



Learn English Through  
Stories  
C Series

C22

**Adopted and modified by  
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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## Chapter Five

### Croquet with the Queen of Hearts

Alice stood up, and she walked away from the table. "That was a very strange tea-party," she thought. "I will not go there again." Alice walked to some trees, and she saw a little door in one of them. "That's strange," she thought, but she walked through the little door.

Alice was in the long hall again, and she was near the glass table. She saw the little key on the table. "I will get the key first, and then I will eat some mushroom to get smaller," she thought.

Alice did this. Then she opened the little door with the key, and she walked into the beautiful garden. She was very happy!

Alice saw a tall tree with beautiful white flowers on it. But three gardeners were there with red paint. "They are painting the flowers red," Alice thought. Then she looked at the gardeners. "They are strange gardeners," she thought. "They are playing cards!"



"Why are you painting the flowers?" Alice asked. Five and Seven said nothing, but they looked at Two. Then Two said quietly, "We grew white flowers, but the Queen wants red ones." He looked frightened.

Suddenly, Five shouted, "The Queen is coming!" The three gardeners quickly jumped to the ground, and they lay with their faces in the grass.

Alice looked for the Queen, but first came lots of other playing cards, animals and people. They all walked past her, and then Alice saw the King and Queen of Hearts. The Jack of Hearts was behind them. The Queen stopped in front of Alice. "Who is this?" she said to the Jack, but the Jack only smiled and said nothing. Then she looked at Alice. "What's your name, child?" she asked angrily.

Alice spoke very nicely. "My name is Alice," she said.

"And who are these?" asked the Queen, and she pointed to the gardeners in the grass.



"I don't know!" Alice said loudly, but this made the Queen more angry. Her face turned red, and she shouted, "Stand up!" to the gardeners. They jumped up quickly.

The poor gardeners stood in front of the Queen with their heads down. "We are very sorry, Queen," they said. The Queen looked at them, and she shouted, "Cut off their heads!" Then she turned to Alice and said, "Can you play croquet?"

"Yes!" said Alice.

"Come with me," the Queen said, and Alice ran after her. There were people everywhere, and Alice saw the White Rabbit. Then they arrived at the croquet ground. But this was not a normal croquet ground. The balls were hedgehogs, and the players used flamingos to hit the balls!

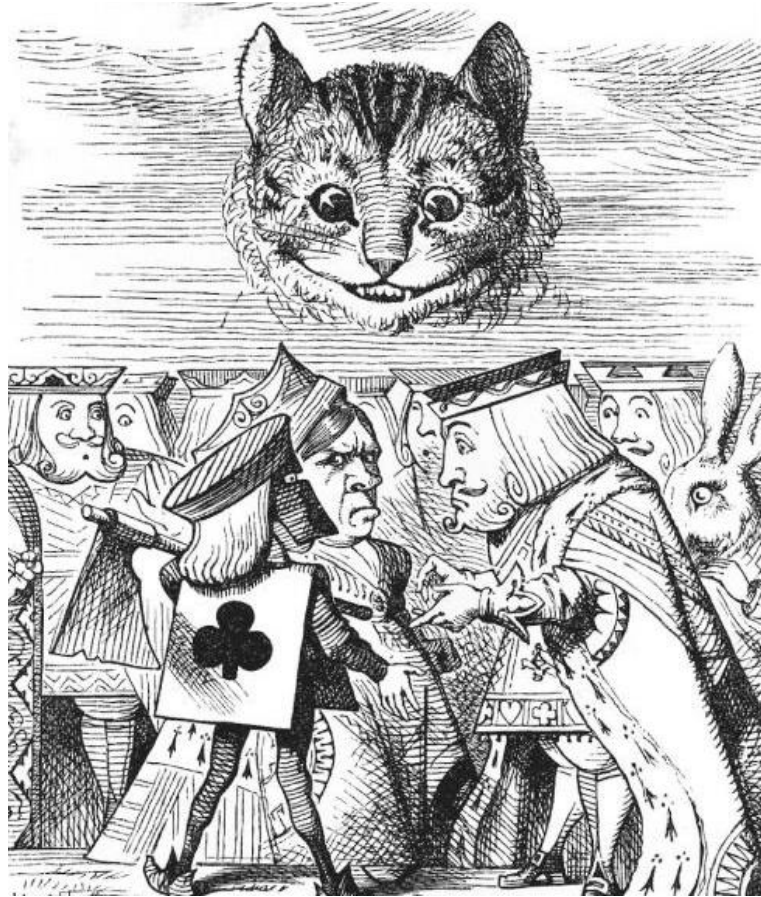
It was very difficult for Alice to play. Her flamingo moved its head and its legs, and she could not hit the ball. Alice's flamingo looked at her, and Alice laughed.



