





TOM THUMB's  
PLAY-BOOK,  
TO  
Teach Children their Letters  
AS SOON AS THEY CAN SPEAK:

OR,  
EASY LESSONS  
FOR  
*Little Children and Beginners.*

BEING  
A new and pleasant Method to allure Little Ones  
into the first Principles of Learning.



UNION STREET:  
PRINTED FOR T. BELL, BOOKSELLER,  
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The *Lion* and the *Unicorn*.



**T**HE Lion and the Unicorn  
Fighting for the Crown,  
The Lion beat the Unicorn  
Round about the Town.



THE ALPHABET.

A B C D E F G  
H I J K L M N  
O P Q R S T U  
V W X Y Z &.

a b c d e f g h  
i j k l m n o p  
q r s t u v w  
x y z, æ œ.

*The Roman Capitals.*

A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W  
X Y Z, Æ Æ.

*The Roman small Letters.*

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y z, æ æ.

*The Italic Capitals.*

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N  
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z, Æ.

*The Italic small Letters.*

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r  
s t u v w x y z, æ æ.

*The* VOWELS.

a, e, i, o, u, and y, when it  
follows a Consonant.

*The* CONSONANTS.

b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t  
v w x y z.

LETTERS *in promiscuous Order.*

a s w x k z e c o y v i j m u n  
h b d p q f f l r t g.

LETTERS *joined together.*

ct fi fi ff ff fl fl fh fb ffi ffi ffl fk st  
ct fi fi ff ff fl fl fh fb ffi ffi ffl fk st



**A** was an Archer,  
and shot at a Frog



**B** was a Butcher,  
and had a great Dog.



**C** was a Captain  
all cover'd with Lace;



**D** was a Drunkard,  
and had a red Face.

**E** was





**E** was an Esquire,  
with pride on his Brow.



**F** was a Farmer,  
and follow'd the Plow.



**G** was a Gamester,  
and he had ill luck.



**H** was a Hunter,  
and hunted a Buck.

I was



**I** was a Joiner,  
and built up a House.



**K** was a King,  
and governed a Mouse.



**L** was a Lady,  
and had a white Hand



**M** was a Merchant,  
to a Foreign Land.

N was



**N** was a Nobleman,  
gallant and Bold.

**O** was an Oyster wench  
and a sad Scold.



**P** was a Parson,  
and wore a black Gown.

**Q** was a Queen,  
and wore a fine Crown.

R was



**R** was a Robber,  
and wanted a Whip.

**S** was a Sailor,  
and liv'd in a Ship.



**T** was a Tinker,  
and mended a Pot.

**V** was a Vintner,  
a very great Sot.

**W** was





**W** was a Watchman,  
and guarded the Door,

**X** was expensive,  
and so became Poor.



**Y** was a Youth, that  
did not love School.

**Z** was a Zany,  
and look'd like a Fool.

*Easy*

*Easy Syllables of Two Letters.*

Ba	be	bi	bo	bu	by
Da	de	di	do	du	dy
Fa	fe	fi	fo	fu	fy
Ha	he	hi	ho	hu	hy
Ka	ke	ki	ko	ku	ky
La	le	li	lo	lu	ly
Ma	me	mi	mo	mu	my
Na	ne	ni	no	nu	ny
Pa	pe	pi	po	pu	py
Ra	re	ri	ro	ru	ry
Sa	se	si	so	su	sy
Ta	te	ti	to	tu	ty
Za	ze	zi	zo	zu	zy

ab	eb	ib	ob	ub
ad	ed	id	od	ud
af	ef	if	of	uf
			oh	uh
ak	ek	ik	ok	uk
al	el	il	ol	ul
am	em	im	om	um
an	en	in	on	un
ap	ep	ip	op	up
ar	er	ir	or	ur
as	es	is	os	us
at	et	it	ot	ut
az	ez	iz	oz	uz

