



Learn English Through Stories

D Series

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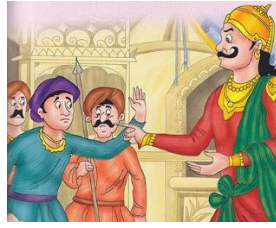
**Adapted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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1. The Secret of the Farmer



Once there lived a farmer, his wife and their two children. The farmer was a hard-working man but was poor. He wanted to send his children to school but could not afford it. When he was young he wanted to go to school but his dad said, "Sorry boy, we cannot pay for education."

Despite being poor, they were living happily. The children were very obedient. His wife was a good cook but he had one problem. She was a big gossip. She did not want to harm anybody but she could not keep any secret. When he would come home from working all day in the fields she would tell him so much gossip about other people in the village.

One day, he got up early and left for the fields before she could say a word to him. It was a hot summer day. It was the right time to sow the next crop. So he started ploughing his field. There was a small tree right in the middle of the field. He decided to dig it out and plant it somewhere else. So he picked up his pickaxe and started digging.



Pickaxe

While he was digging, suddenly, he heard a large sound under the ground. His pickaxe had hit something under the ground which caused the sound. The harder the farmer hit the ground the greater the sound came. Clink! Clink! The farmer was surprised and wondered what could be there inside the ground.

He started digging up the ground carefully with all his strength and was amazed to see two big pots full of gold coins buried there.

"So much wealth!" the farmer cried with joy. He had never seen so much treasure in his entire life. The farmer was very happy and decided to take the two gold-filled pots home secretly before anybody else saw them.

“But that won't be a great idea!” he thought because of his wife. The farmer feared that his talkative wife would spread the news around the whole village. “Once the people come to know about the gold pots, they may think that I have stolen it from somewhere else. They would consider me a thief. They may outcast me from the village. What about my children? I don't want to disgrace the family.” thought the farmer. He was greatly confused as; neither could he leave the treasure there, nor could he take it home.

The farmer thought for a while and came up with a plan to test his gossipy wife. “I will tell her some story and ask her to keep it a secret. If she obeys me and keeps the secret, I need not fear that she will talk about the treasure.” So, the farmer buried the pots of gold again in his field and went home. As soon as he saw his wife, he said, “My dear, did you hear? The king has a fish inside his belly!”

“Is that so?” asked his wife.

“Yes, dear!” said the farmer. “Please keep this a secret and don't let know anyone about this”.

“Of course!” his wife nodded. But the foolish wife wanted to discuss this with her neighbours. That afternoon, as the farmer was taking a nap, his wife went to the neighbours, “Did you hear? The king has a fish inside his belly!” she said.

The news spread across the kingdom. And spreading fast, the news finally reached the king himself. The king became very angry and was very upset. He asked one of his courtiers to find out who had been spreading the false rumour.

The courtier went to his friend and asked if he knew about the rumour. “Of course, I heard the washer man saying this to me in the morning,” he said. The washer man, who in turn had heard it from his wife, who in turn had heard it from her sister.... and the chain went on until finally, it reached the farmer.

The courtier came back to the palace and informed the king about the farmer who had spread the false news. The king immediately sent his guards to bring the farmer. When the farmer saw the king's guards, he knew his wife had been talking. “What a fool I've been to ask my wife to keep a secret. Now I will have to pay for my foolishness,” he thought.

The farmer was bought before the king. “Why did you spread such a silly rumour about me?” asked the king angrily. “Tell me the truth or I shall punish you!” shouted the king.

The farmer, out of fear, decided to tell the truth, “This is the only way I can get away alive,” he thought.

“Speak up!” shouted the king. “Why did you spread the rumour?”

“I didn't spread the rumour, Your Majesty!” the farmer replied softly. “It was my wife who did it!”

“What do you mean?” asked the king.

The farmer said, “I wanted to test whether my wife could keep a secret or not. And so I....”

“What secret?” the king interrupted.

“That I have found two pots full of gold coins!” replied the farmer.”

“Two Pots of Gold Coins!” the king exclaimed, “where?”

Now the farmer realized that once he showed the pots to the king, he would get only a small amount of it as a reward. So, he replied, “I will tell you where it is, your Majesty, but first you must promise me that you will let me take half of the treasure.”

The king agreed. The farmer then took the king to his field and showed him the treasure. The king was moved by the farmer’s honesty” You deserve to keep both pots for speaking the truth, dear farmer,” said the king.

The farmer was delighted to hear this; he thanked the king and carried his treasure home. Now he didn’t have to keep it a secret.

The next morning, the farmer started counting the gold coins. He only knew to count up to 20. So he had piles of 20 gold coins. Suddenly something came to his mind. He was very young when his mother died. But he still remembered what, once, she said to him, “If you eat more than you need, it is greed; if you own wealth more than you need, it is greed...”



He decided to share his wealth with everyone in the village. He went to the village head and discussed the matter with him. They decided to open a school for the village. The school would have two parts: one for children and one for adults.

A year later the school was ready to start. The king was invited to the opening ceremony. The king was very pleased with the idea to spend the wealth for a good cause. After cutting the ribbon the king announced that he would open a lot more schools in his kingdom.

The farmer, his wife and their two children went to school every day. The farmer could count not only up to 20, but he could count up to 100; he could count up to 1000; he could count up to 1000000...

A few years later, the farmer was working as a school accountant. And he became very famous in the kingdom. The king invited him to cut ribbons at school opening ceremonies.



