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# **How Would That Look?**

# **Exercises in Listening and Visual Thinking**





By Greta Rasmussen and Matt Rasmussen

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**EXERCISES IN LISTENING AND VISUAL THINKING** 

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# CONTENTS

A Circle of Sorts, 1 A Fancy W, 2 Silly Lump, 3 Banana, 4 A Stringy Finger, 5 Pancakes, 6 Fat F, Skinny E, 7 Rainbow Window, 8 This Way Up, 9 River and Lake, 10 Stuck Letters, 11 Coat Hanger, 12 Cat Trouble, 13 Jumping Line, 14 Tree Work, 15 Popsicle, 16 Shapes in Shapes, 17 Doggy Dress-up, 18 Bowls, 19 Strong Buttons, 20 Paper Roll, 21 Five and Seven, 22 Alphabet Circus, 23 Jack-O'-Lantern, 24 Crisscross, 25 Skinny Snowman, 26 Two Scoops, 27 Egg Danger, 28 You've Got Mail, 29 Triangle Balance, 30 Dream House, 31 Name Fade, 32 Rainy-Day A, 33 Two Balloons, 34 Footprints, 35

Line in a Circle, 36 Pizza Box, 37 Stacking Boxes, 38 Triangle Wall, 39 Birthday Wish, 40 Yummy, 41 Paper on Paper, 42 Tipped Glass, 43 Birds on Wires, 44 Dots in a Square, 45 Invisible Person, 46 Circle Touch, 47 Dusty Table, 48 Happy Birthday, 49 A Line of L's, 50 Dandelions, 51 Plakys, 52 Missing Button, 53 So Many Circles, 54 Window Dressing, 55 Puzzle Pieces, 56 Two A's, Tall T, 57 The Forest, 58 Hanging Towel, 59 Moving Day, 60 Leaners, 61 Upside Down, 62 Neat Initials, 63 Sidewalk, 64 Ant Scramble, 65 Squares and Dots, 66 Balloons, 67 Cute Octopus, 68 Umbrella, 69 Halfaphant, 70

Letter Sizes, 71 Drawers, 72 Circle Chase, 73 At the Beach, 74 Shadow Pictures, 75 Table Talk, 76 Zoops, 77 Doughnut Bites, 78 Eleven Little O's, 79 Scissors Part, 80 Box of Jars, 81 Broken Circle, 82 Sandwich of Sorts, 83 Spiral Cookies, 84 In the News, 85 Tennis Ball Can, 86 Let Me In, 87 Pie Chase, 88 T's and Triangle, 89 Ice Cream Cone, 90 Twins, 91 Jiqsaw Puzzle, 92 Photo, 93 Bookshelf, 94 Cookie Cuts, 95 Cozy Triangles, 96 Swing, 97 Pyramid, 98 Lines and Triangles, 99 Juice Glass, 100 Circle Roll, 101 Puddle Tracks, 102 Necklace, 103 Side-by-Side H's, 104 Half Empty, Half Full, 105

# INTRODUCTION

This book is designed to help children develop the kind of visualization skills that lie at the heart of problem-solving and creativity. It also gives students excellent practice at listening.

How does the concept work? Here are a couple of activities that will give you the idea.

For a moment, please play the part of the student. This is what your teacher (or parent) says to you:

"A father and his young son went walking in the snow. They left tracks that you can see from above. How would that look?"

Another:

"A circle found a hole in the side of a square just big enough for it to get in, and went inside. Its friend, also a circle, tried to get in, but it was too big. How would that look?"

In the first example, students would obviously have to think about shoe sizes. But that's not all. The matter of stride must be considered. A father's footprints would be farther apart than the child's. The footsteps also have to be going in the same direction. Thus, an adequate response would be:



In the second example, students grapple with a more abstract situation—circles and squares. To be successful, they must make a square with a "door" that is just about the size of a circle, and the circle must then be drawn inside the square. But the second circle, outside of the square, has to be drawn larger. Remember, it must be too large for the opening. So the solution might look something like this:



A few notes about how to use this book: You may choose to do the activities in a structured fashion, doing three or four at a specific time each day. Or you can take a more informal approach, doing them whenever you have five or ten minutes of free time. Each activity is designed to stand on its own.

Most of you will probably want to do the activities orally. This helps improve listening skills and direction-following as well as encouraging visual and conceptual thinking.

You may also reproduce the activities and put several of them together in a center. If you do, you may want to cut out the challenges, laminate them, and keep the picture-solutions in the book. Each is numbered for easy reference.

