



# Learn English Through Stories

A Series

A28

**Adapted and modified by**

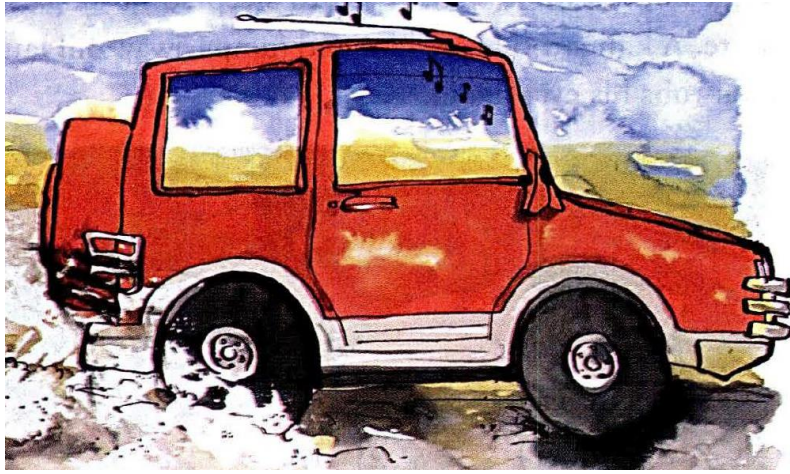
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# 1. Starman



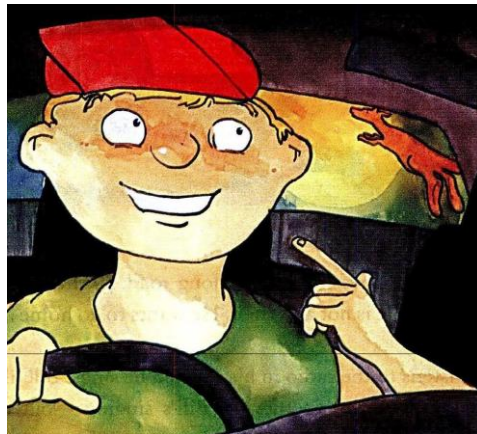
A big red car drives on a long, long road. In the car is a farmer, Bill. He is hot and tired. He wants to go home and have a bath.

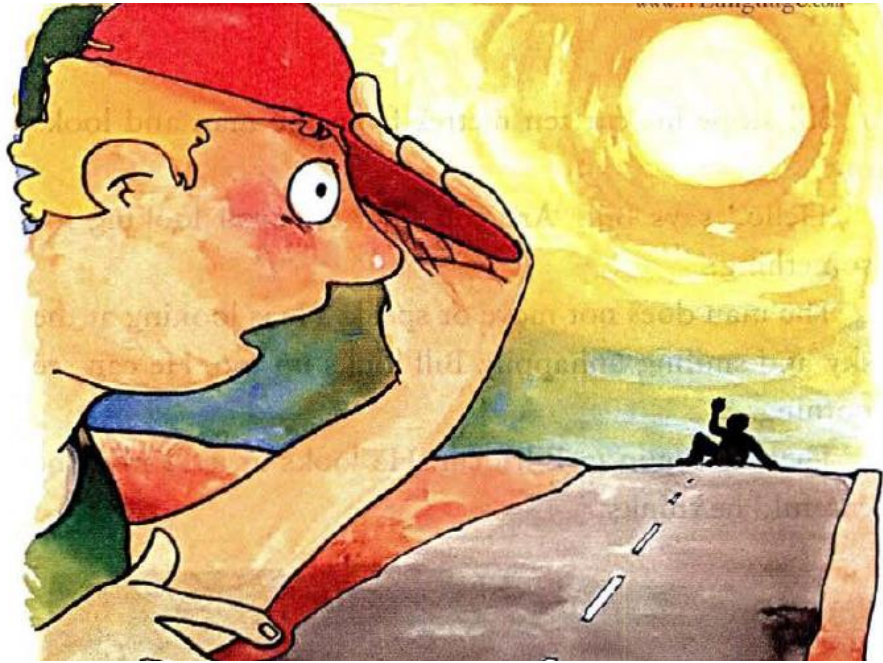
Bill listens to the radio in his car and he sings. Bill likes singing. Sometimes people like Bill's singing — but not very often.

