

*ReadingHorizons*  
**ELEVATE**®

# Student Packet

Murmur Diphthongs *ER, UR, and IR*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Welcome to the *Reading Horizons Elevate*® Weekly Student Packet!

Each packet contains the following items:

- Practice pages for each skill lesson from the *Reading Horizons Elevate*® Student Book
- Transfer Cards
- Passages with comprehension questions from the *Reading Horizons Elevate*® Reading Library

Some packets will also include practice pages for Most Common Words lessons.

### **Student Book Practice Pages**

Each practice page begins with a brief review of the associated skill or list of Most Common Words. Students may need the support of a fluent reader to read the skill review and the instructions for each activity.

Most Common Words are words that appear so frequently in writing that students need to know them by sight. Until these words become a regular part of the student's vocabulary, the student may require more support from a fluent reader while completing these practice pages.

### **Transfer Cards**

Transfer Cards were designed to be fully decodable, meaning that the student should have learned all the necessary skills to read these independently. These cards provide valuable practice using the skills taught in the program.

### **Reading Library Passages and Comprehension Questions**

Reading Library passages are designed to give students practice reading a variety of nonfiction texts. Each packet will include at least two passages of varying difficulty. Students will benefit from additional support from a fluent reader while working through these passages.

Happy Reading!

The Reading Horizons Team

For more information, contact your instructor at \_\_\_\_\_.

Murmur Diphthongs *ER*, *UR*, and *IR*

## Skills Review

- The Murmur Diphthongs *er*, *ur*, and *ir* all have the same sound. They say /er/ as in *her*, *turn*, and *sir*.
- There is no easy way to decide which /er/ spelling to use. Practice remembering the correct /er/ spelling when writing the word.
- To add the suffixes *-ing*, *-ed*, *-er*, and *-est* to *er*, *ur*, and *ir* Murmur Diphthong words, use the rules already taught.
  - 1) If the word ends in a Murmur Diphthong, there is only one consonant at the end of the word, so another *r* must be added before adding the suffix (*stir/stirring*; *blur/blurred*).
  - 2) If there is a consonant following the Murmur Diphthong, there are two consonants at the end of the word, so just add the suffix (*turn/turning*; *herd/herder*).

## DECODING

To mark the *er*, *ur*, and *ir* Murmur Diphthongs:

Mark an *x* under the vowel and arc the *er*, *ur*, and *ir* together. If there is a consonant after the Murmur Diphthong, do not mark it as a guardian consonant.

her      turn      sir

x      x      x

When proving Murmur Diphthong words with suffixes, remember to prove the base word first. Then rewrite the word with the suffix and underline the suffix.

blur      blurred      turn      turning

x      x      x      x

A. Prove these *er*, *ur*, and *ir* Murmur Diphthong words. Remember to mark Blends.

germ      hurt      firm      verb      curb

clerk      shirt      first      stir      surf

B. Prove these multisyllabic words that contain *er*, *ur*, and *ir* Murmur Diphthongs.

fever      hurry      circus      return      direct      winter

C. Rewrite the words with the suffix.

1. turn (ed) turned
2. herd (er) \_\_\_\_\_
3. blur (ed) \_\_\_\_\_
4. surf (ing) \_\_\_\_\_
5. stir (ing) \_\_\_\_\_
6. firm (est) \_\_\_\_\_

## Murmur Diphthongs *ER*, *UR*, and *IR*

### READING

Read the story.  
Notice the *or*, *ur*,  
and *ir* Murmur  
Diphthong words.

Last week, my sister made candy for the first time. As she began to stir the pan of hot water, it spilled onto her hand. The burn hurt a lot! I had to be her nurse and give her first aid. I didn't want any dirt to get in the burn. She was a brave girl.

### APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

A. Answer the questions about the story. **Circle** the best answer. Write the correct answer on the line.

- In the story, the author's \_\_\_\_\_ made candy for the first time.
  - brother
  - sister
  - father
  - mother
- What spilled onto her hand? \_\_\_\_\_
  - dirt
  - a pan
  - first aid
  - hot water
- How much did the burn hurt? \_\_\_\_\_
  - very little
  - a lot
  - it didn't hurt
  - a long time
- The author had to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and give her first aid.
  - nurse
  - friend
  - doctor
  - mother
- The author didn't want to get any \_\_\_\_\_ in her burn.
  - dirt
  - syrup
  - candy
  - first aid

B. **Circle** the two words that rhyme with the first word.

- skirt:** start    **shirt**    **flirt**
- burn:** turn    stun    concern
- germ:** affirm    perm    reform
- fur:** fear    stir    her
- bird:** purred    bride    stirred

