



Learn English Through
Stories

C Series

C12

**Adopted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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1. The Princess Who Never Smiled

Many long years ago, there was a king in Egypt. The king had a beautiful daughter who grew more and more lovely every year. To keep her happy, the king gave her everything she wanted. She had the finest clothes, the most beautiful jewellery, the most delicious food, and the best entertainment. Still, the princess never smiled. This pained the king, and each night he asked, "Are you happy, my dear?"

"Yes, Father. I am very happy," the princess replied.

The king did not believe her. After all, happy people smiled, and the princess never did.

After years and years of watching his beautiful daughter's sad face, the king announced that whoever made her smile would have her hand in marriage.

Young men came from all over Egypt.



Polka-dot dress

A clown dressed in colorful polka - dots juggled glasses filled with water. The princess didn't smile.

A troupe of actors performed a beautiful dance. The princess did not smile.



A comedian told jokes dressed as a giant chicken. The princess didn't smile.

The King looked on with tears in his eyes. Would anyone ever be able to make his beautiful daughter smile?

The seasons passed. The birds sang in the spring. The sun smiled from the sky. The crops grew in the summer. Snow covered the land like crystals in the winter.

Still, the princess did not smile.

The King did not know what else to do. Young men continued to come to the palace. Some brought sparkling jewels and laid them at the princess's feet.

Some brought gowns of the softest silk with the most delicate handmade lace. Others brought the fattest geese or the most delicious chickens.

Still, the princess did not smile.

In a nearby village, a young man named Jack worked for a farmer. He ploughed the fields. He cared for the animals. He repaired the barn. He constantly worked, and the farmer was pleased with him.

At the end of the year, the farmer called Jack into his house. A large bag of money sat on the table.

"You've worked well last year," the farmer said. "Take as much money as you would like." The farmer left the room.

Jack thought for a few moments, then he took a single coin. He was an honest man, after all, and he did not want to appear greedy.

Jack went to the town well for a sip of water. As he drank, the coin slipped out of his hand and tumbled into the water with a splash! The young man stared into the well for a long moment. "Perhaps, I didn't work hard enough," he thought. That must be why I had such bad luck. He resolved to work harder the next year.

Meanwhile, more and more people came to the palace. A zookeeper brought a dancing bear. The king of a far - off country brought the princess a pet parrot that spoke three languages: Arabic, English and Punjabi.

Still, the princess did not smile.

The seasons passed again. Jack planted the corn in spring. He cared for it throughout the summer, and harvested it in the autumn, so the farmer had a full big container of corn by the time the snow sparkled in winter.

Once again, the farmer placed the money on the table and told the young man to take what he wanted and left the room. Again, Jack took a single coin so as not to be greedy. Again, the coin slipped from his hand and landed in the well with a splash! Again, the young man decided to work harder the following year, since he had such bad luck.

The third year came and went. Jack worked as hard as he could. He rarely slept. He rarely ate. He worked around the clock. At the end of the year, he took a single coin and went to drink at the well.

"Ah!" Jack cried.

The two coins from the previous years floated to the top of the water. Jack grabbed them and placed them in his pocket. "It is now time for me to see the world," he said, and he left the village.



Jack walked through a grassy field. The sun shone overhead and warmed him, so he stopped for a moment to enjoy its glow. A small mouse ran up to him as he stood with his eyes closed.

“Please, sir. Give me a coin, and I will help you.”

Jack smiled down at the mouse and gave him the coin. The mouse scampered up the young man’s leg and settled in his pocket.



A beetle

Jack and the mouse continued their journey and soon came to a dense forest. The trees grew close together and kept the ground in darkness, and the creatures of the forest were unusually silent. Jack and the mouse proceeded carefully, but they soon met a beetle. “Please, sir. Give me a coin, and I will help you.”

Jack gave the beetle a coin, and the insect settled into Jack’s hair. The group continued their way and soon came to a stream.

“Let’s stop for a drink,” Jack said. Mouse and Beetle agreed.

“Please, sir. Give me a coin, and I will help you.”

Jack looked down to see a toad swimming at the edge of the water. He could not refuse, so he gave Toad his last coin. The toad joined Jack and his friends on their journey.

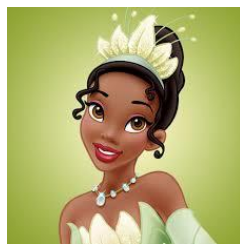


A toad

Jack soon came to the city. People bustled here and there. Horses filled the street. Voices shouted. The young man looked around, not sure where to go. At last, he noticed the king’s palace at the end of a long street and decided to go in that direction.

