



Learn English Through Stories

C Series

C1

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1. A Big White Hen



There was once a big, white hen that had twelve little chicks. The chicks were very small, and the old hen took good care of them. The chicks always did what the hen told them to do.



One day, the old hen was bored. The old hen wanted to take her chicks somewhere nice.

She thought to herself, “Where shall I take them? To the park, no, too many people are there. To the zoo, no, my chicks are too young for that. A canal – yes.”

So the old hen took her chicks down to a small canal.

It was very pretty on the other side of the canal, and the hen wanted to take her chicks over there.

There was a large stone in the canal. The hen thought her chicks were big enough to jump onto that stone. Then they could jump from the stone to the other side. So, the hen jumped onto the stone and told the chicks to come after her.

For the first time, the chicks would not obey her.

The hen flapped her wings and cried, “Come here, all of you! Jump onto this stone with me. Then, we can all jump to the other side.”

The chicks still would not obey her. “Oh, Mother! We can't, we can't, we can't!” said all the little chicks.

“Yes, you can if you try,” said the old hen. “Just flap your wings like this, and you can jump over.”

“We are flapping our wings,” said the little Choocha. “But our jumps are too little.” The chicks were worried that the hen would be mad at them.

The mother hen jumped back onto the bank. “You are all still too small,” she said. She picked up all the chicks in her big wings and carried them across the canal.

They were all happy. The old hen said to her chicks, “We will try again next week; you are going to be much stronger next week.”

“There is no harm in trying... Trying improves your skills, enhances your stamina and encourages you to be better than before.”

2. The Little Goat and the Wolf



On a big farm lived a herd of goats. The dogs protected them as they moved to the pasture. There was a pack of wolves in the nearby forest. The wolves roamed around targeting the goats grazing the grass. Some goats that broke away from the herd were killed and eaten by these wolves. The dogs worked hard as much as they could to safely protect the goats from the wolves.

One day a baby goat got separated from the herd while the other goats were grazing on grass. The kid was happy to be alone. A wolf saw the kid as it approached the forest alone. The wolf approached the kid. The kid was very scared when he saw the wolf. The kid's mother had warned him many times about this wolf.

[“Kids don't sometimes listen to their parents; it is a universal problem.”](#)

The baby goat was very afraid; it was smart though. It understood that it must now protect itself from the wolf. It said to the wolf, “I understand that I have made a great mistake, but you must do something for me before you eat me.”

The wolf lost his patience, “What is that?” he asked.

“I know that you sing very well, and I have heard you playing the flute sweetly. So I wish to listen to your song and music quietly!” said the kid to the wolf.

The wolf liked this compliment very much. “I'm going to eat you anyway. So I hope no harm comes from fulfilling your last wish,” replied the wolf proudly to the lamb. Then the wolf began to sing loudly; also played the flute.

As the circling dogs heard the wolf's song and the flute, they went to look around the herd. A little goat was not seen in the herd. Immediately the dogs understood that there was something wrong going to happen to the kid. They ran fast towards the direction of the song, towards the edge of the forest.

The wolf then finished his song. At that moment the dogs came rushing towards it, biting the wolf as fast as they came. The wolf ran away with injuries.

The kid was very happy as his plan was fulfilled. But from then on the little goat was very cautious; it then obeyed what the old goats said.

The kid learnt his lesson. It told this story to many other baby lambs.

Listen to your elders' advice. Not because they are always right, but because they have more experience of **being wrong**.

3. The Oldman and the Cheat

There was an Oldman who was very fond of going on pilgrimages. One day, he had nothing else to do and thought to himself, 'I've been to the Golden Temple; I've been to the Taj Mahal; I've been to Durga Mata. But I've never been to Kashi; I've never been to Haridwar; I've never been to Baba Baalak Nath. This year, I go to Baba Baalak Nath.'

He did not trust anyone. He did not trust his nephew; he did not trust his niece; he did not trust his friends. He trusted no one in the village; he trusted no one in the family. So he always carried his money and other belongings – gold and silver – with him.

He had a vest which he wore under the other clothes. The vest had a huge front pocket. He kept all his valuables in his pocket. He had one more habit: he always counted his money before going to sleep and after sleep.

One early morning, he left for his pilgrimage. He walked for several days. One day, he stopped near Nawa Shahar (the new city). In the evening, he was counting his money as usual when a man passed by. The man saw the Oldman counting his money.

The next morning, the man came to the Oldman with a glass of milk and some biscuits. The man paid respect to the Oldman by touching his feet. The Oldman blessed the man by placing his hand on the man's head. The man asked the Oldman where he was going. The Oldman replied that he was going to Baba Baalak Nath. The man said that he would like to go as well. Then the man told the Oldman his story.

