



Learn English Through Stories

D Series

D9

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1. The Lion and the Rabbit



In a green forest by a beautiful river, lived animals of many kinds. There were birds and bees, monkeys and bears, deer and leopards, elephants, and moles; all of these animals had made this forest their home. The lion, who was the king of the jungle, ruled over all these animals.

As is the way of the jungle, some animals eat fruits and plants, and others eat meat. The lion is a meat-eating animal, and he hunted and killed the other animals of the forest to fill his belly. He was much stronger and faster than all the others, and when he was hungry, someone had to die to become his food.

At first, he ate as much as he needed. One animal a day was enough to fill his stomach. Every day he killed one animal and had a healthy meal. But soon, he got greedy. He knew that the others in the forest were slower and weaker than him. And he had no mercy on any of them. He began to kill more and eat more. From one kill a day, he was now killing three to four animals of the forest daily. Deer, monkeys, wild buffalo, no one was safe from his never-ending greed.

While he was enjoying killing and eating as many as he wanted, the others that lived in this forest were scared and worried. They were losing their friends and family, and they were afraid that they would all be dead soon. So, they decided that they should all get together and talk to the greedy lion.

All the animals made a large group and went to his den. He was sitting in his cave after eating a large meal. The bones and blood of many poor animals were lying at the entrance of his home. The others were scared, but one of them spoke up, "Oh strong and mighty one, you are killing and eating so many of us every day, soon we will all die and this jungle will be empty."

The lion did not care at all, he said, "I have to eat, and I will eat as many of you as I want. You cannot stop me," he roared in anger. All of them were scared and quiet, but one brave rabbit replied, "But if you kill so many of us every day, what will you eat when we are all dead? Soon, there will be no more of us left for you to kill."

The lion roared in anger, "That cannot happen, you need to come up with a plan, or I will kill all of you right now." The brave little rabbit responded, "One of us can come to you every day, you will not need to hunt anymore, and you will get your food every day." Now this king of the jungle was not only greedy.

He ate too much, and he had become fat and lazy. Secretly, he was happy with this plan, as he did not want to hunt anymore. So, he agreed to the idea.

From the next day on, one animal came to his den every day. He tore the animal into pieces, ate every last bit, and did nothing but eat and sleep in his cave all day. The others were very sad, but they stuck by the plan. Every day one of them was killed and eaten in the most painful way, but there was nothing they could do about it. So, every day one of them went to die.

Many days passed, and many animals died, and soon it was the turn of the little rabbit. He was afraid and scared and walked towards his death, very slowly. When he reached the den, he was very late. The lion was starving and very angry by now. He roared, "Who do you think you are, how dare you be so late?"

The rabbit was afraid and trembling. He somehow replied, "Oh great one, I was on my way to you as fast as I could. But, on my way, I met someone else, much like you. But, much stronger, much larger, and much faster. I somehow escaped and came here to you."

The lion was very angry. How could there be someone like him, he was the only king. How could anyone dare to steal his food? He roared at the rabbit, "Take me to this daring one, who wants to steal my food." "Who could be stronger, larger, and faster than me, I am the king of this forest." "Take me to whoever this is that you are talking about."

He was ready to kill, he was furious, and the rabbit quietly showed him the way. They walked for about an hour until they arrived at a much larger cave. Outside this cave were the bones of many large animals. There were also the pug marks of another lion. But these pug prints in the sand were so much bigger. Even the cave was three times the size of his own home. The lion thought to himself, "I am facing a bigger and stronger enemy, look at the bones of the large animals, he has been eating." "Even his pug marks are so much bigger; he must be gigantic."

From inside the cave, there came an enormous roar. The roar scared the greedy lion. The ground was shaking, even as someone seemed to be coming out from the cave. At that moment, the lion knew that he would soon be facing one like himself, but so much bigger and stronger. He knew he had to run away as fast as he could, or he would be torn to pieces and eaten, just like he had done to all the others in this forest. And, that's what he did. He tucked his tail between his legs and ran for his life, far, far away, never to be seen again.

Once he was out of sight, all the animals of the forest came out of the cave. The rabbit thanked all of them, as they were the ones who had made the scary roaring sound from inside the cave. The mole was praised, as he was the one to dig into the sand and make the giant pug marks. Everyone said thank you to the elephant, as she was the one that stomped on the ground from inside the cave, making the earth shake around them. The monkey was appreciated as he had cleverly painted the barks of large trees to make them look like giant bones. Everyone in the forest thanked the rabbit, as all of this was his smart idea to chase away the greedy and cruel lion. With the evil gone, everyone was now safe and happy, and they lived that way for a long, long time.

Moral: There is a solution for every problem, never give up and accept defeat.

Value of Money

$$\text{Future value of money} = PV \times \left(1 + \frac{i}{n}\right)^{(n \times t)}$$

Compound Interest Formula

I was 14 when I learnt the value of money. Although there was nothing wrong with my computer, I wanted to buy a new one.

