

Family time

1. Food
2. Verb - Past Tense
3. Verb - Past Tense
4. Verb - Present Ends In Ing
5. Adjective
6. Noun
7. Verb - 3Rd Person Singular Present
8. Noun
9. Adjective
10. Noun
11. Noun
12. Noun
13. Noun
14. Noun - Plural
15. Noun
16. Pronoun
17. Verb
18. Noun
19. Noun
20. Verb - Present Tense
21. Noun - Plural
22. Verb
23. Verb - Present Tense

24. Noun
25. Adjective
26. Noun - Plural
27. Verb - Past Tense
28. Adjective
29. Noun
30. Adjective
31. Adjective
32. Noun
33. Noun
34. Verb - Past Tense
35. Adjective
36. Noun
37. Verb - Present Tense
38. Adjective
39. Noun
40. Noun
41. Noun
42. Noun
43. Verb - 3Rd Person Singular Present
44. Noun
45. Adjective
46. Verb - Present Tense
47. Adjective
48. Adverb

49. Adjective
50. Noun - Plural
51. Verb - Past Tense
52. Noun - Plural
53. Adjective
54. Adverb
55. Verb - Past Participle
56. Noun
57. Noun
58. Verb - Past Tense
59. Verb
60. Proper Noun
61. Pronoun
62. Pronoun
63. Noun
64. Noun
65. Proper Noun
66. Proper Noun
67. Verb - Base Form
68. Preposition Or Subordinating Conjunction
69. Noun
70. Coordinating Conjunction
71. Noun
72. Verb - Past Participle
73. Noun - Plural

74. Adjective
75. Adjective
76. Verb - Past Tense
77. Adjective
78. Noun
79. Verb - Present Tense
80. Verb
81. Adjective
82. Verb
83. Verb
84. Noun
85. Noun - Plural
86. Noun - Plural
87. Noun
88. Noun
89. Adjective
90. Adjective
91. Adjective
92. Noun
93. Verb - Base Form
94. Verb - Base Form
95. Noun
96. Adjective
97. Noun
98. Adjective

99. Adjective
100. Noun
101. Verb - Present Ends In Ing
102. Verb - Present Ends In Ing
103. Verb - Present Ends In S
104. Noun - Plural
105. Adverb
106. Noun
107. Noun
108. Verb - Past Tense
109. Noun
110. Determiner
111. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present
112. Verb - 3Rd Person Singular Present
113. Determiner
114. Noun
115. Verb - Present Tense
116. Preposition Or Subordinating Conjunction
117. Noun
118. Adjective
119. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present
120. Noun - Plural
121. Verb - Present Ends In Ing
122. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present
123. Adjective
- 124.

Family time

Family Dinner

Sherrie Flick

I'm the food soup. Verb - Past Tense up and Verb - Past Tense, Verb - Present ends in ING
Adjective here on the sofa. The Noun itself Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present for real on the
Noun. But I'm Adjective, so its Noun seems like a Noun Noun. The
Noun Noun - Plural. Me, on the Noun.

You need to Pronoun, I tell myself. I can Verb my Noun Noun
Verb - Present Tense as the Noun - Plural Verb, Verb - Present Tense over there in the
Noun, their Adjective Noun - Plural Verb - Past Tense this morning before the
plunge. The Adjective Noun poses on its Adjective stand, apart from us,
Adjective, like the Noun atop the Noun Verb - Past Tense into a Adjective
Noun ball, Verb - Present Tense like the world is Adjective. The Noun is the
Noun. The Noun is in the Noun stand. The dog Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present as if
to confirm the unreliability of me as a Noun. He makes a Adjective circle and re-positions
himself

into the same spot: Verb - Present Tense.

The rolls are tiny Adjective, many Adverb, too many probably, on the cooling rack.

