



Learn English Through Stories

D Series

D2

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1. Klever Kumari

Buchan lives with his wife - Sue, and his daughter - Tuna Kumari in Hampton, England. Buchan is Punjabi and his wife is English. When she went to kindergarten, many kids made fun of their daughter's name because tuna is a kind of fish. So parents started calling her Klever Kumari. You will find out from the story why they call her by this name.

Her story:

It was summer. The school year had almost come to an end, and everyone was looking forward to the long holidays.

Everyone would have been really, really happy, except for one thing.

Before the holidays, they had to do exams. And nobody likes to do exams unless they are the swottiest of swots.

Swotty students work really, really hard for their exams.

And Klever Kumari didn't think that exams were at all nice.

No matter how good you are at magic, you still have to remember things for yourself. And Klever Kumari had twice as much to learn as all the other children.

She had to do the witch exams as well as the ordinary school exams.

A witch is a woman or a girl who has magical power.

She did the witch exams in the evenings – and her mum gave her four and a half stars for her work. But then she had to get ready for the tests at her school.

“Mum, it's not fair” she complained. “I have to learn so many magic spells. And I have to learn all the school lessons too.”

“Well just think yourself lucky,” said Mum. “Other children have to tidy their rooms, but you can just say a magic spell and it's done just like that!”

So Klever Kumari sat in her room and tried to read her school books. But to tell you the truth, she also looked out of the window and made up fairy tales about herself.

She is good at making up stories about herself, so she is very imaginative. Only in the stories, she is not a witch. She is a beautiful princess who can also do magic tricks.

When exam week came, the first test was spelling. If it had been magic spelling, Klever Kumari would have been all right. But in this test, the teacher read out words like “accommodation” and “psychology” and other words that are tricky to spell.

Klever Kumari was really cross. She thought the teacher had chosen the most difficult words just to be mean.

That wasn't fair.

So she tried a little magic. She couldn't say a spell out loud, because everyone would hear.

So she just thought the words in her head really hard – and Wow! It worked. Her pen wrote the correct spellings all by itself.

Next, they had to do maths problems. Klever Kumari could do the first few – because they were easy-peasy – but then there was a mean question about a monkey and some bananas.

So she thought up another magic spell, and again her pen wrote down the right answer.

In history, she had to remember many names of the Hindu gods.

And in geography, she had to remember the capital cities of Europe.

In fact, all the exams had mean questions in them. And in every case, a little magic spell came in handy.

In fact, the magic worked so well for Klever Kumari that she thought to herself: “Why should I bother learning all these stupid things? I can just say a magic spell and my pen will write the answer.”

The week after that, the teacher finished marking all the papers.

She told the class that they had all done very well, especially Klever Kumari who had scored top marks in every exam. She hadn't got a single answer wrong.

“Wow Klever Kumari,” said Julie. “You're a genius.”

The teacher said: "Congratulations Klever Kumari. You certainly did very well - maybe too well. I think that you and I should go and have a little talk with Mrs Hardy."

And Klever Kumari felt just a bit worried.

Mrs Hardy is the headteacher and when you go to have a little talk with her that usually means that you are in trouble.

Big trouble!

At lunchtime, the teacher took Klever Kumari to see Mrs Hardy. She explained that Klever Kumari had got top marks in all her exams and hadn't got a single question wrong.

"You are a very naughty girl," said Mrs Hardy.

And Klever Kumari started to cry: more cry, more cry.

And the teacher dried her tears with a handkerchief.

Eventually, Klever Kumari stopped crying.

"Do you know why you are a naughty girl?" asked Mrs Hardy.

Klever Kumari said: "You're just cross with me because I'm a witch and I know how to do magic. That's really mean of you because I can't help being a witch. I was born that way."

"Now you are talking nonsense." said Mrs Hardy. There are no such things as witches or magic. You are in trouble because you cheated in the exams."

"I did not!" said Klever Kumari.

"Just tell us how you did it, and we will let you off - this time," said the teacher.

Klever Kumari knew that she was in big trouble. She just wanted to run out of the study and go back home to her mum. But she couldn't do that, so she thought she had better own up.

"Well I did do a few magic spells," she said, "just little ones."

But they didn't believe her.

“Oh, dear! What are we going to do with this problem child?” said the teacher.

“Klever Kumari,” said Mrs Hardy, “you are in big, big trouble. You have till the end of the term to tell us how you cheated in the exams. If you don’t tell the truth by then, you won’t be coming back to school next term. We don’t have girls who make up stories about witches and magic in this school. Goodness, gracious! You’ll be frightening all the other children with these silly stories.”