The song he is singing is called *Hot, hot, hot*.

There is a sign on the side of the road. Bill reads it: Goondiwindi, 72 kilometres. Dirranbandi 136 kilometres. Bill must drive for a long time. His home is about a hundred kilometres away.

He rubs his eyes. The sun is very hot and the road is long. Bill does not want to go to sleep so he sings some more. A kangaroo hears him and jumps away. Bill laughs, then rubs his eyes again.





Just then Bill sees something. Suddenly he is not tired and he is not laughing. The hair on his head stands up. There is something on the road.

He stops the car and gets out. The thing is a long way in front of Bill. He cannot see what it is — but he does not like it.

Bill gets back in his car and drives slowly. The thing is moving — it is alive.

'What the ... ' Bill says quietly. 'It's a man! What's a man doing here?'

He thinks, 'There must be something wrong.'

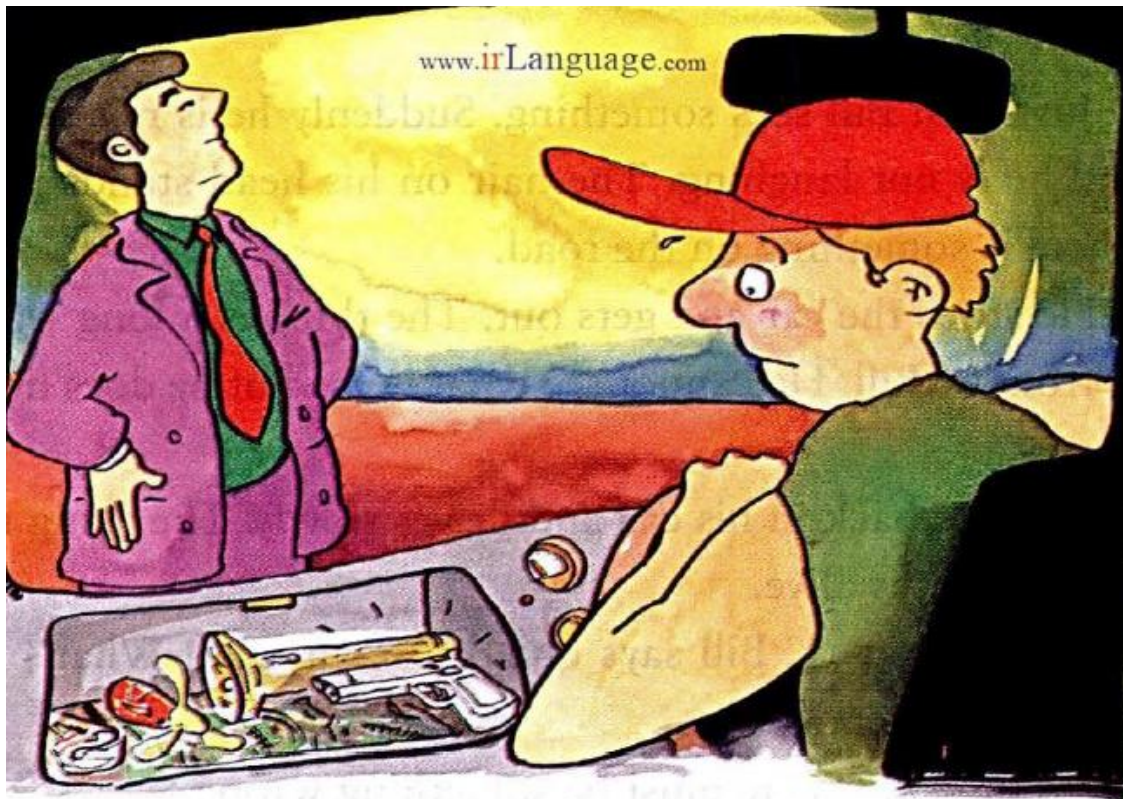
Bill stops his car ten metres from the man and looks out.

