

Push Harder,
Elephant!



Sam pushed and pushed. The elephant sat in the little red cart and would not budge. 'Push harder!' it said. It **blew** red shapes from its trunk. One huge elephant! This was going to be a long, long day.





Sam needed a rest.

Next door, a red hen
pecked in the yard.

Two new eggs sat by
the rocks! Sam held
up two fingers and
smiled. 'One elephant,
two new eggs. What
will make three?'

Inside, the big fan spun
fast. Three blades!

Sam **blew** bubbles at the
fan. They **flew** up and
twirled high.

'Three blades and so
many bubbles!' Sam said.



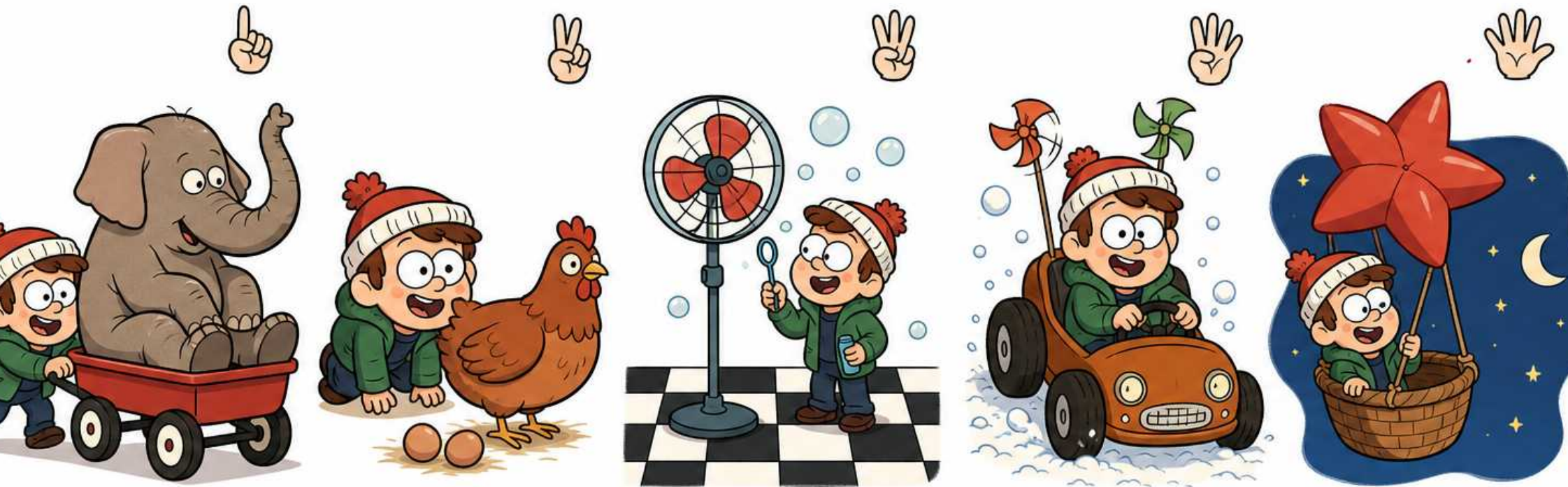


Sam jumped in the
new car. Four wheels,
with pinwheels
twirling on top! The
car flew across the
snow. 'Go, car, go!'
Sam said with a grin.
Five had to be close!

A big red star with five bright tips! It lifted the basket up, and Sam **flew** past the rooftops and birds. Up, up, all the way to the moon! 'Five,' Sam said softly, holding up one hand. The world looked so small from up in the sky.



One elephant. Two eggs. Three fan
blades. Four fast wheels. Five star tips.
Sam smiled. Five was good, but that
was just five of ten. The next few
would be **new** and wild!



A huge ant with six legs, thick as branches, stomping across the rocks! Sam got on and held on tight, and the ant marched on and on. Sam's grin grew wide. 'Six legs! This is the best ride ever!' But ants do not chat much.





Then Sam was at home.
'It is my birthday! The seventh!' Sam said. 'The best day ever!' Drew came in his **new** red party hat. They both looked at the dates on the chart. 'My birthday is in eight more days,' Drew said. 'Eight days! That is forever!'

The web was made of string as thick as rope. At the top sat a huge spider with eight long legs.

Sam's arms **flew** open wide. 'You are the best spider!'

It lifted one leg, then all of them at once. What a **new** dance!



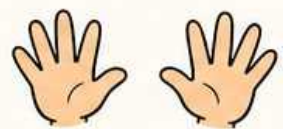
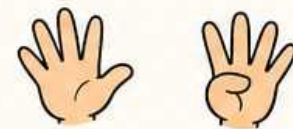
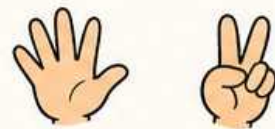
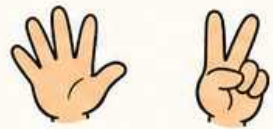


The big bird stood on the brick wall like a king on a throne. 'Look at that plume!' Sam said. Red, gold, green, **blue**, copper, cream, black, white, and a shimmer with no name yet! Nine **hues**! Sam would need nine crayons, and still miss the sparkle.

Sam held up one hand with five fingers wide open. Then the other hand showed five more. 'Ten in all!' Sam yelled, both hands high with all ten fingers up. It was **true**: ten sat right on Sam's own two hands all along.



Six legs. Seven on the chart. Eight legs more! Nine hues.
Ten fingers. What a ride! What a day! But back at the
start, one big elephant still sat in one little cart. Sam
shook both hands. 'Back to one. This time I will push
harder!'





Push Harder, Elephant!

One elephant, one small cart, and no amount of pushing will budge it. Next door there are eggs to count, a fan with spinning blades, and a car with pinwheels on top ready to zoom off through the snow. Can this determined kid count all the way to ten before the day is done? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 91: ew, ui, ue /ū/), this book practices words like 'new', 'flew', 'blew', 'drew', 'true'.

Phonics Focus: ew, ui, ue /ū/

blew, blue, drew, few, flew, grew, hues, new, true

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