



Learn English Through Stories

A Series

A58

**Adapted and modified by
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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1. Who Did Paali's Homework?

Adapted from CBSE Class 6

Paali was a young boy. He did not like homework. "It's boring!" he said. He played hockey with his friends. He played football in the park. He played video games at home. His teachers said, "Paali, do your homework! If you don't, you won't learn." Sometimes, Paali felt silly. He didn't know many things. But he hated homework.

One day, Paali was coming home from school. He saw a hawker on the street. The hawker carried a large basket of mangoes. Suddenly, the hawker fell. The basket dropped. Mangoes rolled everywhere! Paali ran to help. He picked up the mangoes. He put them back in the basket. The hawker smiled. "Thank you, boy," he said. "You are kind. Take this mango as a reward." Paali took the mango. He felt happy. He ate the sweet mango at home.

The next day, Paali saw his cat. The cat was playing with a small toy. Paali took the toy away. It was not a toy! It was a tiny man. The man was very small. He had a red wool shirt. He wore old pants. He had a tall black hat. He looked scared. He said, "Help me! Don't give me to the cat! I will give you one wish!"

Paali was very happy. This was his chance! He said, "Okay, tiny man. You must do my homework for 35 days. Do it well. I want to get A's in school."

The tiny man's face looked sad. He kicked his small legs. He made an angry face. "Oh no!" he said. "I don't want to do homework. But I will do it."

The tiny man started Paali's homework. But there was a big problem. The tiny man didn't know many things. He needed help. "Paali, help me!" he shouted. When he read a book, he didn't know some words. "What is this word?" he asked. "Get a dictionary. Or read the word for me. Say each letter!" Paali found a dictionary. He read the words slowly. He helped the tiny man understand. When he taught the words, Paali learned them too.

Maths was very hard for the tiny man. "What are times tables?" he shouted. "Elves don't use them! What is addition? What is subtraction? What is division? What are fractions? Sit here, Paali. Help me!" Paali sat down. He showed the tiny man how to add numbers. He taught him how to subtract. He explained times tables. He drew pictures for fractions. Paali worked hard to teach. When he taught maths, he started to understand it better.

The tiny man didn't know history. "History is a mystery!" he said. "Go to the library, Paali. Get books. I need more books! Read them with me!" Paali went to the library. He got many books. He read with the tiny man. He

explained history. He talked about old kings, big wars, and faraway places. When Paali taught history, he learned it too.

Every day, the tiny man asked for help. Paali worked a lot. He stayed up late at night. He was very tired. His eyes were red. He felt sleepy at school. The tiny man was loud. He shouted, "Help me! Help me!" Paali thought, "This is hard work!" But something was happening. Paali was learning. His teacher saw him working. She said, "Paali, when you teach others, you learn best." Paali didn't understand yet. But he kept helping the tiny man.

One day, Paali's friend Kaaka saw him. Kaaka said, "Paali, why do you have so many books?" Paali said, "I'm teaching the tiny man. When I teach him, I learn too." Kaaka smiled. "That's true!" he said. "Teaching helps you learn."

Paali's sister saw him too. She said, "Paali, you look tired. Why do you work so much?" Paali said, "I help the tiny man with homework. I teach him, and I learn." His sister said, "Wow, Paali! Teaching is good for you."

Paali thought about the hawker. He helped the hawker, and he got a mango. Now he helped the tiny man, and he was learning. Helping others made good things happen.

Finally, the last day of school came. The tiny man was free. He didn't have to do homework anymore. Quietly, he left. He went out the back door. Paali never saw him again.

Paali got A's in school. His classmates were surprised. "How did you do it?" they asked. His teachers smiled. They said, "Good job, Paali!" His parents were amazed. They said, "What happened to Paali? He is different now!" Paali cleaned his room. He did his chores. He was happy and polite. He was like a new boy.

Paali thought the tiny man did his homework. But here's a secret: it wasn't the tiny man. Paali did the work! When he taught the tiny man, he learned everything. He read books. He studied words. He practiced maths. He learned history. Paali worked hard. That's why he got A's.

Paali learned something important. When you teach others, you learn best. He didn't know it at first. But helping the tiny man made him smart. He studied hard. He never gave up. Now, Paali liked to learn. He helped his friends with their homework. He told them about words and maths. Every time he taught them, he learned more.

Paali was proud. He wasn't silly anymore. He was a good student. He remembered the hawker and the mango. He remembered the tiny man.

Helping others made him better. And that's the story of Paali and his homework!

After some years, Paali emigrated to England. He earned his degree in Maths at Birmingham University and completed a PGCE at Warwick University. He then taught at colleges for 30 years. After taking early retirement from teaching, Paali decided to travel around the world.

2. Comprehension

Question 1: Why did Paali dislike homework at first?

Question 2: What did Paali do to help the hawker?

