



Learn English Through
Stories.

B Series

B12

**Adapted and modified by
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1. The Man and the Serpent

Years ago, there was a small village. Its name was Nagpur. The village was situated by a beautiful river. Most people in the village were poor. Most of them were unskilled labourers or farmers. There was a one family richer than the others. Bhujunga was the head of the family. He lived with his wife and two their children. His wife's name was Sapna.

They had ten acres of land. They owned two oxen, five cows and two goats. Many people from the village came to them to buy milk. Bhujunga worked hard on the fields. He grew good crops. Sapna was a good cook. She also milked the cows twice a day. Their children, Raju and Rajni, went to school. Rajni was ten-year old. She was a good girl. Rajni was good at her studies. She also helped her mum in home chores.

Raju was eight years old. He was different. Raju was a little spoilt. He did not like going to school. He was always looking for excuses not to go: headache, tummy ache, etc. He only wanted to play. There were some others boys who did not go to school. He played with them. They played gulli danda. They played football. His dad had a small orchard. In the orchard, there were several mango trees and some blackberry trees. Raju sometimes played hide-and-seek with his friend in the orchard.

One day, Raju went to the orchard to find some mangoes. When he was moving slowly, looking up at the mangoes, he trod upon a serpent's tail. The furious snake hissed and bit on his foot. The boy limped back to his parents. He was crying out of pain. The poison was too strong. His helpless family members could do nothing to save the poor boy. The lethal venom killed him within minutes.

However, the boy told his father what happened. He also told his father exactly where the snake was before he took his last breath.

The angry father took out his axe and hunted down the serpent, who happened to reside in a small hole beside a tree. When the snake saw the man, he tried to escape. The father threw the axe at the snake. The snake survived but he lost his tail. For many days the snake was in great pain.

One day the snake said to himself, "First, they trampled my tail. Then they cut it off. I don't know what they will next. I have to take revenge on them."

When the snake recovered, he started taking revenge on the farmer. First, he bit goat. Within minutes the goat died. The next day, he bit his three cows and they died. The villagers came to the farm to get milk. They saw the farmer and his wife crying in horror. They told the villagers that first they lost their son, and now they were losing their animals.

Among the villagers there was a wise man. He told the farmer that he should go to the serpent and form a friendship before it is too late. The next day, the farmer took some milk and honey and offered it to the serpent. The man said, "Dear Serpent, please forgive me. I was angry because I lost my son. I know you lost your tail and it was very painful. Please tell me what should I do?"

The serpent said, "I have already consulted the Gugga, the god of snakes. He suggested that I should sacrifice my life. I will do it on the fifth day of the month. If I stay alive, I can forgive you; I cannot forget my injuries. It is the same for you. You can forgive me, but not forget the death of your son. For the safety of your children and animals, you need to celebrate the day of my sacrifice. The day will be called the Gugga Day. When you celebrate the day first time next year, you may receive some good wishes from our god, the Gugga."

After this, the serpent disappeared and was gone forever.

A year passed.

On the fourth day of the month, the preparation for the celebration started. The next day, the fifth day of the month, Sapna gave birth to twin boys. They named them after Gugga: Bada Gugga and Shota Gugga.

The whole village celebrated the day. The ladies cooked sweet vermicelli and other sweets.



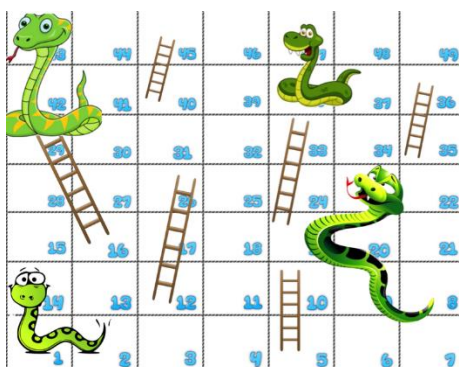
Vermicelli

The girls were dancing and a Punjabi song was played on a loud speaker:

ਕੋਈ ਕੀਲ ਸਪੇਰਾ ਲੈਜੁਗਾ
ਨੀ ਨਾਗ ਸਾਮਬਲਾ ਜੁਲਫਾ ਦੇ
ਤੇਰੀ ਜਾਨ
ਤੇਰੀ ਜਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਕਜੀਆ ਪੈਜੁਗਾ ।

Some snake charmer will charm you;
Because your braided hair looks like snakes;
Take care of your braids;
Your life;
Your life will be entangled in botheration.

