

USBORNE VERY FIRST READING: BOOK 1



# Pirate Pat



Mairi Mackinnon

Illustrated by Mike and Carl Gordon

**Usborne Very First Reading** has been developed in consultation with literacy specialists Alison Kelly and Anne Washtell of Roehampton University, London.

Each book contains:

- a **story** that children will love to read
- fun **puzzles** to reinforce new skills
- **guidance notes** on reading with your child.

Further help and support for parents and teachers can be found on the Very First Reading website,  
[www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)

# Pirate Pat



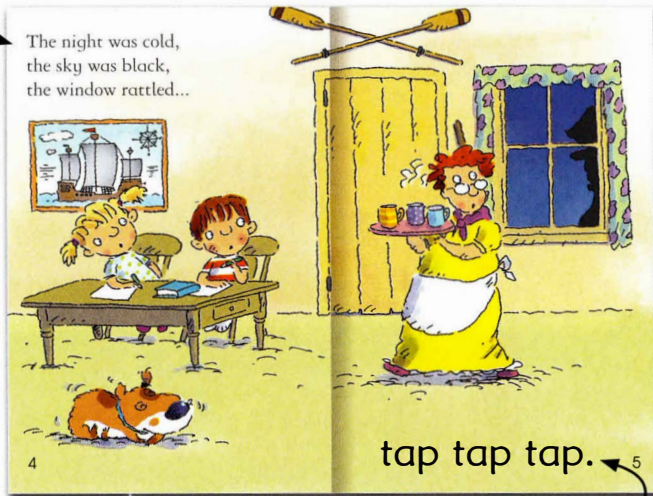
Written by Mairi Mackinnon

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# How this book works

The story of **Pirate Pat** has been written for you to read with your child. You take turns to read:

**You read these words.**



**Your child reads these words.**

You don't have to finish the story in one session. If your child is getting tired, put a marker in the page and come back to it later.

You can find out more about helping your child with this book, and with reading in general, on pages 30-31.

# Pirate Pat



Turn the page to start the story.

The night was cold,  
the sky was black,  
the window rattled...



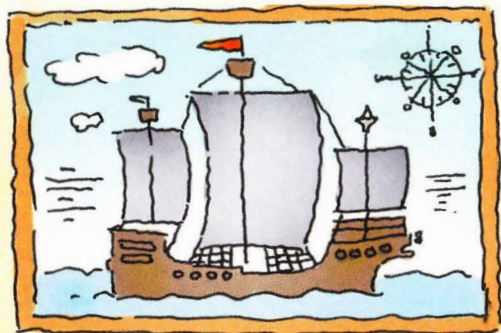
tap tap tap.

“There’s someone there,  
I’m sure of it!  
Sam, do stop barking.”



Sit Sam sit.

Well, we were scared,  
but not our Gran.  
She went to look:



it is a man.

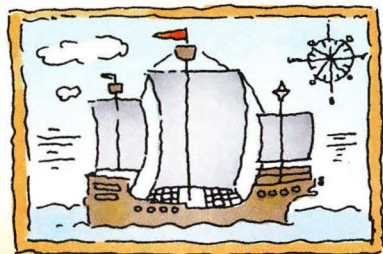
A tattered coat,  
a huge black hat...  
Look – it's a pirate!



I am Pat.



Pat hunted in  
his heavy pack.  
What has he found?



It is a map.

“But that’s my home!”  
says Gran. “Look, lad,  
you can’t just dig here.”



Pat is sad.

He starts to frown.  
Ooh, this looks bad!  
Gran says, "I mean it!"



Pat is mad.

But does he listen?  
Not a bit!  
Now look at him –



Pat in a pit.

A bang, a clang,  
what has he hit?  
A treasure chest!  
Pat shouts,



I did it!



Well done  
Pirate Pat!

Pat!

Pat!



Pat!



# Puzzle 1

Look at the pictures together and try retelling the story.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

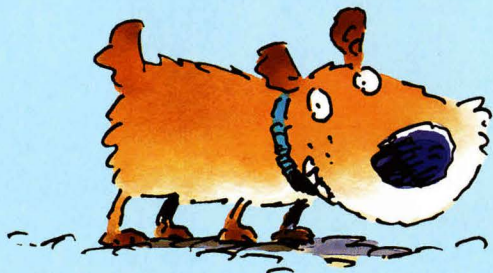


Why don't you talk about what they might all do next?

## Puzzle 2

Choose the right word for each picture.

1.



Sam

sad

2.



man

map

3.



pan

Pat

4.



pit

sit



### Puzzle 3

Find the words that rhyme. The first pair has already been linked as an example.

man	tap
pit	pan
map	mad
sad	sit

## Answers to puzzles

### Puzzle 1

Use this puzzle to check that your child has understood the story, and have fun discussing what might happen next.

If your child isn't sure what to say, try asking leading questions such as, "Who's this? What are they doing now?" (Of course, there is more than one possible answer.)

### Puzzle 2

1. Sam
2. map
3. Pat
4. pit

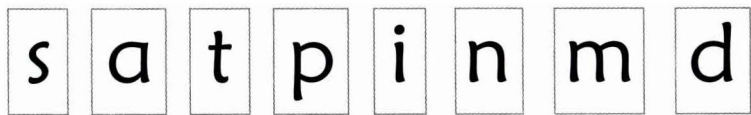
### Puzzle 3

man ~~~~~> pan  
pit ~~~~~> sit  
map ~~~~~> tap  
sad ~~~~~> mad

# Guidance notes

Usborne Very First Reading is a series of books, specially developed for children who are learning to read. In the early books in the series, you and your child take turns to read, and your child steadily builds the knowledge and confidence to read alone.

