



Learn English Through
Stories

C Series

C15

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One-Eyed, Two-Eyed and Three Eyed

There was once an old woman who had three daughters. The oldest daughter had three eyes, so she was called Three-Eyed. The youngest daughter had one eye, so she was called One-Eyed. The middle daughter had two eyes, so she was called Two-Eyed.

Three-Eyed was beautiful, and One-Eyed was very clever, but Two-Eyed was not clever or beautiful. However, she did work very hard. Her sisters hated her because she had two eyes like normal people, and her mother hated her because she was not special like her sisters.

One day, the mother decided that it was time for her daughters to get married.

“Three-Eyed will get married to a rich businessman, because she is so beautiful. One-Eyed will get married to a doctor, because she is so clever.”

“And who will I get married to, Mother?” asked Two-Eyed.

“Nobody!” she cried. “You will not get married to anyone. You will stay at home and look after your mother.”

So the old woman prepared her oldest and youngest daughters to get married. She painted a second eye on One-Eye's face, so that she had two eyes. Then she took some horse hair and made a fringe to put on Three-Eye's head, so that people could not see her third eye.

“There!” she said. “Now everyone will want to marry you!”

“There!” she said. “Now everyone will want to marry you!”

A few days later, a man came around looking for a wife.

“Come in, come in!” said the old woman. “Perhaps you would like to marry my oldest daughter, who is very pretty?”

The man looked at Three-Eyed and said, “Hmm, I think not.”

“Well, perhaps you would prefer my youngest daughter? She is very clever.”

The man saw One-Eyed and said, “No, I do not like her. Where is the middle daughter?”

“Oh no, she is not beautiful or clever. You do not want to marry her.”

Two-Eyed was in the next room. She had seen the man through the window, and he looked very nice. So she walked into the room.

“Hello,” she said.

“Ah! This is the daughter I want to marry,” said the man

“No, no!” said the mother. “She does not want to get married.”

“But Mother, I—”

“Goodbye!”

And the mother pushed the man out of the door and shut it. Suddenly, the old woman, Three-Eyed and One-Eyed all attacked Two-Eyed.

“You think you are so clever, don’t you?” said the mother. “You cannot get married. I already told you.”

“You are not beautiful!” said Three-Eyed.

“Or clever!” said One-Eyed.

Two-Eyed started crying, and ran to her bed.

The mother and the two favourite daughters thought about what to do. They needed to make sure that no man wanted to marry Two-Eyed.

“I have an idea!” said the mother. “We will give her less food and make her work hard in the fields. She will be hungry and sad. She will get thin, and her skin will go hard. Nobody will want to marry her!”

So early the next day, Three-Eyed and One-Eyed pulled Two-Eyed out of bed, and told her she had to work in the fields.

“What about breakfast?” she asked.

“No breakfast for you, lazy!” said Three-Eyed.

So the girl went to the field and started working. It was a beautiful day, and she did not mind working hard, because her lunch would be even better afterwards.

A few hours later, a goat came to her.

“Meeeh! Good day, Two-Eyed.”

“How do you know my name?” the girl asked. “And, oh! How can you talk?”

“I am not a normal goat and you are not a normal girl.”

“Oh, but I am normal. I am not beautiful like my older sister, and I am not clever like my younger sister. And I only have two eyes, just like you and most people.”

“Oh no, you are special. You just do not know it yet. But that is not important. I think you are hungry.”

“Yes, I am quite hungry. But when I finish working, we will have lunch, I am sure.”

“No!” said the goat. “They will give you very little food. They made a plan last night. They will give you very little food, so that you get thin and your skin goes hard.”

“Oh!” said the girl.

“But do not worry. As I said, I am not a normal goat. Say these magic words and I will help you, ‘Little goat, little goat, it’s time to eat.’ When you are done, say, ‘Little goat, little goat, it’s time to go’.”

So the girl said, “Little goat, little goat, it’s time to eat.”

Suddenly, the goat started changing. It grew long and square, and became a big white table. And on the table were all kinds of food: bread, cheeses, jams, pickles, tomatoes, olives, and so on. The girl was hungry from work, so she ate lots and lots of food, and when she was done, she said, “Little goat, little goat, it’s time to go.”

