



Learn English Through Stories

C Series

C18

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1. An Old Tiger and a Greedy Traveller



Once upon a time, there lived a Tiger in a forest. With the passing years, he became too old to hunt. One day, the Tiger was walking by the side of a lake and suddenly, a gold bangle came across his sight. Quickly he picked up the bangle and thought that he could use it as an allure to catch someone. As he was under the thought process, a traveller happened to pass through the opposite side of the lake.

The Tiger instantly thought to himself, “What a delicious meal he would make?” He planned a scheme to attract the traveller. He held the bangle in his paw making it visible to the traveller and said, “Would you like to take this gold bangle. I don’t require it”. At once, the traveller wanted to take the bangle, but he hesitated to go near the Tiger. He knew that it was risky, yet he sought the Gold Bangle. He planned to be cautious, so he asked the Tiger, “How can I believe you? I know you are a beast and would kill me”.

The Clever Tiger innocently said, “Listen Traveller, in my youth, I was wicked unquestionably, but now I have changed myself. With the advice of a Sanyasi, I have left all evil. Now I am all alone in this world and have engaged myself in kind deeds. Moreover, I have grown old. I have no teeth and my claws are blunt. So, there is no need to fear from me”. The traveller’s was taken in by this smart talk and his love for gold soon overcame his fear of the Tiger. He jumped into the lake to wade across the Tiger.

But as per the plan of the Tiger, he got trapped in the marsh. On seeing this, the Tiger consoled him and said, “Oh! You need not worry. I’ll help you”. Gradually he came towards the traveller and seized him. As the traveller was being dragged out, onto the bank, he thought to himself, “Oh! This beast's talk of saintliness took me in totally. A beast is always a beast. If only I had not let my greed overcome my reason, I could be alive”. However, it was too late; the Tiger killed the traveller and ate him up. Like this, the traveller became victim of greed and Tiger was successful in his evil plan.

Moral: Greed never goes unpunished.

2. The Elephant and the Dog



A long time ago, a Dog used to visit the stable where the king's Elephant lived. At first, the Dog used to go there to get the food that was left after the Elephant had finished eating. After some days, the Elephant started liking the Dog. Soon, he started sharing his food with the Dog. This way, the Elephant and the Dog became great friends. When the Elephant used to sleep, his good friend, the Dog, used to be beside him. When the Elephant was in the mood for playing, he would catch his friend, the Dog, in his trunk and swing him to and fro. The Dog and the Elephant were quite happy when they were together.

One day a farmer saw the Dog with the Elephant and said to the Elephant-keeper: "I want to buy that Dog. He looks good-tempered and also looks smart. How much money do you want for that Dog?"

The Elephant-keeper was clever and only wanted the money. He did not care for the Dog. So, he asked for a fair price, and the farmer paid it to him and took the Dog away to the country.

The Elephant missed the Dog very much and did not care to eat when his friend was not there to share the food with him. The Elephant would not care to bathe. He only missed his friend. The next day again, the Elephant did not eat and would not bathe. On the third day, when the Elephant again didn't eat nor bathe, the king was told about the Elephant's behaviour.

The king sent for his chief servant and said to him, "Go to the stable and find out why the royal Elephant is acting in such a weird way."

The chief servant came to the stable and looked at the Elephant. The chief servant said to the Elephant-keeper: "There seems to be nothing serious with this Elephant's body, but why is the Elephant looking sad? Has he lost a friend or a playmate?"

"Yes," said the Elephant-keeper, "there was a Dog who used to eat, sleep and play with the Elephant. The Dog went away some days ago."

“Do you know where the Dog went?” asked the chief servant.

“No sir, I don’t,” said the Elephant-keeper. “But I saw a farmer walking about. He might have taken the dog.”

After visiting the stable, the chief servant returned to the king and told him, “The Elephant is not sick, my king, but he is lonely without his dear friend, the Dog.”

“Where is the Dog now?” the king asked.

“A farmer might have taken the Dog away and no one knows where the farmer lives.” replied the chief servant.

“Very well,” the king said.

“I will send a word all over the country, asking the farmer who took this Dog to turn him loose. I will give him a reward for returning the Dog.” said the king.

The farmer turned the Dog loose when he heard this. The Dog immediately ran back, as fast as he could, to the Elephant’s stable. The Elephant was so glad to see his friend - the Dog - which he picked him up with his long trunk and placed him on his head. Then the Elephant put him down again. When the Elephant-keeper brought him food, the Elephant watched his friend eating and took his own food.

The Elephant and the Dog lived together for the rest of their lives. And the king gave the farmer five acres of land.

3. Mini Stories 3

(A) The farmer and His Sons

A farmer had five sons. They were strong and hardworking. But they always quarrelled with one another. Sometimes, they even fought. The farmer wanted his sons to stop quarrelling and fighting. He wanted them to live in peace. Plain words of advice or scolding did not have much effect on these young people.

The farmer was puzzled. He did not know what to do. He went to see the village sage – Kartar Singh. Kartar Singh told the farmer a scheme to unite his sons.

