



Learn English Through Stories

A Series

A18

**Adapted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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1. Mini Stories 3

(A) He Managed to Escape



Pier

Some people stood on the small pier. They saw a boat approach. The boat was approaching fast. The boat was approaching the small pier. Was the boat going to stop? People were getting nervous. They started running. They started running off the pier. They were worried. They were worried about the boat. The boat kept coming. It didn't slow down. One man stood on the pier. He didn't run. He was confident. He shouted at the boat. He waved his arms. He screamed, "Stop! Stop! You're going to crash!" But the boat didn't stop. It kept coming. The man kept yelling. The boat kept coming. Is the driver drunk, the man wondered? He ran as fast as he could. He ran off the pier. The boat crashed into the pier. But he escaped.

(B) Jump, Jump

Banta jumped over the dog. The dog was lying on the ground. Banta jumped over it. The dog saw Banta jump over it. The dog got up. The dog got up and barked at Banta. Banta laughed. He laughed while the dog barked.

Banta ran over to the fence. The dog chased him to the fence. Banta jumped over the fence. He slipped and fell on his bottom. Banta slowly got up. His left bottom was hurting. He turned around and looked at the dog. The dog stopped at the fence. The dog did not jump over the fence.

Banta said, "Jump, jump!" The dog barked, but did not jump.

Banta said again, "Jump, jump." This time the dog jumped.

Banta ran and slipped again. He fell on his bottom again. This time his right bottom was hurting...

(C) The Bible

He dropped his toothbrush. It fell on the floor. He picked up his toothbrush. He rinsed it off. He brushed his teeth. He rinsed his mouth. He walked out of the bathroom. He sat on his bed. He felt something. It was under the sheet. He took the sheet off the bed. Something was in his mattress. It was a brand new mattress. He had bought it yesterday. What is in the mattress, he wondered. He went to the kitchen. He took a knife from the kitchen drawer. He cut open the mattress. What it could be, he wondered. It was something small. It was black. It was a book. It was the New Testament — the Bible. Is God trying to tell me something, he wondered.

I ruined my mattress. I can't even read.

(D) They deliver

Banta lives in England with his uncle Santa. His mum lives in Hoshiarpur. She is not very intelligent. But she can knit good sweaters. One day, she sent a knitted cardigan to Banta.

Sweaters, etc.



cardigan



pullover/jumper/
sweater



polo neck /
turtleneck



sleeveless
pullover

Banta called up the post office. “Where is my package?” he asked.

“What is the tracking number?” the postal worker asked. He told her the tracking number.

She said, “Your package is at the main post office. You can pick it up anytime.”

He said, “I don't want to pick it up. Can you deliver it?”

“Yes, we will deliver it on Monday,” she said, “will you be home?”

He said, “What time on Monday?”

She said, “Anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.”

He said, "I go to work. I can't stay home all day."

She said, "That's okay. We can deliver it on Tuesday."

He said, "I go to work on Tuesday, too. Please deliver it on Saturday."

The girl's name was Neelu. She looked very pretty. Her eyes were brown. Her hair was black. She was wearing a light blue dress. Banta's cardigan was also light blue. His mum had told him.

Banta said, "Are you going to deliver my package?"

"Don't think so," said she — smiling.

(E) Lost and Found

He couldn't find his pen. Where is my pen, he wondered. He looked for his pen. It was on top of the microwave. He couldn't find his mobile phone. Where is my mobile phone, he wondered. He looked for his mobile phone. It was on top of the TV. He couldn't find his glasses. Where are my glasses, he wondered. He looked for his glasses. They were on top of his head. I'm tired of looking for everything, he thought. He bought a tiny video recorder. It recorded everything he did. It recorded everywhere he went. He couldn't find his toothbrush. Where is my toothbrush, he wondered. He played his tiny video recorder. He found his toothbrush. He didn't have to look for it.

One day, he couldn't find his wife. Where is she, he wondered. She was not in the bathroom. She was not in the kitchen. She was not in the bedroom. She was not in the garden.

"I check on my video recorded," he thought.

