



# Learn English Through Stories

A Series

A47

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## 1. Mini Stories 3.

### Story 21.



Carol Roberts left school when she was seventeen and then thought, 'What's going to happen now? I want to marry a nice, young man and have children, but no nice, young men have asked me yet. Will I meet one soon, and will he want to marry me?'

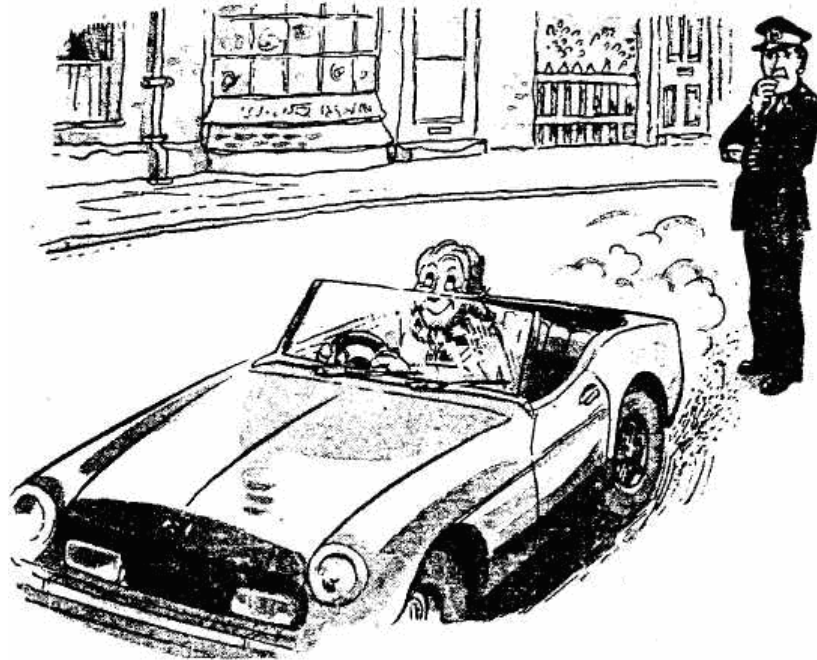
She spoke to her best friend about these questions, and her best friend said. 'Go and ask a fortune-teller. Perhaps she'll give you the answers.'

So Carol went to see a fortune-teller. The fortune-teller said to her, 'I'll give you answers to two questions. It'll cost you five pounds.'

Carol was surprised. She thought for some time, but at last she paid the money. Then she said to the fortune-teller, 'Isn't that very expensive for only two questions?'

'Yes, it is,' answered the fortune-teller. 'And now what's your second question?'

## Story 22.



Jack had a small, red car, and he liked driving it very fast. This was all right when he was out in the country, but in towns and big villages driving fast is dangerous, so there is always a speed limit. In Jack's country it was fifty kilometres an hour. Jack often drove faster than that through towns.

One day Jack was driving his small, red car through a town when a very young policeman stopped him and said, 'You were driving at more than fifty kilometres an hour, sir. Please give me your name and address.'

Jack looked at the young policeman carefully for a few seconds and then said to him, 'But I started my journey less than an hour ago!'

The policeman was new to this work and did not know the answer to Jack's excuse. He thought for a few seconds and then let Jack go.

## Story 23.



Dick was seven years old, and his sister, Catherine, was five. One day their mother took them to their aunt's house to play while she went to the big city to buy some new clothes

The children played for an hour, and then at half past four their aunt took Dick into the kitchen. She gave him a nice cake and a knife and said to him, 'Now here's a knife, Dick. Cut this cake in half and give one of the pieces to your sister, but remember to do it like a gentleman.'

'Like a gentleman?' Dick asked. 'How do gentlemen do it? 'They always give the bigger piece to the other person,' answered his aunt at once.

'Oh,' said Dick. He thought about this for a few seconds. Then he took the cake to his sister and said to her, 'Cut this cake in half, Catherine.'

## Story 24.



A small boy and his father were having a walk in the country when it suddenly began to rain very hard. They did not have their umbrellas with them, and there was nowhere to hide from the rain, so they were soon very wet, and the small boy did not feel very happy.

For a long time while they were walking home through the rain, the boy was thinking. Then at last he turned to his father and said to him, 'Why does it rain, Father? It isn't very nice, is it?'