Keep in mind that the solutions included in this book are just suggestions, not hard-and-fast answers. They are meant to be used as guides showing how children may approach each activity. This is not an art book—the quality of the final drawings is not nearly as important as the thinking that goes into them.

Like our other books, we start with easier activities in the early pages and move gradually into more difficult challenges.

We trust you and your students will have many good moments—many enlightening moments—ahead!

- Greta Rasmussen and Matt Rasmussen









# PANCAKES

My sister likes to eat pancakes in a neat stack, and I like mine spread out with some pancakes partly on top of each other. From above, how would that look?





## **RAINBOW WINDOW**

I could see just half of the rainbow from my bedroom window because a big tree was in the way. How would that look?







hanger and turned my drawing into a picture of a person with a small head and very broad shoulders. How would that look?







## POPSICLE

I ate the Popsicle to the place where the top of one of the two sticks showed just a little bit. How would that look?

16



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20

# **PAPER ROLL**

I rolled up a piece of notebook paper and then I tied a piece of string around the middle of the paper so tightly that the paper roll was dented in. How would that look?

21

# - A

#### 21

### **FIVE AND SEVEN**

Number 5 is missing its top but you can't tell because Number 7 is standing right next to it. How would that look?



# **ALPHABET CIRCUS**

I went to the alphabet circus and I saw a capital T wearing an upside-down U for a hat. The T was standing on a big O and a little x was jumping through the O. How would that look? X

23

23

# **JACK-O'-LANTERN**

I made a jack-o'-lantern with a triangle for a nose, a grinning mouth with three teeth and one eye bigger than the other. How would that look?



#### CRISSCROSS

First I drew a small box. Then I filled up the box with so many crisscrossed lines that it looked more like a dark square than a box filled up with lines. How would that look?



25

#### 25

#### **SKINNY SNOWMAN**

The snowman I made was so skinny that it looked funny. How would that look?



# **TWO SCOOPS**

At the ice cream store, I ordered two scoops of chocolate chip ice cream in a sugar cone. You could see just a little part of the first scoop because it was way down inside the cone. But you could see all of the second scoop. How would that look?

27

# EGG DANGER

Uh-oh! That egg is sitting as close to the edge of the counter as it possibly can without falling off. How would that look?

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28



# **DREAM HOUSE**

I had a dream that all the clouds were squares and rectangles and all the houses were round and puffy. How would that look?



31

#### 31

#### **NAME FADE**

I was writing my name but my pen was running out of ink and the letters got fainter and fainter as I went along. How would that look?

32

Mediana.





### **PIZZA BOX**

I opened the pizza box and saw that the round pizza was as large as it could be and still fit in the box. Of course, you could still see the bottom of the box in four places. How would one of those places look?



37

#### 37

#### **STACKING BOXES**

Four boxes of the same size were stacked on top of each other, but they looked like they were about to fall over. How would that look?





#### **BIRTHDAY WISH**

I guess my sister didn't get her wish. At her eighth birthday party, she only blew out half of the candles on her first try. How would that look?





I made the word "yummy" out of spaghetti. I used cooked spaghetti for the first three letters and uncooked spaghetti for the last two letters. How would that look?

41

41

#### **PAPER ON PAPER**

I laid a rectangular piece of paper crosswise on another piece of paper of the same size and shape. How would that look?







43

43

#### **BIRDS ON WIRES**

Four birds are sitting on a telephone wire. They are evenly spaced. Three birds are sitting on another wire below it, but none of the birds on the bottom wire is directly below any of the top birds. How would that look?



44

# **DOTS IN A SQUARE**

Four dots hopped into a square to play. Two of the dots stayed close together near the center of the square, and the other two got as far away from each other as they could. How would that look?



45

#### 45

#### **INVISIBLE PERSON**

An invisible person is running. The person's clothes and shoes are not invisible. How would that look?



The table was very dusty. Just for fun, I spread out my fingers and ran them across the tabletop, from one side to the other. Then, I started at another edge and ran my fingers across the tabletop in another direction. How would that look?





# DANDELIONS

My little brother picked some dandelions yesterday for my mom. He brought them home and put them in a little glass, but he forgot to put any water in the glass. How would that look?



51

51

#### **PLAKYS**

I had a dream that all the plakys were wearing crazy shoes. What's a plaky? That's for your to figure out. How would that look?



# **MISSING BUTTON**

My brother has a shirt with five buttons. The middle button is missing, but he is wearing the shirt anyway. How would that look?



53

#### **SO MANY CIRCLES**

I drew four circles and filled them all up with other circles. I used a very different idea for each circle drawing, but I made sure that when I had finished you could say, "There are four circles filled with circles." How would that look?