It was summer break and I watched a lot of TV. There was one advertisement that would pop up on the screen all the time. It was from the latest Bell Computer. The computer had many latest features: it was very fast; it had a very large memory; and so on. Every time I saw it, I was fascinated. I would read about it online and in tech magazines. When I compared it to my own computer, it made me unhappy.

Looking back now, I probably did not need all those extra features. I could do everything I wanted to do on my own computer without running into any trouble. But the ego on my inside wanted me to act otherwise.

After a while, my parents noticed how obsessed I was with this new computer. So they gave me an option. If I wanted this new computer I had to do some of the housework.

It seemed like a good idea to me. I took the opportunity. The very next day, I woke up very early and started my mission: I washed the dishes three times a day; took the garbage out; mowed the lawn; on the weekends, I cleaned the car; and so on.

I was working tirelessly every day until my whole body started to ache. Eventually, I got used to it and it became easier. I also got more efficient at it and soon I was doing everything a lot quicker.

I started taking more and more and more work. The money I was getting for my work urged me to do more and more. I was obsessed.

It took me a few months but I eventually saved up enough to buy myself the Bell Computer. It was a week before my birthday and I went to the Bell Centre to get one.

When I asked for this particular model, they told me that this model was already outdated. They had a new model, but it was much more expensive. If I wanted to buy the latest model I would have to work for two more months.

That is when I realised how fast technology was changing. Then I thought “Do I really need a new computer?” What is the point of spending my hard-earned money on something which I don’t really need!”

I ended up investing all of it in a saving account. This is how I learnt the value of money.

I also learnt how to use the Compound Interest Formula.

The Magic Mirror



Many years ago, the King of Granada agreed to marry. He was a kind king with a good heart and cared for his people. He wanted a wife who would do the same. He knew that many of the women in his kingdom wanted to marry him just to become Queen. The king worried that they wouldn't be kind or care about his subjects.

The first person the king told was his barber. The barber was a bit of a gossip. He told the secret to the tailors, the bakers and the butchers. They couldn't keep the secret to themselves either. Soon, the night watchmen knew. They told the city that the king was looking for a wife.

It didn't take long for the rumour to get back to the barber. An old man had visited him to have his beard trimmed and asked if the barber knew anything. He wanted to know who the new queen might be.

"I have been set the challenge of finding a wife for the king," the barber said. "I have a magic mirror that I will use to help me. Only people who are good and kind will see their reflection clearly. Anybody who has a bad heart will see the faults in their character as spots covering their reflection."

The old man made sure that every woman in the city knew of the rule. No women came forward. Days and weeks went by. The king was no closer to finding a new wife than before. He was a good-looking man and had a kind heart, so it was a surprise that nobody volunteered to look into the mirror. Every day, the king would ask his barber if there was anyone ready to marry him. Every day, the barber shook his head and said, "No."

It soon became known that a shepherdess was living in the mountains. Many people said that she had the kindest heart and the warmest soul.

"But, dear King, would you marry somebody as lowly as a shepherdess?" asked the barber.

"I do not care how rich or poor she is. All I care about is if she is kind and caring."

The king sent for the shepherdess to come to his palace. Word spread quickly. The shepherdess arrived to find the court filled with people. The king gently approached her and asked if she wanted to be Queen. She nodded. The king asked her to look into the mirror. He warned her that any bad things she had ever done would be shown as spots on the surface.

“Everybody makes mistakes, and I am no different,” the shepherdess said. “I have made mistakes with my sheep but they still let me look after them. Maybe they have forgiven me? I look after them and care for them as though they were my own children.”

Hearing these words, the king turned to the court and declared that the shepherdess would be his wife. “There is no magic mirror,” he said. “This lady is kind and caring but is also confident in herself. Those of you who refused to look know that you have done bad things. You also know that perhaps you need to work harder for forgiveness.”

From that day, the shepherdess and the king lived happily ever after.

4. Grammar Page

Collective Nouns

Collective nouns are words for groups of people, animals or things.

These are nouns for groups of people.



Word File

Here are some more groups of people:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| an audience | a gang |
| a band | a group |
| a choir | a team |
| a class | |



Many **collective nouns** can be used with a singular or plural verb.

For example:

My family **was** happy to see me.

or

My family **were** happy to see me.

But the following collective nouns always take a plural verb:

cattle people the police

Here are more collective nouns that are used for groups of people, animals or things.



a **band** of musicians



a **brood** of chickens



a **school** of fish

Word File

Here are some more collective nouns:

- a **bunch** of keys
- a **class** of pupils
- a **collection** of books
- a **deck** of cards
- a **fleet** of ships
- a **flock** of sheep
- a **gaggle** of geese
- a **gang** of robbers
- a **herd** of cattle
- a **litter** of cubs
- a **pod** of whales
- a **pack** of wolves
- a **pride** of lions
- a **set** of stamps
- a **swarm** of bees
- a **troupe** of actors



a **team** of players

a **flight** of steps

