



Learn English Through Stories

D Series

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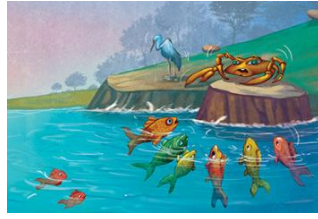
**Adapted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

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The Crane and the Crab



Once, a crane lived near a small pond. Right next to the pond was a big tree with a fairy living in it. She learned by observing the various animals.

There were also many small fishes living in the small pond. The crane was in the habit of picking up fish with his beak and eating them up. Since there happened to be a drought in the area, the water level in the pond was becoming lower and lower. This made it easier for the crane to catch fish. And he was becoming a little fat!

However, the crane discovered that no matter how easy it was to catch fish, and no matter how many he ate, he was never completely satisfied. But he did not learn from this. Instead, he decided that if he ate all the fish in the pond, then he would find true happiness.

"The more the merrier!" he said to himself.

In order to catch all the fish in the pond, the crane thought up a clever plan. He would trick the fish, and deceive them into trusting him. Then when they trusted him the most, he would gobble them up. He was very pleased with himself for thinking up such a trick.

To begin with, the crane sat down on the shore. He remained quietly in one position, just like a holy man in the forest. This was intended to get the fish to trust him.

The fish came to him and asked. "Sir Crane, what are you thinking about?" The holy-looking crane answered, "Oh my dear fish, it makes me sad to think of your future. I am thinking about the coming miserable disaster."

They said, "My lord, what disaster is coming to us?" To which the crane replied, "Look around you! There is very little water left in this pond. You are also running out of food to eat. This severe drought is very dangerous for your poor little ones."

Then the fish asked, "Dear uncle crane, what can we do to save ourselves?" "My poor little children," said the crane, "you must trust me and do as I say. If you allow me to pick you up in my beak, I will take you, one at a time to another pond. That pond is much bigger than this one. It is filled with water and covered with lovely lotuses. It will be like a paradise for you!"



When they heard the part about the beak, the fish became a little suspicious. They said, "Mr Crane, how can we believe you? Since the beginning of the world, there has never been a crane who wanted to help fish. Cranes have put fish in their beaks only to eat them. This must be a trick. Or else you must be joking!"

The crane then raised his head and made himself look as dignified as possible. He said, "Please don't think such a thing. Can't you see that I am a very special crane? You should trust me. But if you don't believe me, send one fish with me and I will show him the beautiful pond. Then when I bring him back here, you will know I can be trusted."

The fish said to each other, "This crane looks so dignified. He sounds like an honest crane. But just in case it's a trick, let us send with him a useless little troublemaker fish. This will be a test." Then they found a young fish who was known for playing truant from school. They pushed him towards the shore.

The crane bent his head and picked up the little one in his beak. Then he spread his wings and flew to a big tree on the shore of a beautiful big pond. Just as he had said, it was covered with lovely lotuses. The fish was amazed to see such a wonderful place. Then the crane carried him back to his poor old pond, just as he had promised.

Arriving home, the little fish described the wonders of the beautiful big pond. Hearing this, all the other fish became very excited and rushed to be the first to go.

The first lucky passenger was that same useless little troublemaker. Again the crane picked him up in his beak and flew to the big tree on the shore of the beautiful new pond. The little one was sure the helpful crane was about to drop him into the wonderful pond. But instead, the crane suddenly killed him, gobbled up his flesh, and let the bones fall to the ground.

The crane returned to the old pond, brought the next little fish to the same tree, and ate him in the same way. Likewise, one by one, he gobbled up every last fish!

He became so stuffed with fish meat that he had trouble flying back to the little pond. He saw that there were no more fish left for him to trick and eat. Then he noticed a lonely crab crawling along the muddy shore. And he realized that he was still not completely satisfied!

So he walked over to the crab and said, "My dear crab, I have kindly carried all the fish to a wonderful big pond not far from here. Why do you wish to remain here alone? If you simply do as the fish have done, and let me pick you up in my beak, I will gladly take you there. For your own good, please trust me."



But the crab thought, "There is no doubt this over-stuffed crane has eaten all those fish. His belly is so full he can hardly stand up straight. He definitely cannot be trusted! If I can get him to carry me to a new pond and put me in it, so much the better. But if he tries to eat me, I will have to cut off his head with my sharp claws."

Then the crab said, "My friend Crane, I am afraid I am much too heavy for you to carry in your beak. You would surely drop me along the way. Instead, I will grab onto your neck with my eight legs, and then you can safely carry me to my new home."

