



Learn English Through Stories

C Series

C42

**Adopted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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Monkey Party

By John Bookworm



In the town of Lopburi in Thailand there are monkeys everywhere. They run around the streets. They climb on cars, houses, and other buildings. They can go anywhere they want to, and they get into everything!

The monkeys in this town are very playful and sometimes they cause a lot of trouble. But what about the people of Lopburi? How do they feel about these mischievous little animals?

The truth is that the people of Lopburi are not too concerned about the trouble caused by the monkeys. Of course, they know that the monkeys are troublemakers. They also know that sometimes they can make life difficult. It's not always fun when they sit on people's cars, run everywhere, and take food.

However, the people of Lopburi also know that it's not just the monkeys. They know that the people of the town also cause the problem. They allow the monkeys to run round the streets. They allow them to cause trouble. They don't try to stop the monkeys. And once a year, the people of Lopburi do even more. They have a monkey party! They have a banquet. With lots of food - for the monkeys!

But why do they have this big monkey party? Why do they present the monkeys with a banquet? The reason involves legend and tradition. Most people in Thailand are Buddhists, and for many of them monkeys are very important animals. Monkeys appear in many Thai stories and legends. Because of one special story, some Thai people consider monkeys to be heroes.

In Thailand, there is a famous old legend about monkey hero called Hanuman. In the story, a demon takes the god Rama's wife. The monkey, Hanuman, helps to save Rama's wife. Because of this, Hanuman becomes a hero.

Due to the legend of Hanuman and Buddhist traditions, many people in Thailand are especially kind to monkeys today. This kindness is not just limited to allowing monkeys to do anything they wish. Monkeys also get special food often - not just at festivals.

Every day of the year, people bring food for the monkeys to shrines. These people think it's good karma to give them food. The people also think that it will bring them good luck. With this special treatment, the monkeys of Lopburi are getting bigger and bigger all the time!

The time for the yearly monkey party finally arrives. It's a time when the community of Lopburi can show the monkeys just how much they like them. They always give the monkeys a lot of special food at this time. But this year there's a particularly special treat. The festival organizers are giving the monkeys a whole cake!

An organizer of the event explains the banquet and the Buddhist traditions. He says: "Every year there are a lot of people who come and help with the monkey banquet. We want people to help offer food to the monkeys. This is because these monkeys are part of our local Buddhist tradition."

What about this year's cake? Well, it's a very big one, and a lot of people help to make it. The festival organizer explains: "This year, we've made a cake that is four metres long for the monkey banquet. Fifty people worked to make this cake. We all wanted to find out if the monkeys liked the cake." Will the monkeys like the cake? Will they want to eat it all?

At last, the festival organizers give the monkeys the cake. They don't just like the cake, they love it! The people in Lopburi are very happy and this year's Monkey Party is a big success.

Maybe the people in Lopburi will receive good karma because they've treated the monkeys well and given them this beautiful cake. Maybe they won't. Either way, the people of this Thai town did learn one thing - if you want to have a great party for monkeys, give them cake!

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2. Picture Dictionary Page

Ff

fable

fables *noun*
a story, often with animal characters, that tries to teach us in an amusing way.

fabric

fabrics *noun*
cloth.

façade

façades *noun*
the front of a building.



■ say fa-sod

face

faces *noun*
the front of your head, where your nose, eyes, and mouth are.

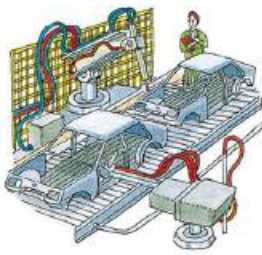


fact

facts *noun*
a piece of information that is known to be true.

factory

factories *noun*
a building where people make things using machines.



fade

fades fading faded *verb*
1 to lose color or strength.



The photograph was old and had faded.
2 to disappear slowly.
The music faded away.

fail

fails failing failed *verb*
to be unsuccessful at doing something.
He failed his driving test.
failure *noun*

faint

faint *adjective*
not very strong.
She heard a faint noise coming from the cupboard.

faint

faints fainting fainted *verb*
to become unconscious for a short time.



He fainted in the heat.
faint *noun*

fair

fair *adjective*
1 light in color.



Fair hair.

■ opposite **dark**
2 done in a way that is right and honest.

Everyone gets a fair share.

■ opposite **unfair**
3 dry and sunny.

Fair weather.

■ comparisons **fairer fairest**

fair

fairs *noun*
an outdoor event with stalls, competitions, games, and other entertainments.



fairy

fairies *noun*
a small, imaginary creature from stories. Fairies often have magical powers.



faith

faith *noun*
a strong feeling of trust in someone or something.
I have faith in my doctor.

faithful

faithful *adjective*
trustworthy or reliable.
A faithful friend.

fake

fake *adjective*
imitation, not real.



fake jewels
fake *noun*

falcon

falcons *noun*
a bird with a sharp beak and claws that is related to the eagle. Falcons are good hunters and can fly very fast. They eat birds, reptiles, and small mammals.



■ say fal-kun