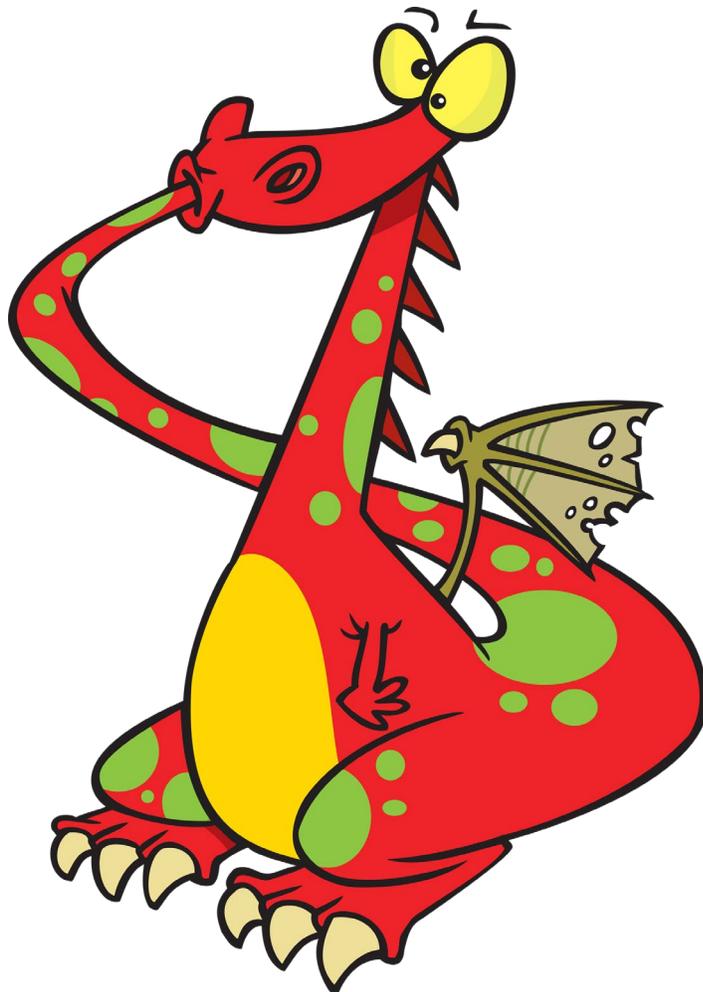


When a Dragon Moves In Fluency Drill



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When a Dragon Moves In

If you build a perfect sandcastle, a dragon will move in. He'll settle in all cozy, and peep at you from inside . . . and you'll wonder how you ever got so lucky.

With a dragon in your castle, you'll have a built-in marshmallow toaster, your very own raft, and a kite that practically flies by itself.

Best of all, no beach bully would dare stomp your castle with a dragon inside.

Of course, there are rules on the beach, so you'll have to hide his smoke from the lifeguard . . . and erase the dragon prints from the sand.

Eventually, you'll want to share the great news with your family. "There's a dragon in my castle," you'll call to your mom.

“Mmmm . . . hmmm,” she’ll answer.	125
“Listen to him roar!” you’ll say.	131
“I hear the roar of the ocean,” she’ll reply.	140
“See this feather from my dragon’s wing?”	147
you’ll ask your dad.	151
“That’s a nice seagull feather,” he’ll say,	158
“and you know what feathers are good for . . .”	166
“Feel my dragon’s sharp teeth!” you’ll	173
shout.	180
“Those are just broken shells,” your big	190
sister will say.” But you and your dragon will	191
know better.	198
Just about then, your dragon will demand	209
to be fed. First, he’ll eat all of the peanut	219
butter sandwiches . . . even the ones that were	226
supposed to be for your sister.	232
Then his fiery snout will make the	239
lemonade sizzle. “Stop blowing bubbles in your	246

drink," your mom will say.	251
"That wasn't me," you'll answer. "That was the dragon."	258 260
Finally, since dragons love dessert, he'll slink into the family cooler and nibble the brownies when no one is looking.	266 274 280
"Whose fingerprints are in the brownies?" your dad will ask.	286 290
"Not fingerprints," you'll try to explain. "Dragon prints."	296 298
"There's no such thing as a dragon," your sister will say. Then your dragon will snicker again, heh-heh-heh . . . and spray sand all over her.	306 314 323 324
"Young man, I don't think this is funny," your mom will say.	332 336
"That wasn't me," you'll answer. "It was the dragon."	344 345

“I think we’ve had enough of this dragon business,” your dad will say.	353 358
“I guess I’ve had enough of this dragon business, too,” you’ll sigh.	366 370
Then you’ll march over to your sandcastle and order your dragon to leave until he learns some manners. And you will vow never to build a perfect sandcastle again. At least until tomorrow.	377 386 396 402 403

Directions:

Set a timer for one minute and read as much of the story as you can, including the title. Stop when the timer goes off and make a mark where you ended. Count and record the number of words you read. Reset the timer and go back to the beginning and read it again, marking the spot where you ended this time. Count and record the total again. Repeat this timed fluency activity four times and you'll be surprised at how much your fluency increases!

Number of words read correctly:

1	2	3	4

