

My Name is Not Peter Cottontail

Dear Abby,

My name is Peter and I am in the fifth grade. On the first day of school my teacher, Mrs. Hernandez, gave each student a desk to sit at. She then called on every student to say their name. I knew my turn to speak was coming and I was very scared. I just knew I was going to stutter in front of everybody.

When it was my turn to say my name I just sat in my seat quietly. Everyone was looking at me. I didn't even try to say "Peter" because I knew I would get stuck on the "P." Mrs. Hernandez looked surprised and said, "What is your name?" A boy named Ben stood up and said, "He is Peter Cottontail." Everyone laughed including me. Mrs. Hernandez smiled and said to me, "It is nice to meet you, Peter."

I really need some help saying my name. What should I do?

I Hate Fish

Dear Abby,

I am in the seventh grade. My name is Rosa and I hate fish! My mother takes my brother and me to McDonalds for dinner once a week. Mom says I can order anything I want. I love cheeseburgers so much but I always stutter when I say it. It comes out, "ch-ch-ch-ch-cheeseburger." I don't want to stutter at McDonalds in front of all of those people so when it is my turn to order I usually just ask for a fish sandwich. But I really want a cheeseburger. I have no idea what to do. Please help me.

Teasing is Not Cool

Dear Abby,

My name is David and I am almost 9. In my school there is a girl named Sara who is a little heavy. Some of the kids call her "Fat Sara." Sara tries to stay away from these mean kids, but she still gets teased. At lunch this week Sara was eating alone and a bunch of kids sat down and started calling her fat and told her to go on a diet. Sara started crying. I don't think it is fair that Sara gets teased so much. How can I help Sara?

Mouth Traffic

Dear Abby,

My name is Jorge and I am in the fifth grade. When I talk, my words get stuck. Yesterday I tried to order a large coke at the movies. I said to the counter guy, "I would like a llllllllllllllllarge coke." I thought this stutter would never end. I was very embarrassed.

Sometimes I call it "mouth traffic" when I stutter because it feels that my mouth is stuck in a traffic jam and can't move. I know that sometimes when my mouth gets stuck I also close my eyes very tight.

What can I do when I am trying to say a word but it just doesn't come out?

Gym Problem

Dear Abby,

My name is Betty and I am in the sixth grade and have gym class twice a week. In gym we can either play on the basketball team or on the volleyball team. I really wanted to play on the basketball team, but I always stutter on words that start with "b." So when the gym teacher asked me what team I wanted to join, I said "volleyball" so that I would not stutter. Now I am stuck playing volleyball when I really just want to play basketball. What should I do?

B-B-B-B-B-Baseball Practice

Dear Abby,

I am ten years old, my name is Chris, and I am the best baseball player at school. I play shortstop and third base and my team is the Sharks. Last year I hit seven home runs.

Whenever I go to baseball practice there are several guys on my team who tease me because of how I talk. They say, "Chris likes bu-bu-bu-bu-bu-baseball" and "Here comes stu-stu-stu-stutter boy." They also say some other very mean things about my stutter. My coach is a nice guy but he is very busy and he never hears them tease me. What should I do?