



Learn English Through
Stories

C Series

C13

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1. The Garden Chair

Two brothers, Bindi and Pindi, lived with their mother in Jandiala. Their old Auntie lived in Jamsher.

Bindi and Pindi were flying their big kite. It pulled at its string as hard as it could.

“It’s a fine kite,” said Bindi. “It flies well...”

“It will bump into that cloud if it doesn’t look out,” said Pindi. “There – it has, and it’s taken a little corner out of it too.”

“Let me hold it for a bit,” said Bindi. So he held it and enjoyed feeling the tug and pull of the eager kite far away up in the sky.

“Bindi! Pindi!” called their mother. “It’s dinnertime. Come along quickly. Bring down your kite and put it away.”

“Oh no, Ma!” called Bindi. “It’s flying so well. Can’t we tie it up and leave it to fly?”

“No,” said his mother. “Pull it down. You know we’re going over to old Auntie Palo after dinner, and we’ll have to run to catch the bus – Gill Travels, I expect. Pull your kite down at once.”

“Don’t let’s,” whispered Bindi. “Let’s tie it to something and it can fly all the time we’re having dinner. It will love that...”

“What can we tie it to?” asked Pindi. “Ooh, I know – let’s tie it to Maps old garden chair. That will hold it well while we are having our dinner...” So they tied it to their mother’s old garden chair and then went in to their dinner. But while they were having their dinner, the wind grew very much stronger. It was almost a gale. Whoooooooooooo-hoooo-hooo, it went, and the kite tugged hard at its string. The old garden chair gave a sudden little hop. The kite had pulled so hard that it made it move. The kite tugged at its string again and the chair gave another little hop.

Then the wind blew so hard that the kite tugged wildly – and will you believe it, up into the air went the old garden chair, swinging at the end of the long, long string!

The kite flew higher in the sky and further away. The chair hopped over the wall and flew up into the air too, and it even flew over the roofs of houses. My

word, it was having the time of its life! It flew over many small villages: Thabble Ki, Kangniwal, Dewali, etc.

It flew and it flew, and then – dear me, the knot in the string began to come loose! Soon the chair would fall. It might break itself into pieces. It began to be afraid.

The wind dropped a little, and the kite flew lower. The chair dropped lower too, and almost touched a wall it was swinging over. Suddenly the knot came undone, and the string parted from the back of the chair.

But it hadn't really very far to fall. It fell into a little garden, behind a bush, and there it stood, feeling shaky, wondering where it was.

Now old Auntie Palo had been hanging out her washing on that lovely windy day. She had washed all the morning, and she was very, very tired. It was nice out in the garden, and she thought she would like a little rest out there.

If only I had a garden chair to rest in and to ease my tired old legs, wouldn't that be lovely! She thought, pegging up the last shirt. How I wish I had a comfortable old garden chair for myself!

Plop! Something fell down that very moment behind the nearby bush. Auntie Palo was startled. She went to see what it was.

"Bless us all – it's an old garden chair, dropped right out of the blue, as I wished my wish!" she said in astonishment. "Well, there now – it's just what I want to sit in and rest my old legs. I'll have a little snooze..."

So down she sat and shut her eyes. The chair was so comfortable and fitted her exactly. "It couldn't be better," she said sleepily. "Oh, how lovely to have a wish come true! I really must tell Bindi and Pindi and their mother when they come to see me."

Well – they're on their way in the bus, of course. And what do you suppose Bindi's mother will think when she sees old Auntie Palo fast asleep in the old garden chair that really belongs to her? And what will Bindi and Pindi say?

Well, if ever a wish came true, Auntie Palo's did that afternoon. And if I know anything about her, she's going to keep that chair!

As for the kite, it's still flying. Look out for it. It's black and blue, with a smiling face and a tail made of yellow and red. I'll let you know if I see it!

2. The Patient Cat



A spotted cat Filina lived near a river. She used to hunt around the banks of the river. The animals she most hunted were mice, squirrels, rabbits, etc. One day, she decided to climb a tree and find some food. Falina found a nest, but there was nothing in the nest because it was just built. So she said, "I will wait!" Falina was a patient cat, and she was never in a hurry. She waited a week. And then she climbed up again to the top of the tree, and peeped into the nest. There lay two lovely blue eggs, smooth and shining.

Falina said, "Eggs may be good, but young birds are better. I will wait." So she waited. While she was waiting, she caught mice and rats. Falina washed herself, slept, and did all that she should do to pass the time away.

When another week had passed, she climbed the tree again, and peeped into the nest. This time there were four eggs. But Falina said again, "Eggs may be good, but young birds are better. I will wait a little longer!"

So she waited. While she was waiting, she caught a good-sized rabbit. It was yummy. After some days, she climbed up the tree again. What did she see this time? There were six lovely eggs. You know, Falina was a patient cat. She said again, "Eggs may be good, but young birds are better. I will wait a little longer!"