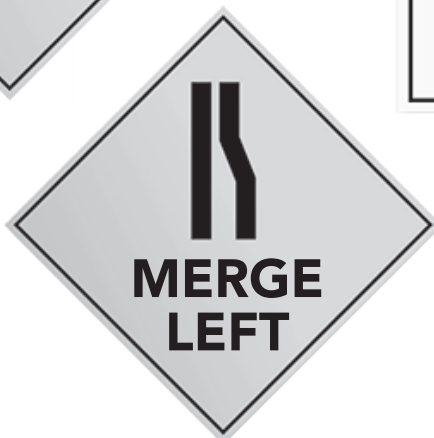
Murmur Diphthongs *ER, UR, and IR*

C. Read each sentence about a different kind of worker. Complete the sentence with a word from the box. Each word is used only once.

concert	dirt	hammer
meter	freezer	butter

1. A cab driver uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to determine the price of a ride.
2. A carpenter uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to drive a nail.
3. A baker uses \_\_\_\_\_ to make baked goods.
4. A restaurant uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to keep food frozen.
5. A singer performs in a \_\_\_\_\_ for fans.
6. A gardener uses \_\_\_\_\_ to plant seeds.

D. Read these signs. Circle the words that contain a Murmur Diphthong that has the sound /er/. There are three. Draw a box around one word that has an *ar* Murmur Diphthong.



## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

hurt verb skirt stir  
turn clerk her first  
enter pursue gander circus  
+hurl +clutter +twirl +return

The dancer can twirl her skirt.  
Return to your seat after your turn is over.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

turn curb germ shirt  
stir fir canter over  
hurdle circus turtle burger  
+burn +exert +herd +burst

Stir the hot milk so that it will not burn.  
The runner jumped over the hurdle.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

surf squirt chirp her  
flurry bird herd burst  
girl center burger fern  
+enter +spurn +spur +circle

The girl will surf on the waves.  
The herd burst into the circle.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

dirt girl hurt shirt  
curl sender burn fern  
return spider letter squirt  
+govern +firm +hurdle +stir

I got a burn while stirring dinner. It hurts.  
Return the letter to the sender.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

germ      turn      curl      exert  
jersey    first      fur      her  
better    paper    burn    spider  
+pursue    +surf    +circle    +herd

Curtis came in first in the surfing contest.  
The spider pursued its dinner.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

curb      shirt      third      cover  
silver    turn      bird      sir  
yogurt    purple    enter    dirty  
+swirl    +herd    +stir    +lurk

Arthur had a silver and purple bird on the  
cover of his third book.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

burn      surprise    fern      sir  
bird      hurt      herb      over  
winter    surplus    turkey    number  
+turn    +chirp    +return    +firm

We roasted the turkey with fresh herbs.  
We turned the bird so it wouldn't burn.

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## Lesson 71: Murmur Diphthongs ER, UR, and IR

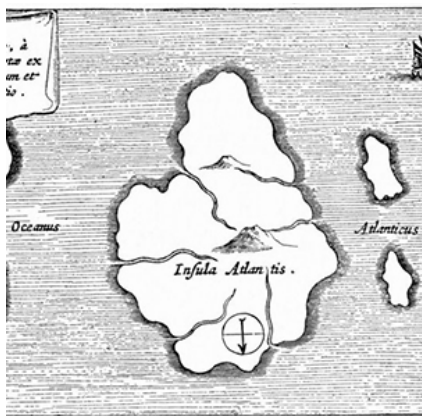
fur      chirp      burst      lurk  
firm    center    yurt      girl  
confirm    dirt    spider    urgent  
+blur    +govern    +squirt    +refer

The yurt stands firm in the wind.  
A spider lurks in the center of the web.

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# Atlantis

It is not uncommon for people to lose things. Some people may lose keys. Some people may lose books.

Have you heard the tale of Atlantis? It is a myth about an island that was lost to the sea.

According to Greek myths, Atlas was a king. He ruled over an island called Atlantis. In fact, the name *Atlantis* comes from the name *Atlas*. The Atlantic Ocean was named for Atlas, too. The Greeks told many stories about Atlas and the island of Atlantis.



Plato was the first person to write about Atlantis. Plato was a famous Greek writer and teacher. He lived in the 4th century BC. Plato wrote that the people of Atlantis had lived hundreds of years before him. They were rich with gold and silver. They were great sailors, too. They had clean water and good food. Atlantis was a **paradise**, meaning a perfect place to live. However, the people of Atlantis became greedy. They wanted even more than what they had. The gods did not like this, so they punished the people of Atlantis. The gods caused a great earthquake. Water covered the island. Then Atlantis sank to the bottom of the ocean. It was lost forever.