The children played Snake-and-Ladder while they were eating vermicelli.



The children listened to this Punjabi song:

ਤੂੰ ਬੜਾ ਸ਼ਕੀਨ ਏ ਗੇਮਾ ਦਾ
ਤੈਨੂੰ ਚੰਗੀ ਤਰਾ ਖਡਾਵਾ ਗੇ ।
ਤੂੰ ਭਜ ਭਜ ਪਾਉੜੀ ਚੜਨੀ ਆ
ਸੱਪ ਬਣਕੇ ਮੁਹਰੇ ਆਵਾ ਗੇ ॥

You are very fond of games;
We will let you play again and again;
You will be climbing up the ladder running;
We will confront you like snakes.

2. The Dove in the Corn-Field

Ghola lived in a village. He was a small farmer. He had three acres of land. One year, he decided to grow corn instead of rice. He prepared two acres of land for it. He ploughed them. He spread the manure. Then he planted the seed.

A month later, a pair of doves (cock-dove and hen-dove) came to the corn fields. They made their nest there. Soon hen-dove laid two eggs in it. After a few days, little babies hatched out of them.



Corn field

One day the baby Doves overheard the farmer say, "I will call my neighbours to reap this field."

Ghola called his friend and said, "Hello, Shukey, how are you? I am cutting my corn next week. Please come and help."

Shukey replied, "I am fine. At the moment, I am repairing my motorcycle. I will call you later."

The Baby Doves got alarmed to hear this and told their mother about it.

The mother told them not to worry.

Some days later, the farmer came again and said, "I will call my relatives to reap this field."

He called his cousin (Mama Ji's son) and said, "Hello, Pappu, how are you? I am cutting my corn soon. Please come and help."

Pappu replied, "I am fine. At the moment, I am painting my house. I will call you later."

The baby Doves were frightened again and said, "Mum, we are scared."

"Fear not," said their mother.

But the next day, the farmer came there with his little son Bittu and said, "I will reap this field tomorrow."

The baby Doves were terrified again and said, “Mum, we are fearful.”

“Now is the time to go. When a man says he will do the work himself, he will certainly do it,” said the mother-dove.

Moral: Do not fear hollow threats.

Punjabi song:

ਘੁੱਗੀਆ ਦਾ ਜੋੜਾ
ਨਖਰੇ ਤੇਰੇ ਭਾਰੇ ਭਾਰੇ
ਚੱਕਣ ਨੂੰ ਮੁੰਡਾ ਫਿਰਦਾ
ਤੇਰੇ ਤੇ ਮਰਦੇ ਜਿਹੜੇ
ਡੱਕਣ ਨੂੰ ਮੁੰਡਾ ਫਿਰਦਾ
ਘੁੱਗੀਆ ਦਾ ਜੋੜਾ ਲਗਦਾ
ਸਾਡਾ ਦੋ ਭੈਣਾ ਦਾ ਨੀ ...

Your coquetry and frippery are extreme;

The boy is ready to face them;

Those who are infatuated with you;

The boy is ready to stop them;

We both sisters look like a pair of doves.

The Dove

I had a dove, and the sweet dove died;
And I have thought it dies of grieving:
Oh, what could it grieve for? Its feet were tied
With a silken thread of my own hands' weaving.
Sweet little red feet! Why should you die-
Why would you leave me, sweet bird why?
You lived alone in the forest tree;
Why, pretty thing! Would you not live with me?
I kissed you often and gave you white peas;
Why not live sweetly, as in the green trees?