Jack dodged people throughout the city and soon stopped for a break in front

of the Princess's window. He looked up and was shocked by her beauty. Dizziness washed over Jack, and he fell into the mud in front of the castle. Toad dove into the puddle and gently flapped Jack's face to wake him. Beetle quickly cleaned Jack's boots, and Mouse took his coat to rid it of mud. High above the street, the princess watched the small creatures take care of the young man. Their actions touched her heart. "He must be a very special man to inspire these creatures to care for him so well," she whispered, and she smiled. "Look!" cried an old woman in the street. "The princess is smiling!"



A cry of joy went through the city, and the king nearly burst with happiness. He had the guards bring Jack to the palace and treated him to a banquet. As the king had promised, Jack and the princess were married. The name of the princess was Noori. But she changed it Jackie.

Jack and Jackie lived happily ever after. Other people called them Sultan Jack and Sultana Jackie.

2. Meat of Deer



Once upon a time, in a small village, there lived a hunter with his simple wife and their two hardworking children. He was a lucky man. His land was fertile, and it gave good crops. He was an excellent hunter. He always brought home a good supply of meat. The whole family was very fond of meat dishes. During winter, they always made meat pickle: pork pickle, lamb pickle, chicken pickle, etc.

One day, he said to his wife, “Dear wife, I think we should make some venison pickle this year for a change.”

“What is venison?” asked his wife.

“I told you last year, what venison is. Anyway, I tell you a list of animals and the names of their meat: cow or bull – beef; calf – veal; sheep or goat – mutton; young sheep – lamb; deer – venison; pig – pork; etc.” said the husband.

“How do you make venison pickle?” asked his wife.

“Dear wife, I told you last year, the recipe of the venison pickle. Anyway, I repeat it. Get your pen and paper ready. I am in a hurry. I will say it quickly. Now, write it down:

Venison – 20 kg, cut into two-inch cubes;

Mustard Oil – 2 litres;

Crushed red chilli – 500 grams;

Turmeric powder – 2 kg;

Sea salt – one quarter a bucket;

Aniseed – 1 kg;

Cumin seed – 500 grams;

Fenugreek seeds – 500 grams;

Apple vinegar – 2 litres;

Sunshine – 3 days;

Total time – a fortnight.”

After this, he set out from his home, intending to hunt a deer in the nearby forest. It was a fortunate day as he saw a good-sized deer and killed it instantly. He hung the carcass of the deer over his shoulder and happily started for his home.

He reached home, and then the whole family together prepared the venison pickle.

Some days after, they received a couple of visitors from Punjab. The visitors were two old friend of the hunter. Their names were Hirna and Ghirna. Hirna was an athlete. He used to run extremely fast. Ghirna was moody. He hated everything. He was very fussy...

In the evening, the hunter served his friends with homemade alcohol (desi sharab). He also gave them a plate of venison pickles. For some reason, Ghirna loved the venison pickle, and he ate a plateful.

Hirna asked, “Dear Hunter, what meat is it?”

The hunter replied, “Venison, a meat of deer.”

Hirna said, “My name is Hirna. I cannot eat the meat of deer (Hiran). People will call me a cannibal if I eat the meat of deer.”

3. My Pet Dog



It was Sunday afternoon. Tinku went to see his friend Rink. Tinku asked Rinku, "Have you done your homework?"

Rinku replied, "I made a story about my pet dog. Here it is you can read it."

Here is the story:

We keep pets for pleasure. Pet dogs always want to protect their owners. Pets are very playful with their owners. They can sacrifice themselves for their owners. My pet dog is a pug. It is brown in colour. It has a flat face with a short and wide nose. We have named it Swifti. It has been with us for the last two years. I still remember the day when my sister and I went to the pet shop with my father to bring it home. I, somehow, wanted to pet a cat, but my elder sister Reena is almost crazy about dogs and was adamant that we get a dog as a pet.

Most members of my family think that keeping a dog is as a pet better than keeping a cat as a pet. Although I was not sure before, now I agree.

My granddad takes Swifti for a walk every morning. Swifti loves my granddad.

Though, everyone in the family looks after Swifti, my sister takes extra care of him. She is particular about its cleanliness, vaccinations and eating habits. We bathe Swifti twice a week. It is actually my favourite time of the week. We take it to the terrace and bathe him with a pipe. We make sure it gets its food on time.

Swifti is an active dog and loves playing with a ball.

My Dog Swift

My dog is called swifti.

He likes to play every day.

He loves to sleep on the hay.

He likes to walk.

And a rabbit he chases.

He likes to be with other dogs, to do lots of races.

He is brown and a bit black

With amber eyes.

He is crafty and secretly eats pies.

He likes to shake his paws.

He likes to bark.

And in the park, he leaves his mark.

I like my dog.

He is my chum.

Sometimes, he jumps over my mum.

4. Picture Dictionary Page

broke

from the verb to break
I broke my pencil in half.

bronze

noun
a brown-colored metal made from a mixture of copper and tin.



