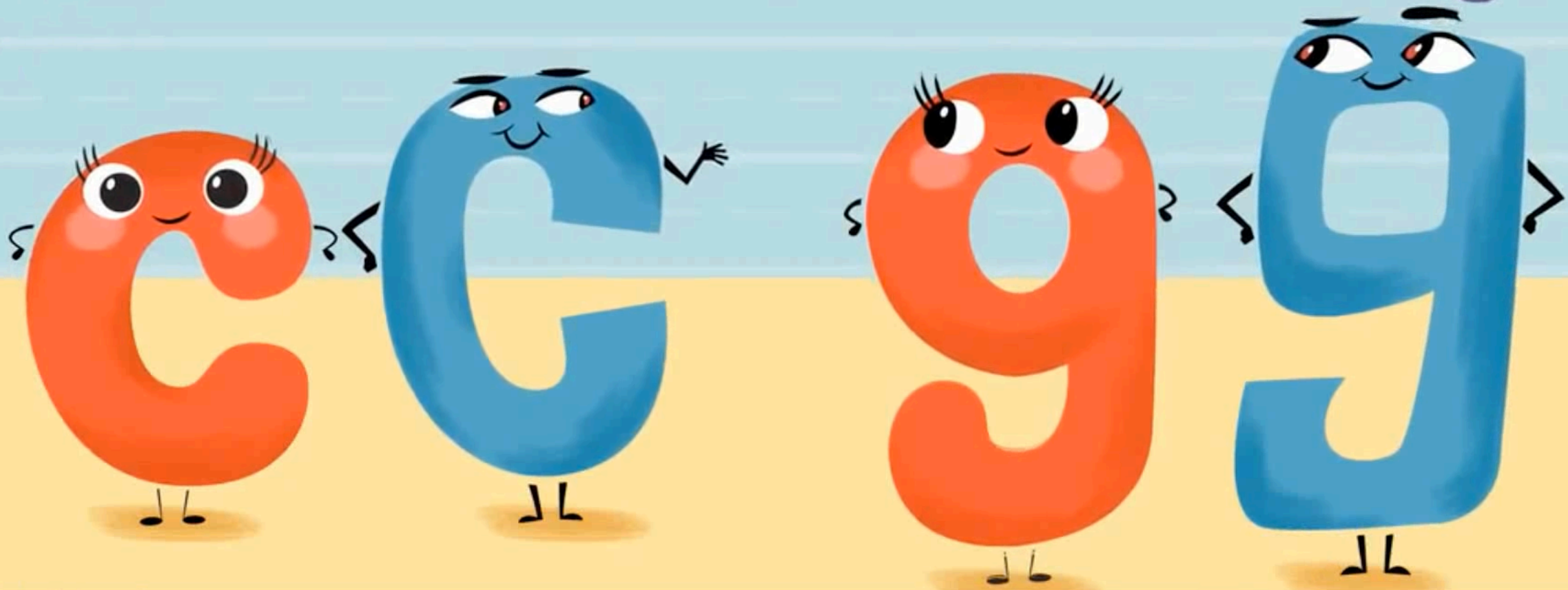


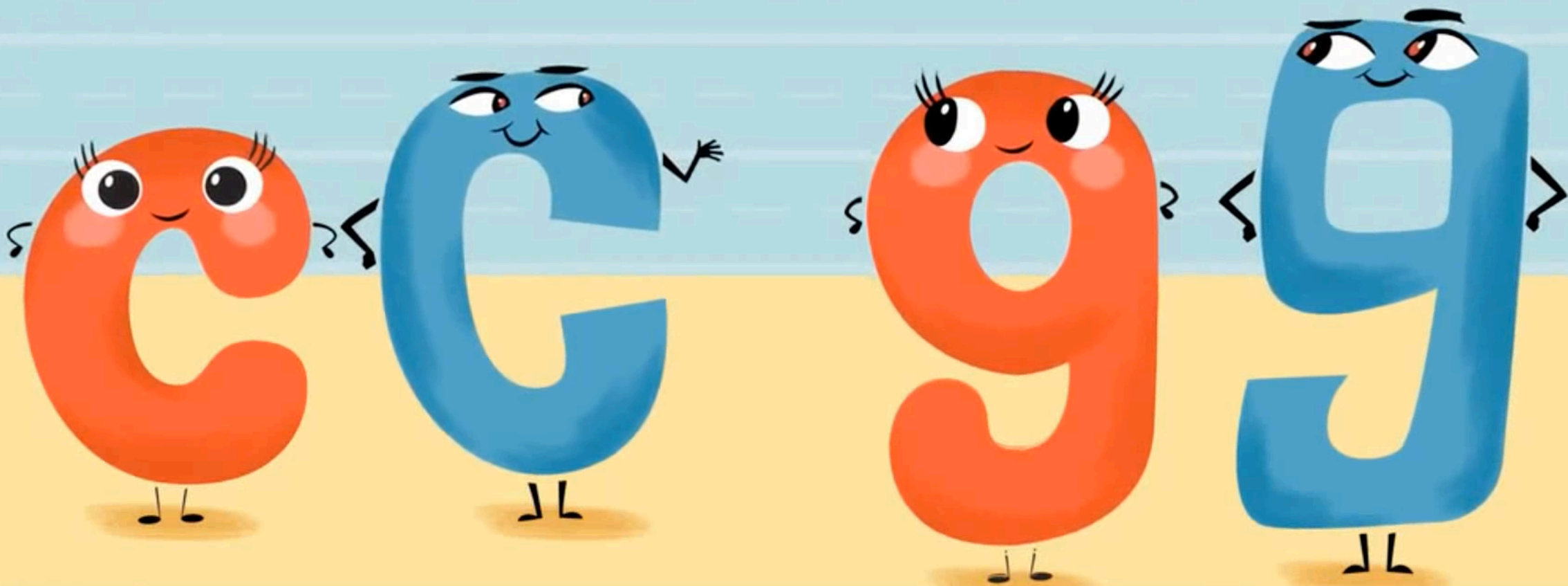
The Story of c and 9



You probably know the letters c and g. But did you know that there is a **soft c** and a **hard c**? There's also a **soft g** and a **hard g**.



You probably know the letters c and g. But did you know that there is a *soft* **c** and a *hard* **c**? There's also a *soft* **g** and a *hard* **g**.



cent circus cycle

When the letter after **c** is e, i, or y, the **c** usually stands for the "s" sound. Then it's called a *soft c*. *Cent, circus, and cycle* are all words that begin with a soft **c**.





gem
magic
gym

When the letter **g** comes before e, i, or y, the **g** usually stands for the "j" sound. That's called a soft **g**. You can hear the sound of that soft **g** in the words *gem*, *magic*, and *gym*.



badge
large
hinge

When the letter **g** comes after *d*, *r*, or *n*, it's usually a soft **g**. You can hear it when you say the words *badge*, *large*, and *hinge*. Did you notice that all these words end in a silent *e*?



cook
cape
cup

When the letter after **c** in a word is *a*, *o*, or *u*, the **c** stands for the "k" sound. That's called a *hard c*. *Cook*, *cape*, and *cup* are words with a *hard c*.

game
gone
gulp

The *hard* **g** is in words like *game*, *gone*, and *gulp*. That's because when the letter after **g** is *a*, *o*, or *u*, the **g** usually stands for the "g" sound.



game
gone
gulp

Now that you know about these amazing letters, let's see if you can spot the words with a hard and soft c and g in this story...



