



## The Missing Cap

Written by Leslie Knowles  
Illustrated by Brett Andrews



### Phonics Skill

#### *Contractions*

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Phillip pulled on his white pants and his red top. He just couldn't wait for today's game. Last night, Phillip hadn't made a single strike. He'd felt pleased when fans in the stands had yelled and clapped. This time Phillip might even hit some home runs!

Phillip's brother came into Phillip's room. "Let's play!" Joe shouted. Joe was just three.





"We're not playing, Joe," Phillip said. "I've got a game in an hour."

Phillip tugged on his long socks. He stopped to look at himself. Wasn't something missing? Phillip scratched his head. His cap! Phillip looked on his bedside stand. His cap wasn't there. He looked on his bed. He looked under it. Where was his cap? Phillip was worried.





Mom was peeling carrots in the kitchen. She smiled at Phillip. But she hadn't seen his cap. Mom asked where he'd seen it last.

Phillip pictured his game last night. It was very late. His dad had driven him home. Phillip had gone to bed as soon as he got home. Hadn't he placed his cap on his bedside stand?





"Look in Joe's room," Mom suggested. "I'll look in the car." No cap!

"If you'll look under chairs, I'll look under tables," Mom said. No cap!

"Coach Pepper has a strict rule: team members can't play without caps," Phillip said. "But if I'm late, he'll begin without me." Phillip's day just wasn't going as he'd planned.





Phillip's big sister Patty came in. "What's everybody looking for?" Patty asked.


"My cap. But I'm sure you can't find it," Phillip said.

"I'll bet I can!" Patty frowned. Then she opened doors under the kitchen sink.

"You're not helping!" Phillip said. "Why would my cap be under the kitchen sink?"





 Patty pulled out Joe's lunchbox. It had robots on it. "Silly Joe often stores stuff here," Patty said. She opened Joe's lunchbox. There lay Phillip's cap. It looked crushed, but Phillip didn't mind. Hurray! He'd hit those home runs yet!

Just then Joe came in. "It's time to play!" he yelled.





Phillip just laughed. Now he'd know where to locate missing sunglasses and brushes—under the kitchen sink!