The table became a goat again.

“See you tomorrow, Two-Eyed!” he said, and ran away.

When Two-Eyed finished her work and came home, lunch was ready.

“I suppose you want to eat?” said the mother.

“No, thank you!” said Two-Eyed. “I ate lots of food yesterday.”

For several days, the mother and her two favourite daughters sent Two-Eyed into the fields to work, and she ate food from the goat’s table, and she ate no food at home. The three horrible women thought and thought. Why did she not eat? Why was she not thin?

Finally, the mother said, "Enough! Tomorrow, One-Eyed, you will go with your sister into the field and find out what is happening. I am sure she is stealing that food from somewhere."

So the next day, One-Eyed went with Two-Eyed to the fields. But the younger sister did not want to work with Two-Eyed, so they sat down together and watched the sky.

"Sister, sing me a song," said One-Eyed.

So Two-Eyed started to sing.

"Sister, sister, are you asleep?

Or are you awake? Tell me, tell me."

"I am awake," said One-Eyed.

"Sister, sister, are you asleep? Or are you awake? Tell me, tell me."

"I am awake," said One-Eyed.

Two-Eyed sang more quietly. Finally, One-Eyed's eye closed and she fell asleep. Then, Two-Eyed got up, went and found the goat.

"Little goat, little goat, it's time to eat!"

The goat became a table, and the girl ate and ate, while her sister slept and slept. Then she said, "Little goat, little goat, it's time to go!"

The goat went away, and Two-Eyed went and woke up her sister.

"Come on, sister! It is time to go home."

"Oh!" said One-Eyed. "Did I sleep for that long?"

That evening, their mother and Three-Eyed asked One-Eyed what she saw, but the girl told them that she slept and saw nothing.

"That was not the plan!" said her mother.

"Actually, I did see one thing!" One-Eyed said. "When she woke me up, she had some cheese on her mouth."

"Hmm," said the mother. "Tomorrow, Three-Eyed, you will go with her to the fields. And you must be more careful than your sister!"

So the next day, Two-Eyed and Three-Eyed went to the fields.

“Sister, sing me a song,” said Three-Eyed.

So they sat down, and Two-Eyed started to sing.

“Sister, sister, are you asleep? Or are you awake? Tell me, tell me.”

“I am awake,” said Three-Eyed.

“Sister, sister, are you asleep? Or are you awake? Tell me, tell me.”

“I am awake,” said Three-Eyed.

Two-Eyed sang more quietly. Finally, Three-Eyed's eyes closed. Then, Two-Eyed carefully got up, went and found the goat.

But Three-Eyed was not asleep. Her two lower eyes were closed, but under her fringe, her third eye was open. Carefully, she moved the fringe and watched what Two-Eyed was doing.

“Little goat, little goat, it's time to eat!”

Three-Eyed saw the goat become a table, and she saw Two-Eyed eat her meal. Then the girl said, “Little goat, little goat, it's time to go!”

That evening, Three-Eyed told her mother and sister everything that had happened. Her mother had never looked so happy before.

“I have an idea,” she said. “Tonight, we will have goat for supper.”

“Yes,” said Three-Eyed, “but what about the magic goat?”

“We are going to eat the magic goat.”

“Oh.”

When Two-Eyed heard this, she started crying, and she cried and cried all day. Then she slept in her room, and had a strange dream.

In the dream, she was working in the fields, but the goat did not come to her. Instead, an old man visited.

“They are going to eat the goat,” he said.

“What can I do?” said Two-Eyed.

“After the meal is finished, take the goat's hooves and horns. Dig a hole behind the door and put them in the hole. But make sure that nobody sees.”

So that evening, the mother and her two favourite daughters ate goat curry for supper. Two-Eyed sat outside and watched them through the window, but the girl did not cry.

After the meal was finished, the old woman said, "Two-Eyed, clean up the hooves and horns."

Two-Eyed waited until they were in bed, then she dug a hole and planted the hooves and horns inside. After that, she was very tired and went to bed.