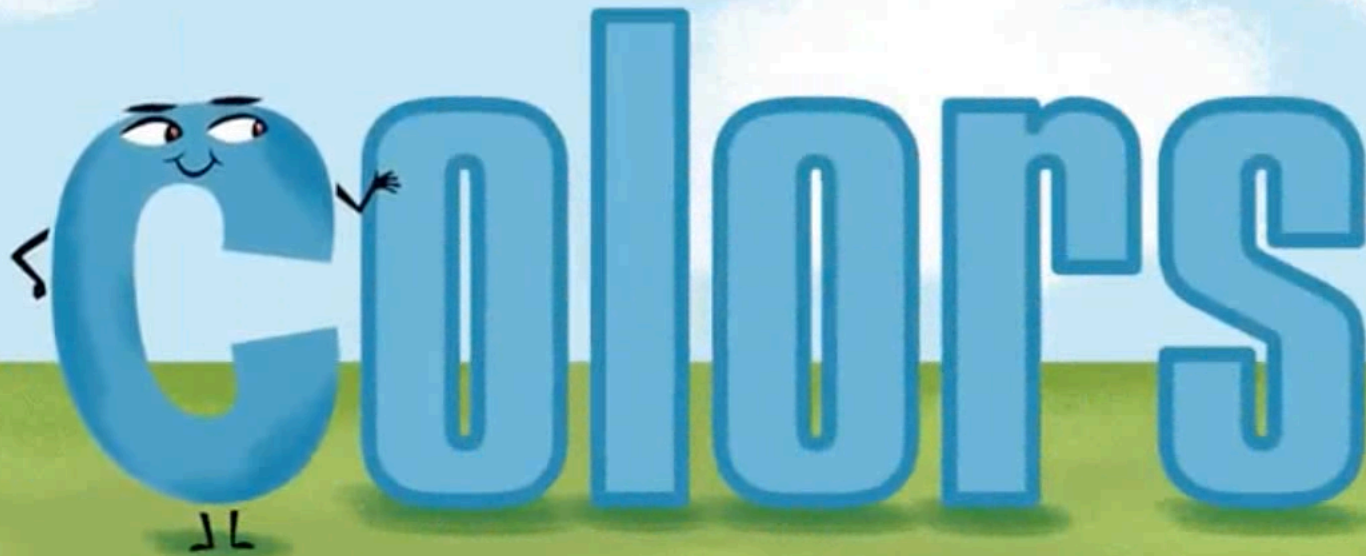
"What's wrong?" soft **c** asked.

"It's not fair!" complained hard **c**. "Everybody likes you and soft **g** better than us. It's because you're in fun words like *dance* and *fancy*. But we're in words like *cavity*, *goo*, and *garbage can*."



"You're in fun words, too!" soft **c** insisted. "Without *hard c*, we wouldn't have cake. Nothing would be cute. And it would be a world without colors!"

"That would be sad," said *hard c*.