The farmer followed the instructions of the sage. So he called all his sons together. He showed them a bundle of sticks and said, "I want any of you to break these sticks without separating them from the bundle." Each of the five sons tried one by one. They used their full strength and skill. But none of them could break the sticks. Then the old man separated the sticks and gave each of them just a single stick to break. They broke the sticks easily. The farmer said, "A single stick by itself is weak. It is strong as long as it is tied up in a bundle. Likewise, you will be strong if you are united. You will be weak if you are divided."

Moral: United we stand; divided we fall.

(B) Birbal the Wise

One day, a rich merchant came to Birbal. He said to Birbal, "I have seven servants in my house. One of them has stolen my bag of precious pearls. Please find out the thief."

So Birbal went to the rich man's house. He called all the seven servants in a room. He gave a stick to each one of them. Then he said, "These are magic sticks. Just now all these sticks are equal in length. Keep them with you and return tomorrow. If there is a thief in the house, his stick will grow an inch longer by tomorrow."

The servant who had stolen the bag of pearls was scared. He thought, "If I cut a piece of one inch from my stick, I won't be caught." So he cut the stick and made it shorter by one inch. The next day Birbal collected the sticks from the servants. He found that one servant's stick was short by an inch. Birbal pointed his finger at him and said, "Here is the thief." The servant confessed to his crime. He returned the bag of pearls. He was sent to jail.

4. Hey, Bud! Buddy Buddy!

Banta Lives in Canada. He doesn't like silly jokes.

Banta walked into the conference room. A representative from the Credit Union was offering workers a chance to win \$500. That sounded good to Banta. When he walked into the room, a young man was sitting down at the big table. When he saw Banta walk in, he grinned and said, "Hey, buddy!"

Banta wasn't anybody's buddy. He said, "Hey, buddy. How you doing, buddy? I came here to win that \$500, buddy. Can you help me do that, buddy? Huh, buddy?" Banta was tired of saying "buddy." He hoped that the rep was tired of hearing it.

The rep said, "Sure, buddy. Have a seat. Let me get some information from you." The rep asked, "Your name?"

Banta said, "Buddy."

The rep asked, "And your last name?"

Banta said, "Buddy."

The rep looked at Banta. "Buddy, Buddy!"

Banta said, "Yes, buddy."

The rep typed in "Buddy Buddy." He asked several more questions. Then he asked, "Your mother's maiden name?"

Banta said, "Buddy."

The rep said, "Buddy again? Oh, I get it. You're trying to tell me something. I shouldn't call you 'buddy,' right? That's okay. My bad. What do you want me to call you?"

Banta said, "You're sharp. How about the M word, or the S word?"

The rep stared blankly, then asked, "Second letter?"

Banta said slowly, "M is for Mister, and S is for—"

The rep jumped in. "Sir! Okay, I got it. You're right, sir. Let me type a note to myself: Don't call old guys 'Buddy.'"

Banta said, "Thank you, buddy."

5. Scratchy Sounds Scare Staffer

Mehky Kumari was working in her Vancouver office one night for the first time. No one else was in the office. At about 9 p.m., she heard a scratching noise. She got a little scared. She looked around.

“Hello,” she said loudly. “Is anyone there?” Nobody answered. The scratching continued. She got up from her desk. She walked over to where the sound was coming from. She looked in a trashcan. She saw a small rat. It was trying to climb up the side of the plastic trashcan, but it was making no progress. Its claws were useless on the hard plastic.

“How did you even get into there?” she asked the animal. Mehky Kumari was thankful that it was only one rat, and that it was a small one. She was glad it wasn't one of the big rats she had seen in the fields in Punjab. She picked up another trashcan. She slid that trashcan into the trashcan with the rat in it. She walked downstairs carrying both trashcans. She went over to the doorman's desk.

“I have something for you. I think it's still alive,” she said. She gave him the trashcans. He pulled out the top trashcan.

He said, “Well, one down. How many to go? There are dozens of rats in this building. They're most active at night.”

She said, “Well, this is my first rat, and I hope it's my last. What happens if one of these things bites me?” She went back upstairs.

A week later, she was working in her office around lunchtime. The heat was on in the building. She smelled something. It wasn't a good smell. At first, she thought it was a co-worker's body odour. Then she thought it was a co-worker's lunch. Then she thought it was a dead animal. She walked over to her manager's desk.

“Something smells really bad. I think there's something dead in our office,” she said.

He said, “I hope it's not Mr Banta Singh.” The manager went upstairs and said, “I can't smell anything. Where is the smell coming from?”

She led him over to the heating vent near the windows. He put his nose down near the vent.

“Phew!” he said, as he jerked his head back. He called maintenance. A worker arrived a few minutes later. He opened the vent. He found two dead rats inside.

Mehky Kumari's manager said, “Mehky Kumari, what a good nose you have! How about coming up to the tenth floor with me and sniffing around? Maybe we have dead rats up there too.”

Mehki Kumari said, “My job is bookkeeping, not sniffing for dead animals...”

6. There is and there are

Use there with is and are to say what exists or what you can have. Use **there is** with singular nouns, and **there are** with plural nouns.

