

BRATS

A few years ago a French toy company had an unusual contest—"The World's Biggest Brat" contest. The company had a **prize** for the child whose behavior was the worst in the world. Over 2,000 parents entered their children in the contest. "Our child is the world's biggest brat!" they wrote. The parents made lists of all the bad things their children had done. Judges read the lists and chose the winner. She was a little girl from the United States. Her name was Lizzie, and she was four years old. Here are a few of the things Lizzie did to win the title "The World's Biggest Brat":

*She put a garden **hose** into the gas tank of her father's car. Then she turned on the water.

*She painted a **leather** sofa with spray paint.

*She threw her mother's wedding ring into the toilet. Then she flushed the toilet.

*She put an ice-cream sandwich into the DVD player.

*She set the table for dinner. Then she **glued** the **silverware** to the table.

Lizzie may be the world's biggest brat, but she is certainly not the world's only brat. Alo is a five year old boy from Bangladesh. One afternoon, while his father was sleeping on the couch, Alo cut off his father's mustache. A few days later, he cut off his brother's eyebrows when his brother was sleeping in the bedroom. A few weeks after that, he cut off most of his mother's hair when she was asleep at night. Alo's family now keeps every pair of **scissors** in a secret place and sleep behind closed doors!



The behavior of a Mexican boy named Manuel is perhaps even worse because it is more dangerous. Manuel likes to play with matches. Once he found some matches and went quietly into his parent's bedroom and set fire to the **curtains**.

No mother or father wants to be the parent of a brat. Parents everywhere try to control their children's behavior. Some parents spank their children when they **misbehave**. Other parents won't let their children watch TV or eat candy. In Japan, parents often send their children outside when they misbehave and tell them they can't come into the house. In the U.S., parents do just the opposite: They send their child to their bedrooms and tell them they can't go outside.

Lizzie's parents don't know what to do about her. Her mother says, "I keep telling myself that Lizzie is going through a stage, but sometimes I don't know . . . It seems like she's always getting into trouble." Lizzie's father says, "One day we'll look back on all this and laugh.

What does Lizzie think about her behavior? Lizzie doesn't like to talk about it. When a reporter asked Lizzie if she was "a bad girl," Lizzie **kicked** his leg. Then she yelled, "I'm not a brat! I'm an angel! Get out of my house!"

Look at the story about Brats and use the context of the words in bold to choose the correct spaces below.

HOSE	KICKED	GLUED
PRIZE	CURTAINS	SILVERWARE
LEATHER	SCISSORS	MISBEHAVES

1. The French toy company gave Lizzie's family a _____. They got money and some toys because Lizzie was the winner of the contest.
2. Lizzie doesn't do what her parents tell her to do. She _____.
3. The couch that Lizzie painted was very expensive; it was made of _____.
4. People usually use a _____ to water their gardens, but Lizzie used it to put water in the gas tank of her dad's car.
5. When Lizzie's family sat down to eat, they couldn't pick up their knives, forks, and spoons because Lizzie had _____ the _____ to the table.
6. Alo used a pair of _____ to cut his family's hair while they were sleeping.
7. In the bedroom, Manuel set fire to the _____.
8. When a reporter asked Lizzie if she was a "bad girl," Lizzie hit him with her foot. She _____ the reporter.

Complete the spaces below to show that you really understand the vocabulary.

1. A child I know who often misbehaves is _____

2. I would like to give _____ a prize because _____

3. Three things I have that are made of leather are _____
