



Learn English Through Stories.

B Series

B36

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## Mini Stories 2

By L A Hill

### Story 11



A judge was working in his room one day when a neighbour ran in and said, 'If one man's cow kills another's, is the owner of the first cow responsible?'

'It depends,' answered the judge.

'Well,' said the man, 'your cow has killed mine.'

'Oh,' answered the judge. 'Everyone knows that a cow cannot think like a man, so a cow is not responsible, and that means that its owner is not responsible either.'

'I am sorry, Judge,' said the man. 'I made a mistake. I meant that my cow killed yours.'

The judge thought for a few seconds and then said, 'When I think about it more carefully, this case is not as easy as I thought at first.' And then he turned to his clerk and said, 'Please bring me that big black book from the shelf behind you.'

## Story 12



When Nasreddin was a boy, he never did what he was told, so his father always told him to do the opposite of what he wanted him to do.

One day, when the two were bringing sacks of flour home on their donkeys, they had to cross a shallow river. When they were in the middle of it, one of the sacks on Nasreddin's donkey began to slip, so his father said, 'That sack is nearly in the water! Press down hard on it!'

His father of course expected that he would do the opposite, but this time Nasreddin did what his father had told him to do. He pressed down on the sack and it went under the water. Of course, the flour was lost.

'What have you done, Nasreddin?' his father shouted angrily.

'Well, Father', said Nasreddin, 'this time I thought that I would do just what you told me, to show you how stupid your orders always are.'

## Story 13



Nasreddin had lost his donkey. He was going about looking for it everywhere, and while he was looking, he was singing gaily.

One of his neighbours saw him and said, 'Hullo, Nasreddin. What are you doing?'

'I am looking for my donkey,' answered Nasreddin.

'Don't you know where it is?' asked the neighbour.

'No, I don't.'

'Then why are you singing so gaily ? Usually when somebody loses something, he is sad.'

'Yes, that is quite true,' answered Nasreddin. 'But you see, I am not yet sure that my donkey is lost. My last hope is that it is behind that hill over there. If you wait a little, you will hear how I will cry and complain if it is not there!'

## Story 14



One winter Nasreddin had very little money. His crops had been very bad that year, and he had to live very cheaply. He gave his donkey less food, and when after two days the donkey looked just the same, he said to himself, 'The donkey was used to eating a lot. Now he is quickly getting used to eating less; and soon he will get used to living on almost nothing.'

Each day Nasreddin gave the donkey a little less food, until it was hardly eating anything.

Then one day, when the donkey was going to market with a load of wood on its back, it suddenly died. 'How unlucky I am,' said Nasreddin. 'Just when my donkey had got used to eating hardly anything, it came to the end of its days in this world.'

## Story 15



Nasreddin's wife was very ill, and at last she died. After a few months, Nasreddin married again. His new wife was a widow.

Exactly seven days after he married her, she had a baby.

Nasreddin at once hurried away to the market and bought some paper, some pencils, some pens and some children's books. Then he hurried back home again with these things and put them beside the baby. His new wife was surprised. 'What are you doing?' she said. 'The baby won't be able to use those things for a long time. Why are you in such a hurry?'

Nasreddin answered, 'You are quite wrong, my dear. Our baby is not an ordinary baby. It came in seven days instead of nine months, so it will certainly be ready to learn to read and write in a few weeks from now.'

## Story 16



One of Nasreddin's neighbours had been abroad for many years, and during that time he had travelled in many strange places. When he came back home after many years, his old friends and neighbours listened to the old man's stories about foreign countries and strange people, and found them very interesting.

'Do you know,' the old man said, 'in one country which I visited where the climate is very hot all the year, nobody wears any clothes at all!'

Nasreddin loved a joke, so he said at once, 'Oh, is that so?'

Then how do you know whether somebody is a man or a woman in that country?'



## Story 17



Some of Nasreddin's old friends were talking about the young people in their town. They all agreed that old people were wiser than young people. Then one of the old men said, 'But young men are stronger than old men.'

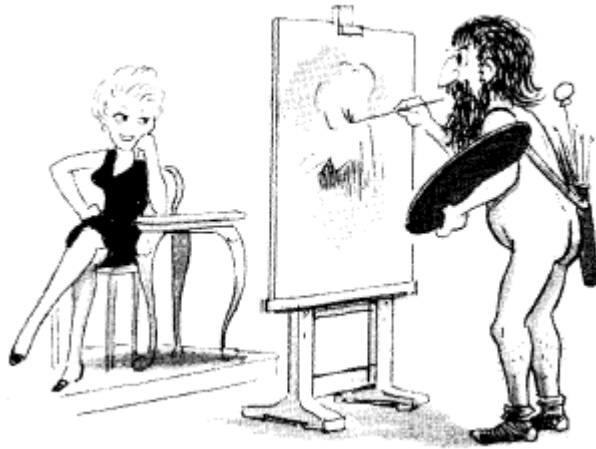
All of them agreed that this was true, except Nasreddin.

He said, 'No. I am as strong now as when I was a young man.'

'What do you mean ?' said his friends. 'How is that possible? Explain yourself!'

'Well,' said Nasreddin, 'in one corner of my field there is a rock. When I was a young man I used to try to move it, but I couldn't because I was not strong enough. I am an old man now, and when I try to move it, I still cannot.'

## Story 18



One day a beautiful young lady went to a famous artist and said, 'I want you to paint a picture of me. How much will it cost?'

'Five hundred pounds,' said the artist.

'Oh?' said the lady. 'That is a lot of money.' Then she thought that, as she had a very beautiful body, the artist might be happy to paint her picture more cheaply if she wore no clothes while he was painting it. So she said, 'And how much will it cost if you paint me without any clothes on?'

The artist thought for a moment. 'One thousand pounds,' he then said. 'But I shall have to keep my socks on, because my feet get cold; and I shall have to wear something to put my brushes in.'

## Story 19



Henry and Mary had just got married, and everybody was enjoying their wedding party. There was plenty to eat and plenty to drink, and everybody was getting very merry, when a very thin, very young man came into the room. He looked at Mary sadly and accusingly, walked slowly towards her, kissed her lovingly and said, 'Why did you do it?'

Then he walked to the door and disappeared.

Nobody had ever seen the young man before—not even Mary.

## Story 20



The Second World War had begun, and John wanted to join the army, but he was only 16 years old, and boys were allowed to join only if they were over 18. So when the army doctor examined him, he said that he was 18.

But John's brother had joined the army a few days before, and the same doctor had examined him too. This doctor remembered the older boy's family name, so when he saw John's papers, he was surprised.

'How old are you?' he said.

'Eighteen, sir,' said John.

'But your brother was eighteen, too,' said the doctor. 'Are you twins?'

'Oh, no, sir,' said John, and his face went red. 'My brother is five months older than I am.'



- 1 clean the apartment/  
clean the house  
2 wash the dishes  
3 do the laundry  
4 iron

- 5 feed the baby  
6 feed the cat  
7 walk the dog  
8 study

- 9 go to work  
10 go to school  
11 drive to work  
12 take the bus to school

- 13 work  
14 leave work  
15 go to the store  
16 come home/get home