



Learn English Through Stories

A Series

A56

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1. Uncle Ken's Jungle Adventure

Adapted from Ruskin Bond



A Car Ride to the Jungle

Uncle Ken is a funny man. He loves adventures. He drives Grandfather's old car. The car is small and noisy. Uncle Ken drives very fast. He goes 30 miles per hour. That is fast for the old car!

We go to the jungle. Uncle Ken wants to find a red jungle fowl. It is a special bird. The jungle is big and green. There are many animals. We see birds fly away. Pheasants and partridges run from the car. Uncle Ken laughs. "The birds are scared!" he says.

The car makes a loud noise. One door falls off. A bush gets stuck in the car's bumper. I say, "Uncle Ken, the car is broken!"

He smiles. "It's okay. It's an adventure!"

We arrive at a forest rest house. It is a small house in the jungle. A kind forest guard lives there. He gives us tea and pakoras. Pakoras are hot, tasty snacks. Uncle Ken eats many pakoras.

"Look!" says Uncle Ken. "Red jungle fowl!"

He points at some hens. They run fast.

I laugh. "No, Uncle Ken. Those are normal hens. They belong to the guard."

Uncle Ken looks sad. "Oh," he says.

The guard makes chicken curry for lunch. It is very good. I eat a lot. Uncle Ken eats a lot too. But we don't see the red jungle fowl.

Into the Jungle

Uncle Ken wants to find the red jungle fowl. "Let's go now!" he says.

The guard says, "No tigers here. Only elephants."

Uncle Ken is not scared. "I like elephants!" he says. "I ride elephants at the zoo."

We walk into the jungle. The guard walks in front. He knows the way. The path is small. There are trees and bamboo. Some branches are broken.

"Why are the branches broken?" asks Uncle Ken.

"Elephants," says the guard. "They eat leaves and bamboo."

We see deer. They have spots. We see pheasants. They have pretty feathers. But we don't see the red jungle fowl. Uncle Ken is not happy.

Night in the Jungle

At night, we sit outside the rest house. It is quiet. We hear elephants far away. They make a loud sound. Then we hear frogs. They sing by the river. Some frogs sound high. Some frogs sound low. It is like music.

Uncle Ken likes to sing. He sings a loud song. The frogs stop singing. They are quiet. But then we hear jackals. They howl. It is a scary sound. All the animals run away.

"No animals tonight," I say.

Uncle Ken stops singing. "Oh," he says.

The Next Day

In the morning, we walk in the jungle again. We look for the red jungle fowl. We walk a long time. My legs are tired. Uncle Ken is tired too.

We go back to the rest house. Uncle Ken sees a bird. It is red and gold. "A red jungle fowl!" he shouts.

I look. "No, Uncle Ken. That's the guard's rooster."

Uncle Ken is sad again. "No red jungle fowl," he says.

Uncle Ken wants to go home. "No more jungle," he says. "Let's go to the city."

It starts to rain. The rain is light at first. Then it is heavy. The road is wet.

The Elephant on the Bridge

We drive to a small bridge. The bridge goes over a river. The river is called Suseva. The rain makes the river big.

There is an elephant on the bridge! It is big. It has long tusks. It looks angry. Uncle Ken blows the car's horn. The horn is loud.

"Oh no!" I say. "Don't do that!"

The elephant does not like the horn. It makes a loud sound. It walks toward us. Uncle Ken is scared. He drives the car backward.

"Is there another road?" he asks.

"Yes," I say. "A small road goes to Kansrao station."

"Good!" says Uncle Ken. "To the station!"

He turns the car. The road is very wet. Water is everywhere. Uncle Ken drives fast. The car shakes.

"Look!" I say. "More elephants!"

Two elephants come out of the trees. They are big. They walk behind us.

"Elephants behind us!" I say.

Uncle Ken drives faster. "One, two, three elephants!" he says.