ਇਕ ਮੈ ਪਾਲੀ ਘੁੱਗੀ - ਪਿਆਰੀ ਉਹ ਮਰਗੀ ਘੁੱਗੀ
ਮੇਰੀ ਤਾ ਸੋਚਾ ਵਿਚ ਲਗਦਾ - ਸਦਮੇ ਵਿਚ ਮਰਗੀ ਘੁੱਗੀ
ਉਹਨੂੰ ਸੀ ਸਦਮਾ ਕਾਹਦਾ - ਉਹਦੇ ਸੀ ਪੈਰ ਬੰਨੇ
ਰੇਸ਼ਮ ਦੀ ਦੋਰ ਨਾਲ - ਮੈ ਆਪੇ ਸੀ ਬੁਣੇ ਕੰਨੇ
ਲਾਲ ਰੰਗ ਦੇ ਪਿਆਰੇ ਪੈਰ - ਮਰਨੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਕਿਉ ਪੈਗੀ
ਉਹ ਪਿਆਰੇ ਪੰਛੀ ਕਿਉ - ਮੈਨੂੰ ਛੱਡਣ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਕਿਉ ਪੈਗੀ
ਜੰਗਲ ਦੇ ਰੁੱਖਾ ਵਿਚ - ਤੂੰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਸੀ ਕਾਲੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ
ਪਿਆਰੇ ਪੰਛੀ ਕਿਉ - ਤੂੰ ਮੇਰੇ ਨਾਲ ਕਿਉ ਨਹੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ
ਅਕਸਰ ਮੈ ਚੁਮਦਾ ਤੈਨੂੰ - ਦੋਂਦਾ ਮਟਰਾ ਦੇ ਚਿੱਟੇ ਦਾਣੇ
ਵਿਚ ਅਰਾਮ ਰੈਹ ਨਾ ਸਕੀ - ਜਿਵੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਜੰਗਲਾ ਦੇ ਹਰੇ ਟਾਣੇ ॥

3. The Wolf and the Heron



Wolf loved food. For breakfast, he ate a rabbit. For lunch, he gulped a small deer. In the afternoon, he was hungry again. The wolf caught a large pigeon. He gobbled it in one go. Then he pounced on a parrot and bolted it down his throat. Then he felt a little sleepy. The wolf went to his den and had a nap.

After two hours' sleep, he woke up. There was only one thing on his mind – food. He walked along the river. The wolf saw a kid goat drinking water. He jumped on it and killed it. Then sat on the bank of the river and enjoyed his meal.

When the wolf went to bed, there was only one thing on his mind: what would he have for breakfast the next morning? He thought about many kinds of delicious food – pigs, beavers, moles, deer, sheep and fish, and so on.



The next morning, the wolf found an enormous, shining fish in the shallow waters at the edge of the river. So, the wolf gobbled up the fish as quickly as a flash of light. **The wolf was about to pat his stomach when he realized something was wrong.**

ਢਿੱਡ ਤੇ ਹੱਥ ਫੇਰਨ ਹੀ ਲੱਗਾ ਸੀ ਜਦੋਂ ਪੁਆੜਾ ਪੇ ਗਿਆ.

“Ack eurk ach! There’s a bone stuck in my throat!” The wolf choked and slapped the back of his neck with his paws. He coughed and shook his head. But nothing he did made any difference - the bone was stuck firmly.

“I will not be able to eat ever again!” The wolf whined. “No more food for me - and the bone is hurting me. Oh, God, help me.”

‘Oh, Dear Bird, look at me! Look at me!’ he cried.

'Are you talking to me?' asked the heron.

"Yes, Madam' said the wolf, "you are a beautiful bird: your plum is as white as snow; your beak is long and lovely to look at. I knew your mother – she was as beautiful as you are – she was so kind – we treated her as our own mother."

"Stop beating about the bush. Say what you want," said the heron. "I am quite busy today: I am going see my aunt, and then I am going on a date to meet my future husband."

"Well, Madam, there is a bone stuck in my throat, and it hurts. Worse than that, I cannot eat because of it. You may know I am not greedy as far as food is concerned. I mostly stay on a diet and eat very little. I know nobody is as wise as you are – you cannot stop eating food altogether, can you? Please help, Madam Heron."