The man said, 'I am an orphan. My parents died when I was very young. I live with my uncle and aunt. He is very cruel. She doesn't give me enough food. I am always hungry. Please help me. I want to be your disciple. I will do whatever you will ask me to do. I will fetch water for you. I will cook food for you...'

The Oldman thought for some time and then agreed to take him as his disciple. They walked along the river Sutlej. One day, it was a scorching hot day. The Oldman was sweating profusely. They sat under a tree next to the river. The Oldman wanted to take a bath. He asked the man to watch his belongings while he was taking his bath. The man gladly accepted his responsibility.

The Oldman took off all his clothes except for his dhoti and he went into the river. When the Oldman was bathing he saw a couple of goats fighting with each other. He had seen people fighting or wrestling but had never seen goats fighting before. The fighting amused the Oldman. He laughed and splashed the water with joy. While this was happening the man escaped with Oldman's belongings.



The Oldman came back to the tree and checked his clothes, especially the vest pocket. The pocket was empty. There was no money; there was no gold; there was no silver. The Oldman cancelled his journey and walked back home.

The Oldman thought to himself, 'What a fool I am! I never trusted my own people but trusted a stranger.'

It is no use crying over spilt milk.

अब पछताए होत क्या जब चिड़िया चुग गई खेत

4. The Crow and the Cobra



Once there was a crow couple and a cobra. The crows were living on the top of a tree and the cobra was living in a hole nearby. Every time Wife Crow laid eggs the cobra ate them up. The couple was very sad. They thought to themselves, “If we don’t have baby chicks who would look after us when we get old?”

One day, they flew to the nearby lake. They drank some water and then started discussing their problem. They decided that they should consult their friends and seek help from them.

So they went to their friend, the fox and told him their story. The fox said that he was too busy taking care of his daughter and had no time to think of anything else. They returned home sad and depressed.

The next day, they went to their friend, the female monkey. They told her their story. She said that she was too busy taking care of her mother-in-law and had no time to think of anything else. They returned home sad and more depressed.

The next day, they went to their friend, the pigeon. They told him their story. He said that he was too busy taking care of his wife and had no time to think of anything else. They returned home sad and even more depressed.

The next day, they went to their friend, the jackal. They told him their story and they looked very tired.

He said, “Before we discuss anything else, let’s have some food and drinks.” He gave them a slice of pizza each and fresh milk that he had just collected from his friend, the goat. When they had finished eating and drinking, the jackal suggested that they steal a jewel from the queen and put it into the cobra’s hole. The couple returned home with some hope.

The next day, Husband Crow flew towards the palace of the queen. When he reached there he looked around. He saw the queen bathing in the canal and her necklace was placed on a stone nearby. With his clever dive, he picked up the necklace and flew home. On his arrival, he saw the cobra getting into his hole. He quickly dropped the necklace into his hole and flew to the top of the tree.

The soldiers who were chasing the crow saw the necklace in the hole. They picked up the necklace and banged their feet near the hole. The cobra was scared and came out of the hole. The cobra saw the weapons they carried: spears; swords; axes; and many more. Seeing the weapons, the cobra escaped from the place never to return.

The soldiers were happy because they found the necklace and were to receive awards.

The crow couple went to their friend, the jackal and gave him thank you card.

The card read:

Dear friend Jackal,
From the bottom of our hearts,
We would like to thank you
For your help
To remove the brutal killer,
The Cobra.
Never forgetting,



Crow couple.

The crows lived happily forever and their eggs hatched 750 crow chicks.

5. The Crane and the Crab

Mini story

Once there was a drought. The water in the lake was getting lower and lower. An old crane was unable to catch fish. So, he came up with a plan.

Sitting at the edge of a lake, he cried and a crab asked him the reason. The crane said that he heard people talk about no rain for many years. This crab was worried because the water in the lake was already very low.

The crane suggested that he would carry all the fish to a nearby lake. The crab told his friends and they were happy. But, he carried them to another spot and ate them up.

When it was the crab's turn, he climbed on the crane's back. On the way, he saw a heap of fish bones and realized the crane's plan. The crab bit the crane's neck. The crane fell onto the ground. The crab bit the crane's neck again and the crane died. The crab returned to the lake safely.

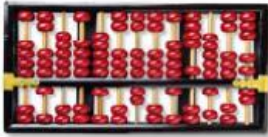
Moral: Having a presence of mind is important.