*myths, oceans, culture*

Lexile®: 510L  
Word Count: 273

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Today, many people believe in the myth of Atlantis. They think that it still lies at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. People have searched for it. No one has found it. This is because it exists only in stories. It was never a real place.

Still, Plato's tale is used in stories today. Books have been written about Atlantis. Movies and TV shows describe the discovery of this lost island.

# Atlantis

## Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
  - a. a lost island.
  - b. a golden key.
  - c. a Greek book.
  - d. an angry king.
  
2. *Atlantis* is named for
  - a. a fish.
  - b. a king.
  - c. a food.
  - d. a writer.
  
3. Plato was a famous Greek
  - a. sailor.
  - b. fighter.
  - c. farmer.
  - d. teacher.
  
4. Atlantis was lost because
  - a. the king did not keep his promise.
  - b. the people did not plant good food.
  - c. the gods were angry with the people.
  - d. the sailors stole some gold and silver.
  
5. A *paradise* (paragraph 4) refers to a
  - a. long river.
  - b. bad storm.
  - c. strong leader.
  - d. wonderful place.

# Burj Khalifa

The Burj Khalifa, or Dubai Tower, is an extraordinarily tall skyscraper in the heart of the downtown district of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Construction on the tower began in 2004, and the building opened to the public in 2010. The Burj Khalifa was built for a wide variety of purposes, but the most famous objective was to construct the tallest manmade structure on Earth.

The Burj Khalifa was built as part of an enormous project undertaken in the downtown area of Dubai. During this project, the downtown area was improved and renovated; however, the crowning achievement of the massive renovation was always meant to be the completion of this magnificent tower at the very heart of the downtown. In fact, the Burj Khalifa may very well be the most expensive building ever built, costing over \$4 billion from start to finish. Renting office space in the Burj Khalifa is also incredibly expensive, with the cost reaching as high as \$4,000 per square foot per month.

In February 2007, the building, which was still under construction, set a record for having the most floors of any building on Earth. The previous record had been held by the Sears Tower (now called the *Willis Tower*) in the USA, which has 110 floors. The completed Burj Khalifa has 160 floors.

In July 2007, during a later period of the construction process, the Burj Khalifa set a record as the tallest building in the world, passing Taipei 101, a skyscraper in Taiwan, which is 1,670 feet (about 509 meters) tall. Structures in the category of tallest building (or skyscraper) must contain continuously occupiable floors. This is a major difference between skyscrapers and towers. Many tall towers have limited occupiable space, such as a few floors near the base and then a few more floors near the top. Skyscrapers are filled with occupiable space from the base to the top.

Records continued to be broken as the Burj Khalifa progressed toward completion. Before the Burj Khalifa passed it, the world's tallest freestanding structure was the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada, which stands 1,815 feet (about 553 meters) tall. Unlike many tall TV antennae, a freestanding structure does not have support wires. The next record to be broken was that of the world's single tallest structure. The Burj Khalifa became the world's single tallest structure, passing a TV antenna used by KVLV-TV in the USA, which measured 2,063 feet (about 629 meters) tall. Not only did the Burj Khalifa break all of these records, it far exceeded them. The Burj Khalifa, at its highest point, is 2,722 feet (about 830 meters) tall.

Many believe that developers originally proposed a tower that was much shorter than the Burj Khalifa. Some people suspect that the building started out as a copy of the Grollo Tower, a building in Melbourne, Australia that is only 1,837 feet (about 560 meters) tall. However, the plan that was ultimately accepted is an original design by an international team of architects. One of the architects from that team has stated that the Burj Khalifa was originally supposed to be only 2,651 feet (about 808 meters) tall, but it is clear that this plan was changed as construction progressed to add additional height.

*Continued on the next page.*



*landmarks, Asia, technology*

*Lexile®: 1220L  
Word Count: 960*

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Burj Khalifa (continued)

According to several sources, one of them being an architect from the firm that designed the building, the Burj Khalifa was originally intended to be used entirely as luxury homes. While many of the elegant suites and spaces in the tower are indeed being used as very high-class homes for the world's wealthy people, there are now also spaces for corporations to use. One of these corporations is owned by Giorgio Armani, the successful fashion designer. Armani is using the lower 37 floors of the Burj Khalifa as a luxury hotel.