"I would not mind helping you, but I will get late. My aunt does not like waiting. She is rather impatient," said the heron.

"Please, wonderful Heron, beautiful Heron and kind Heron, use your beak to get the bone out. I will give you a present if you remove the bone – as a reward," said the wolf.

"Okay then, I can always make an excuse to tell my aunt," said the heron

The heron took her beak into the mouth of the wolf. Carefully, she removed the bone. Then she sat beside the wolf and waited for her present.

The wolf started slowly moving away even without saying thank you.

The heron called, "O, Wolf, what about my reward?"

The wolf grinned and showed all his teeth. "O, creature Heron, can you see my teeth?"

The heron said, "Who cannot see your teeth? They are shiny and big."

"Well!" snarled the wolf, "I didn't bite your head off, did I?"

Heron checked her neck, "No you did not," she replied.

"Well, that is your reward," said the wolf

Moral: Do not trust strangers so easily.

The Heron



I said to the heron, "Why do you stand
In the fast-flowing stream in the pebbles and sand
On only one foot?
I would have thought it would be more convenient to put
Both feet in the stream while you patiently seek
The silvery fish to spear with your beak?"
The heron glared back and his voice quickly rose,
"I would thought it was something that everyone knows:
In warm air, above water one foot I now hold
Because fast-flowing streams are excessively cold."

ਮੈਂ ਪੁਛਿਆ ਬਗਲੇ ਨੂੰ - ਕਿਉਂ ਇਕ ਪੈਰ ਤੇ ਖੜਦਾ
ਕਾਹਲੀ ਵਗਦੇ ਨਾਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ - ਪਥਰਾ ਤੇ ਰੇਤੇ ਵਿੱਚ ।
ਮੇਰੀ ਸੋਚ ਤਾਂ ਕਹਿੰਦੀ - ਹੁੰਦਾ ਤੇਰੇ ਲਈ ਅਸਾਨ
ਜੇ ਦੋ ਪੈਰਾ ਤੇ ਖੜਦਾ - ਧੀਰਜ ਨਾਲ ਲਭਦਾ
ਮੱਛੀ ਚਾਂਦੀ ਵਰਗੀ - ਤੇਰੀ ਚੁੰਜ ਹੈ ਨੇਜੇ ਵਰਗੀ
ਦੇਂਦਾ ਉਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੋਬ ਬਗਲੇ ॥

ਘੂਰ ਘੂਰ ਦੇਖੇ ਬਗਲਾ - ਨਾਲੇ ਉਹਦੀ ਹੋਗੀ ਉੱਚੀ ਸੀ ਅਵਾਜ
ਮੇਰੀ ਸੋਚ ਤਾਂ ਕਹਿੰਦੀ - ਹਰ ਇਕ ਨੂੰ ਪਤਾ ਇਹ ਮੇਰੀ ਹੈ ਮਜ਼ਾਜ
ਇਕ ਪੈਰ ਨੂੰ ਗਰਮ ਹਵਾ 'ਚ - ਫੜਕੇ ਮੈਂ ਰਖਦਾ ਏ
ਵਗਦਾ ਕਾਹਲੀ ਕਾਹਲੀ ਪਾਣੀ - ਠੰਡਾਂ ਬੜਾ ਲਗਦਾ ਏ ॥

4. Picture Dictionary Page

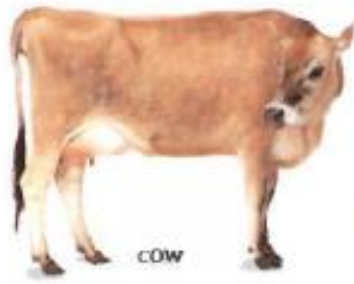
Animals 1



sheep



goat



cow



donkey



horse



zebra



cheetah



tiger



koala

Point, ask, and answer.
>What's this?
>It's a sheep.