So she waited a little longer and then went up again to look. Ah! There were six tiny birds, with big eyes and long necks, and yellow beaks wide open. Then Falina sat down on the branch, and licked her nose and purred, for she was super happy. "It is worth a while to be patient!" she said.

But when she looked again at the young birds to decide which one she should take first, they were still too thin. Falina was shocked because she had never seen anything so thin in her life.

"Now," she said to herself, "if I were to wait only a few days longer, they would grow fat. Thin birds may be good, but fat birds are much better and tastier. I will wait!"

So she waited. And she watched the father bird bringing worms all day long to the nest. She said, "Aha! They must be fattening fast! They will soon be as fat as I wish them to be. Aha! What a good thing it is to be patient."

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "To lose patience is to lose battle."

Falina thought to herself, "In my case, to lose patience is to lose fat birds."

At last, one day, she thought, "Surely, now they must be fat enough! I will not wait another day. Aha! How good they will be!"

So she climbed up the tree - her mouth full of water. All the way, she was thinking about the fat young birds. And when she reached the top and looked into the nest, it was empty!

Then Falina thought about what somebody else said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

Falina sat down on the branch and thought, "Well, the birds in the nest took advantage of my patience. I wish I had listened to what William Ward said – Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them – Those blue, smooth, shiny eggs – Meow, meow..."

3. The Mouse and the Weasel



A weasel

Weasel is small mammal with reddish-brown fur and a long body that can kill other small animals such as mice and birds for food.

Once, there lived two friends, the Mouse and the Weasel. You may think – how can a weasel and a mouse become friends? Because, usually, weasels kill mice and eat them. But here, the story is different. One day, the Weasel killed a female mouse. The mouse was pregnant. Seeing the little, tiny babies of the mouse, the Weasel vowed that he would not eat mice again.

The Weasel was a clever animal and content. But the Mouse was greedy.

Not very far from them, there was a farm. Gurmeet Singh lived alone on the farm. One day, the farmer locked all his rooms, and he went to Canada to visit his daughter. The Mouse discovered that no one lived on the farm anymore. He found a small in the storeroom. The storeroom was full of corn. The Mouse visited it every day and ate some corn.

One day, the Mouse decided a small mammal with reddish-brown fur and a long body that can kill other small animals such as mice and birds for food to stay in the storeroom. It was nice and comfortable there. He slept in one of the corners of the storeroom and did his droppings in the other.

A week later, the Mouse wanted to go out and take fresh air. He was also very thirsty. But now, the Mouse was too fat to squeeze through the hole. The Mouse cried and wailed.

When the Weasel was passing by the farm - he heard the mouse lamenting. He came to the Mouse and said, "Friend, there is only one way to get out. Go on hunger strike and wait until you are thin enough to squeeze through the hole."

4. My Birthday

This is what my grandmother told me about the day I was born:

I was born on a warm summer day in July. The sun was shining, and the birds were singing. It was a beautiful day. My parents were so happy to see me - their first child. I was born at 8:00 am. I weighed 7 pounds and 6 ounces (3.35 kg). I have always been a healthy baby and child. I have never had any serious illnesses. I have always been a good eater...

My family has always been very close to me. We are all supportive of each other and love spending time together. My birthday is always a special day for my family. We usually have a big party with all of my friends and family. There is always plenty of food and drinks. We all have a great time. I am so lucky to have such a wonderful family.

I am so grateful to God that I was born into a prosperous family. Sometimes, I feel sad about the children who live a miserable life. Some of them do not even live in concrete houses...

5. Reeta completes Her homework.

Part 1

The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

1 Please don't make so much noise.	a I'm getting hungry.	1 ...f.....
2 We need to leave soon.	b They're lying.	2
3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.	c It's starting to rain.	3
4 I need to eat something soon.	d They're trying to sell it.	4
5 They don't need their car any more.	e It's getting late.	5
6 Things are not so good at work.	f I'm trying to work.	6
7 It isn't true what they say.	g I'm staying with friends.	7
8 We're going to get wet.	h The company is losing money.	8

Part 2

Write questions. Use the present continuous.

- 1 What's all that noise? *What's happening?* (what / happen?)
- 2 What's the matter? (why / you / cry?)
- 3 Where's your mother? (she / work / today?)
- 4 I haven't seen you for ages. (what / you / do / these days?)
- 5 Amy is a student. (what / she / study?)
- 6 Who are those people? (what / they / do?)
- 7 I heard you started a new job. (you / enjoy / it?)
- 8 We're not in a hurry. (why / you / walk / so fast?)

