

# Making 'Sketti

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Bobby's little brother couldn't say 'spaghetti.' To Harry, it was always called 'Sketti.' Everyone always thought it was cute and adorable, even funny. Bobby just thought it was silly and a bit ridiculous. Harry was just three years old after all.

The standard conversation went like this:

Harry: "Whatcha makin, ma?"

Mom: "Spaghetti with meat sauce, a salad, and garlic bread."

Harry: "Makin Sketti! Makin Sketti!"

That went on for about an hour, or at least until everyone was done clearing dishes *after* dinner. It actually did get kind of annoying. Harry was quite the broken record sometimes. It could be very bothersome, but never as much as when they ate spaghetti. Anything else usually got boring for him after about ten or fifteen minutes. The Sketti routine lasted much longer.

So, Bobby decided to teach his brother to say it right. Once he'd done that, he'd never have to hear it ever again. He sat his brother down with a spaghetti box and showed it to him, and they practiced saying it.

"Say spaghetti, Harry." Bobbed directed.

Harry saw the box. "Sketti! Makin Sketti!"

Bobby stifled a groan and tried sounding it out. "Spa-get-ti."

"Sketti, sketti, sketti!" Harry returned cheerfully.

One more try: "Spa!"

Harry bounced on his seat cushion. "Sketti!"

Bobby clenched his fists. "Say it part by part, goofy. Spa..."

Harry grinned. "Spa!"

"Get." Bobby tried to coax out another syllable.

"GETTY!" Harry blurted out, finishing the word.

Bobby blinked. "Spa-getty!"

"SPA-GETTY!" Harry shouted triumphantly. "SPA-GETTY! SPA-GETTY!"

It was done. He had eliminated the problem forever. Bobby sank down in relief. He'd never have to hear about 'Sketti again. Moreover, he'd even taught his brother something.

"SPA-GETTY! SPA-GETTY!" Harry shouted over and over.

Then again, maybe this was just the beginning of a new episode of annoying...



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. How did most people feel about Harry's pronunciation of 'spaghetti?'
  - A. They thought it was annoying.
  - B. They thought it was funny.
  - C. They thought it was boring.
  - D. They didn't care.
  
2. How did Bobby feel about the 'Sketti issue?'
  - A. He thought it was annoying.
  - B. He thought it was funny.
  - C. He thought it was boring.
  - D. He didn't care about it.
  
3. What plan did Bobby come up with?
  - A. He would never eat spaghetti.
  - B. He would listen to music during dinner.
  - C. He would scream if his brother said that word again!
  - D. He would teach his brother to say it right.
  
4. How would you describe Bobby when he's teaching?
  - A. He is impatient and irritated.
  - B. He is calm and collected.
  - C. He is smart and proper.
  - D. He is silly and cool.
  
5. What side effect of teaching does Bobby realize after he's done?
  - A. He fixed one problem, but that was it.
  - B. He fixed one problem, and he taught his brother something at the same time.
  - C. He is a bad teacher, so he would never try again.
  - D. He likes teaching and might want to be one in the future.

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