And Klever Kumari was very, very sad about that because she was telling the truth about being a witch.

And it wasn’t fair.

It was the last week of term. And before the holidays, the school always had a special treat. This term, Klever Kumari’s class went on a trip to the safari park.



It was a big park full of wild animals from places like Africa. There were giraffes, elephants, long-legged deer called gazelles, and many, many more.

Klever Kumari’s class were all safe inside the bus, and they looked out of the window at all the animals. It was ever so cool. Everyone was excited and happy.

But Klever Kumari: she was sad because she was still in big, big trouble.

The best animals were the chimpanzees. They climbed all over the bus. The driver got really cross when they stole his windscreen wipers. Everyone else thought that was ever so funny.



And the lions were good too. They were a bit scary though.

They had lunch in a restaurant on top of a tall rock. The rock was on a big island surrounded by water. And in the water there were crocodiles.

And the crocodiles were really scary. They were even scarier than the lions.

There was a boy in Klever Kumari's class called Clive. Clive was always doing silly things. But the teachers didn't seem to mind.

Clive never got into trouble, no matter how silly he was.

But then, he didn't know how to do magic. So that was probably why he always got away with things.

In the restaurant, Clive did something very silly indeed. He asked to go to the loo, and on the way back, he went through a door that said: "Staff Only."

And from there he went down a corridor and found a special room.

It was the room which they used to feed the crocodiles.

It had a window and the keepers threw meat out of it, and down into the river. And somebody had left the window open.

Clive climbed up to look through the window. Then he saw that if you climbed out of the window, you could get onto the rocks. He thought it would be cool to walk around the rocks and look in at the other children eating their lunch. They would get a really big surprise to see him out there.

So that's what he did.

Only he slipped on a banana skin left by a monkey. Then, he fell down the rocks and broke his ankle. Fortunately, one of the keepers saw him and signalled the alarm.

Everyone in the restaurant rushed to the window to look out, and they saw Clive lying on a rock near the river. A crocodile was swimming slowly towards him. Its face had a sort of smile on it, and its tail was swishing.

Everyone screamed - except for Klever Kumari and her friend Minky.

Minky knew that Klever Kumari was a witch because once she had turned her into a frog for a short time.

"Klever Kumari! Do something. You're the only one who can save poor Clive. Just say a magic spell. Quick!!!!" urged Minky.

Mrs Hardy heard this. But she was too frightened to tell off either Minky or Klever Kumari. After all, poor Clive was looking into the jaws of a crocodile.

Klever Kumari thought hard about what would be the best magic spell to do. And then she decided: "I know. I will make Clive fly."

Fortunately, she knew the spell to make somebody fly, off by heart. She had learned it when she was getting ready for her witch exams. Now she shouted it out at the top of her voice.

I can't tell you what she said, because it's a secret. But it worked well because everyone saw Clive rise up in the air, and gently fly back up to the restaurant.

Even the crocodile was impressed.

Then Klever Kumari said another spell to make everyone forget what they had just seen - **except for the crocodile and Mrs Hardy.**

After that, Klever Kumari wasn't in trouble any more. Because Mrs Hardy now knew that she was telling the truth when she said she was a witch.

And Klever Kumari was glad that she had worked very hard that term – to learn all her magic spells. And when she got home and told her family what had happened, her mum gave her another half-star for passing her witch exams.

So now Klever Kumari is a five-star witch.

ਪੰਜ ਤਾਰੀ ਟੂਣੇਗਰੀ

Her name – Tuna Kumari

Kumari means princess; Tuna means a magical spell

ਟੂਣੇ ਦੀ ਮੈਜ਼ਾਦੀ ।

But she does not do bad magical spells.

2. Grammar Page

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The Capital Letter

The **capital letter** is also called a **big letter** or **upper-case** letter, or sometimes just a **capital**.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

When do you use a capital letter?

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the first letter in a sentence:

The dog is barking.

Come here!

- ▶ Always use a capital letter for the word **I**:

I am eight years old.

Tom and **I** are good friends.

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the names of people:

Alice, **T**om, **J**ames, **K**im, **S**now **W**hite

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the names of places:

National **M**useum, **B**ronx **Z**oo, **L**ondon, **S**acramento

- ▶ Use a capital letter for festivals, holidays, days of the week, months of the year:

New **Y**ear's **D**ay, **C**hristmas, **L**abor **D**ay, **M**other's **D**ay,
Sunday, **M**onday, **F**riday, **J**anuary, **M**ay, **J**uly, **O**ctober