"Now four!" I say. The elephants are close. I am scared.

At Kansrao Station

We see the station. It is small. Uncle Ken stops the car. We run to the station. The elephants are behind us.

The stationmaster sees us. His name is Abdul Ranf. He is kind. "Come inside!" he says. "You are safe here."

We go into a small room. The room has a steel gate. The elephants cannot come in.

We look out the window. The elephants find the car. One elephant pushes the car. The car falls over. Another elephant steps on it. The car is broken. It is flat!

"Oh no!" says Uncle Ken. "Grandfather's car!"

The stationmaster smiles. "I know a scrap dealer in Doiwala," he says. "I can give you his name."

"How do we go home?" asks Uncle Ken.

"Take the train," says the stationmaster. "The Dehra Express comes soon. It stops here. It goes to Dehradun. It is fast. Only half an hour."

He gives us tickets. "Two rupees each," he says. "Very cheap. And the tickets have insurance. If you fall from the train, you get two lakh rupees!"

Uncle Ken's eyes are big. "Fall from the train?" he asks.

"Yes," says the stationmaster. "But it must be real. No tricks!"

Uncle Ken thinks. "No," he says. "I don't want to fall."

Back Home

We take the train. It is fast. We arrive in Dehradun. We take a pony cart to our house. The house is warm. Granny and Grandfather are there.

"Where is my car?" asks Grandfather.

Uncle Ken looks at me. "It had an accident," he says. "It is at Kansrao station. I will get it later."

I am hungry. "I want food," I say.

Granny smiles. "I have dinner," she says. "It is special. A friend sent us a jungle fowl. I made a roast. It has apple sauce."

Uncle Ken is happy. "Jungle fowl!" he says. He runs to the table.

Granny gives me a chicken leg. She gives Grandfather a chicken leg too. She takes the breast. Uncle Ken gets the neck. It is small and thin.

Uncle Ken looks at his plate. "Only the neck?" he says.

Granny smiles. "Yes," she says. "But wait, Ken. I have good news!"

Uncle Ken looks up. "Good news?" he asks.

"Yes," says Granny. "My friend knows a man. He sells cars. He has a new car for you. It is shiny and red. He will give it to you for a good price!"

Uncle Ken's face is bright. "A new car?" he says. "Shiny and red?"

"Yes," says Granny. "You can drive it tomorrow!"

Uncle Ken smiles big. He eats the neck. He is happy. "A new car!" he says. "My next adventure!"

I laugh. Uncle Ken is funny. The jungle adventure is over. But Uncle Ken is ready for more.

2. Comprehension Questions and Answers

Question 1: What does Uncle Ken want to find in the jungle?

Question 1: What happens to the car door on the way to the jungle?

Question 3: Who gives Uncle Ken and the narrator tea and pakoras?

Question 4: Why does Uncle Ken think the hens are red jungle fowl?

Question 5: What animals do they see in the jungle?

Question 6: Why do the frogs stop singing at night?

Question 7: What blocks the bridge when Uncle Ken drives back?

Question 8: Where do Uncle Ken and the narrator go after seeing the elephants?

Question 9: What happens to Grandfather's car at the station?

Question 10: What good news does Granny tell Uncle Ken at the end?

Answers

Answer 1: Uncle Ken wants to find a red jungle fowl.

Answer 2: The car door falls off.

Answer 3: The forest guard gives them tea and pakoras.

Answer 4: He thinks the hens are red jungle fowl because they are red and run fast.

Answer 5: They see deer and pheasants.

Answer 6: The frogs stop singing because Uncle Ken sings loudly.

Answer 7: An elephant blocks the bridge.

Answer 8: They go to Kansrao station

Answer 9: The elephants push and step on the car, and it breaks.

Answer 10: Granny says a man will sell Uncle Ken a new, shiny red car for a good price.

3. Grammar

Question 1: Verb Tense (Present Simple)

What does Uncle Ken do when he sees the hens?