The crane was so used to playing tricks on others, that he did not imagine he would be in any danger — even though the crab would be grasping him by the throat. Instead, he thought, "Excellent! This will give me a chance to eat the sweet meat of this foolish trusting crab."

So the crane permitted the crab to grab onto his neck with all eight legs. In addition, he grasped the crane's neck with his sharp claws. He said, "Now kindly take me to the new pond."

The foolish crane, with his neck in the clutches of the crab, flew to the same big tree next to the new pond.

Then the crab said, "Hey you stupid crane, have you lost your way? You have not taken me to the pond. Why don't you take me to the shore and put me in?"

The crane said, "Whom are you calling stupid? I don't have to take that from you. You're not my relative. I suppose you thought you tricked me into giving you a free ride. But I'm the clever one. Just look at all those fish bones under this tree. I've eaten all the fish, and now I'm going to eat you too, you stupid crab!"

The crab replied, "Those fish were eaten because they were foolish enough to trust you. But no one would trust you now. Because you tricked the fish, you have become so arrogant you think you can trick anyone. But you can't fool me. I have you by the throat. So if one dies, we both die!"

Then the crane realized the danger he was in. He begged the crab, "Oh my lord crab, please release me. I have learned my lesson. You can trust me. I have no desire to eat such a handsome crab as you."

Then he flew down to the shore and continued, "Now please release me. For your own good, please trust me."

But this old crab had been around. He realized the crane could not be trusted no matter what he said. He knew that if he let go of the crane, he would be eaten for sure. So he cut through his neck with his claws, just like a knife through butter! And the crane's head fell onto the ground. Then the crab crawled safely into the wonderful pond.

Meanwhile, the inquisitive fairy had also come to the new pond and seen all that had happened. Sitting on the very top of the big tree, she said for all the gods to hear:

"The one who lived by tricks and lies,
No longer trusted now he dies."

Moral: The trickster who can't be trusted, has played his last trick.

2. The Elves and the Shoemaker



Once there was a shoemaker. He became so poor that he had nothing left to run his family. But only enough leather to make just one pair of shoes. So, in the evening, he cut out the leather with great care to make the shoes. But he was so disappointed that he left his work on the table. He planned to finish them in the morning. He was almost in tears. Before he fell asleep, he prayed to God and asked for help.

In the morning, he found a wonderful pair of shoes on the table. He was surprised. He took the shoes in his hand and looked at them closely. They were so neatly made that there was not even one bad stitch on them. The pair of shoes was, in fact, outstanding.

Soon after, a customer came into the shop. He liked the shoes so much that he paid more than the usual price. Now the shoemaker was very happy as he had enough money to buy leather for two pairs of shoes.

That night, he cut out the leather and the next morning, he found two pairs of beautifully finished shoes. Soon, the shoemaker became rich.

One evening, the man said to his wife, 'Let's stay up tonight to see who is helping us.' The woman liked the idea. She lighted a candle. The room was lit by the candle flame. Then they hid themselves in a corner. At midnight, two little elves came dancing into the room. Both were wearing old torn clothes. They sat down at the shoemaker's table. They began to stitch, sew and hammer so skilfully that the shoemaker was surprised. The Elves finished the work and ran away.

The woman said, 'Those little men have made us rich. We should show our gratitude to them for their selfless service. I will make little shirts, coats, vests, trousers and a pair of socks for them.'

'I will make two little pairs of shoes for them.' said the shoemaker.

When everything was ready, they laid their presents on the table and hid themselves. At midnight, the elves came in. They were delighted to find the gifts. Both the elves dressed themselves in new clothes. Then, they danced and sang happily.

'Now we are so fine to see: how graceful, cheerful and thankful we are!'

They danced out of the door and did not come any more and the shoemaker lived happily forever.

3. The Crane and the Crab

Mini story

Once there was a drought – a long period when there is little or no rain. 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.

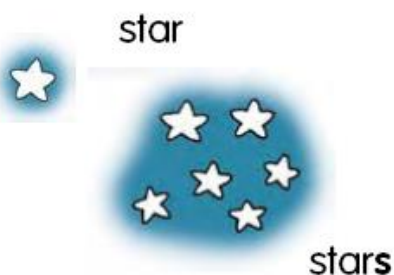
When it was the crab's turn, he climbed on the crane's back. On the way, he saw a heap of fish bones and realized the crane's plan. The crab bit the crane's neck. The crane fell onto the ground. The crab bit the crane's neck again and the crane died. The crab returned to the lake.

Moral: Having a presence of mind is important.