# **PUZZLE PIECES**

Three of the puzzle pieces fit together, but the fourth didn't go with the others at all. How would that look?



56



very far back into the forest. How would that look?



# LEANERS

I

I had a dream that everyone and everything in the room was leaning in the same direction. How would that look?



61

#### 61

# **UPSIDE DOWN**

My mom's glasses were lying upside down on the table. How would that look?



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# ANT SCRAMBLE

I caught seven ants under a tin can. When I lifted the can up I could see that the ants were all trying to get out by crawling under the edge of the can. How would that look?

65



# SQUARES AND DOTS

Two squares were overlapping in a way that formed a little square where three dots were hiding. How would that look?





Not many people would think a real octopus is cute, but I saw a cartoon of one that was really cute. How would that look?



68



# **LETTER SIZES**

Ι

A capital C is surrounded by eight capital letters, but only two of the letters would fit into the C shape. How would that look?



71

#### DRAWERS

In my bedroom, I have a chest with five drawers. Three of the drawers are the same size. The other two drawers are alike but different in size from the three others. How would that look?



# **CIRCLE CHASE**

I

Three squares were chasing a little circle. Finally, they found a way to put themselves together so that the circle couldn't get away. How would that look?



73

#### AT THE BEACH

I was at the beach, and I could tell some kids had dug a deep hole in the sand even though from where I was standing, I couldn't see the hole. How would that look?

# **SHADOW PICTURES**

l

Ι

I

We were making shadow pictures on the wall. I used my fist and two fingers to make the head of a rabbit. How would that look?



75

#### 75

# **TABLE TALK**

A capital K tipped over on its side to make a table where two little stick people were eating. How would that look?



# ZOOPS

I

I had a dream that a box I was carrying came open and the zoops got out. What's a zoop? That's for you to figure out. How would that look?



77

77

#### **DOUGHNUT BITES**

I was hungry but I didn't want to eat my doughnut too fast. So I took a little bite and then I turned the doughnut halfway around and took another little bite. After that, I couldn't help myself and took a great big bite in between the first two little bites. How would that look?



# **ELEVEN LITTLE O's**

l

A capital T told five little o's they could sit on its top. At the same time, a capital M told six other small o's they could rest in the space between its points. Suddenly, the capital T and the capital M became invisible, but all the little o's stayed in place. How would that look?

79

# **SCISSORS PART**

Think of just one half of a pair of scissors. How would that look? 00000 79

# **BOX OF JARS**

l

At the grocery store I saw a box that was divided into nine square spaces so it could hold nine jars of jam. There were four jars left, and they were all separated from each other by at least one space. From above, how would that look?



81

#### 81

#### **BROKEN CIRCLE**

A circle broke into six curved pieces and then the pieces snuggled up together as closely as they could. How would that look?





I

made a sandwich but she forgot to put anything between the two slices of bread. How would that look?



83

#### **SPIRAL COOKIES**

One day I helped my mom make cookies. First, we rolled some light-colored dough out flat. Then, we spread some thick chocolate on the dough. Then, we rolled the dough up like you would roll up a rug. Finally, we cut the rolled-up dough into sections like little wheels and baked them in the oven. How would one of the finished cookies look lying down flat?

84

83





I

Two newspapers of the same size are on a table. One is opened so that two side-by-side pages show. The other is not open and is folded in half. How would that look?

85



A can held three tennis balls. The balls fit exactly into the can with no extra space around them. How would the can look from the side?

86





I had a dream that three pieces of pie grew legs and were running away from a big hungry bird that wanted to eat them. How would that look?





I

A big triangle was trying to balance on one of its points when two capital T's came along and helped keep the triangle from tipping over. How would that look?



89

#### **ICE CREAM CONE**

I was drawing a picture of an ice cream cone when the lights went out. I went ahead and finished my drawing in the dark. How would that look?

90





I

Two identical twins wearing the same clothes stood back to back, looking out in different directions. How would that look?



91

# **JIGSAW PUZZLE**

I started the jigsaw puzzle with the four corner pieces where I thought they should be. Then I connected several edge pieces to one corner. How would that look?

92

<u>ک</u>



# ΡΗΟΤΟ

l

I

On the table, there's a photo of my grandmother. If you look at it from the side, you can see what has been done to make the photo stand up. How would that look?



93

### BOOKSHELF

There were six books on a shelf. Five of the books fit standing up, but the sixth book would only fit when it was lying down flat. How would that look?