*Of Three Letters.*

Bla	ble	bli	blo	blu	bly
bra	bre	bri	bro	bru	bry
cha	che	chi	cho	chu	chy
cla	cle	cli	clo	clu	cly
cra	cre	cri	cro	cru	cry
dra	dre	dri	dro	dru	dry
fla	fle	fli	flo	flu	fly
fra	fre	fri	fro	fru	fry
gla	gle	gli	glo	glu	gly
kna	kne	kni	kno	knu	kny
pha	phe	phi	pho	phu	phy
pla	ple	pli	plo	plu	ply



pra pre pri pro pru pry

qua que qui quo

fca fce fci fco fcu fcy

sha she shi sho shu shy

fka fke fki fko fku fky

fla fle fi flo flu fly

fma fme fmi fmo fmu fmy

fna fne fni fno fnu fny

spa spe spi spo spu spy

ſta ſte ſti ſto ſtu ſty

fwa fwe fwi fwo fwu fwy

tha the thi tho thu thy

tra tre tri tro tru try

wra wre wri wro wru wry

*Words of Three Letters.*

Act cat far his met pay Tar  
add coy fat hot mob pig top  
age cry few how Nag pot tub  
aid cup fit Jew new put vex  
and Day fly ice nor Ran vow  
are did foe ill not Rat wet  
art doe for inn nut rod war  
Bad Dog gay Key Oak rot  
wax beg dry get kid oat rug  
wed bid due God Lad oil run  
wet bit Eat got let old Saw  
Wig boy egg gum lot one

say won bud err Had lug our  
set Yea Can end her Mad  
Pan son yes cap eye him  
may pap Tax you.



*Easy Lessons, consisting of Words not exceeding three Letters.*

## LESSON I.

To God do I cry all the day.  
Who is God but our God?  
No man can see God.  
In God I put my joy, O let me not sin.

## LESSON II.

All men go out of the way.  
Who can say he has no sin?  
Try me, O God, and let me not go  
out of the way of thy law.

## LESSON III

Our God is the God of all men.  
Pay to God his due.  
A bad man is a foe to God.



My son go not in the way of bad men.  
No man can do as God can do.

#### LESSON IV.

The way of man is not the way of God.  
My son, if you do ill you cannot go  
to God.

Do as you are bid ; but if you are bid  
to do ill, do it not.

#### LESSON V.

A bad man is a foe to God.

All men go out of the way of thy law.  
Go not out till I bid you.

The man did sin, but do you not as  
he did.

Alms	bear	card	corn	draw	Face
arch	beer	care	cure	dull	fain
arms	bill	clay	Down	durst	fall
arts	both	cock	deaf	Each	fare
Ball	burn	come	dear	ease	feet
barn	Call	cook	dirt	earn	fire
bath	came	cork	doth	else	five.

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Gain	jaws	Maid	Pain	shew	Wait
gave	joys	mule	pass	show	wine
give	itch	muse	pipe	sides	with
gone	Keep	must	play	Talk	wife
Hate	kept	Nail	Quit	thus	Yard
hear	kiss	near	Race	told	year
herd	Lace	neck	rage	true	yoke
hold	laid	need	rock	Vail	your
hope	lame	Once	rule	vain	Zeal
Join	love	odds	Sack	void	zest

*Easy Lessons, consisting of Words not exceeding four Letters.*

## LESSON I.

My son call on the Lord and he will help thee.

Shun bad boys that will hurt you ; and do harm to none your self.

Do what is just ; and let no ill will be in your mind.

## LESSON II.

The Lord God is God of gods, and Lord of all.

Keep me, O God, for my hope is in thee. I will call on the Lord for help that I may be safe from them that hate me.

We must do to all men as we like to be done to.

## LESSON III.

We must love them that do not love us, as well as them that do love us. And we must pray for them that hate us.

This life is not long, but the life to come has no end. The time will come when all must die and be laid in the dust.

## LESSON IV.

A good book is of much use to let boys know how to gain God's love; and in it they will find, that to keep from vice is the best way to gain it.

Tell me what kind of life you live, and I will tell you how you shall die. If a good man wish to live, it is that he may do more good; if a bad man wish to live, it is to do more hurt.



