

Harry the Dirty Dog

Fluency Drill



Story by Gene Zion

Drill developed by Cherry Carl

Illustrations by Ron Leishman

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Ron-Leishman-Digital-Toonage>

Harry the Dirty Dog

Harry was a white dog with black spots	8
who liked everything, except getting a bath.	15
So, one day, when he heard the water	23
running in the tub, he took the scrubbing brush	32
... and buried it in the backyard.	38
Then he ran away from home.	44
He played where they were fixing the	51
street and got very dirty.	56
He played at the railroad and got even	64
dirtier.	65
He played tag with other dogs and	72
became dirtier still.	75
He slid down a coal chute and got the	84
dirtiest of all. In fact, he changed from a white	94
dog with black spots to a black dog with white	104
spots.	105

Although there were many other things	111
to do, Harry began to wonder if his family	120
thought that he had really run away.	127
He felt tired and hungry too, so without	135
stopping on the way, he ran back home.	143
When Harry got to his house, he crawled	151
through the fence and sat looking at the back	160
door.	161
One of the family looked out and said,	168
"There's a strange dog in the backyard . . . By	176
the way, has anyone seen Harry?"	182
When Harry heard this, he tried very	189
hard to show them he was Harry.	196
He started to do all his old, clever tricks.	205
He flip-flopped and he flop-flipped. He rolled	214
over and played dead. He danced and he sang.	223
He did these tricks over and over again,	231
but everyone shook their heads, and said, "Oh,	239

no, it couldn't be Harry."	244
Harry gave up and walked slowly toward	251
the gate, but suddenly he stopped.	257
He ran to a corner of the garden and	266
started to dig furiously. Soon he jumped away	274
from the hole, barking short, happy barks.	281
He'd found the scrubbing brush! And	287
carrying it in his mouth, he ran into the house.	297
Up the stairs he dashed, with the family	305
following close behind.	308
He jumped into the bathtub and sat up	316
begging, with the scrubbing brush in his mouth,	324
a trick he certainly had never done before.	332
"This little doggy wants a bath!" cried the	340
little girl, and her father said, "Why don't you	349
and your brother give him one?"	355
Harry's bath was the soapiest one he'd	362
ever had. It worked like magic. As soon as the	372

children started to scrub, they began shouting,	379
“Mummy! Daddy! Look, look! Come quick! It’s	385
Harry! It’s Harry! It’s Harry!” they cried.	393
Harry wagged his tail and was very, very	401
happy.	402
His family combed and brushed him	408
lovingly, and he became once again a white dog	417
with black spots.	420
It was wonderful to be home.	426
After dinner, Harry fell asleep in his	433
favorite place, happily dreaming of how much	440
fun it had been getting dirty.	446
He slept so soundly, he didn’t even feel	454
the scrubbing brush he’d hidden under his	461
pillow.	462

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