Answers on the next page

Answers

Part 1

1. Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying to work.
2. We need to leave soon. It's getting late.
3. I don't have anywhere to live right now. I'm staying with friends.
4. I need to eat something soon. I'm getting hungry.
5. They don't need their car any more. They're trying to sell it.
6. Things are not so good at work. The company is losing money.
7. It's not true what they say. They're lying.
8. We're going to get wet. It's starting to rain.

Part 2

1. What's all that noise? What is happening?
2. What's the matter? Why are you crying?
3. Where's your mother? Is she working today?
4. I haven't seen you for ages. What are you doing these days?
5. Amy is a student. What is she studying?
6. Who are those people? What are they doing?
7. I heard you started a new job. Are you enjoying it?
8. We're not in a hurry. Why are you walking so fast?

6. Picture Dictionary Page

Cc

cabbage

cabbages *noun*

a vegetable with a short stem and tightly wrapped layers of broad leaves.



cabin

cabins *noun*

1 a small, simple house.



2 a room for passengers or crew on an airplane or ship.

cable

cables *noun*

1 a very strong rope or chain.



2 a bundle of wires for carrying electrical power or signals, often laid underground.

electric cable



cactus

cacti or cactuses *noun*

a plant that grows in hot deserts. Cacti store water in their stems and have prickly spines that protect them from animals.



café

cafés *noun*

a place where people buy and eat meals, snacks, and drinks.

■ say ka-fay



cage

cages *noun*

a container with metal bars for keeping animals or birds in.



cake

cakes *noun*

a sweet food that is made from flour, sugar, eggs, and butter and baked in an oven.



calculator

calculators *noun*

a small electronic machine for doing math quickly.



■ say kal-kyuh-lay-tor

calendar

calendars *noun*

a chart of all the days, weeks, and months of the year.



call

calls calling called *verb*

1 to shout out.

They called for help.

2 to give something a name.

I called my dog Spot.

3 to phone or visit somebody.

My cousin called to see me.

calligraphy

calligraphy *noun*

beautiful handwriting, using ink or paint.



■ say ka-lig-ruh-fee

calm

calm *adjective*

1 still and quiet.

The sea was calm after the storm had passed.

2 peaceful.

Yoga makes her feel calm.

■ say kahm

■ comparisons calmer calmest

came

came *from the verb to come*

He came with us yesterday.

calf

calves *noun*

1 a young cow or bull.

2 the young of some mammals, such as elephants or whales.



3 the back of your leg below the knee.

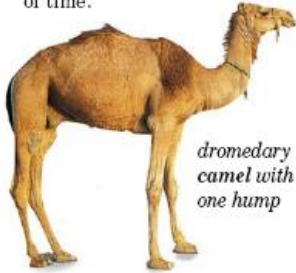


calf

camel

camels *noun*

a mammal with one or two humps on its back that lives in hot deserts. Camels store fat in their humps to help them go without water or food for long periods of time.



dromedary camel with one hump

camera

cameras *noun*

a piece of equipment used for taking photographs or for making videos or films.



digital camera

camouflage

camouflages *noun*

a disguise that helps to hide an animal or person.



■ say **kam-uh-flazh**
camouflage *verb*

leaf insect

camp

camp *verb*

to stay in a tent outdoors.



camping noun

campaign

campaigns *noun*

a series of events organized to bring about a goal.

She led a campaign to stop the new highway.

■ say **kam-pain**

can

can *could verb*

to be able to or to know how to do something.

She can touch her toes.

■ opposite **cannot** or **can't**

■ always used with another verb

can

cans *noun*

a metal container used for preserving food or drink.



canal

canals *noun*

a water channel that has been built across land for boats and ships to travel on.



canary

canaries *noun*

a yellow bird that is often kept as a pet because it sings. Wild canaries are green.



cancel

cancel *canceling canceled verb*
to stop something that has been planned.

We canceled our trip.

■ say **kan-sul**

cancelation *noun*

cancer

cancers *noun*

a serious disease in which harmful cells spread through the body.

■ say **kan-ser**

candidate

candidates *noun*

someone who seeks or is put forward for a job or honor.

Presidential candidate.

candle

candles *noun*

a stick of wax with a string called a wick running through it. Candles are burned to give off light.



candy

candies *noun*

food usually made of sugar.



cane

canes *noun*

1 a walking stick.
2 the thick, hollow stem of some plants.



sugar cane

canoe

canoes *noun*

a light, narrow boat. A paddle is used to move the canoe along.



canyon

canyons *noun*

a steep-sided, rocky valley.



capable

capable *adjective*

having ability or skill at something.

They are both capable cooks.

capacity

capacities *noun*

the amount that something will hold.



These jars have different capacities.

capital

capitals *noun*

1 a city where a country has its government offices.

Moscow is the capital of Russia.

2 a large letter of the alphabet used to start a sentence or a special name.

capture

captures *capturing captured verb*

to catch and hold on to someone or something.