The croquet players all played, and they did not wait for anyone. The Queen got angrier and angrier, and she shouted, "Cut off their heads!" Alice started to feel a little frightened, but then she saw a friendly face in the sky. It was the Cheshire Cat!

Alice put her flamingo on the ground. "I don't like this game," she said to the Cheshire Cat. "Do you like the Queen?" the Cheshire Cat asked.

"No, I don't," Alice answered. "She is always angry." But then she saw the King and Queen, and they were close to her. "The Queen is very good at croquet," she said loudly. The Queen smiled, and she walked past. The King looked at the Cheshire Cat.



"Who are you talking to?" he asked Alice.

"This is my friend the Cheshire Cat," Alice told the King.

But the King did not like the Cheshire Cat, and he shouted to the other playing cards, "Cut off its head!" "That is the Duchess's Cat," Alice said to the King.

The Queen heard Alice, and she said to one of the playing cards, "I locked the Duchess in a room because she was late. My men are going to cut off her head. Go and find her, and bring her here."

The playing card arrived at the croquet ground with the Duchess. But now the Cheshire Cat, the King and the Queen were not there. The Duchess saw Alice, and she smiled. "I'm very happy to see you," she said, and she put a hand on Alice's back. Alice and the Duchess walked together, and they talked.



But then the Queen came, and she was angry. "Go home, or I will cut off your head," she said to the Duchess. Then she said to Alice, "We must finish the game!"

The poor Duchess quickly ran home. Alice did not say anything, but she was frightened. She ran after the Queen, and they played croquet again.

After the game, Alice was tired, and she sat under a tree. Suddenly, lots of animals ran past Alice. "It's starting! It's starting! Come on!" they shouted.

"Why are you running?" Alice asked. "What is starting?" But nobody answered her. "What is happening?" Alice thought, and she ran after the animals.

## Chapter Six

### Who stole the Queen's tarts?

Alice and the animals came to a court. They went inside. The King and Queen of Hearts were there, and they sat on special chairs. There were lots of playing cards, people, animals and birds there too. There was also lots of noise because everyone spoke at the same time.

The Jack of Hearts was on the ground in front of the King and Queen. His hands were behind his back. There was a table near the Jack, and on the table there was a plate of tarts. The tarts looked very good, and Alice wanted to eat one.

Alice saw Bill the lizard. He was in a special box with eleven other animals, and he had a piece of paper and a pencil in front of him. He was a juror.

Alice saw the White Rabbit too. He was near the King and Queen. "He is wearing special clothes," she thought. "He looks very important."



The White Rabbit stood up and shouted, "Be quiet in court!" And everyone stopped talking. Then he took a piece of paper from his coat, and he read:



"The Queen of Hearts made some tarts,  
On a summer day.  
The Jack of Hearts stole the tarts,  
And he took them all away."

"What do you think? Did the Jack steal the tarts?" the King said to Bill and the other jurors.

"No, no, don't ask that question now," the White Rabbit said quickly. "First, the Mad Hatter must speak to us."

