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A “tongue-twister” is a phrase that is designed to be difficult to articulate properly, usually because of alliteration or a sequence of nearly similar sounds. Aside from being fun wordplay for all ages, tongue twisters can also be quite helpful in developing speech skills, and are often used in speech therapy and as a way to improve pronunciation. So while you are having fun with these, you're also helping your kids improve their enunciation and communication skills. How neat is that?

See if you can master these tongue twisters without getting your tongue tied up in knots. To get the full effect of a tongue twister you should repeat it several times, as quickly as possible, without stumbling or mispronouncing.

First, let's start with some very short – just two or three words each - “repeating” tongue twisters. These are the kind that become more challenging the more you repeat them. So if you don't find these hard to say at first, just try repeating them several times until you do:

Unique New York.

Toy boat.

Peggy Babcock.

Mix, Miss, Mix!

Purple paper people.

Lemon liniment.

Selfish shellfish.

Bug's black blood.

Giggle gaggle gurgle.

Three free throws.

Please pay promptly.

Mixed biscuits.

Irish wristwatch.

Now for some longer tongue-twisters:

He thrusts his fists against the posts and still insists he sees the ghosts.

The jolly collie swallowed a lollipop.

The sick sister's zither ceaseth; therefore she sufficeth us.

Friday's Five Fresh Fish Specials.

Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager imagining managing an imaginary menagerie.

Two buckets of blue bugs blood.

Rubber baby buggy bumpers.

Freshly fried flying fish flesh.

Double bubble gum, bubbles double.

Lot lost his hot chocolate at the loft.

Snoring Norris was marring the aria.

Eleven benevolent elephants.

Girl gargoyle, guy gargoyle.

Six sick slick slim sycamore saplings.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Did Peter Piper pick a peck of pickled peppers?
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

Pick a partner and practice passing, for if you pass proficiently, perhaps you'll play professionally.

A pleasant place to place a plaice is a place where a plaice is pleased to be placed.

Six sharp smart sharks.

Six short slow shepherds.

Six sick slick slim sycamore saplings.

Six slippery snails slid slowly seaward.

Six sticky sucker sticks.

Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread.

Betty Botter bought some butter, but she said "this butter's bitter! But a bit of better butter will but make my butter better" So she bought some better butter, better than the bitter butter, and it made her butter better so 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter!

Many an anemone sees an enemy anemone.

Sly Sam slurps Sally's soup.

I thought a thought. But the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought. If the thought I thought I thought had been the thought I thought, I

wouldn't have thought so much.

Three gray geese in the green grass grazing.

Gray were the geese and green was the grass.

Three twigs twined tightly.

Tim, the thin twin tinsmith.

Once a fellow met a fellow In a field of beans. Said a fellow to a fellow, "If a fellow asks a fellow, Can a fellow tell a fellow What a fellow means?"

A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Lily ladles little Letty's lentil soup.

If Stu chews shoes, should Stu choose the shoes he chews?

What noise annoys an oyster? A noisy noise annoys an oyster.

She sells seashells at the sea-shore. Are the seashells she sells, seashells for sure?

Silly Sally shakes some sugar on her shiny shoes.

The rat ran through the river with a lump of raw liver.

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? A woodchuck would chuck all the wood he could chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood.

Don't dilly dally in Denver or disdain your daily duty.

Vincent vowed vengeance very vehemently.

Betty and Bob brought back blue balloons from the big bazaar.

The seething sea ceaseth and thus the seething sea sufficeth us.



And Finally...

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, here is supposedly the hardest tongue-twister in the English language:

The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick.

Hmmmm... What do you think? Is that the hardest one, or does one of the others seem harder to you?

Can you make up your own tongue-twister? Give it a try and then try your creation out with your family!

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