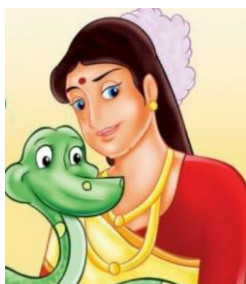
Where is my video recorder, he wondered. He couldn't find his video recorder. He was sad. He was lonely. He sat on the sofa.

An hour later, his wife came from shopping. She took his video recorder with her.

"Why did you take my video recorder with you?" he asked his wife.

"Because sometimes I forget where I park my scooter," she replied.

2. The Girl Who Married a Snake



Once upon a time, there lived a couple in a village. Santa worked on the fields. He was a hard-working farmer. He grew good crops: corn, millet, wheat, rice, and sugarcane. His wife Sapna did the household work. She fed the animals and milked the cows. Even though they had a small farm, they had enough food. They had been married for ten years, but had no children. They were sad. Every day, they prayed to God, “Oh God, please bless us with a child.” They did not care a girl or a boy — they wanted a child.

One day, there was a good news — the god blessed them. Sapna was in the family way. She was expecting. She was pregnant. One Sunday morning, she gave birth to a baby. But the child became to be a snake. Many people came to congratulate them. But when they saw a snake, they were shocked. All the visitors said to Sapna and Santa, “Please get rid of the snake.”

Santa was not sure what to do. But Sapna wanted to keep the snake. She said, “I don’t need anybody’s advice. I will look after the snake as my son.”

She fed him with the best food. She made a comfortable bed for him. Ruldu, the carpenter, made a small wooden-box for the snake to sleep in. The snake grew up. His mother loved him all the more.

Sapna’s sister, Rupa, lived in a village nearby. She was married to Pipa — her husband. They had two children: a boy and a girl. The boy was older than the girl. The boy was getting married. After leaving the snake with a neighbour, Santa and Sapna went to attend the wedding of their nephew.

When they came back from the wedding, Sapna started thinking about getting her son married. But there was a problem. From where would they find a girl who would marry a snake?

One day, when Santa came home from the fields, he found his wife was crying. He asked, “Why are you crying? What happened?” She did not say anything. She kept on crying.

He asked again, “What is the matter? My dear Wife, please tell me.”

She finally spoke, "I know you don't love my son because he is a snake. But I don't care – a snake or something else – I love him. He is grown up now. I want to get a bride for him..."

Santa was shocked to hear this. He said to his wife, "Dear Wife, which girl would marry a snake?"

Sapna didn't say anything but kept on crying. Santa felt sorry for his wife. He had a friend — Banta — living in the city — Roopnagar. The city was famous for the beauty of its girls. So Santa decided to go to his friend, Banta.

Early in the morning, Santa left for Roopnagar. It was a bright and sunny morning. By the time he reached Roopnagar, it was hazy and misty. Santa was received warmly. Both of the friends had not seen each other for a long time. After the evening meal, Banta asked his friend about his family. Santa said, "Everything is fine, but I have come in search of a bride for my son."

Banta said, "Say and go no further, we are looking for a groom for our daughter..."

Banta told Santa that the marriage is settled. His daughter – Mohni – will go with Santa and marry his son. Santa tried to say to Banta that the girl should see the groom before she marry. But Banta told Santa that his daughter would obey to whatever he said.

Sapna was so happy when she saw Santa coming with a bride. Wasting no time, she started to prepare for the wedding. Many people from the village were not happy about this marriage. They told the girl not to marry the snake. But the girl said that she would do whatever her dad agreed to do.

The girl and the snake got married. The girl looked after the snake like a good wife. In the olden days, the wives did not complain about their husbands.

One night, miracle happened. The girl saw a handsome young man standing by her bed. First, the girl wanted to scream and run. The young man stopped her. He said, "Don't you recognise me? I am your husband." The girl did not believe him. The young man had snake's skin in his hand. He slipped into the skin and became a snake. Then he came out again. So they lived like this: he was a snake during the day and a human in the night.