The Hatter walked to the King and Queen. He had a cup of tea in one hand and a piece of bread in the other hand. "Sorry," he said. "I didn't have time to finish my tea." The March Hare and the Dormouse were behind the Hatter, and he looked at the March Hare.



"It was the fourteenth of March, I think," the Hatter said.

"It was the fifteenth," the March Hare said.

"No, it was the sixteenth," said the Dormouse.

"Write all this on your pieces of paper," the King told the jurors. Then he said to the Hatter, "Put your hat on the table!"

"It isn't my hat," the Hatter told the King.

"You stole it!" the King shouted, and Bill and the other jurors started writing.

"No, no," the Hatter said. "But I'm a poor man, and, last week, the March Hare said -"

"I didn't!" shouted the March Hare.

"Oh dear," the Hatter went on. "I'm a poor man, and..."

"You're not a good speaker," the King said angrily. "You can sit down now." The Hatter looked at the King and Queen, and then he ran out of the court.



The White Rabbit stood up, and he looked at his piece of paper. "Next, the Duchess's Cook must speak to us," he said loudly.

The Cook walked to the King and Queen. She had a spoon in her hand. "What is in these tarts?" the King asked the Cook, and he pointed to the tarts.

"Sugar," said the Dormouse from behind the Cook.

"Cut off its head!" the Queen shouted angrily.

Then everyone tried to catch the poor Dormouse. He ran under a chair, but a playing card caught him. Then he had to leave the court.

The King and Queen turned to the Cook, but the Cook was not there.

"Oh dear!" the King said, and he looked at the White Rabbit. "Who is speaking next?" he asked.

The White Rabbit looked at his piece of paper, and he said, "Next, Alice must speak to us."

Alice was very surprised to hear her name, but she quickly walked to the King and Queen. Alice looked at the other animals. She was much bigger than them. "I am growing," she thought.

"What do you know about the tarts?" the King asked Alice.

"I don't know anything," Alice said, and this was true.

"You know nothing about the tarts. Is that right?" the King went on.

"I know nothing," Alice answered.

"That's very important," the King said, and he looked at Bill and the eleven other jurors. They started writing on their pieces of paper.

But then the White Rabbit said, "The King means it is not important." Alice looked at Bill and the other jurors. Some had "important" on their pieces of paper and some had "not important". "Oh dear," she thought.



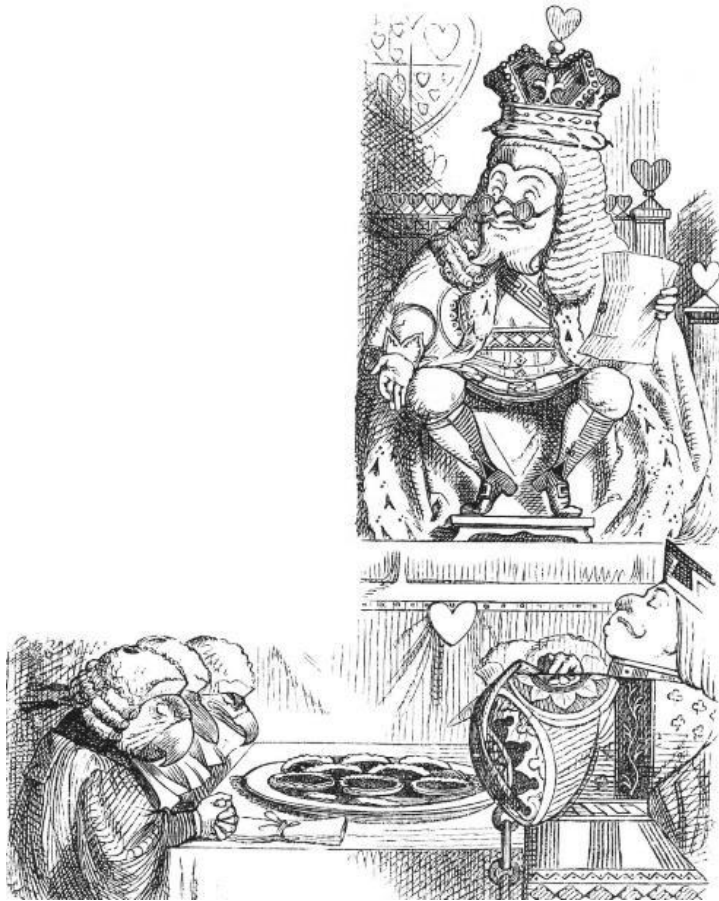
The King had a piece of paper in his hands, and he read from it: "Very tall people must leave the court," he said. Everyone looked at Alice, and they started talking.