'Hello,' says Bill. 'Are you OK? Are you looking for something?'

The man does not move or speak. He is looking at the sky and smiling unhappily. Bill looks up too. He can see nothing.

There is a gun in Bill's car. He looks at it. 'I must be careful,' he thinks.

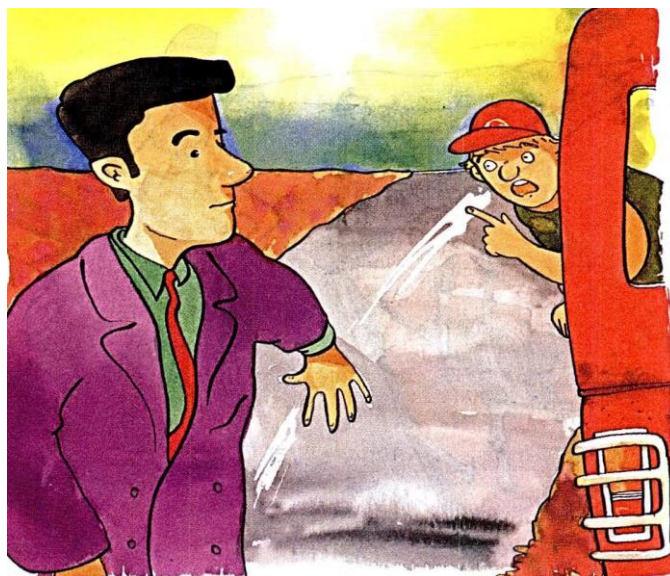




Bill drives five more metres. He can see that the man is about forty years old. He is wearing a good suit — but it is old.

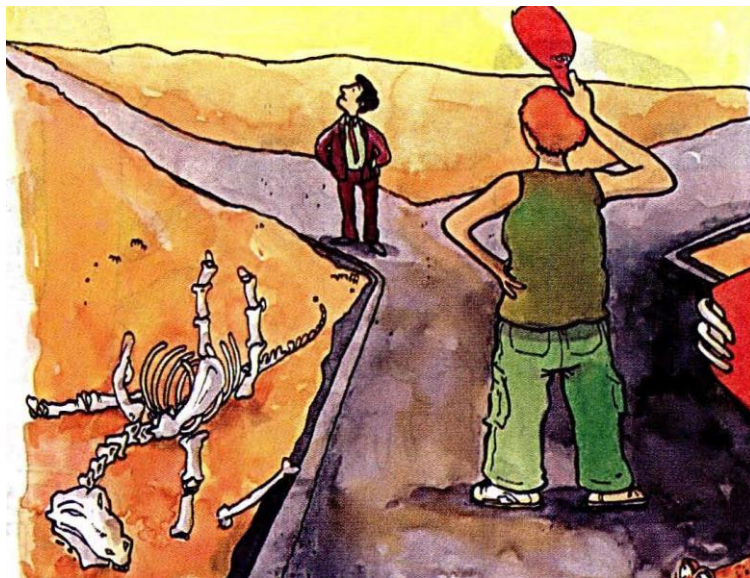
'Hey! Are you OK?' Bill asks again. 'Can I help you?'

The man moves his head slowly to look at Bill. He says nothing then begins to walk. Bill watches him for a minute. He thinks: 'I must do something.'



'Where are you going?' shouts Bill. 'There's nothing on that road. Do you have any water? The sun's very hot. Can you hear me?'

Bill does not know what to do. He cannot leave the man here. 'What is wrong with him?' he thinks. 'Is he ill?' A lizard runs across the road. A big bird flies near the man. It looks down, hungrily. Near the road are some bones — a dead kangaroo.



Bill is afraid — but he cannot drive away and leave the man.

The man looks very tired so Bill drives two more metres. 'Do you want to die out here?' There is no answer.

'Get in! I'm taking you home,' says Bill.



He opens the car door and gets out. He moves very slowly and talks very quietly. 'It's okay. You can come with me. Get in the car and sit down. I have some water in the car.'