1. There is a tree in our garden.
2. There is a girl called Farah in my class.
3. There is fish for dinner.
4. There is nothing to do when it rains.
5. There's a cat sitting on the bench.
5. There's a boy in my class who can walk on his hands.
6. There are cows in the field.
7. There are some very big ships in the harbour today.

7. Picture Dictionary Page

cold

adjective
having a low temperature.
A cold day.
■ opposite hot

cold

colds noun
an infection that often makes you sneeze and cough and may give you a sore throat.

collapse

collapses collapsing collapsed verb

1 to fall down suddenly.
The tent collapsed.
2 to fold up.
My umbrella collapses so I can put it in my bag.
collapsible adjective

collect

collects collecting collected verb
to bring together.
I collect autographs.
collection noun

collide

collides colliding collided verb
to crash into something.



Our cars collided.
collision noun

color

colors noun
what something looks like when light is shining on it. Yellow, green, red, and blue are the names of some colors.



fruits of different colors
colorful adjective

column

columns noun
1 a tall, vertical, round post that is used as a support or to decorate buildings.



2 a list where things are written underneath each other.

Adding up a column of figures.

$$\begin{array}{r} 33 \\ 27 \\ 46 \\ 58 \\ 19 \\ \hline 183 \end{array}$$

comb

combs noun
a piece of wood, metal, or plastic with teeth. A comb is used to arrange hair.



combine

combines combining combined verb

to bring things together to make something else.



Blue and yellow paint combine to make green.
combination noun

come

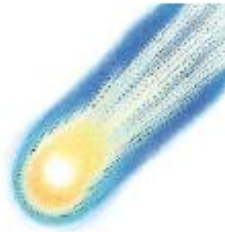
comes coming came verb
to move toward, or arrive at, one place from another.
Hurry up! The train is coming.

comedy

comedies noun
a movie, play, or radio or television program that makes you laugh.

comet

comets noun
a huge ball of dust, ice, and gases that travels around the Sun, often followed by a luminous trail of gases.



comfortable

adjective
pleasant and easy to sit in or wear.
A comfortable chair.
■ opposite uncomfortable

comic

comics noun
a magazine that contains stories told in pictures.



command

commands commanding commanded verb
to order someone to do what you want.
The teacher commanded them to sit down.
command noun

common

adjective
often seen, or normal.
Seagulls are a common sight along the coast.

common sense

noun
the ability to act sensibly in different situations.
Common sense stopped us from driving in the fog.

communicate

communicates communicating communicated verb
to talk, write, or send a message to someone else.



Communicating by telephone.
■ say kuh-myoo-ni-tee
communication noun

community

communities noun
a group of people who live together in the same place.
■ say kuh-myoo-ni-tee

commuter

commuters noun
a person who travels a long distance to and from work every day.
commute verb

compact disc

compact discs noun
a small, flat circle of plastic that can have sound, or sound, words, and pictures, recorded on it. Compact disc is shortened to CD.



company

noun

1 a group of people who work together to make or sell something.

A computer company.

2 people or animals with whom you spend time.

My cat is good company.

compare

compares comparing compared verb

to look at several things to see how they are the same and how they are different.

My teacher compares me with my sister all the time.

comparison noun

compass

compasses *noun*

1 an instrument that shows the direction you are facing.

The magnetic compass needle always points north.



magnetic needle

2 a tool with one fixed leg and one movable leg that is used for drawing circles.



competition

competitions *noun*

an event where one person or a team of people try to do better than their opponents.

Our team came second in the swimming competition.

compete verb

complain

complains complaining complained verb

to say that you are not happy about something.

The passengers complained about the late train.

complete

completes completing completed verb

to finish something.



Completing the jigsaw puzzle.
complete adjective

complicated

adjective

hard to understand, or difficult.



a complicated knot
■ opposite simple

composer

composers *noun*

a person who writes music.

compose verb

compromise

compromises compromising compromised verb

to end an argument by both sides deciding to give up part of what they want.

They both wanted to ride the bike, but had to compromise by taking turns.

■ say kom-pro-mize
compromise noun

compulsory

adjective

that which must be done.

Math is a compulsory subject at school.

computer

computers *noun*

an electronic machine that arranges and stores information digitally, using a set of instructions called a program. Used for communication.



laptop computer

concentrate

concentrates concentrating concentrated verb

to think carefully about something.



Concentrating on a puzzle.

■ say kon-sen-trate
concentration noun

concert

concerts *noun*

an event where people sing or play music for an audience to listen to.

conclusion

conclusions *noun*

1 the end of something.

The story's conclusion was a happy one.

2 a decision that is based on all the things you know.

She came to the conclusion that it was a sensible idea.

conclude verb

concrete

noun

a mixture of sand, cement, stones, and water, which is used for building.



concrete paving stones

condition

noun

1 the state that something is in.



Grooming helps to keep a horse in good condition.

2 a rule.

He went out on the condition that he was back before dark.

confident

adjective

believing you can do something, or being sure something will happen.

I'm confident I'll win.

confidence noun

confiscate

confiscates confiscating confiscated verb

to punish by taking something away from someone.

I had my football confiscated.