"I'm not very tall," Alice said to the King.

"Yes, you are," said the Queen. "You're very, very tall."

"I will not leave this court," Alice said loudly. But this made the Queen angry.

"Cut off her head," she shouted. Everyone stopped talking, but nobody moved.



"They aren't listening to you," Alice said to the Queen. "You are only a playing card!"

But now the Queen's face was red, and she was very angry.

"Cut off her head," she shouted again, very loudly. Then all the playing cards in the court jumped up at Alice. She put her hand over her face, and she closed her eyes.



Alice opened her eyes, and she saw a tree above her. Some flowers from the tree came down on to her face. She was on her back, and her sister was next to her. They were at the river. "The playing cards are not real," Alice thought.

"I had a very strange dream," Alice said to her sister, and she told her about the dream. She told her about the White Rabbit, the King and Queen of Hearts, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. She told her about eating a mushroom and growing big and then small. She told her about the Duchess and the Cheshire Cat, and the funny game of croquet.

Alice's sister laughed, and she said, "That was a strange dream, Alice! Now let's go home for tea."

Alice smiled, and she took her sister's hand. The two girls walked home together happily.

The End.

## 2. Vocabulary

**Bored** (adj.): You are not happy because you are doing nothing, or because you are doing something but you do not like it. You are bored.

**Court** (n.): In court Jurors decide about a person because maybe they stole something or did a bad thing, and maybe they will go to prison (= a person cannot leave a prison).

**Croquet** (n.): Croquet is a game. You play it on grass. You hit balls (the balls are different colours) with long, heavy things and the balls go through round things in the grass.

**Cut off** (phr. v.): To cut through a part of something. Then that part is not there anymore.

**Dream** (n.): a picture or idea in your head when you are sleeping

**Drop** (V.): You are holding something. It moves to the ground. You dropped it.

**Fit** (v.): A person or thing is not too big and then they can go through or inside a thing. They can fit through or in it. A thing is not too small or not too big for you. It fits you.

**Jack** (n.): a playing card. It has a picture of a young man on it. A jack comes between a ten and a queen.

**Jump** (v.): to push your body above the ground with your legs and feet

**Juror** (n.): Jurors are a group of people in court. They decide together about a person because maybe the person stole something or did a bad thing, and maybe they will go to prison (= a person cannot leave a prison).

**Locked** (adj.); **lock** (v.): Someone closes a door with a key because they do not want people to open it. The door is locked. A person is in a room and you close the door with a key because you do not want the person to leave it. You lock the person in the room.

**Offer** (v.): You offer something to a person. You say, "Do you want this?"

**Oh dear** (exclaim.): You say Oh dear when you are not happy about something.

**Piece** (n.): a part of something

**Poison** (n.): You eat or drink poison and then you can die.

**Poor** (adj.):

- 1) You say poor before a person or animal's name. You feel sad for them.
- 2) A poor person does not have much money.

**Rabbit-hole** (n.): A rabbit lives in a rabbit-hole. It is a place in the ground.

**Real** (adj.):

- 1) A person gets a name when they are a baby. This is their real name.
- 2) Real things or people are there, and you can see them.

**Steal** (V.): past tense: stole

You take something from a person. It is not yours. You steal it.