Bill helps the man and he gets into the car. He is very dirty and tired. Bill gives him a drink. The man is thirsty and drinks a lot of water. 'Stop!' says Bill. 'Don't drink all the water. A little now, then more later.'



The car drives fast on the long, straight road. The two men sit and say nothing.

Bill listens to the news on the radio. There is rain in Adelaide. A man in Sydney is 125 years old today. A kangaroo is learning to talk. And a very white light is in the sky near Wolalonga.

Bill likes the news. Next to him, the man sleeps.

Bill looks at him. The man wears an expensive suit and nice shoes. Why is he out here in the sun, without a hat?

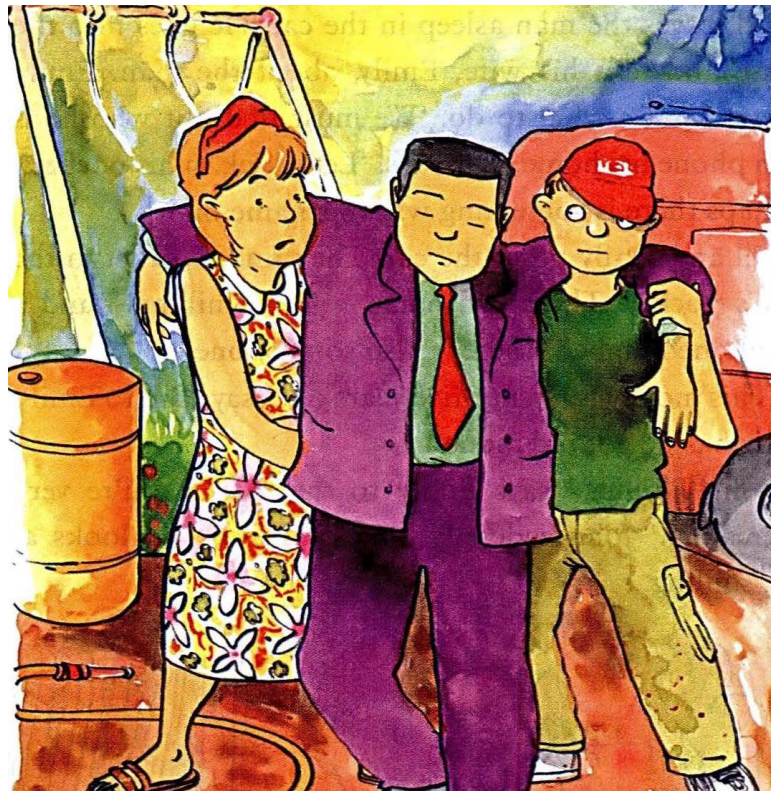
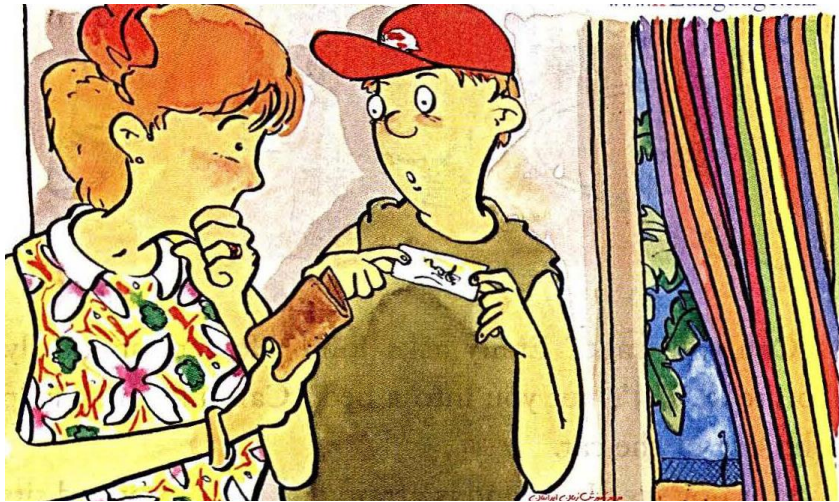
They drive for an hour before they get to Bill's house.