Adjective like my Noun - Plural maybe were once, but that was a long time ago, and it isn't time

for nostalgia right this second as I Verb - Past Tense on the couch and the fire Noun - Plural in the

wood-burning stove. The fire is the concept of this story, the backdrop. It will be the Adjective until I

have to get up and Adverb poke it to keep it Verb - Past Participle.

I've never liked Noun. Or my Noun Katie, who Verb - Past Tense this morning to quietly

and without much remorse Verb our Proper Noun plans.

"Isn't Pronoun," she said.

"What isn't Pronoun," I said. "The Noun? Your Noun?"

"I never said I was bringing a Proper Noun," Katie said.

"It's just a figure of speech," I said. "Proper Noun not working."

Katie

_____ Verb - Base Form _____ Preposition or subordinating conjunction _____, like she was _____ Noun a _____ Coordinating
conjunction _____, and maybe she was. What do I know? "The entire idea of the _____ Noun isn't working, Martha,
" she said. "Dad is _____ Verb - Past Participle _____, you know. I just want to start my own _____ Noun - Plural _____."

"Like today?" I said. "Because it's a _____ Adjective _____ Adjective _____, don't you think, Kate? I mean I've
_____ Verb - Past Tense _____ some _____ Adjective _____ Noun _____ here, and mom is _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ to
_____ Verb _____ over, and she's been _____ Adjective _____ anyway and now, today you're deciding you'd like to
diverge from this already strange situation and create your own creepy ritual?"

"Look," Katie said with that nasal twang she gets when she's uppity. "I clearly don't have to _____ Verb _____ this
to you. Isn't working. I said that. I'm going to go and _____ Verb _____ some stuff out. Going now. Bye." And with
that she hung up.

The soup simmers. The _____ Noun _____ Noun - Plural _____. The cake _____ Noun - Plural _____. The chocolate tart is
not yet made. The wine on the _____ Noun _____, the good wine, is _____ Noun _____. The dinner will be
_____ Adjective _____. Mom and me. A widow and a _____ Adjective _____ single woman with a _____ Adjective _____
_____ Noun _____. I can't bear to tell my mom that Katie doesn't like her.

_____ Verb - Base Form _____ family. _____ Verb - Base Form _____ love.

So I don't. I won't. I make the _____ Noun _____, and it looks _____ Adjective _____, nearly _____ Noun _____ and so close to lust I think I might French kiss it. I change clothes, put on something _____ Adjective _____, _____ Adjective _____ than I ever put on for family things--a _____ Noun _____ shirt with earrings. Mom arrives, and she's _____ Verb - Present ends in ING _____, really _____ Verb - Present ends in ING _____ hard. I give her a big bear hug, a sloppy _____ Verb - Present ends in S _____. The dog _____ Noun - Plural _____ Adverb _____. She has brought _____ Noun _____ and _____ Noun _____, a dog treat and little homemade nametags that she _____ Verb - Past Tense _____ for each place setting.

I've _____ Noun _____ the table for three, because I am both a _____ Determiner _____ and a loser. She props each precious nametag at each place setting. We _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present _____ the wine, and it _____ Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present _____ us for taking so long.

Before I _____ Determiner _____, an _____ comes to me. It descends like _____ Noun _____ Verb - Present Tense _____ Preposition or subordinating conjunction _____ the _____ Noun _____; that _____ Adjective _____. I _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present _____ out some _____ Noun - Plural _____ from the living room shelves, take out 2 photographs, do some _____ Verb - Present ends in ING _____. I _____ Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present _____ a photo of my sister to one chairback, a photo of my dad on the other. We're now an awkward table of four with only one missing nametag, like it should be. I add a place setting.

Mom sits down, a little _____ Adjective _____ at first, expecting Katie to walk in carrying some weird vegetarian food in

tones of gray or brown. But when she sees the photo, she nods and says, "I always liked that dress on Kate. It brings out the green in her eyes, don't you think?"

Mom and I toast to everyone, including the dog. We wait for the denouement of the story. We breathe deep all the food aromas. Too much food for us, we know. But still. We Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present it all