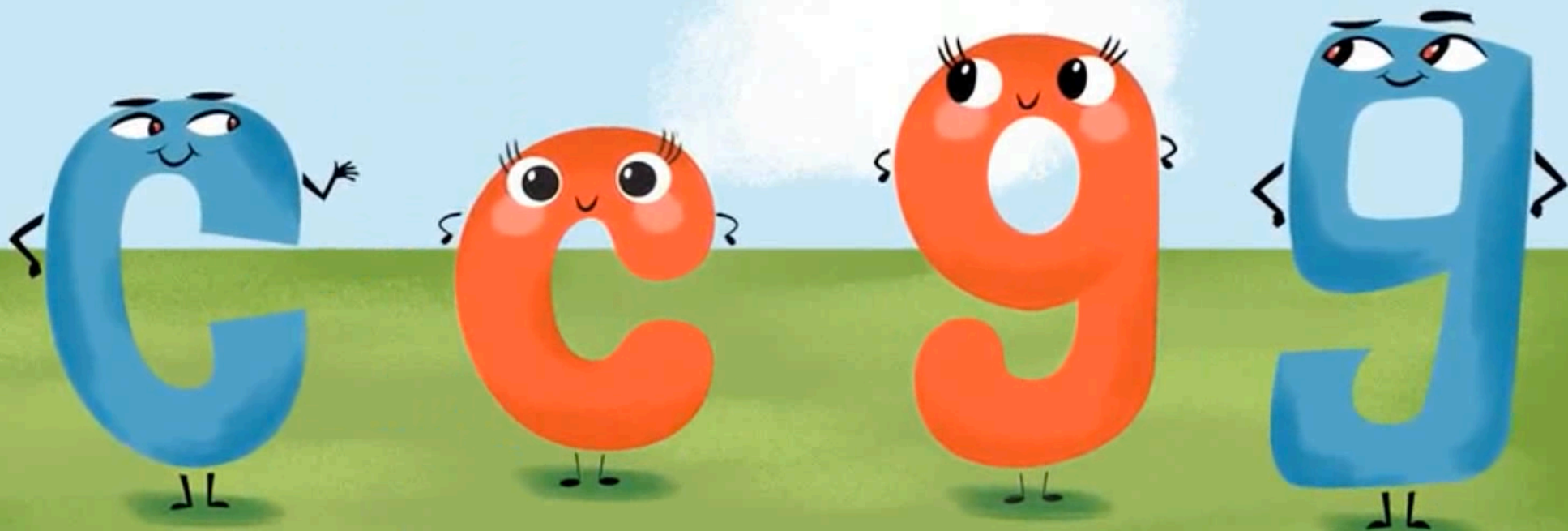


"And what about you?" *soft g* said to *hard g*. "Without you, we wouldn't be able to play games or give hugs or act goofy."

"You're right," said *hard g*. "I never thought of it that way!"

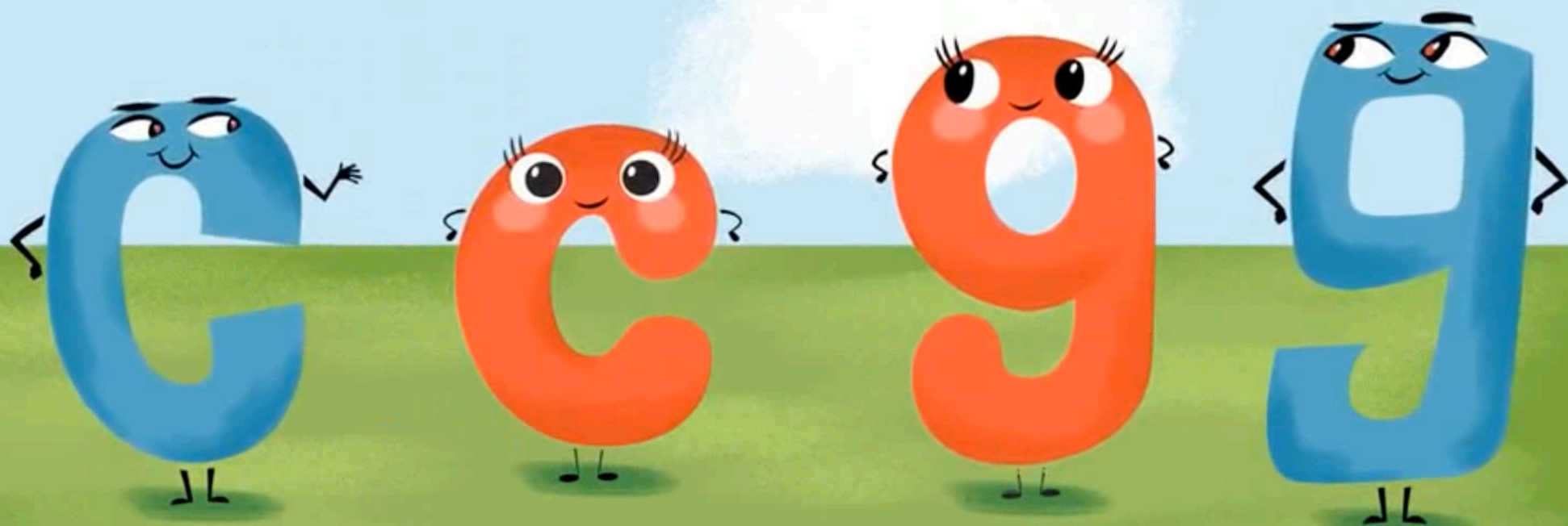


"I hope you don't hold a grudge against us for complaining," said *hard c*. "We owe you an apology."



"That's very nice of you," soft **c** said sincerely.

"I wish everyone could know how many wonderful words we're in," said hard **g**.



"I know a way," said soft **c**. "I have a giant balloon. We can fly from place to place above the city and give everyone our great words as a gift. Imagine how happy they'll be!"



"Let's go for it!" said *hard g*.

"We can do it!" said *hard c*.

And so they did!

gull

goose

coat

race

range

age

icy

fudge

circle

cup

mel