Bill leaves the man asleep in the car. He goes into the house and tells his wife, Emily, about the man. Emily always knows what to do. 'We must find out who he is then phone his home,' she says. 'Let's look in his pockets. Perhaps there is something with his name on it.'

Bill and Emily go to the car. They find a wallet in the man's pocket. There is a name — John Phillips — and a telephone number. There is also some money.

'This money is twenty-five years old!' says Bill to Emily. 'Why has he got old money?'

'John Phillips,' says Emily to the man. 'You're very interesting.' John suddenly opens his eyes and looks at her, smiling.



'Can you walk?' Emily asks John. He gets up slowly. 'You're ill. Let's put you into a bed.' Carefully, they help John out of the car.

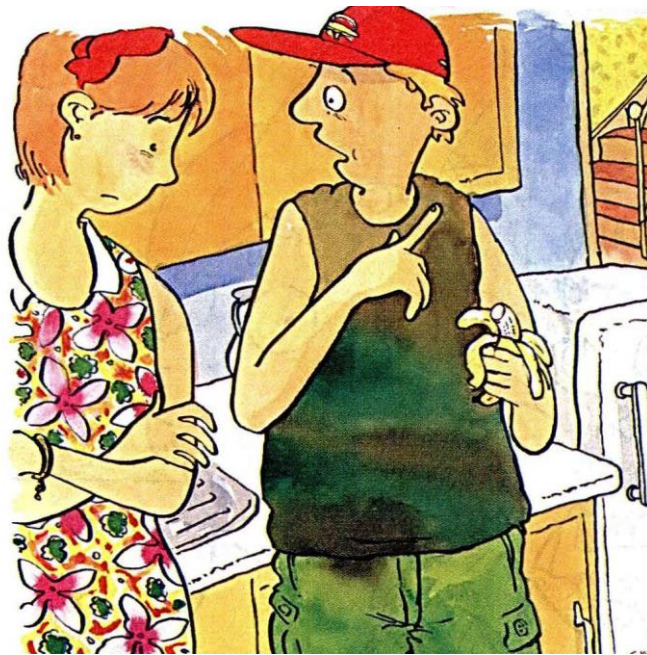


Bill's dog sees John and is afraid. He runs away and sits under a tree. Bill and Emily help John upstairs and onto a bed. Ten minutes later he is sleeping again.

In the kitchen, Emily says: 'I don't understand this... It's not right. He's different... It's ... Oh, I don't know... '

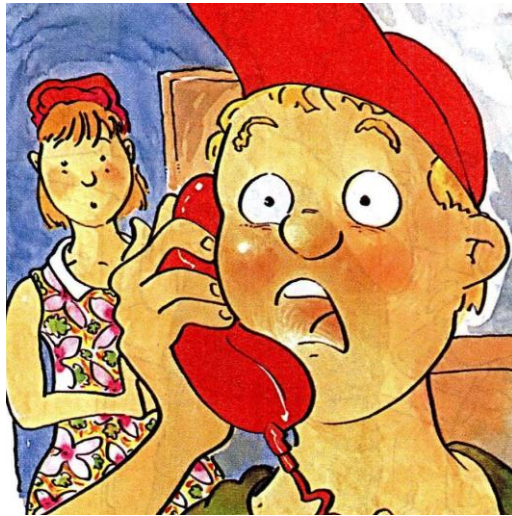
'I don't want him in our house. I am afraid of him,' says Bill.

'I know. I'm afraid, too. Let's call the Flying Doctor,' says Emily. 'Then we must talk to his family.'

