

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Grammar Fluency

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<b>Category</b>	Fluency in Key Grammar	<b>Title</b>	Grammar Book 19 – Dear Diary: Dummy Subject "IT"
<b>Ages</b>	6–9	<b>Theme</b>	Dummy It — Evaluating, Fact-Stating, Weather, Time + It + Adjective Expressions

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children step into the private world of a young girl's diary — and through 15 heartfelt entries, discover one of English's most fascinating and hardworking words: the Dummy It. Unlike a regular pronoun, the Dummy It doesn't refer to any specific thing — it simply fills the subject position to make English flow naturally. 'It was fun to walk in the rain.' 'It was hard to say goodbye.'

This book bridges a crucial gap between textbook English and the emotional, rhythmic flow of real-world storytelling. Children who master Dummy It can evaluate experiences, state facts, describe weather and time, and express opinions with a natural fluency that instantly sounds more like a native speaker.

## THE FIVE USES OF DUMMY IT

Type of Dummy It	Structure	Example
<b>Evaluating an experience</b>	It + be + adjective + to-infinitive	<i>It was fun to walk in the rain. / It was hard to say goodbye.</i>
<b>Fact or truth</b>	It + be + adjective + that-clause	<i>It is true that sharks have no bones. / It is clear that the Sun is a star.</i>
<b>Importance / necessity</b>	It + be + adjective + to-infinitive	<i>It is important to wash your hands. / It is essential to check your facts.</i>
<b>Possibility / likelihood</b>	It + be + adjective + to/that	<i>It is possible to swim fast. / It is likely that a bull will charge.</i>
<b>Weather and time</b>	It + be + weather/time	<i>It is raining. / It is 8 o'clock. / It is cold today.</i>

## IT + ADJECTIVE — A COMPLETE REFERENCE

Adjective	Example	Adjective	Example
<b>true</b>	<i>It is true that sharks have no bones.</i>	<b>surprising</b>	<i>It is surprising that bulls are colourblind.</i>
<b>false</b>	<i>It is false that toads give you warts.</i>	<b>amazing</b>	<i>It is amazing that goldfish can remember.</i>
<b>clear</b>	<i>It is clear that the Sun is a star.</i>	<b>interesting</b>	<i>It is interesting to note how a turtle's shell is made.</i>
<b>obvious</b>	<i>It is obvious that a giraffe needs a strong heart.</i>	<b>strange</b>	<i>It is strange that people believed toads cause warts.</i>
<b>important</b>	<i>It is important to wash your hands.</i>	<b>incredible</b>	<i>It is incredible to see how fast an ostrich can run.</i>
<b>possible</b>	<i>It is possible to swim as fast as a shark.</i>	<b>impossible</b>	<i>It is impossible to take a shell off a living turtle.</i>
<b>likely</b>	<i>It is likely that a bull will charge.</i>	<b>unlikely</b>	<i>It is unlikely that a goldfish will forget its owner.</i>

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Use Dummy It to evaluate experiences — 'It was fun to...' / 'It was hard to...'
- Use It + be + adjective + that-clause to state facts and opinions
- Use It + be + adjective + to-infinitive for importance and necessity
- Use Dummy It naturally for weather and time
- Write a Five-Minute Diary using at least three Dummy It structures

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Master the Evaluating It

Ask your child about their day using the book's diary patterns: 'Was it exciting to see your friends today?' or 'Was it difficult to finish your homework?' Encourage them to answer in full: 'Yes, it was exciting to see my friends because...' or 'It was a bit hard to finish my homework but it was satisfying when I did.' This warm, conversational practice makes the It + adjective + infinitive structure feel completely natural.

### 2. Work through the adjective expressions

Use the reference table above to go through all 14 adjective expressions. For each one, ask your child to make their own sentence about something real in their life or from the book's science facts. For example: 'It is amazing that a tiny goldfish has a five-month memory.' or 'It is important to get enough sleep.' The more personal the sentence, the more memorable the structure.

### 3. Start a Five-Minute Diary

Encourage your child to write just three sentences before bed every night using Dummy It. The structure is simple: 'It was [adjective] to [experience]. It was [adjective] when [event]. It is [adjective] that [fact or opinion].' This turns a sophisticated grammar concept into a simple, daily self-reflection habit — and over time produces beautifully fluent, natural English writing.

### 4. Notice weather and time It

Point out that English always uses Dummy It for weather and time — we never say 'Rains today' or 'Is 8 o'clock.' It must always be there! As you go through the diary entries, spot every hidden use of weather or time It. Ask: 'Is this It referring to something specific?' When the answer is no, it's a Dummy It — one of the most hardworking words in the language.

### **FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES**

After one week of Five-Minute Diary writing, ask your child to read back their favourite entry and count how many Dummy It structures they used naturally. Then challenge them to rewrite the same entry replacing every Dummy It with no It at all — and discover how strange and unnatural English sounds without it! This reverse exercise is one of the most powerful ways to show children why Dummy It is essential. Display the best diary entries — they are often genuinely beautiful pieces of writing.

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

[Click here to try the online learning activities](#)

### **TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS**

The Dummy Subject It is one of the most under-taught yet most frequently used structures in English. Learners who are not exposed to it naturally produce ungrammatical sentences like 'Is important to study' or 'Was fun yesterday' — errors that immediately mark their speech as non-native. The diary format is ideal for teaching this structure because it naturally produces exactly the kind of personal evaluation sentences where Dummy It appears most frequently. The Five-Minute Diary habit is one of the most valuable activities in the entire series — it builds writing fluency, emotional literacy, and grammar accuracy all at once. For classroom settings, sharing diary entries (voluntarily) creates a wonderful sense of community and mutual understanding among students.