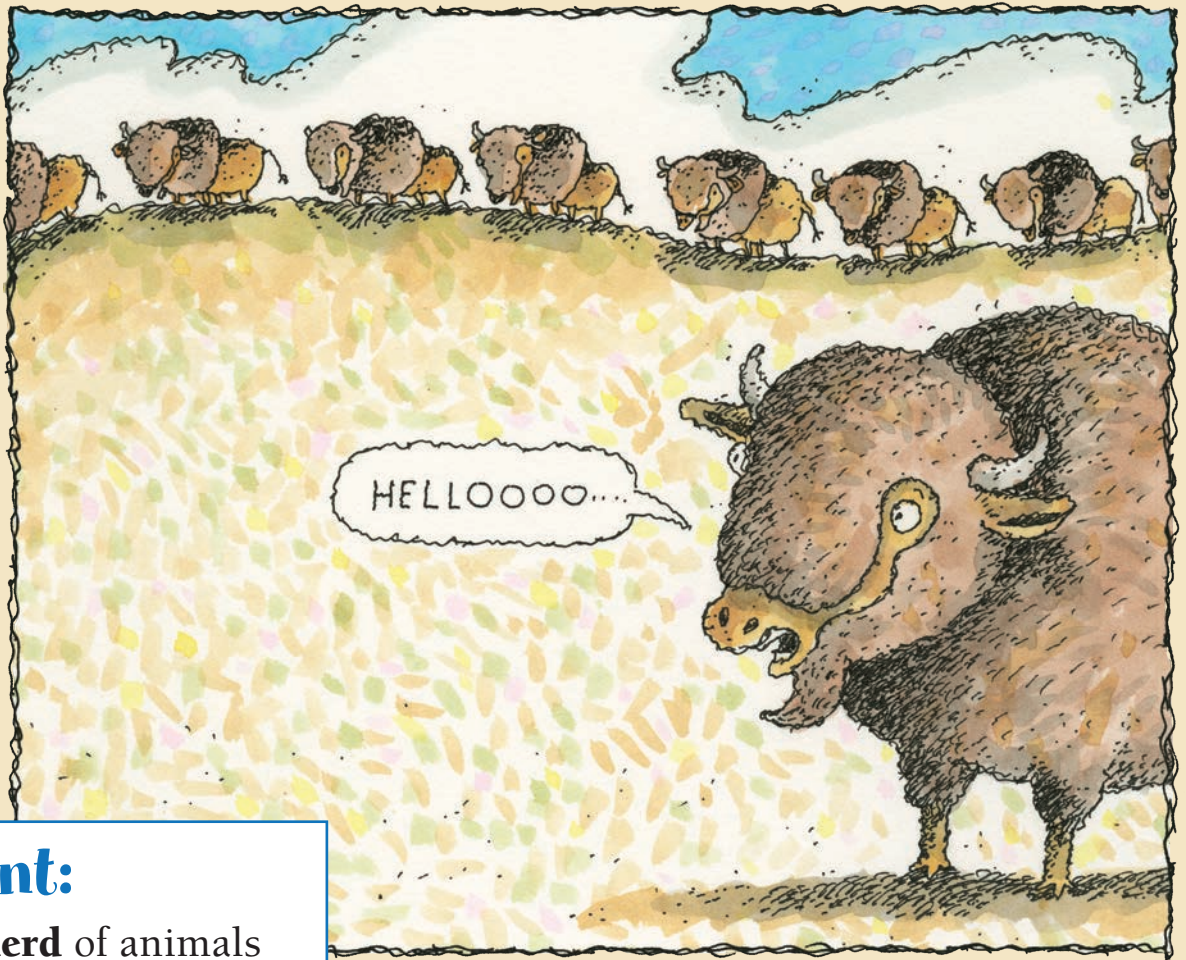
Too many poisons
in the air can cause
air pollution.



hare pollution

hare an animal very similar to
a rabbit

What does one lonely buffalo do when it sees other buffalos?



Hint:

A **herd** of animals is noisy. It can be **heard** as it runs across the plains.



It tries to be herd.

herd group
heard listened to

► Before You Continue

1. **Identify** What kinds of playful language do the riddles on pages 104–105 use?
2. **Apply** Find words on the page that have multiple meanings. Use one or two of them to make up your own riddle.

What happens when too few acorns fall from the trees?



Hint:

Acorns are nuts that squirrels like to eat.



The squirrels go nuts!

go nuts act in a strange or silly way

What happens when there are too many frogs on a baseball team?



Hint:

Frogs eat **flies**. But in baseball, flies are balls hit high into the air.



They catch all the flies. ❖

flies insects; high balls in baseball that when caught count as outs

► Before You Continue

1. **Identify** What kind of playful language do the riddles on pages 106–107 use?
2. **Apply** Find the multiple meaning words in the riddles. Then use them to make up your own riddles. Share them with the class.

Key Words

amount

increase

balance

interact

behavior

react

control

scarce

decrease

supply

Compare Genres

"It's All in the Balance" is a humorous story. "Animals, More or Less" has riddles.

How are a humorous story and a riddle alike?

How are the two genres different? Complete the checklist chart with a partner.

Checklist Chart

Think about each description.

	Humorous Story	Riddle
funny	✓	✓
usually long		
short		
playful language		
paragraphs		
questions and answers		

Write check marks to show whether the words describe a humorous story, a riddle, or both.

Talk Together

What happens when nature loses its **balance**? Think about the story and the riddles. Use **Key Words** to talk about your ideas.

Kinds of Sentences

There are four kinds of sentences.

Grammar Rules Kinds of Sentences

Use a statement to tell something.	The visitor is in the village.
Use an exclamation point to show strong feeling.	The garden looks terrible!
Use a command to tell someone to do something.	Dig out the butterfly bushes. Stop those caterpillars!
Use a question to ask something. Some question words are: <i>Is, Are, Do, Does, Who, What, When, Where</i>. Some answers have contractions.	Is the boy foolish? No, he isn't. What is that? It's a wheelbarrow. Do you like the garden? Yes, I do.

Read Sentences

Read this passage about the story. How many kinds of sentences can you find? Tell a partner about the sentences.

The villagers remove the butterfly bushes from the garden. Now the garden looks terrible! What will the villagers do?

Write Sentences



Write three questions about a garden. Your partner writes answers. Are there contractions in any of the answers?