6. Picture Dictionary Page

A a

abacus

abacuses *noun*
a frame with sliding beads, used for counting.



abbreviation

abbreviations *noun*
a short way of writing a word or a group of words.
“Ave.” is an **abbreviation** of “avenue.”
■ say a-bree-vee-ay-shun

abdomen

abdomens *noun*
the part of an animal's or a person's body that contains the intestines and stomach (see **insect** on page 108 and **sea life** on page 178).
■ say ab-do-men

ability

abilities *noun*
a talent for doing something.



He had the ability to play many instruments at once.

about

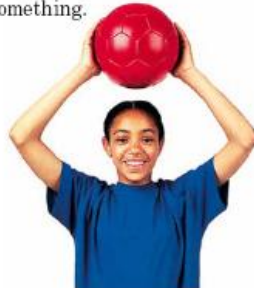
preposition
1 on the subject of.
We talked about the play.
2 on the point of doing something.
About to leave.

about

adverb
more or less.
There were about 300 people at the circus.

above

preposition
over, or higher than something.



Above her head.
■ opposite **below**

abroad

adverb
in or to another country.
She went abroad for her vacation.

absent

adjective
not there, or away.
He was absent from school because he had a cold.
■ opposite **present**

absorb

absorbs **absorbing** **absorbed** *verb*
to soak up.



A sponge absorbs liquid.
absorbent *adjective*

absurd

adjective
silly or ridiculous.



She looked absurd leaving for school in her pajamas.

accent

accents *noun*
1 the way people say words.
She had a foreign accent.
2 a mark on a letter showing you how to pronounce it.
“Café” is pronounced “kafay.”

accept

accepts **accepting** **accepted** *verb*
to take something that is offered to you.

accident

accidents *noun*
something that goes wrong by chance.



He spilled the juice, but it was an accident.

accordion

accordions *noun*
a musical instrument that you squeeze to make a sound.



accurate

adjective
exactly right.
A stop watch gives accurate time.
■ say ak-yur-rut

accuse

accuses **accusing** **accused** *verb*
to say someone has done something wrong.
She accused him of lying.
■ say a-kyooz

ace

aces *noun*
a playing card that has one main symbol in the center.



ache

aches **aching** **ached** *verb*
to feel a steady pain.



Her tooth ached.
■ rhymes with **cake**

acid

acids *noun*
a sharp-tasting, sour liquid.
Some acids can burn you.

acorn

acorns *noun*
the seed of an oak tree.



acrobat

acrobats *noun*
a person who performs gymnastics on a stage or in a circus.



across

preposition
from one side to the other.



Across the bridge.

act

acts acting acted *verb*
1 to behave in a certain way.
He was acting very strangely.
2 to take part in a play, a film, or a television program.



action

actions *noun*
anything that somebody does.
His quick action put out the fire.

activity

noun
1 energetic movement.
active adjective
2 something that has been planned for you to do.

adapt

adapts adapting adapted *verb*
to change something to suit a special purpose.



This mug has been adapted so that a baby can drink from it.

add

adds adding added *verb*
1 to put one thing with another.



Add cherries to the mixture.
2 to find the sum of two or more numbers.

$$21 + 54 = 75$$

Twenty-one added to fifty-four equals seventy-five.
addition *noun*

addict

addicts *noun*
someone who cannot give up a habit that they have.

address

addresses *noun*
the building and area where someone lives or works.



adjective

adjectives *noun*
a word that is used to describe a noun.

adjust

adjusts adjusting adjusted *verb*
to make a small change to something.



She adjusted her belt.

admire

admires admiring admired *verb*
to think that something is nice or good.



She admired her new hair style.

admit

admits admitting admitted *verb*
1 to say reluctantly that something is true.
2 to allow someone to enter.
A ticket admits you to the movie theater.

adopt

adopts adopting adopted *verb*
to take a child into your home as part of your family.

adult

adults *noun*
a grown-up person.
■ opposite **child**

advantage

advantages *noun*

something that is useful to have.

Her long legs gave her an advantage.

■ opposite **disadvantage**



adventure

adventures *noun*

something you do that is exciting and new.

Exploring the river was a real adventure.

adventurous *adjective*

adverb

adverbs *noun*

a word that describes a verb, adjective, or another adverb.
The tortoise moved slowly.

advertisement

advertisements *noun*

words or pictures that try to persuade you to buy or to do something. Advertisement can be shortened to "ad."



■ say **ad-ver-tiz-ment**

advice

noun

suggestions to help you decide what you should do.

Follow your dentist's advice on brushing your teeth.

advise *verb*