The words for your child to read in **Pirate Pat** use only these eight letters:



These are often the first letters that children learn to read at school. With just eight letters, your child can already start reading simple words and sentences. Later books in the series gradually introduce more letters, sounds and spelling patterns, while reinforcing the ones your child already knows.

You'll find lots more information about the structure of the series, advice on helping your child with reading, extra practice activities and games on the Very First Reading website,\* [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)

\*US readers go to [www.veryfirstreading.com](http://www.veryfirstreading.com)



## Some questions and answers

- **Why do I need to read with my child?**  
Sharing stories and taking turns makes reading an enjoyable and fun activity for children. It also helps them to develop confidence and reading stamina, and to take part in an exciting story using very few words.
- **When is a good time to read?**  
Choose a time when you are both relaxed, but not too tired, and there are no distractions. Only read for as long as your child wants to – you can always try again another day.
- **What if my child gets stuck?**  
Don't simply read the problem word yourself, but prompt your child and try to find the right answer together. Similarly, if your child makes a mistake, go back and look at the word together. Don't forget to give plenty of praise and encouragement.
- **We've finished, now what do we do?**  
It's a good idea to read the story several times to give your child more practice and confidence. Then you can try reading **Double Trouble** at the same level or, when your child is ready, go on to Book 2 in the series.

Edited by Jenny Tyler and Lesley Sims  
Designed by Russell Punter



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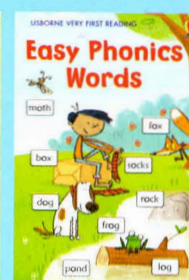
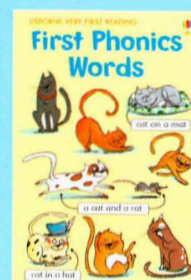
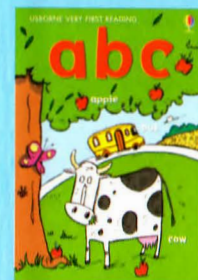
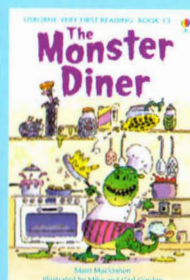
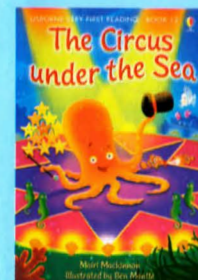
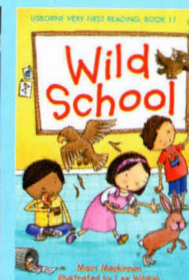
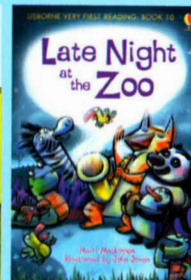
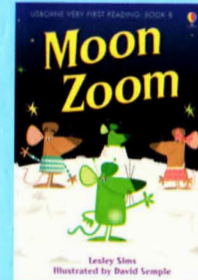
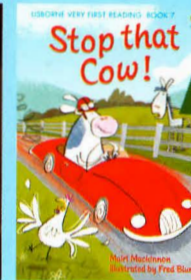
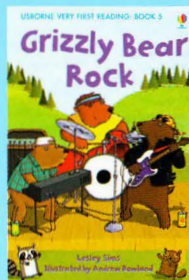
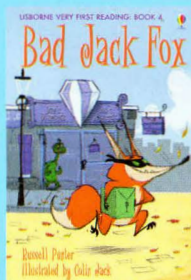
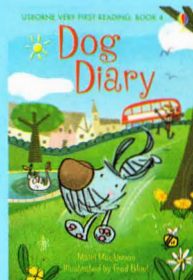
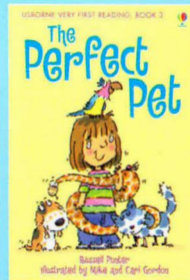
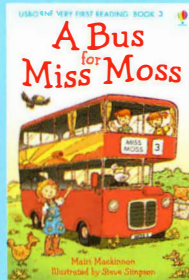
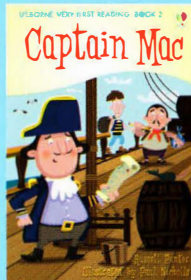
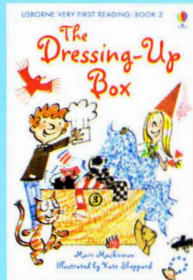
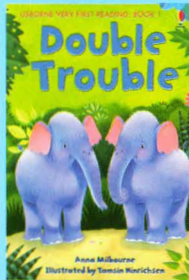
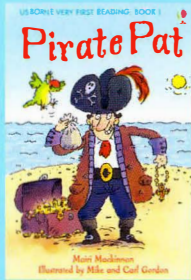
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# USBORNE VERY FIRST READING

There are over thirty titles in the Usborne Very First Reading series, which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Here are some of them.

To find out more about the structure of the series, go to [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)



# Pirate Pat

**Pirate Pat** is part of the **Usborne Very First Reading** series which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Each book in the series introduces new letters or reading patterns, and reinforces material from previous books.

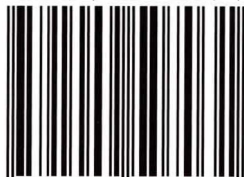
Designed for an adult and child to read together, the series combines lively rhyming stories with inspiring illustrations in order to build the skills and confidence that will encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading.



Find out about all the titles available at [www.usborne.com](http://www.usborne.com)

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