Question 3: What reward did the hawker give Paali?

Question 4: Who was the tiny man Paali found?

Question 5: What wish did Paali make to the tiny man?

Question 6: Why did the tiny man need Paali's help with homework?

Question 7: What did Paali learn by teaching the tiny man?

Question 8: What did Paali's teacher say about teaching others?

Question 9: Where did Paali study Maths for his degree?

Question 10: What did Paali do after retiring from teaching?

Answers

Answer 1: Paali found homework boring.

Answer 2: Paali picked up the mangoes that rolled out of the hawker's basket.

Answer 3: The hawker gave Paali a mango.

Answer 4: The tiny man was a small person playing with Paali's cat, wearing a red wool shirt and a tall black hat.

Answer 5: Paali wished for the tiny man to do his homework for 35 days and get A's.

Answer 6: The tiny man didn't know many things, like words, maths, and history.

Answer 7: Paali learned the homework material himself, including words, maths, and history.

Answer 8: She said, "When you teach others, you learn best."

Answer 9: Paali studied Maths at Birmingham University.

Answer 10: Paali travelled around the world.

3. Grammar

Question 1: Verb Tense (Past Simple)

Question: What is the correct past simple form of the verb "help" in this sentence: "Paali ___ the hawker pick up the mangoes."

- a) help
- b) helped
- c) helping

Question 2: Subject-Verb Agreement

Question: Choose the correct verb to complete this sentence: "The tiny man ___ sad when Paali asked him to do homework."

- a) was
- b) were
- c) is

Question 3: Articles (a/an)

Question: Which article is correct in this sentence: "Paali saw ___ tiny man."

- a) a
- b) an
- c) no article

Question 4: Plural Nouns

Question: What is the correct plural form of "mango" in this sentence: "The hawker dropped his ___."

- a) mango
- b) mangos
- c) mangoes

Question 5: Question Formation

Question: Which is the correct question form for this answer: "Paali helped the tiny man with homework."

- a) Who Paali helped with homework?
- b) Who did Paali help with homework?
- c) Who Paali did help with homework?

Answers

Answer 1: b) helped

Explanation: The story is in the past tense, and the correct past simple form of "help" is "helped." The sentence should read: "Paali helped the hawker pick up the mangoes." (Reference: "Paali ran to help. He picked up the mangoes.")

Answer 2: a) was

Explanation: The subject "The tiny man" is singular, so the singular verb "was" is correct. The story says, "The tiny man's face looked sad." (Reference: Past tense and singular subject.)

Answer 3: a) a

Explanation: Use "a" before a consonant sound. The word "tiny" starts with a consonant sound, so "a tiny man" is correct. (Reference: "It was a tiny man.")

Answer 4: c) mangoes

Explanation: The correct plural form of "mango" is "mangoes." The story says, "Mangoes rolled everywhere!" (Reference: The hawker's basket of mangoes.)

Answer 5: b) Who did Paali help with homework?

4. Picture Dictionary



plank A thick flat piece of wood. लम्बा (प्लंक) चौड़ा मोटा लकड़ी का तख्ता.

plaster A piece of material with sticky ends. You put plaster on a cut to stop it from getting dirty. दवाई की पट्टी.



plate A flat dish. You put your food on a plate. तश्तरी.



platform Part of the floor which is higher than the rest. You can also see a platform at a railway station. It is always higher than the railway lines. चबूतरा; मंच; रेलवे स्टेशन का चबूतरा; बस या रेल के दरवाजे पर वह खाली स्थान जहाँ से यात्री उतरते-चढ़ते हैं.

plug A piece of rubber or plastic you put in the hole in the sink to stop water from running away. डट्टी;



गुल्ली; टेपो; जिससे छेद आदि बन्द किया जाता है.

plug All electric machines have a plug on the end of the flex. This joins it to the electricity supply. धातु का दो या तीन पिना वाला उपकरण जिसे बिजली की पूर्ति करने के लिए साकेट के छेदों में लगाते हैं.



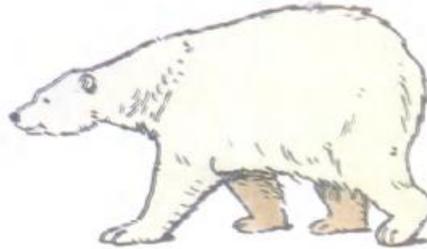
plum A soft juicy fruit with a stone in the middle. आलू बुखारा या बेर.



plumber A person who fixes water pipes. नल लगाने या ठीक करने वाला.



pocket A small bag fixed to your coat, trousers or dress. You can keep your money in a pocket. जेब; खीसा.



polar bear A large white bear. सफेद भालू.

(पोलर बेयर)



pole A long round stick. लम्बा पतला बाँस जिससे कूदने का खेल खेला जाता है.

(पोल)