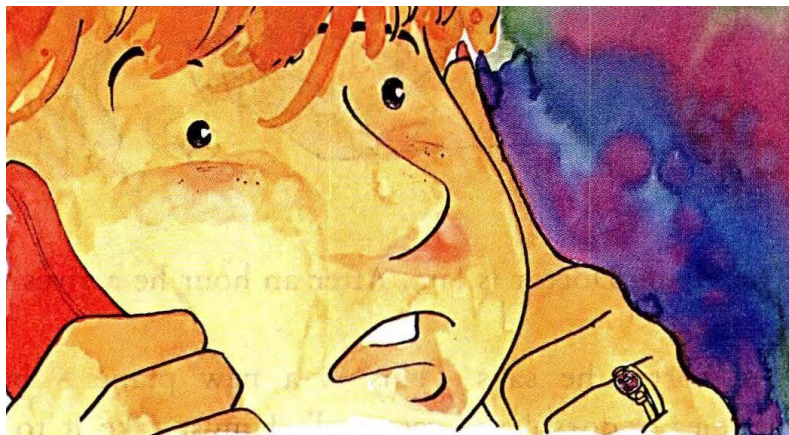


Bill picks up the telephone and calls the doctor. He tells the doctor about John Phillips. 'I think he's ill. He's very tired and doesn't talk. He doesn't know who he is. Can you come quickly?'

The doctor lives about two hundred kilometres away. He must fly a plane to visit Bill. 'I'm coming now,' he says. 'Look out for me in half an hour.'



Bill puts the phone down. 'Okay. Let me talk to his wife,' says Emily. She takes the phone and calls the number. Somebody answers and Emily talks for a long time.

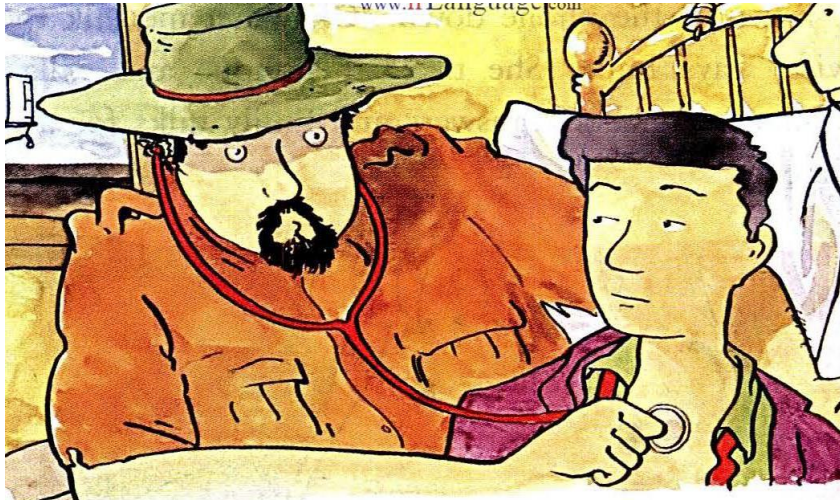


Bill hears her say: 'But he is here... No, it is John Phillips. We have his wallet — his name is in it... Hello! Hello! Are you there? ... Oh. What? When? ... I don't understand... Okay. Thank you. Goodbye.' When she stops talking, her face is white.

She looks at Bill and says: 'This is all wrong. "John Phillips is missing," his wife says.'

'For how long?' says Bill.

'Thirty years,' says Emily. 'His wife has a new husband now. They have three children!'



The Flying Doctor is late. After an hour he arrives in his plane.

'I'm sorry,' he says. 'This is a new plane — but sometimes it doesn't go very well. I must take it to a mechanic. But it doesn't matter now. I'm here.'

Bill tells him everything. The doctor asks a lot of questions, then goes to see the man. John Phillips is looking at the plane through the window.

'Hello, John,' says the doctor. 'I'm a doctor and I need to ask you some questions. Can you remember your name? Can you remember where you live?' John does not answer.

The doctor talks to Bill and Emily. He says: 'John hasn't got any broken bones... but I'm not happy about him. I want to take him to hospital.'

They put John in the plane next to the doctor. 'Phone us,' says Emily when the doctor gets in the plane. 'Phone us from the hospital.' Soon the doctor and John Phillips are high in the sky.

Suddenly John speaks for the first time. He talks slowly: 'I don't want to be here. I want to be with my friends. They are looking for me.'

John stands up in the plane.

'Wait, you can't do that,' says the doctor. 'Sit down!'

John opens the door and says to the doctor: 'You can come too. Do you want to?'