Hush! Don't tell anyone. It's a secret.

2. The Gift



Once, an old man entered a village. He was very hungry. He saw a big house and went there to see if he would get something to eat. The house was very big and luxurious. There was a beautiful garden around the house. As he neared the house, he could smell tasty food. He knocked on the door. A well-dressed man opened the door. The man's face shrank on seeing the old man. He asked in a harsh tone "What do you want?"

The old man with his feeble voice, replied "It has been two days since I had food, so please give me something to eat".

The rich man got angry and shouted at the beggar, "Do you think I am running free food service? Get out of here."

The old man with the same tone requested, "Is there any left out?"

"Don't stand here wasting my time, get out of my sight." said the man and slammed the door.

The old man slowly walked away. On his way, he saw a lady from the house dropping banana leaves with food in the dustbin. This made the old man very sad.

He slowly walked to the next house, and knocked on the door, "Is anybody there?"

After repeated knocks, a voice answered, "Nobody is home. Try the next house."

"If there is no one, then, who is answering me?" asked the old man.

The man got irritated and opened the door and said, "Why don't you try the big house on the same street?"

The old man sadly replied, "I tried, but he did not offer any food."

He asked, "How can you expect me to help you when the richest man of the village gave you nothing?"



The old man left the place.

The old man was tired and could not walk anymore. So he sat under a tree and soon slept. A man in shabby clothes woke him up and asked “Who are you? Why are you lying here?”

The old man replied, “I have no food and no place to stay.”

The poor man said, “You look tired and hungry, come to my home and stay with us.”

The old man replied, “I don’t want to be a burden to you, I just need some food.”

The poor man said, “Okay, just come and have some food with us.” He took the old man to his hut.



The hut was very small and barely enough for the family. The old man saw that the house wouldn’t withstand the monsoon. The house had no furniture, but only a few utensils were there for use. The people in the house, a lady and two children, were very happy to welcome the old man in. They made him sit comfortably. The children sat near him. The man introduced himself and his family, “I am Kaliyan. I work on the farm nearby. This is my wife Viji and my children Gopi and Rathika.”

Soon the children got close to the old man. They asked many questions and played with him. Kaliyan helped the man wash his face and hands. When the old man entered the hut, Viji was ready to serve the food. They all sat in a circle. Viji served the gruel from an earthen pot. First, she gave to the old man, and then to the children and Kaliyan. After dinner, Kaliyan laid a mat for the old man to sleep on.

The next morning, the beggar asked them to pack their things. They all couldn’t understand why he asked so.

Before they could ask anything, the beggar said, “I am not a beggar, I am a landlord from a nearby town. My family and I were helping the poor and the needy. My wife and son died two years back. Without them, I continued my service. As I am getting older, I want someone to take care of my wealth and do service after me.

You have to accept my request and fulfil my desire.” Kaliyan was reluctant but the old man persuaded him and his family. The old man was happy that his service would continue for many more years even after his death.

So the poor man, his wife and their children went old man’s house.



The house had many rooms with a veranda in the front. When the children saw the house they could not believe that they would be living in the big house. They had never seen a house like that before, never mind living in it. Their old hut had one room for the whole family. Now Gopi had his room; Rathika had her own; Kaiyan and his wife had their own. The house had a big kitchen and two bathrooms.

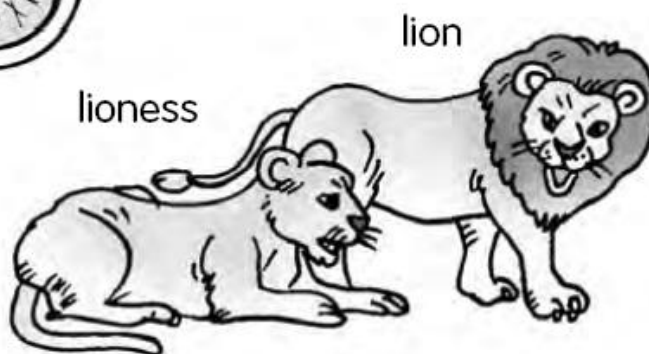
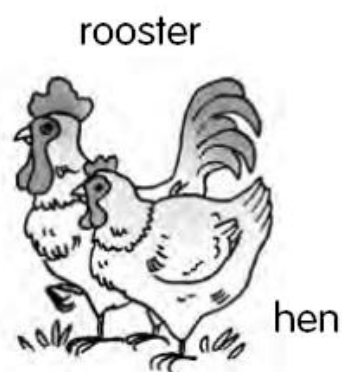
The next morning, the old man took the children to the market and bought them new clothes. The following week, they would start going to a school...

3. Grammar Page

Masculine and Feminine Nouns

Masculine nouns are words for men and boys, and male animals.

Feminine nouns are words for women and girls, and female animals.



Word File

Masculine

boy
man
prince
steward
waiter

Feminine

girl
woman
princess
stewardess
waitress

Here are some more masculine and feminine nouns for people.



Masculine

actor
brother
emperor
father
gentleman
grandfather
grandson
headmaster
man
master
nephew
prince
son
steward
uncle
wizard



Feminine

actress
sister
empress
mother
lady
grandmother
granddaughter
headmistress
woman
mistress
niece
princess
daughter
stewardess
aunt
witch



Masculine nouns belong to the **masculine gender**.

Feminine nouns belong to the **feminine gender**.