



It's amazing how much fun you can have with just a piece of string!

Cats cradle games have been played all around the world for thousands of years. If you've never tried creating string figures before, the simple ones here are a perfect place to begin!

## Ingredients

- 1 metre of string

## Equipment

- Your hands!



## Getting started

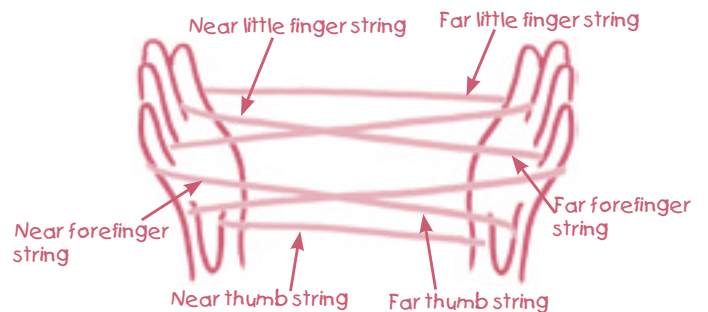
- 1 Start by knotting the ends of your string together to make a long loop.



- 2 Hold the loop between your hands, hooking the string around your thumbs, across your palm and back around your little finger.



- 3 The strings all have names relating to the finger that's holding them and whether they're near or far from your body as you make the figure. Check the diagram below to help you follow the instructions for each of the string figure projects here.



## Instructions Witch's Broom

- 1 Hold your string in the starting position, as above. Slide your right forefinger through the right palm loop and then twirl your finger around as if you were drawing a circle in the air. Move it back into position and you should find that the string is wrapped around your finger.



- 2 Move your left forefinger through the string wrapped around your right palm loop and pick up the right palm loop string. Pull all strings taut.

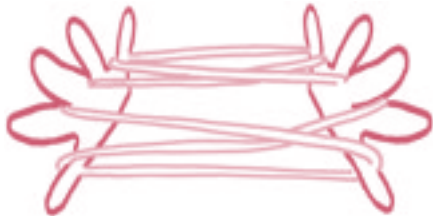


- 3 Quickly, but carefully let go of the strings looped on your right thumb and right little finger. The figure you're left with looks like a witch or wizard's broomstick.



## Instructions Butterfly

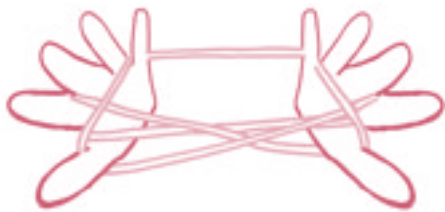
**1** Hold the string in a starting position. Slide your left forefinger through the right palm loop and pull the strings taut. Slide your right forefinger through the left palm loop and pull taut again.



**2** Next, let both of the thumb strings go.



**3** Move your thumbs over the top of both forefinger strings and pick up the near little finger strings. Move your thumbs back into position.



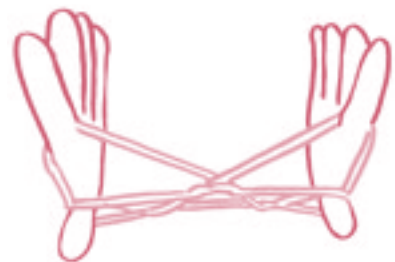
**4** Let the strings slip off both little fingers.



**5** Use your thumbs to pick up the near forefinger strings before moving them back into position.



**6** You should now have two string loops around each thumb. Very carefully slip the lower loops off without moving the top ones. You can either use your middle fingers to do this, or ask a friend to help out.



**7** Hook your forefingers over the string which is running between your thumb and forefinger strings. You need to pick up the upper part of the string. As you do this, your forefinger strings will slide off. In one smooth movement, turn your hands away from you so the palms face outwards and stretch your thumbs and forefingers apart. A beautiful string butterfly should emerge as you do this!



### TOP TIP:

No string nearby? Try using narrow ribbon, cord or braid instead.

If you don't get the cat's cradle right on your first try, don't give up! It often takes a few attempts to get it right, so persevere; it's a great feeling when the string eventually does the right thing.