**Stone** (n.): a small piece of rock (= rock is on or in the ground. It does not move under your finger.)

**Suddenly** (adv.): Something happens quickly and you are surprised. It happens suddenly.

**Surprised** (adj.); surprise (n.) Something happens and you did not know about it. You are surprised. You say something because you are

Surprised: You say it in surprise.

**Tart** (n.): a sweet food. It often has fruit in it or open pie with fruit in it.

**Time for** (phr.): It is the right part of the day to do a thing. It is time for this thing.



### 3. The Present Perfect Tense

Use the **present perfect tense** to talk about happenings in the past that explain or affect the present. The verbs **have and has** are used as “helping” or auxiliary verbs to form the present perfect tense. Sam has scored two goals.

1. I've just finished my shower.
2. Uncle Banta has lost his wallet.
3. Joga has gone out.
4. The Leena has moved to London.
5. It has not rained for months.
6. Have you found your keys yet?
7. Tim has made two spelling mistakes.
8. They have opened a new shop.
9. Dad has lost his car key.
10. All the guests have arrived.
11. Tony has scored a goal.
12. Peter has slept in the tent several times.

## 4. Picture Dictionary Page

### crate

**crates** *noun*  
an open container for storing and carrying things, usually bottles.

### crawl

**crawls crawling crawled** *verb*  
to move along on your hands and knees.



*Most babies crawl before they learn to walk.*

### crayfish

**crayfish** *noun*  
a spiny shellfish that looks like a small lobster. Crayfish live under stones during the day and hunt for small fish and insects at night.



### crazy

**crazy** *adjective*  
foolish or strange.  
■ comparisons crazier craziest

### creak

**creaks creaking creaked** *verb*  
to make a low, squeaking sound.  
*The door creaked open.*

### cream

**cream** *noun*  
1 the oily part of milk that rises to the top. Cream is often used to make sweets and desserts.

*a pitcher of cream*



2 a yellow-white color.

### crease

**creases** *noun*  
a line or fold, usually made in cloth or paper.



**crease** *verb*

### create

**creates creating created** *verb*  
to design and make something.  
*She created a beautiful painting.*  
■ say kree-ate

### creature

**creatures** *noun*  
any living thing.

### creek

**creeks** *noun*  
a small, narrow inlet or bay in the coast.

### creep

**creeps creeping crept** *verb*  
to walk forward very slowly and quietly.



*The cat crept up on the birds.*

### crew

**crews** *noun*  
1 the people who work on a ship or airplane.  
2 a team of people who work together in a job.  
*The film crew was ready to begin shooting.*

### cricket

**crickets** *noun*  
1 a jumping insect that eats plants. Crickets rub their wings together to make a singing sound. They have long back legs for jumping.



2 a team game played with 11 players in each team. The winning team is the one with the most points, called runs. Runs are scored by the person batting (see *sport* on page 197).



### cried

**cried** *from the verb to cry*  
*The baby cried all last night.*

### crime

**crimes** *noun*  
an activity that is against the law.  
*Murder is a very serious crime.*

### criminal

**criminals** *noun*  
a person who takes part in a crime.

### crocodile

**crocodiles** *noun*  
a reptile that lives on land and in water. Crocodiles are fierce hunters and hunt at night for fish, mammals, and frogs (see *skeleton* on page 188).



### crisp

**crisp** *adjective*  
dry and easily broken into pieces.



■ comparisons crisper crispest

### criticize

**criticizes criticizing criticized** *verb*  
to say what you think is wrong with something.  
*He was upset when I criticized his painting.*  
■ say kriet-i-size  
**criticism** *noun*

### crop

**crops** *noun*  
a vegetable or plant that is grown on a farm for food.  
*The potato crop.*

### CROSS

**crosses crossing crossed** *verb*  
1 to go over something, from one side to another.  
*Crossing the street.*  
2 to put one thing across another.



*He crossed his fingers.*