'No, it isn't very nice, but it's very useful, Tom,' answered his father. 'It rains to make the fruit and the vegetables grow for us, and to make the grass grow for the cows and sheep.'

Tom thought about this for a few seconds, and then he said, 'Then, why does it rain on the road too, Father?'



## Story 25.



A man went into a bar, sat down, called the barman and said to him, 'Give me a drink before the trouble starts.'

The barman was busy with other people, so he did not say anything, but he gave the man the drink, and the man drank it quickly. Then he put his glass down, called the barman again and said to him, 'Give me another one before the trouble starts.'

Again the barman was too busy to say anything, so he gave the man his drink and went away. The man drank that too, and then again he called the barman and said to him, 'One more drink before the trouble starts, please.'

This time the barman was not very busy, so when he brought the man his third drink, he said to him, 'What trouble are you talking about?'

The man answered, 'I haven't got any money.'

## Story 26.



A man and his wife had a small bar near a station. The bar often stayed open until after midnight, because people came to drink there while they were waiting for trains.

At two o'clock one morning, one man was still sitting at a table in the small bar. He was asleep. The barman's wife wanted to go to bed. She looked into the bar several times, and each time the man was still there. Then at last she went to her husband and said to him, 'You've woken that man six times now, George, but he isn't drinking anything. Why haven't you sent him away? It's very late.'

'Oh, no, I don't want to send him away,' answered her husband with a smile. 'You see, whenever I wake him up, he asks for his bill, and when I bring it to him he pays it. Then he goes to sleep again.'



## Story 27.



Two friends were camping together. Their names were Jim and Tim. Tim was very lazy. The first evening of their holiday, Jim said to Tim, 'Here's some money. Go and buy some meat.'

'I'm too tired,' answered Tim. 'You go.' So Jim went to buy the meat.

When he came back, he said to Tim, 'Now, here's the meat. Please cook it.' But Tim answered, 'No, I'm not good at cooking. You do it.' So Jim cooked the meat.

Then Jim said to Tim, 'Cut the bread,' but Tim answered, 'I don't want to,' so Jim cut the bread.

Then he said to Tim, 'Go and get some water, please.'

'No, I don't want to get my clothes dirty,' Tim answered, so Jim got the water.

At last Jim said, 'The meal's ready. Come and eat it.'

'Well, I'll do that,' answered Tim. 'I don't like saying "No" all the time.'

## Story 28.



One morning a man was crossing a narrow bridge when he saw a fisherman on the shady bank of the deep, smooth river under him, so he stopped to watch him quietly.

After a few minutes, the fisherman pulled his line in. There was a big, fat Fish at the end of it.

The fisherman took it off the hook and threw it back into the water. Then he put his hook and line in again. After a few more minutes he caught another big fish. Again he threw it back into the river. Then, the third time, he caught a small fish. He put it into his basket and started to get ready to go. The man on the bridge was very surprised, so he spoke to the fisherman. He said, 'Why did you throw those beautiful, big fish back into the water, and keep only that small one?'

The fisherman looked up and answered, 'Small frying-pan.'

## Story 29.



When the Americans were getting ready to send their first men to the moon, an old Irishman was watching them on television in the bar of a hotel.