- A) He laugh.
- B) He laughs.
- C) He laughing.

Question 2: Articles (A/An)

What does Uncle Ken want to find in the jungle?

- A) A red jungle fowl.
- B) An red jungle fowl.
- C) Red jungle fowl.
- A) Elephant.
- B) Elephants.
- C) An elephant.

Question 4: Prepositions

Where do Uncle Ken and the narrator go after the car is broken?

- A) To Kansrao station.
- B) In Kansrao station.
- C) On Kansrao station.

Question 5: Adjectives

How is the car described when Uncle Ken drives it?

- A) Small and noisy.
- B) Small and noise.
- C) Small and quiet.

Answers

Answer 1: B) He laughs.

Explanation: The story says, "Uncle Ken laughs." The correct verb form in present simple for "he" is "laughs."

Answer 2: A) A red jungle fowl.

Explanation: The story uses “a red jungle fowl.” We use “a” before a consonant sound, and “red” starts with a consonant sound.

Question 3: Plural Nouns

What animals do Uncle Ken and the narrator see on the bridge and later behind the car?

Answer: B) Elephants.

Explanation: The story mentions “an elephant on the bridge” and later “more elephants” behind the car, so the plural form “elephants” is correct.

Answer 4: A) To Kansrao station.

Explanation: The story says they go “to Kansrao station.” The preposition “to” is used for direction toward a place.

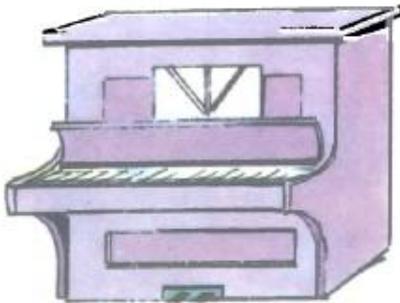
Answer 5: A) Small and noisy.

Explanation: The story describes the car as “small and noisy.” “Noisy” is the correct adjective, meaning it makes a lot of sound.

4. Picture Dictionary

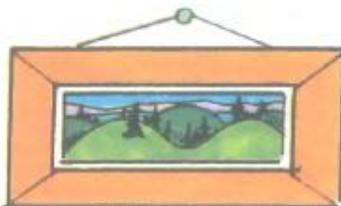


pianist A person who plays a piano.
(पीएनिस्ट) पियानो वादक.



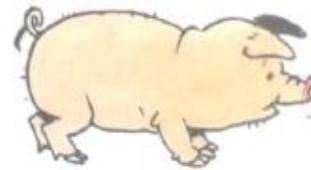
piano A musical instrument. You hit the black and white keys to make the sound. एक प्रकार का बाजा.
(पीएनो)

piccolo A musical instrument like a small flute. A piccolo makes a very high sound.
(पिकलो) छोटी बाँसुरी.



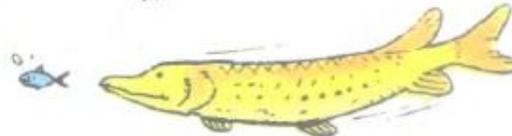
picture A drawing, painting or photograph. Sometimes you hang a picture on the wall. चित्र; तस्वीर.
(पिक्चर)

pie Something you eat made with pastry on the outside and fruit or meat in the middle. पेट्टा; गुजिया.
(पाई)



pig An animal which is kept on a farm. When we eat pig we call it pork.
(पिग) सूअर.

pigeon A bird which can be wild or tame. Pigeons are clever and can find their way home from a long way away. कबूतर.
(पिजन)



pike A rather fierce fish found in rivers. नुकीले मुँह वाली मछली.
(पाईक)

pill A small ball which is medicine. A pill is small enough to swallow. दवाई की गोली; दवाई की टिकिया.
(पिल)



pillar A wooden or stone post which helps to hold up a building. स्तम्भ;
(पिलर)