This red hen is named Jen.
One day, Jen decided to get her own nest. She packed a chest with the help of her parents, Ben and Bess.
Jen pecked them good-bye. Then she set out west to find the best nest.
Jen saw a pig pen and went inside. But that pen was a mess! It was not the best nest.
Jen saw a tent and went inside. But the tent belonged to ten elves! It was not the best nest.
Jen saw a **shed** and **went** inside. But the **shed** was **bent** and **let** all the rain in! Jen got very, very **wet**.

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It was **definitely** not the **best nest**. Then, **Jen** got an **excellent** idea.

**Phonics Fact**
A word can have more than one short-\(e\) sound. The word **excellent** has three!
Jen found sticks and stems and shells and thread and feathers and even some French fries.

Phonics Fact

Sometimes the short-e sound is made by the letters ea as in thread. Can you find another ea word on this page that makes the short-e sound?

(Answer: feathers)
Jen made **them** into a **nest**.
Next, Jen built a desk and a bench and a cozy bed for taking a rest.

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Then, Jen invited her very first guests.
Jen served an elegant meal of fresh worms and ketchup.
“I bet my nest is the best in the West,” said Jen.
“Yes! Yes!” agreed Ben and Bess.
They were so impressed!
Listen to the riddles. Then match each riddle with the right short-e word from the box.

Word Box
yes  pen  bench  wet  red
shell  hen  bed  nest  ketchup

1. This is the word for a girl chicken.
2. A strawberry is this color.
3. You might search for one at the beach.
4. It means the opposite of no.
5. You put this on french fries.
6. A bird builds one in a tree.
7. Pigs live in this place.
8. You sleep on one at night.
9. It means the opposite of dry.
10. You can sit on this at the park.
Short-e Cheer

Hooray for short e, the best sound around!
Let’s holler short-e words all over town!
There’s west and next and red and hen.
There’s net and fresh and nest and men.
There’s best and bench and shelf and send.
There’s mess and spell and yes and end.
Short e, short e, give a great cheer,
For the most elegant sound you ever will hear!

Make a list of other short-e words. Then use them in your cheer.