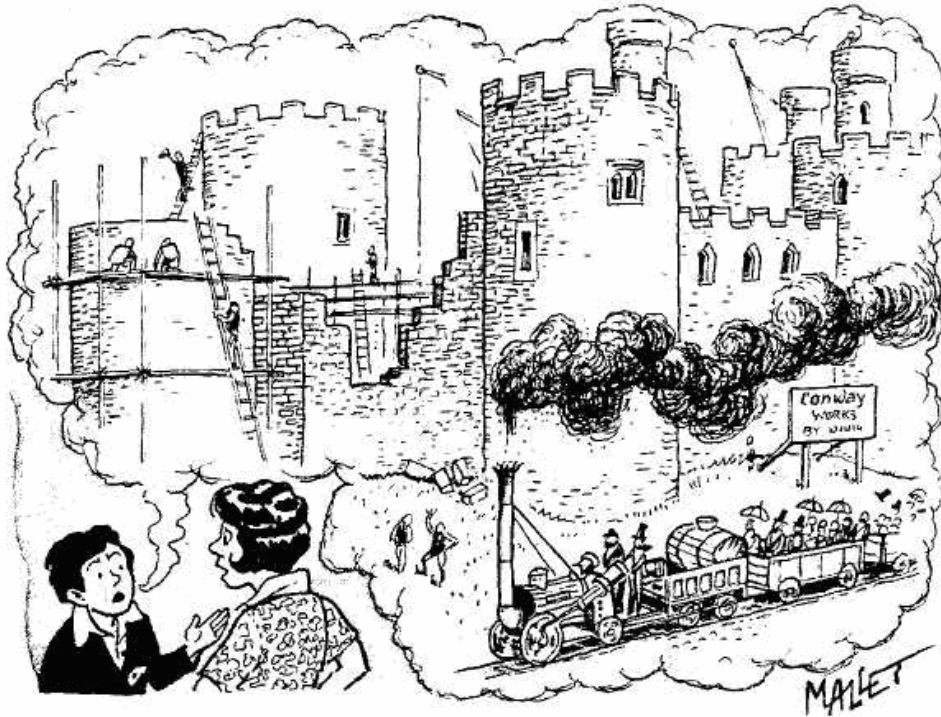
There was an Englishman in the bar too, and he said to the Irishman, 'The Americans are very clever, aren't they? They're going to send some men to the moon. It's a very long way from our world.'

'Oh, that's nothing,' the Irishman answered quickly. 'The Irish are going to send some men to the sun in a few months' time. That's much farther away than the moon, you know.'

The Englishman was very surprised when he heard this. 'Oh, yes, it is,' he said, 'but the sun's too hot for people to go to.'

The Irishman laughed and answered, 'Well, the Irish aren't stupid, you know. We won't go to the sun during the day, of course. We'll go there during the night.'

## Story 30.



Dave's class at school were studying English history, and one day their teacher said to them, 'Well, boys, on Friday we're all going to get on a bus and go to Conway. There's a beautiful castle there, and we're going to visit it.' The boys were very happy when they heard this.

'Now, has anybody got any questions?' the teacher asked. 'How old is the castle, sir?' Dave asked.

'It's about seven hundred years old, Dave,' the teacher answered.

'What's the name of the castle, sir?' another boy asked.

'Conway Castle,' the teacher said.

On Friday the boys came to school at 9 o'clock and got into the bus. They visited Conway Castle, and then they came back and went home.

'Well,' Dave's mother said to him when he got home, 'Did you like the castle, Dave?'

'Not very much,' Dave answered. 'The stupid people built it too near the railway.'



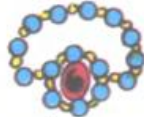
## Picture Dictionary

# N n

**nail** (नेल) A small thin piece of metal with a flat top and a point at the other end. नाई; कील.



**neck** (नेक) The part of the body which joins the chest to the head. गर्दन; गला.



**necklace** (नेकलस) A piece of jewellery worn round the neck. गले का हार.

**nectarine** (नेक्टारिन) A sweet juicy fruit which looks like a peach. शफतालु; रसीला फल.



**needle** (नीडल) A thin piece of metal with a sharp point at one end and a hole at the other. सुई.

**nest** (नेस्ट) A place where birds lay their eggs. Most birds build their own nests. घोंसला.



**net** (नेट) Material which has lots of holes in. You use a net to catch fish. मछलों पकड़ने का जाल.



**net** (नेट) Net can be made with wire. You use this to make a fence or a cage. पाशजाल; क्रीडा-स्थल को दो भागों में विभाजित करने वाला जाल.



**nettle** (नेटल) A weed which stings you if you touch the leaves. दौंतदार पत्तियों तथा हरे पुष्पों वाला काँटेदार पौधा; बिच्छू बूटी.



**newspaper** (न्यूजपेपर) Large printed sheets of paper which tell you what has happened. समाचार पत्र.



**newt** (न्यूट) A small creature with a long tail. It can live on land and in water. छिपकली की नस्ल का छोटा सा जन्तु जो भूमि तथा जल में रह सकता है.



**nib** (निब) The point of a pen. The ink comes through the nib when you write. कलम की नोक जिस भाग से लिखा जाता है.