4. Grammar Page

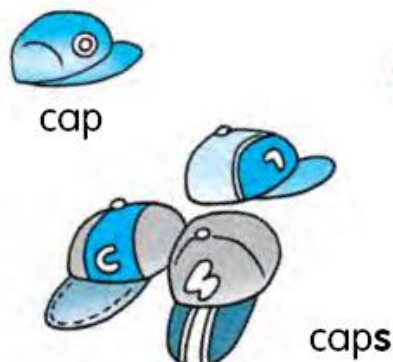
Plural Nouns

When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things, use plural nouns. Most nouns are made plural by adding **-s** at the end.

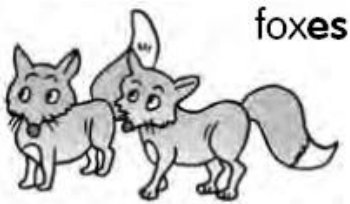
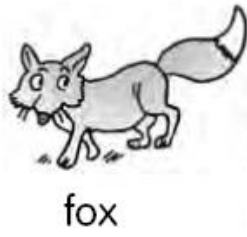
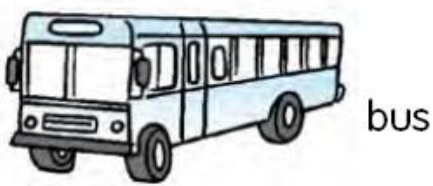


Word File

Singular	Plural
bird	birds
broom	brooms
camel	camels
desk	desks
doll	dolls
egg	eggs
flower	flowers
fork	forks
game	games
lamb	lambs
nest	nests
pen	pens
photo	photos
shirt	shirts
spoon	spoons



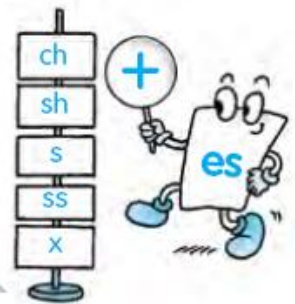
Some plural nouns end in **-es**.



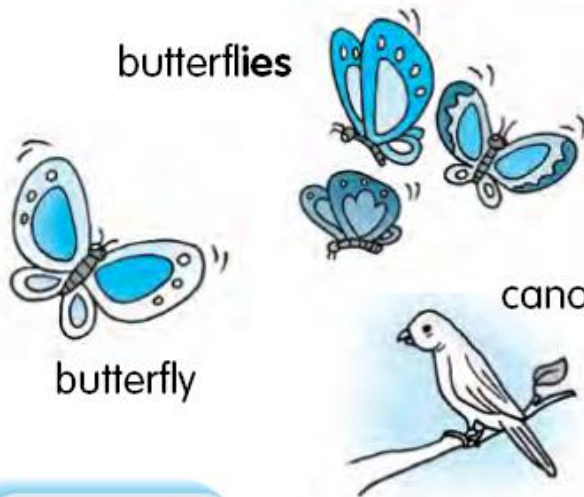
Word File	
Singular	Plural
beach	beaches
branch	branches
box	boxes
bush	bushes
church	churches
dish	dishes
dress	dresses
sandwich	sandwiches
witch	witches



When the last letters of singular nouns are **ch, sh, s, ss** or **x**, you usually add **-es** to form the plural.



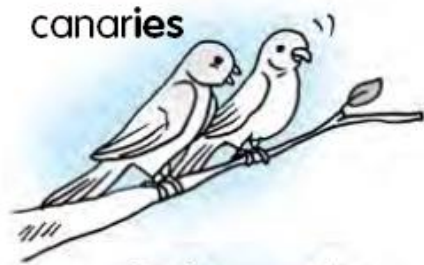
Some plural nouns end in **-ies**.



butterflies

butterfly

canary



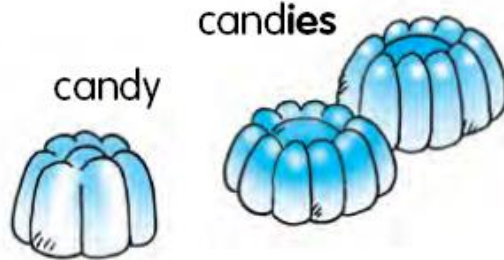
canaries



lilies



lily



candy

candies

Word File

Singular

baby
cherry
diary
dictionary
fairy
family
fly
lady
library
puppy
story
strawberry

Plural

babies
cherries
diaries
dictionaries
fairies
families
flies
ladies
libraries
puppies
stories
strawberries



Nouns like these are made plural by changing **y** to **i**, and adding **-es**.