Bands	drank	haste	mirth	round
bars	dread	heard	Nails	Saint
bench	drink	horse	night	faith
black	dwell	house	north	shine
brass	Earth	Joint	nurse	fides
bring	Faint	King	ounce	stood
burst	fault	kneel	Pang	Tales
Cakes	feast	knees	peace	taste
catch	fetch	knife	pence	teach
cause	cloth	grass	light	quite
cease	flesh	Lance	place	there
canst	flock	lamps	purse	these
chain	glass	large	Quail	Vales
chide	grace	learn	queen	veins
clean	grant	least	quick	voice
Depth	grief	Maids	Reign	wench
doubt	Hadst	might	right	wheat

which	wives	wrath	wrote	young
while	world	write	Yeast	youth
whole	would	wrong	yours	Zones

*WORDS of Six Letters.*

Blains	fleece	length	should
brought	fought	loaves	smooth
branch	freeze	Month	speech
breath	friend	Nought	Thanks
breast	Grease	Orange	thence
Chaste	grieve	Pierce	thirst
Choose	grudge	pearls	thread
choice	Health	Quails	Wealth
CHRIST	hearth	quench	weight
church	height	Saints	wretch
Dearth	Joints	scarce	wrong
dreams	Knight	school	wrought
			<i>Easy</i>

*Easy Lessons, consisting of Words not exceeding one Syllable.*

## LESSON I.

**W**HEN you rise out of your bed in the morn, first pray to God to bless and keep you this day, and all the days of your life, from all things that may hurt you. Give him thanks for his great love to you ; for your health, rest, and strength ; for his care of you, and all that he gives you.

Let your first thoughts be to him ; to him lift up your heart.

## LESSON II.

Next wash your hands and face clean, comb your hair, and then make haste to school.

Walk in peace to and from school,



let not your voice be heard in the streets, nor give cause to those who see you to say you are rude.

Pull of your hat, and make a bow to those you meet and know by the way, and to all your friends.

When you are come to school, first bow to him who has to teach you what you are to learn.

### LESSON III.

Then sit down in your place, but make no noise all the time you are there.

What you are to learn, do to the best of your skill, for that will be your own when you are gone from school.

### LESSON IV.

Have a due sense of what you learn;



it will be for your good in time to come.

Do not let play rob you of your time that you ought to spend to learn; it is a vain thing to go to school and not to gain by it.

You will wish when you come to age, that you had bent your mind more to learn in your youth.

## LESSON V.

If you go to the house of God (which you must be sure to do when you can) think in what place you are.

There he will have a strict eye on you, for he is by you to know all your thoughts.

If a child that is near you should talk to you or play with you, mind him

not, but let him know he ought to be whipt for his fault.

## LESSON VI.

In God's house the priest is to speak, and you with care to hear him.

Mind well what he says, for he shews you the way of life.

The life that now is, is short; but the life to come has no end.

Then strive in youth to know God, to serve him, and keep his law.





### *The Crow and Jug.*

A Crow that was dry sought where to quench her thirst, and at last found a jug with some drink in it, but the neck was so long and strait that she could not get her head in ; then she thinks within herself what to do ; and at last, says she, if I do but fill the jug with stones, the drink will then rise up to the brim : so to work she goes, and puts in stones

till the drink rose up to the top, and then drank her fill.



## *EASY LESSONS.*

TAKEN FROM THE PROVERBS.

**M**Y son, slight not my law; but let thine heart keep my words.

For length of days, and long life and peace shall they add to thee.

So shalt thou find love in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own ways.



## LESSON II.

Strive not with a man, if he gives the first cause, if he has done thee no harm.

The path of the just doth shine as the light; yea more and more to the clear day. But the way of bad men is dark; they know not what makes them fall.

Think on the paths of thy feet, and let thy paths be sure.

## LESSON III.

Go to the ant, thou that dost love sloth, think on her ways and be wise.

Who hath no guide or chief one to rule her, yet doth get her meat at the time of the ripe fruit, and lays up her food when the corn is cut down.

How long wilt thou sleep? when wilt thou rise from thy bed?

Yet more sleep? yet dost thou fold thy hands to sleep?

#### LESSON IV.

These six things doth the Lord hate  
A proud look; a tongue that tells lies  
and hands that shed blood of the just.