One night, Santa heard a noise in girl's room. When entered the room he saw a young man holding a snake's skin. Santa took the skin and threw in the fire. By this act the curse from the young man was removed. From then the

young man never became a snake again. Mohni and the young man lived happily ever after.

3. Story of Nouns 3

Singular and Plural Nouns

Nouns can be singular or plural. When you are talking about one person, animal, place, or thing, use a singular noun.

These are singular nouns: an aeroplane; a letter; a bicycle; a map; a boy; a photograph; a bus; a refrigerator; a comb; a slide; a girl; a swing.

an axe; an igloo; an egg; an orange; an envelope; an umbrella; an ice cream; an uncle.

When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things: use plural nouns.

Most nouns are made plural by adding **-s** at the end.

Singular — Plural: bird — birds; broom — brooms; camel — camels; desk — desks; doll — dolls; egg — eggs; flower — flowers; fork — forks; game — games; lamb — lambs; nest — nests; pen — pens; photo — photos; shirt — shirts; spoon — spoons.

Sometimes plural is made by adding **-es** at the end.

Singular — Plural; beach — beaches; branch — branches; box — boxes; bush — bushes; church — churches; dish — dishes; dress — dresses; sandwich — sandwiches; witch — witches.

4. Dialogues

A Blood Stain

A: What's this stain?

B: I don't know.

A: It looks like blood.

B: I think my nose was bleeding.

A: You should wet your shirt immediately.

B: Why?

A: Because that gets the blood out of the shirt.

B: What's a little blood?

A: Your white shirt is ruined.

B: So, I'll just buy another one.

A: You can wear this one around the house.

B: Next time I'll soak it immediately.

Sore Finger

A: My fingers hurt.

B: Why do they hurt?

A: I type too much.

B: You should take a break.

A: I need to type to make money.

B: But typing is causing you pain.

A: Maybe I should see a doctor.

B: Doctors are too expensive.

A: He might tell me to rest for a while.

B: He might want to cut you open.

A: He might say I'm okay.

B: He might say you have bone cancer.

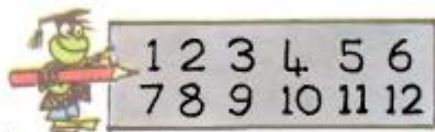
5. Picture Dictionary Page



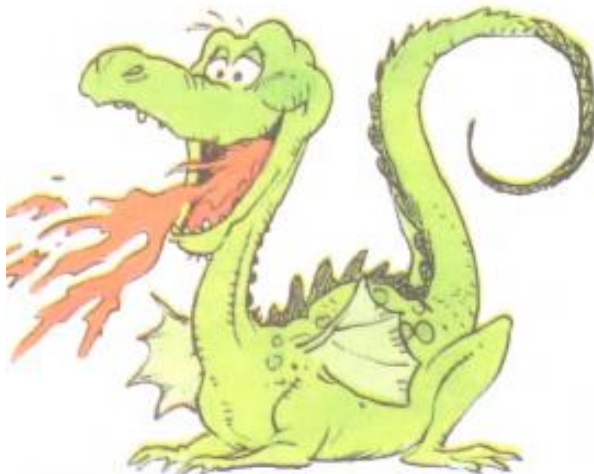
door A door opens and shuts and allows you go into a room or building. दरवाज़ा; द्वार.
(दर)



dove A bird which is like a pigeon. फाख्ता; कबूतर के परिवार का सदस्य.
(डव)



dozen This is another way of saying twelve. बारह या एक दर्जन.
(डजन)



dragon A make-believe animal. Many stories have been written about dragons. काल्पनिक भयानक जीव; जिसके मुख से आग निकलता है.
(ड्रैगन)



dragonfly A large insect, usually of bright colour. पारदर्शी पंख वाला पतला कीड़ा.
(ड्रैगनफ्लाई)



dress Something worn by women (ड्रेस) पोशाक; लिबास; परिधान.



drill You use a drill to make holes. चरमा (ड्रिल) छेद करने का औज़ार.



drum A musical instrument which you beat with a stick. ढोल; ढोलक; नगाड़ा.
(ड्रम)



duck A bird which can swim. बत्ख.
(डक)