

An Unofficial Minecraft Series

Dr. Can Do

Hands Off My Joke!





Dr. Can Do had a problem. A big, very bad problem. He had the best joke of all time, and nobody knew it yet. He had been **planning** it for many, many days. He had been **sitting** on this secret for so long. 'I will tell my joke at Christmas dinner,' he said, **grinning** up at the blazing sun, 'and they will all snort so hard their paper crowns fall off.' He **stepped** out on the sandy path and went over the first bit, the pause, and the punchline. He **nodded** to himself. This was going to be the best dinner of his life.

Dr. Can Do could not wait. At the beach, he got his first chance. Jill was at the edge of the water, kicking off her boots. Minx was already in the waves, her little white head **bobbing**. 'Jill! Why did the sea wave?' Jill did not even turn around. 'Because it could not say hello with its hands!' 'How...' Dr. Can Do sputtered. That was HIS joke! Jill had **grabbed** his punchline right out of his mouth!





In the middle of town, a big tree **glittered** with lights. Piles of gifts were stacked all around it. Dr. Can Do **spotted** his chance. The Mage was standing next to Jill, looking very pleased with himself. 'What has a bark but no bite?' Dr. Can Do said, **grinning**. The Mage did not even look up from his book. 'A tree.' 'That was MY joke!' Dr. Can Do yelled. Jill giggled. The Mage just **shrugged**.

Then the Mage **spotted** a blue gift **sitting** right at his feet. He bent down and **tapped** it, **grinning**. 'See?' he said, **strutting** around a little. 'Good acts always pay off.' 'You stole my joke five minutes ago!' said Dr. Can Do. The Mage just waved a hand. 'Yes, but I did it with style.' He cracked up so loud that it rang all the way across town. Dr. Can Do crossed his arms. Fine. He still had one joke left. His best one. His big secret. He had been saving it for Christmas dinner, and nobody was going to steal that one. Not this time.





Christmas dinner. Paper crowns on, candles lit. Dr. Can Do pulled a cracker and unfolded the little joke slip. He paused and looked all around the table. 'Why couldn't the skeleton go to the party?' He opened his mouth to say his best punchline. 'Because he had no body to go with!' Jill shouted, and all of them cracked up. The Mage snorted so hard his crown **flipped** right off. Even Minx barked. Dr. Can Do stared at the slip in his hands. She had **snapped** up his punchline. Again.

Jill lay in bed, **wrapped** up in her blankets, with a full belly and a big smile. She kept thinking of the cracker jokes and the way her dad looked when she got to the punchline first. She whispered into the dark, 'Doc? Knock knock,' and drifted off before he could call back. In the next room, Dr. Can Do **hummed** to himself, **sitting** up wide awake. 'Who's there?' he whispered back. But the only sound was Minx snoring. He **grinned** into the dark. Next time, he told himself. Next time.





Hands Off My Joke!

Dr Can Do has the best Christmas joke ever, and this year everyone will finally hear it. But at the beach, in town, and everywhere he turns, someone keeps beating him to the punchline first. Can he save his best joke for Christmas dinner before it gets stolen too? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 107: Doubling Rule -ed, -ing), this book practices words like 'grabbed', 'spotted', 'shrugged', 'flipped', 'snapped'.

Phonics Focus: Doubling Rule -ed/-ing

bobbing, flipped, glittered, grabbed, grinned, grinning, hummed, nodded, planning, shrugged, sitting, snapped, spotted, stepped, strutting, tapped, wrapped

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