An ornament made of bronze.

brooch

brooches noun
a piece of jewelry that is usually pinned onto clothes.
■ say broach



broom

brooms noun
a stiff, long-handled brush that is used for sweeping.

brother

brothers noun
a male person who has the same mother and father as someone else.

brought

from the verb to bring
I brought my dog with me.
■ say brawt

brown

noun
a color.



brush

brushes brushing brushed verb
1 to sweep.
2 to touch something lightly as you pass by it.
The woman brushed past me in the street.

brush

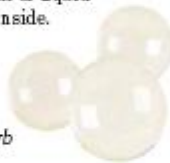
brushes noun
a tool with a handle and bristles.



animal brush

bubble

bubbles noun
a light ball of liquid with air inside.



bubble verb

bucket

buckets noun
a large container with a handle, usually used for carrying liquids.



buckle

buckles noun
an object for fastening two ends of a belt or strap.



bud

buds noun
a small swelling on a plant, containing young leaves or flowers (see tree on page 223).



tree bud

Buddhist

Buddhists noun
a person who follows the teachings of Buddha, a religious teacher who lived about 2,500 years ago.
■ say boo-dist

buffalo

buffalo noun
a large mammal that lives on open plains and eats grass.

bugle

bugles noun
a brass musical instrument that you blow through to produce sound.



build

builds building built verb
to join things together to make a structure.
The bird built a nest out of twigs.

building

buildings noun
a structure, usually with walls and a roof, for sheltering people or objects.

bulb

bulbs noun
1 the rounded glass part of an electric light.



light bulb

2 the rounded part of some plants that grows underground.



daffodil bulb

bulge

bulges bulging bulged verb
to swell or be lumpy.
Her pockets bulged with food.

bull

bulls noun
1 a male mammal of the cattle family.
2 the male of some large animals, such as elephants, whales, and seals.

bulldozer

bulldozers noun
a machine with a large, metal blade at the front for moving earth and rocks.



bullet

bullets noun
a pointed metal object fired from a gun.

bully

bullies noun
an unpleasant person who frightens others.
bully verb

bump

bumps *bumping bumped verb*
to knock into something.

bump

bumps *noun*
a rounded shape on a smooth surface.
Toads have bumps on their skin.
bumpy *adjective*

bunch

bunches *noun*
a group of things together.



bunch of carrots

bundle

bundles *noun*
a group of things that are loosely joined together.



bundle of twigs

bungalow

bungalows *noun*
a small house with all its rooms on one level.

bunk bed

bunk beds *noun*
one of a pair of beds that are placed one on top of the other.



buoy

buoys *noun*
an object that is tied to an anchor and floats on water. Buoys are used as a warning or guide for ships and boats.

■ say **boo-ee**



burglar

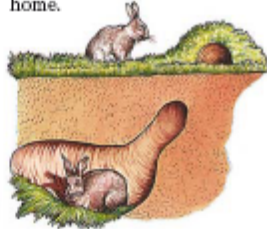
burglars *noun*
a person who steals things from people's houses.

burn

burns *burning burned or burnt verb*
to damage or destroy by fire.

burrow

burrows *noun*
an animal's underground home.



rabbit burrow

burst

bursts *bursting burst verb*
to split open.
The water pipe burst and flooded the kitchen.

bury

buries *burying buried verb*
to put something in the ground and cover it over.
The dog buried its bone.
■ say **bare-ee**

bus

buses *noun*
a road vehicle for carrying a large number of passengers.

bush

bush *noun*
1 a large round-shaped plant. Bushes are smaller than trees and have many branches low to the ground.



2 the wilderness in Australia, New Zealand, and Africa.



business

businesses *noun*
1 an organization that sells products or services.
2 the things that only you should know about and look after.
Mind your own business.
■ say **biz-nis**

busy

busy *adjective*
doing lots of things.
■ say **biz-ee**



butcher

butchers *noun*
a person who prepares and sells meat.

butter

butter *noun*
a soft, yellow food made from cream.

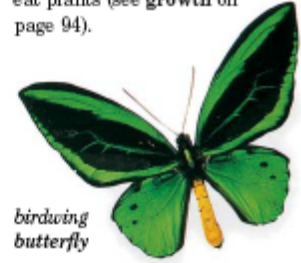
buttercup

buttercups *noun*
a small wildflower with yellow petals.



butterfly

butterflies *noun*
an insect with wings covered in very fine, colored scales. Butterflies begin life as caterpillars. Most butterflies eat plants (see **growth** on page 94).



birdwing butterfly

button

buttons *noun*
1 a small object used to fasten two parts of a piece of clothing together.



2 a switch to activate an electronic device.

buy

buys *buying bought verb*
to pay for something.
I'm going to buy a book with my allowance.

buzz

buzzes *buzzing buzzed verb*
to make a low, humming noise.
The bees buzzed in the hive.

byte

bytes *noun*
a piece of information that a computer stores in its memory.