A heart that thinks ill; feet that  
are swift to run to do hurt.

A false man that speaks lies; and  
him that doth sow strife.

#### LESSON V.

He that doth walk in the right way  
doth walk safe; but he that doth go  
in a wrong way shall be known.

In the lips of the wise good is found ;  
but a rod is for the back of him that  
will not do that which is good.

The words of the good tend to life ;  
but the fruit of ill men is sin.

The fear of the Lord doth give  
length of days ; but the years of bad  
men shall be short.

## LESSON VI.

A false weight God hates ; but a  
just one he loves.

When pride comes, then comes  
shame ; but the meek are wise.

When it goes well with the just,  
the folk have joy ; and when bad men  
are cast down they shout.

The fruit of the just is a tree of  
life ; and he that wins souls is wise.



### *The Two Frogs.*

On a hot dry time of the year, when the lakes and ponds were dried up, an old and young frog went in search of some drink to quench their thirst. At last they came to a deep well, and sat on the brink of it, Sir, said the young frog to the old one, I have a great mind to leap into it. See how clear the spring



is : We may drink of it at our ease. All this may be true, said the old frog, and yet I can not be of your mind, for my life : For if this well should dry up too, how should we get out of it?

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*Words of Two Syllables.*

T A B L E I.

*A Consonant betwixt two Vowels, must be joined to the latter Vowel, except x.*

<b>A</b> -bout	cli-mate	fe-male	la-dy
a-ny	clo-ver	fe-ver	ma-son
au-dit	clo-set	foo-lish	mi-ry
ax-es	de-cent	fru-gal	mo-ment
ba-con	de-luge	glo-ry	no-tice
ba-ker	de-fer	gra-ver	nui-sance
ba-son	di-vers	gro-cer	o-dour
bai-liff	dra-per	hei-nous	pee-vish

ca-mel	ea-sy	hai-ry	ex-alt
ca-per	Fa-vour	i-dol	ex-act
ca-pon	zea-lous	i-ron	re-cant
cho-sen	a-vast	jai-lor	re-ceive
ci-ty	be-times	joy-ful	pi-lot
ci-vit	de-cay	la-den	qua-ker
qua-ver	sti-pend	wo-man	vi-per
qui-ver	sto-ry	wo-men	spo-ken
rai-ler	te-net	wo-ful	zea-lot
rai-ment	to-tal	wo-ven	re-cess
re-tail	vi-gil	twi-light	tre-pan
ru-ler	vo-cal	ty-rant	tra-duce

## T A B L E II.

*Two Consonants that are proper to begin a word between two Vowels, must be joined to the latter Vowel.*

A-pron	da <sup>n</sup> stard	le-prou	oy-ster
au-thor	di <sup>n</sup> staf	li <sup>n</sup> sten	pa <sup>n</sup> ster
ba <sup>n</sup> stard	fa <sup>n</sup> ther	ma-tron	pro <sup>n</sup> pher

bi <sup>n</sup> op	fa <sup>n</sup> thom	ma-trix	re <sup>n</sup> spite
cha <sup>n</sup> sten	fee <sup>n</sup> ble	ma <sup>n</sup> ster	pro <sup>n</sup> spect
clu <sup>n</sup> ster	ga <sup>n</sup> ther	mu <sup>n</sup> stard	sa <sup>n</sup> cred
cy <sup>n</sup> pher	gli <sup>n</sup> ster	nei-ther	si <sup>n</sup> ster
ci <sup>n</sup> tron	lea-ther	no-stril	sa-ble
sy-stem	ve-sture	a-board	de-fraud
ta <sup>n</sup> bret	whe-ther	a-fraid	e-steem
thi-ther	whi-ther	be-stead	pro-claim
tro-phy	whi sper		

## T A B L E III.

*Two Consonants between two Vowels, not proper to begin a word, must be divided.*