The next day, a beautiful apple tree had grown by the door. And it was not a normal apple tree; the apples were made of gold!

"Daughters, daughters!" said the mother. "Look, it's amazing!"

But when she tried to pick the apples, the tree moved away, and she could not pick them. As Three-Eyed was the tallest, her mother told her to pick them, but again, the tree moved away and Three-Eyed could not pick the apples. So One-Eyed stood on Three-Eyes head, but the same thing happened—the tree moved away—and they both fell.

"I hate this!" said One-Eyed. "Those are our golden apples!"

The mother looked at Two-Eyed and said, "Don't think about picking any of these apples. They are my apples, not yours."

But when they were not looking, Two-Eyed tried picking an apple. The tree moved down to her, and she easily picked one of the beautiful golden apples. She put it in her dress and went back to work.

A few days later, the first man came around again.

"I still want to marry your third daughter," he said. "Are you sure that she does not want to get married?"

"Yes, yes!" said the mother. "But it does not matter. The horrible little girl ran away."

Actually, Two-Eyed was under the bed, because her mother had told her to go there. She did not want the man to see her.

"Oh, what a beautiful tree you have! These apples are amazing," said the man.

He thought for a moment, and decided that Three-Eyed and One-Eyed could be good wives, but they had to work hard.

“Can your lovely daughters pick me some apples?”

So the mother sent Three-Eyed and One-Eyed to the tree, but they could not pick any apples.

“How funny,” the man said. He did not sound happy.

Two-Eyed knew she had to do something. So she waited until the man was inside again, and then she threw the golden apple from under the bed. The man looked down and saw it.

“Oh! Here is one of the apples.” He picked it up. “But where did it come from...?”

“I don’t know!” said the mother. “I suppose Three-Eyed picked it earlier.”

The man looked around, and he saw some eyes under the bed. He went down and pulled out Two-Eyed.

“Ah, your daughter has not run away!” he said. “Your mother says that you do not want to get married. Is this true?”

“No, no!” said Two-Eyed. “I would love to marry you.”

“Wonderful!” said the man. “Let’s go and get married right now.”

“No, you can’t go!” said the mother. “That was not the plan!”

But Two-Eyed and her new husband did not hear her, and walked out of the house. They stopped in the garden.

“I suppose you want me to pick you some apples?” said Two-Eyed. She wanted to show him that she could work hard.

“Oh no,” he said. “You are the perfect wife. I just know it.”

So they went and got married, and lived happily together. And the mother and her two favourite daughters never picked an apple from the tree.

2. Reeta Completes Her Homework

Part 1

Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) close(s) connect(s) go(es) live(s) ~~speaks(s)~~ take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 Ben and Jack to the same school.
- 3 Bad driving many accidents.
- 4 The museum at 4 o'clock on Sundays.
- 5 My parents in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Part 2

Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I have a car, but I (not / use) it much.
- 4 Where (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish?
- 5 'What (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- 7 David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport.
- 8 It (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long (it / take) you?

Answers are on the next page.

Answers

Part 1

1. Tanya speaks German very well.
2. Ben and Jack go to the same school.
3. Bad driving causes many accidents.
4. The museum closes at 4 o'clock on Sunday.
5. My parents live in a very small flat.
6. The Olympic Games take place every four years.
7. The Panama Canal connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Part 2

1. Julia doesn't drink tea very often.
2. What time do the banks close here?
3. I have a car, but I don't use it much.
4. Where does Maria come from? Is she Spanish?
5. 'What do you do?' 'I'm an electrician.'
6. Look at this sentence. What does this word mean?
7. David isn't very fit. He doesn't do any sport.
8. It takes me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long does it take you?

3. Picture Dictionary Page

cauliflower

cauliflowers *noun*
a vegetable with a short stem and a hard center, made of small flowers.



cellar

cellars *noun*
an underground room.



century

centuries *noun*
a period of a hundred years.
The building is several centuries old.
■ se n-choo-ree

cereal

cereals *noun*
1 a grain crop grown on farms. Wheat, rye, barley, and oats are cereals.



chair

chairs *noun*
a piece of furniture for sitting on.



caution

caution *noun*
attention to possible danger.
Drive with caution.
■ say kaw-shun
cautious *adjective*

cell phone

cell phone *noun*
a handheld mobile telephone that connects to other telephones by radio waves.