94

# **COOKIE CUTS**

l

I had a big round cookie and I cut it exactly in half. Then I cut one of the halves in half. I took a little bite out of the biggest of the three pieces, and then I put all of the pieces on a round plate. How would that look?



95

#### 95

#### **COZY TRIANGLES**

Three triangles of the same size and shape were very cold so they huddled together as closely as possible to stay warm. One of the triangles stayed warmer than the other two. How would that look?



#### SWING

l

Ι

When my dad put up a swing that hung from a tree branch, he made a mistake. Even though the two ropes he used were exactly the same length, the seat of the swing was not level. How would that look?

97

#### **PYRAMID**

The pyramid I was trying to make did not have a top because I had only nine blocks to work with. How would that look?





I

Six lines decided to get together and make four triangles. How would that look?



99

# 99

# JUICE GLASS

Our new juice glasses are very pretty but they are really hard to dry. How would one of them look?



100

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# **CIRCLE ROLL**

Two circles are near the top of a triangle. One is on one side, and one is on the other side. They are both outside of the triangle, and they are touching the lines of the triangle. They are both going to roll down their side of the triangle, but one will get to the bottom much faster than the other. How would that look?

101



101

#### **PUDDLE TRACKS**

I was riding a bicycle and my little sister was riding a tricycle. We rode straight through a puddle and on the other side our wheels left tracks on the sidewalk. How would that look?



102



I

If you had a straw and a piece of string and a pair of scissors, you could make a pretty necklace. How would that look?



103

#### 103

#### **SIDE-BY-SIDE H's**

Two capital H's, side by side, are sharing one up-and-down line. Nearby, six capital H's are sharing five up-and-down lines. How would that look?

104

# ... And finally!

# HALF EMPTY, HALF FULL

One of the glasses is half empty and one is half full. How would that look?



# INDEX

Alphabet Circus, 23 Ant Scramble, 65 At the Beach, 74 Balloons, 67 Banana, 4 Birds on Wires, 44 Birthday Wish, 40 Bookshelf, 94 Bowls, 19 Box of Jars, 81 Broken Circle, 82 Cat Trouble, 13 Circle Chase, 73 A Circle of Sorts, 1 Circle Roll, 101 Circle Touch, 47 Coat Hanger, 12 Cookie Cuts, 95 Cozy Triangles, 96 Crisscross, 25 Cute Octopus, 68 Dandelions, 51 Doggy Dress-up, 18 Dots in a Square, 45 Doughnut Bites, 78 Drawers, 72 Dream House, 31 Dusty Table, 48 Egg Danger, 28 Eleven Little O's, 79 Fancy W, 2 Fat F, Skinny E, 7 Five and Seven, 22 Footprints, 35 Forest, 58

Halfaphant, 70 Half Empty, Half Full, 105 Hanging Towel, 59 Happy Birthday, 49 Ice Cream Cone, 90 In the News, 85 Invisible Person, 46 Jack-O'-Lantern, 24 Jigsaw Puzzle, 92 Juice Glass, 100 Jumping Line, 14 Leaners, 61 Let Me In, 87 Letter Sizes, 71 Line in a Circle, 36 Line of L's, 50 Lines and Triangles, 99 Missing Button, 53 Moving Day, 60 Name Fade, 32 Neat Initials, 63 Necklace, 103 Pancakes, 6 Paper on Paper, 42 Paper Roll, 21 Photo, 93 Pie Chase, 88 Pizza Box, 37 Plakys, 52 Popsicle, 16 Puddle Tracks, 102 Puzzle Pieces, 56 Pyramid, 98 Rainbow Window, 8 Rainy-Day A, 33

River and Lake, 10 Sandwich of Sorts, 83 Scissors Part, 80 Shadow Pictures, 75 Shapes in Shapes, 17 Side-by-Side H's, 104 Sidewalk, 64 Silly Lump, 3 Skinny Snowman, 26 So Many Circles, 54 Spiral Cookies, 84 Squares and Dots, 66 Stacking Boxes, 38 Stringy Finger, 5 Strong Buttons, 20 Stuck Letters, 11 Swing, 97 Table Talk, 76 Tennis Ball Can, 86 This Way Up, 9 Tipped Glass, 43 Tree Work, 15 Triangle Balance, 30 Triangle Wall, 39 T's and Triangle, 89 Twins, 91 Two A's, Tall T, 57 Two Balloons, 34 Two Scoops, 27 Umbrella, 69 Upside Down, 62 Window Dressing, 55 You've Got Mail, 29 Yummy, 41 Zoops, 77