The many other floors of the Burj Khalifa serve a variety of other functions. Floors 45 through 108 host 700 private apartments. The developer of the Burj Khalifa reported that within eight hours of listing these apartments for sale, they were all sold out. There is a lobby on the 123rd floor and an expansive observation deck on the 124th. The remaining floors serve as corporate offices. At the top of the tower, the spire, which holds communication equipment, measures 656 feet (about 200 meters) in height.

Because of the extreme heat and sun of the Dubai desert, where the Burj is located, the tower has a particular design. The outside of the building is covered with special glass and with panels made of aluminum and stainless steel. These materials were created specifically to withstand the extreme natural forces of the desert. The strong winds in Dubai, combined with flying sand and high temperatures, can wear down the **facade**, or exterior, of a normal building in a few short years; however, the Burj Khalifa is expected to be able to tolerate these extremes for many years.

Some final interesting facts about the Burj Khalifa include the surprising temperature change from its base to its top. Experts say that the top of the building is as many as 6 degrees Celsius (11 degrees Fahrenheit) cooler than the bottom of the building. Furthermore, the elevators in the tower break records as the world's fastest. For some time, Taipei 101's elevators were the fastest, rising and descending at a rate of 55 feet (about 17 meters) per second. The Burj Khalifa's elevators move at 59 feet (about 18 meters) per second. Finally, the fountain at the base of the tower is 902 feet (about 275 meters) long, shoots water 492 feet (about 150 meters) high, and has over 6,600 lights to illuminate it.

The Burj Khalifa stands as a symbol of humankind's ability to push the boundaries of imagination and innovation.

# Burj Khalifa

## Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

- This passage is mostly about
  - historical buildings around Dubai.
  - the construction of a tower in Dubai.
  - extreme weather conditions near Dubai.
  - a team of talented architects from Dubai.
- An appropriate alternative title for this passage is
  - The Inexpensive Cost of Luxury.
  - Remarkable Towers Across Asia.
  - The Tallest Building in the World.
  - New Technologies in the Middle East.
- The number of floors in the Willis Tower is
  - 101.
  - 110.
  - 160.
  - 207.
- The CN Tower is located in
  - Taiwan.
  - Canada.
  - the USA.
  - the UAE.
- Giorgio Armani uses 37 floors of the Burj Khalifa for a
  - TV station.
  - fancy hotel.
  - design studio.
  - shopping mall.
- The passage suggests that many buildings in Dubai
  - are extremely tall and famous skyscrapers.
  - also serve customers who are very wealthy.
  - have been weakened by the extreme climate.
  - have been designed by international architects.
- We can infer that apartments in the tower sold out within hours because
  - the tower's apartments were very popular.
  - there were only a few apartments in the tower.
  - the price of the apartments was extremely low.
  - there are very few apartment buildings in Dubai.
- The author mentions the Willis Tower (paragraph 3) when describing the
  - floor record of the Burj Khalifa.
  - unique shape of the Burj Khalifa.
  - materials used to construct the Burj Khalifa.
  - team of architects who designed the Burj Khalifa.
- The author concludes the passage by
  - describing a recent visit to the center of Dubai.
  - emphasizing the skill required to build the tower.
  - comparing the tower to other buildings in Dubai.
  - predicting when the next tallest tower will be built.
- A *facade* (paragraph 9) is
  - the tallest point of a tower.
  - a decorative water fountain.
  - the outside wall of a building.
  - a material used to reflect sunlight.

## Most Common Words List 16

## Skills Review

- Most Common Words are words that are used often when reading and sometimes do not follow phonetic skills.

## Most Common Words List 16

saw      left      don't      few      while      along      might      close  
 something      seemed      next      hard      open      example      beginning