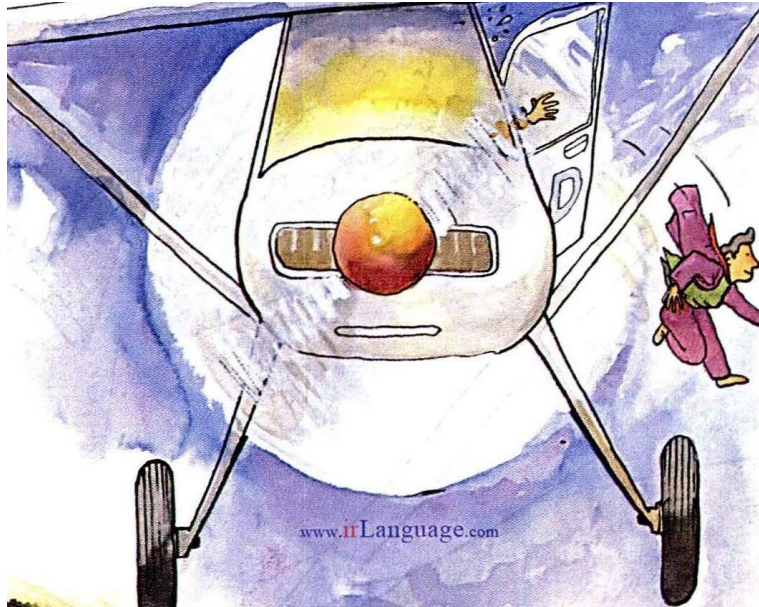
'What?' shouts the doctor.

John looks into the doctor's eyes. The doctor cannot move. He cannot look away. It is cold in the plane but the doctor is hot. John's eyes are looking straight through him.



'Come with me. It's a good place. It's better than here.'

'How can I?' says the doctor quietly. Then John jumps.



The doctor looks out of the window. John is falling down, down, down. But the doctor can see a smile on his face.

'He isn't going to die,' thinks the doctor. 'He knows that.'

There are small trees below the plane. Cars drive on a long road. Kangaroos jump all around. John is very small now and he is falling fast.

John is twenty metres above the trees. A kangaroo looks up, but John is not falling any more. A beam of light stops him and takes him away. Up, up, up.

The doctor closes his eyes. The light is very, very white. When he opens his eyes the light is not there. John is not there. The doctor sees something in the sky. Then there is nothing.

He is very unhappy — more unhappy than ever. 'I want to go too!' he says.



Roy Cole is a mechanic and he works in an airport. Today he is happy. The sun is nice and warm. Tomorrow is Saturday, and this weekend Roy is buying a new car. He is excited.

He is eating a sandwich when he hears the plane. He looks up and sees it in the sky. The plane is coming to the airport. It gets very near. In the plane, Roy can see a man.

'Who is this?' thinks Roy. 'I don't know this plane.' He puts his sandwich in his pocket.



The plane stops at the airport and a man gets out. Roy begins to walk across to him.

The man stands still and looks at the sky. There is a small smile on his face. His suit is dirty and he looks tired.

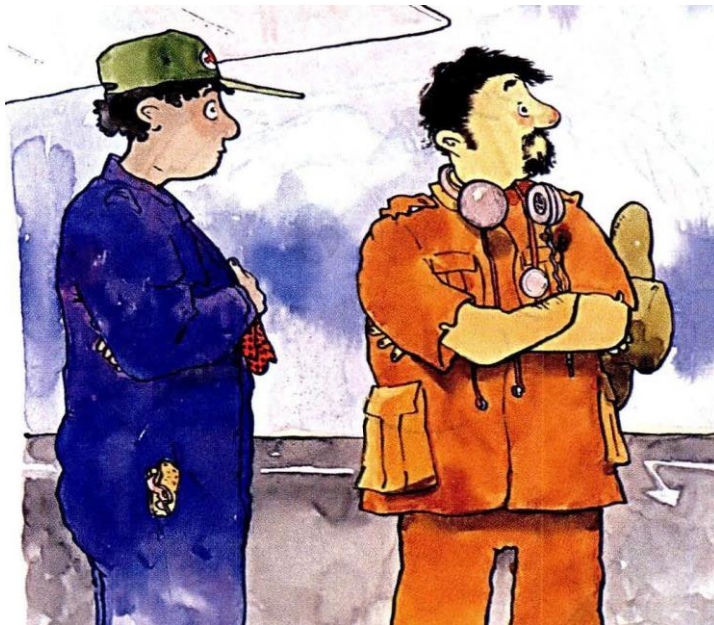
'Oh dear!' thinks Roy. 'What's the matter with him?'