Ab-ject	ef sect	join-ture	skil-ful
am-bush	ef-fort	ker-nel	skel-let
ar-dent	er-ror	lan-tern	for-did
bot-tom	fet-ters	mar-vel	thral-dom
bil-lows	fac-tors	mer-cer	tor-ment
bib-ber	gar-ment	num-ber	trum-pet
can-cel	glut-ton	nut-meg	vil-lain

can-not	har-lot	of-fer	vil-lage
chur-lish	hel-met	par-lour	war-rant
cur-rant	hur-ry	pep-per	won-der
dis-mal	hus-band	fan dals	al-lude

## T A B L E IV.

*When four Consonants come between two Vowels, the first is always joined to the former Vowel, and as many of the rest as can begin a Word go to the latter Vowel.*

Bright-ness	parch-ment	in-struct
friend-ship	witch-craft	ob-struct
sack-cloth	earth-quake	trans-gress
ab-stract	gold-smith	watch-ful

## T A B L E V.

*When two Vowels come together, not making a Diphthong, they must be divided.*

Bri-er	pi-ous	di-al	po-em
ru-in	li-ar	tri-al	di-ed
vi-ol	di-eth	vi-al	fu-el
Zi-on	do-ing	tri-umph	do-er



## EASY LESSONS,

*Of Words not exceeding two Syllables.*

A Sure friend is best known in a doubtful case: We know not whom to trust until after trial. There are too many who pretend great love and friendship to us whilst we are able to help ourselves, that will not so much as know us when we stand in need of them.

Be very careful how you spend your time; for when it is once past, it can never be called back again.

Disdain not one that is below you in gifts of fortune; since he may be as far above you in gifts of the mind, which are the only true riches.

## LESSON II.

Frequent thinking on such things as concern the welfare of the soul, is of use even for the most tender years: None can begin to serve God too soon. He that spends most time in the service of his Maker shall have a larger reward.

Gold and silver have no real virtue in themselves; and though they are proper to purchase what outward things we stand in need of in this life; yet he that has only enough to answer his end, may be as happy as a prince.

He that lives by the rules of reason, shall never be poor; and he that governs his life by any other rule, shall never be rich: Nature is content with a little, but fancy is boundless.

## LESSON III.

It is beneath a generous mind to contest with such persons as have neither honour nor courage; contempt, in such a case, is the best revenge.

Knowledge and learning are of that noble nature, that the more a man is possessed of them, the more he desires and thirsts after them.

Lie not on any account whatever. If it is complied with only for mirth's sake, yet sorrow will attend it: He is very thoughtless and weak who will hazard the ruin of his own soul to make sport for others.

## LESSON IV.

Money is the miser's god, which he salutes at a humble distance, and dares

not to be too free with. When a bond of mortgage fails, there is nothing that can support his spirits, or keep him within any compass. His humour and his face are put into mourning and so would the rest of his person, were it not for the charge.

Nothing is a greater proof of wisdom than a prudent use of our time; and nothing will produce on mature thoughts such solid and such lasting pleasures.

Omit no time in doing good, and you will find no time of evil: Ever engage in the ways of virtue, so will you escape the snares of vice.

## LESSON V.

Pride hides our faults from ourselves and makes them appear larger to others,



than in fact perhaps they are. It will make a man dictate to those who know more than himself, and of whom he ought to learn, it will make him rather choose to persist in those errors which he has imbibed, than to humble himself so far as to be better informed.

Quiet persons are always the objects of love and esteem. Have therefore a hatred to all quarrels and debates; study to inform your minds, and to reform your lives.

Riches in the hands of one who got them by fair means, and has a heart to use them, are a great blessing; but in the hands of a miser they are a curse.

*Obedience to Parents.*

## I.

Let children that would fear the Lord,  
Hear what their teachers say :  
With reverence meet their parents' word,  
And with delight obey.

## II.

Have you not heard what dreadful plagues,  
Are threaten'd by the Lord,  
To him that breaks his father's law,  
Or mocks his mother's word.

## III.

What heavy guilt upon him lies,  
How cursed is his name ;  
The ravens shall pick out his eyes,  
And eagles eat the same.

## IV.

But those who worship God, and give  
Their parents honour due,  
Here on this earth they long shall live,  
And live hereafter too.