A. Unscramble the letters to form a Most Common Word.

Example: seloc close

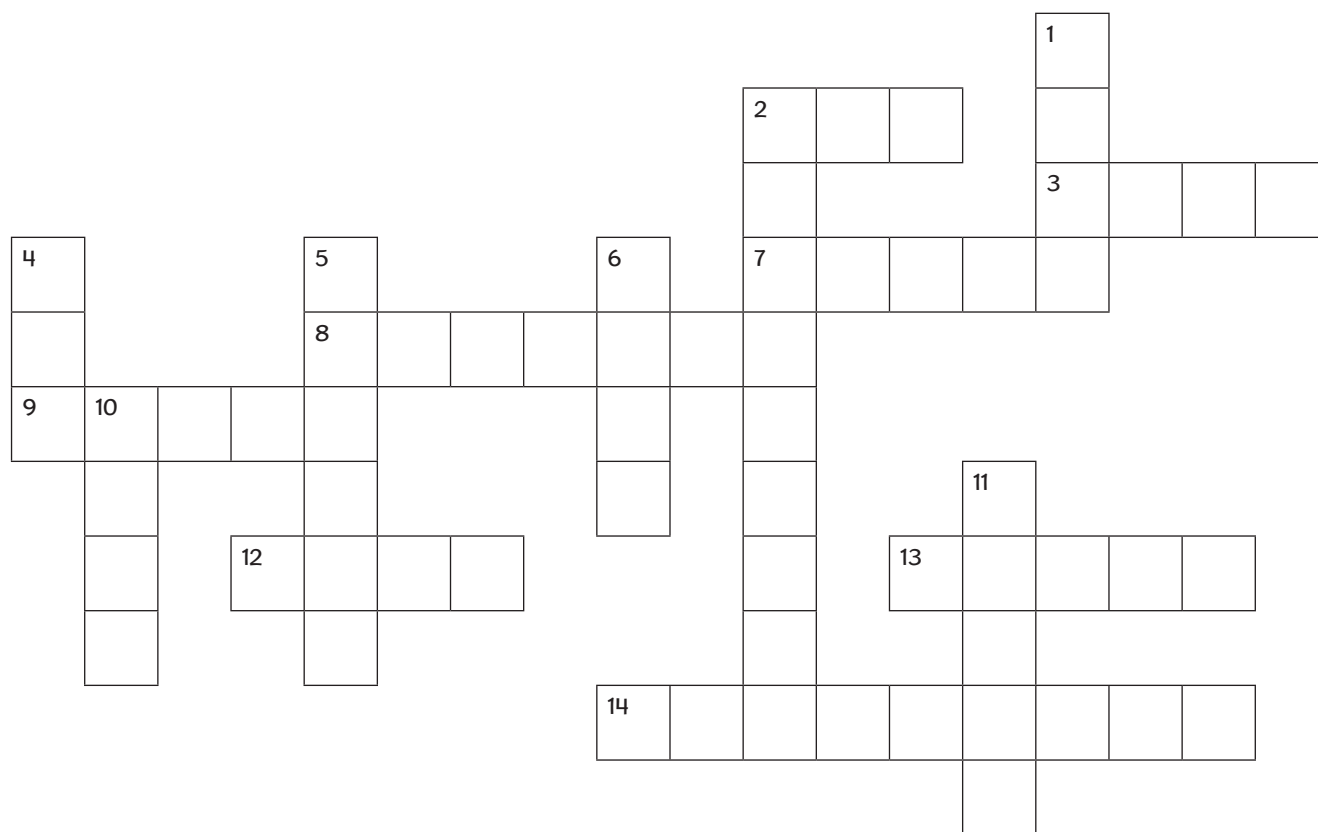
- |                    |                 |                     |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. flet _____      | 6. esmede _____ | 11. tond _____      |
| 2. neop _____      | 7. seclo _____  | 12. plemexa _____   |
| 3. mosthgnie _____ | 8. drah _____   | 13. wilhe _____     |
| 4. glona _____     | 9. aws _____    | 14. texn _____      |
| 5. wef _____       | 10. gimth _____ | 15. ginibengn _____ |

B. Read the story. Circle the Most Common Words from List 16. Words can be used more than once.

I'm beginning to think my friends and family are acting strangely. For example, I saw my brother a few days ago, and he seemed to be hiding something, but I might have been imagining that. I continue to feel odd as I walk along the street, turn left into my apartment building, and open my door, when I hear, "SURPRISE!" I don't know how they hid the party from me! It must have been hard since we're so close. They threw me the best surprise party of my life! I decided right then that my brother will be the next to get a surprise party, even though his birthday is a while away.

## Most Common Words List 16

C. Complete the crossword puzzle using the Most Common Words from List 16. Use the sentences from the story as clues.



### Across

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ my brother a few days ago.
3. My brother will be the \_\_\_\_\_ to get a surprise party.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ have been imagining that my brother was hiding something.
8. For \_\_\_\_\_, when I saw my brother, he seemed to be keeping something from me.
9. My brother's birthday is a \_\_\_\_\_ away.
12. I turn \_\_\_\_\_ into my apartment building.
13. I'm not sure how they hid the party from me since we're so \_\_\_\_\_.
14. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to think my friends and family are acting strangely.

### Down

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ know how they hid the party from me.
2. I thought my brother might be hiding \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I saw my brother a \_\_\_\_\_ days ago.
5. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ to be hiding something from me.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ my door and I hear, "SURPRISE!"
10. It must have been \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone to keep the party a secret from me.
11. I feel odd as I walk \_\_\_\_\_ the street.