Roy likes to talk to people. He smiles, then talks to the man. 'Perhaps I can help him,' he thinks.

'Hi, I'm Roy. Who are you?' Roy puts his hand out but the man does not move. Roy puts his hand in his pocket and looks at the plane.

Roy says to the man, 'Wow! What a wonderful plane. It's more than thirty years old. It's an old Flying Doctor's plane, isn't it?'

Suddenly the man looks at Roy and says: 'Flying Doctor. Yes, that's right. I'm a Flying Doctor.' 'A Flying Doctor? Of course you are,' says Roy with a smile. 'Where do you live? Where do you want to go?'



The doctor begins to get into the plane again. Then he stops and looks into Roy's eyes. Roy hears him say: 'I live a long way away now. I must go back. Do you want to come with me?'

Suddenly Roy feels hot. The doctor's eyes are looking straight through him. 'How can I?' says Roy.

'I can help you. Get in my plane,' says the doctor.



## 2. Pronouns 2

The words **me, you, him, her, it, us** and **them** are also personal pronouns. They also take the place of nouns. These pronouns are used as the **object** of the verb in a sentence.

### Examples

1. **I** am standing on my head. Look at **me**.
2. **My mother** is kind. Everybody likes **her**.
3. **Leena**, I told **you** to tidy your bed!
4. **Sharon and Baron!** Dad is waiting for **you**!
5. **Lucky and I** are playing in the park. Dad is watching **us**.
6. **You** must not play with **the knife**. Give **it** to **me**.
7. Pick up **your toys** and put **them** away.

Match the subject and object pronouns:

I    he    it    she    they    you    we  
us    her    you    them    me    him    it

### Answers

I — Me;    He — Him;    It — It;    She — Her;    They — Them;  
You — You;    We — Us.

## 3. Dialogues

### Election in America

A: I can't believe he won the election!

B: Only 15 percent of the voters turned out.

A: That is a joke.

B: Voting is so important, but people don't bother.

A: Many people think their vote doesn't matter.

B: The mayor won by only 2,000 votes.

A: We're stuck with him for four more years!

B: Voting is so easy. You can even mail your ballot in.

A: All you have to do is vote and put a stamp on it.

B: How easy is that?

A: I guess people just don't care.

B: They'll care when they see their taxes go up!

## 4. Picture Dictionary Page



**hat** Something you wear on your head.  
(हेट) टोप.



**head** All the parts of your body above your neck. सिर.  
(हेड)



**headlight** The lights on the front of a car or motor cycle. किसी भी वाहन के अग्र भाग का मुख्य प्रकाश/लाईट.  
(हेडलाइट)

**heart** Your heart is inside your body. It pumps blood. You can hear your heart beating.  
(हार्ट) हृदय; दिल.



**hedge** A kind of fence made from small bushes. झाड़ियों का घेरा; बाड़.  
(हेज)



**hedgehog** A small animal which is very prickly. साही; एक प्रकार का काटिदार चूहा.  
(हेजहाग) 32



**heel** The back part of your foot. एड़ो.  
(हील)



**helicopter** An aircraft which can fly straight up and come straight down. विमान जो खड़े होने के स्थान से साधा ऊपर उड़ सकता है तथा सीधा ही नीचे उतर सकता है.  
(हेलीकाप्टर)

**helmet** (हेलमेट) A kind of strong hat worn by soldiers, policemen and firemen. People who ride on motorbikes have to wear a crash helmet. लोहटोप; सिर का सुरक्षा हेतु धारण करने वाला टोप.



**hen** A female bird. मुर्गा.  
(हेन)