wolf

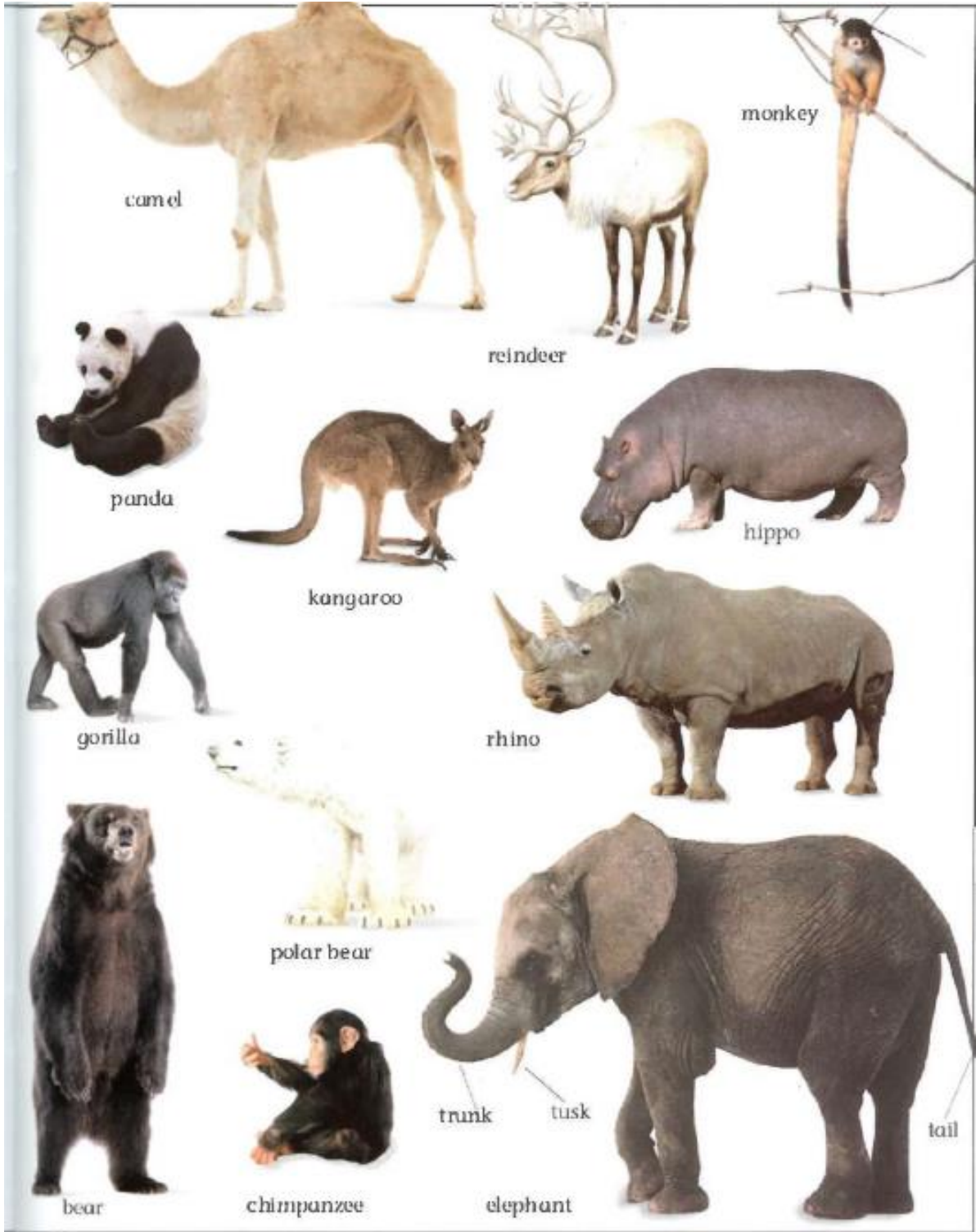


fox



lion

giraffe



camel

monkey

reindeer

panda

hippo

kangaroo

gorilla

rhino

polar bear

bear

trunk

tusk

tail

chimpanzee

elephant