She is speaking on her cell phone.



ceiling

ceilings *noun*
the surface of a room that is above your head.
■ say see-ling

celebrate

celebrates *celebrating*
celebrated *verb*
to do something enjoyable for a special reason.
We had a party to celebrate my birthday.
■ say sell-uh-brate
celebration *noun*

cement

cement *noun*
a clay powder that becomes hard when mixed with water.

centipede

centipedes *noun*
a tiny, blind animal with many pairs of legs that lives in dark places. They paralyze their prey with a poisonous bite.
■ say sen-tuh-peed



cell

cells *noun*
1 a small room in a prison.



2 the smallest living part of an animal or plant.



animal cell

central

central *adjective*
1 in the middle.



The tomato is in a central position.
2 of most importance.
The heroine is the central character in the story.

2 a breakfast food made from the grains of a cereal crop.
■ say sear-ee-ul



breakfast cereal

chalk

chalks *noun*
a soft, white rock made from the fossils of tiny seashells.



challenge

challenges *challenging*
challenged *verb*
to ask someone to try to do something better than you.
He challenged her to a race.

certain

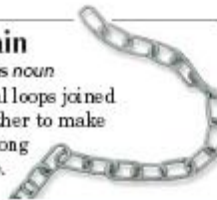
certain *adjective*
sure, or definite.
Are you certain this is the right train?
■ opposite uncertain

certificate

certificates *noun*
a piece of paper that proves certain facts.
She received a certificate for passing her math exam.

chain

chains *noun*
metal loops joined together to make a strong cable.



chameleon

chameleons *noun*
a type of lizard that lives in trees in hot regions and eats insects, rodents, and small birds. Chameleons can change color to match their surroundings.



■ say kuh-mee-lee-on

champion

champions *noun*
someone who is the best at a sport.



chance

chances *noun*
an opportunity, or possibility.
He was given the chance to study abroad.

change

changes *changing* **changed** *verb*
1 to become different or to make something different.



Tadpoles change into frogs.
2 to give up something in return for something else.
He changed seats.
change *noun*

change

change *noun*
small amounts of money.

channel

channels *noun*
1 a passage or track for water to flow along.
2 a television or radio station.
What's on the other channel?

chaos

chaos *noun*
complete confusion.
■ say kay-os

chapter

chapters *noun*
a section of a book.

character

characters *noun*
1 what a person is like.
A miserable character.
2 a person in a play or film.
He played the character of the young king.

charity

charities *noun*
an organization that gives aid to those who need it.
The Red Cross is a charity.

chart

charts *noun*
a map or diagram that provides information.



A pie chart showing popular forms of transportation.

chase

chases *chasing* **chased** *verb*
to run after something or somebody.



cheap

cheap *adjective*
not costing much money.
■ opposite **expensive**

an expensive ring

a cheap ring



cheat

cheats *cheating* **cheated** *verb*
to trick someone, or to be dishonest so that you have an advantage over them.

check

checks *checking* **checked** *verb*
to look at something to make sure it is all right.
check *noun*

check

checks *noun*
a pattern of regular squares in different colors, often on cloth or paper.



cheek

cheeks *noun*
the side of your face below your eye.

cheek



cheer

cheers *cheering* **cheered** *verb*
to shout out loudly and happily.



cheer *noun*

cheese

cheeses *noun*
a food made from the thickened parts of milk.



cheetah

cheetahs *noun*
a spotted mammal that belongs to the cat family. Cheetahs live on the dry plains of Africa and prey on other animals. They are extremely fast runners.



chef

chefs *noun*
a person whose job it is to cook and prepare food.
■ say shef



chemical

chemicals *noun*
any substance that can change when joined or mixed with another. Chemicals can be natural or manufactured.
■ say kem-i-kul