*The first Catechism of the Principles of Religion; or  
the Catechism for a young Child.*

1 Question. CAN you tell me child who made you?

Answer. The great God who made heaven and earth. Ps. c. 3.

2 Q. What doth God do for you?

A. He keeps me from harm by night and by day, and is always doing me good. Ps. ciii. 2, 4.

3 Q. And what must you do for this great God who is so good to you?

A. I must learn to know him first, and then I must do every thing to please him. Deut. vii. 9.

4 Q. Where doth God teach us to know him and to please him?

A. In his holy word which is contained in the Bible. Ps. cxix. 9. 11.

5 Q. Have you learned to know who God is?

A. God is a spirit; and though we cannot see him, yet he sees and knows all things, and can do all things. John iv. 24. Jer. xvi. 17.

6 Q. What must you do to please God?

A. I must do my duty both towards God and towards man. Mark. xii. 32, 33.

7 Q. What is your duty to God?

A. My duty to God is to fear and honour him,

to love and serve him, to pray to him, and to praise him. Deut. x. 12.

8 Q. What is your duty to man?

A. My duty to man is to obey my parents, to speak the truth always, and to be honest and kind to all. Col. iii. 20. Rev. xxi. 8. Gal. vi. 10.

9 Q. What good do you hope for by seeking to please God?

A. Then I shall be a child of God, and have God for my father and friend for ever. 2 Cor. vi. 17, 18.

10 Q. And what if you do not fear God, nor love him, nor seek to please him?

A. Then I shall be a wicked child, and the great God will be very angry with me. Ps. vii. 11.

11 Q. Why are you afraid of God's anger?

A. Because he can kill my body, and he can make my soul miserable after my body is dead. Luke xii. 5.

12 Q. But have you never done any thing to make God angry with you already?

A. Yes, I fear I have too often sinned against God and deserved his anger. Rom. iii. 23.

13 Q. What do you mean by sinning against God?



A. To sin against God is to do any thing that God forbids me, or not to do what God commands me. Deut. vii. 11. viii. 11. Heb. ii. 2, 3.

14 Q. And what must you do to be saved from the anger of God which your sins have deserved?

A. I must be sorry for my sins, must pray to God to forgive me what is past, and serve him better for the time to come. Ezek. xviii. 27, 28.

15 Q. Will God forgive you if you pray for it?

A. I hope he will forgive me, if I trust in his mercy; for the sake of what Jesus Christ has done and what he has suffered. 1 John i. 9.

16 Q. Do you know who Jesus Christ is?

A. He is God's own Son, who came down from heaven to save us from our sins and from God's anger. John iii. 16.

17 Q. What has Christ done to save men?

A. He obeyed the law of God himself and has taught us to obey it also. Mat. v. 17, 19.

18 Q. And what has Christ suffered to save men?

A. He died for sinners who have broken the law of God, and who deserved to die themselves. Pet. iii. 18.

19 Q. Where is Jesus Christ now?

A. He is alive again, and gone to heaven to provide a place there for all that serve God and love his Son Jesus. Rev. i. 18. John xiv. 23.

20 Q. Can you of yourself love and serve God and Christ?

A. No, I cannot do it of myself, but God will help me by his own Spirit, if I ask him for it. John xv. 5, (last clause) Rom. viii. 26.

21 Q. Will Jesus Christ ever come again?

A. Christ will come again, and call me and all the world to an account for what we have done. 2 Thes. i. 7 to 10.

22 Q. To what purpose is this account to be given?

A. That the children of God, as well as the wicked, may all receive according to their works. Mat. xvi. 27.

23 Q. What must become of you if you are wicked?

A. If I am wicked I shall be sent down to everlasting fire in hell among wicked and miserable creatures. Ps. ix. 17. Mark. ix. 44.

24 Q. And whither shall you go if you are a child of God.

A. If I am a child of God, I shall be taken up to heaven, and dwell there with God and Christ for ever.

Amen. 1 Thes. iv. 17.

Woodcut. illus  
alphabet + 7 other  
text woodcut  
Woodcut maps -  
Newcastle: Ball 1824  
Same.

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