

Bert and Usher



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
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SESAME STREET
DETROIT, MI 48233
JUNE 22, 2019

Bert is Ernie's best friend and roommate on *Sesame Street*. The pair share the basement apartment at 123 Sesame Street. In contrast to the practical-joking, extroverted Ernie, Bert is serious, studious, and tries to make sense of his friend's actions. His own passions include reading Boring Stories, collecting paper clips and bottle caps, consuming oatmeal, and studying pigeons. While Ernie's best companion outside of Bert is Rubber Duckie, Bert has his pet pigeon, Bernice. Bert, has a distinctive, bleating laugh. Usher (born Usher Raymond IV, 1978) is one of the best selling artists in American music history, selling over 23 million copies in the U. S. The singer paid a visit to *Sesame Street* to hang out with his good pal Bert. Usher participated in the Word of the Day segment where he and Bert discussed the word "unique" and the meaning of it.

Usher is a singer and an actor, and one of the best selling artists in American music history selling over 23 million copies in the United States. Usher has won five Grammy Awards, four American Music Awards, and eight Soul Train Music Awards. Usher has also served as a mentor to young music sensation Justin Bieber. For *Sesame Street's* 41st season, Usher presented "Volunteer" as the Word of the Day. He also danced in the video for "The Elmo Slide." He also appeared during the 44th season, performing "The ABCs of Moving You" and talking about the word "unique."

Cookie Monster and Taraji P. Henson



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Cookie Monster is a voracious monster and a main character on *Sesame Street*. Covered with blue fur and possessing a pair of googly eyes, he has an insatiable appetite. His primary craving is cookies, but he will consume anything and everything, from apples to letters, flatware, and hubcaps. When Cookie Monster eats something, he makes a very distinct, loud, munching "noise," often interpreted as "OMM-nom-nom-nom..." He has a deep, growly voice, and generally speaks with simplistic diction – for instance, saying "Me want cookie!," as opposed to "I want a cookie!" When Taraji P. Henson hosted *Saturday Night Live*, she did a sketch as *Empire's* fur-wrapped, finger-pointing, and sassy Cookie Lyon and took a stroll down Sesame Street where she refused Cookie Monster's offer to share a chocolate chip treat before snatching it and devouring it all by herself.

While all the monsters on *Sesame Street* have their own distinctive characteristics, they also share many similarities—they're colorful, fuzzy, friendly beasts. They also all have four fingers on each hand, except for Cookie Monster, who has five fingers on each hand and ten in total. Most people are right-handed: only around 10 percent of the population is thought to be left-handed. That's why it shouldn't be surprising that most of the puppets on *Sesame Street* are also right-handed, with the exceptions being Cookie Monster and Ernie, who are both lefties. The performers who control the characters use their left hands as the puppet's dominant hand and use their right hands to move the mouths. You can also call Cookie Monster by what he *thinks* is his first name, Sid.