



Learn English Through Stories.

B Series

B46

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# 1. Mr Pink-Whistle's Circus

Adapted from Enid Blyton

Eileen was a little girl who felt very excited. She was going to the circus! Her friend Mary and Mary's mother invited her to go with them. Eileen loved the circus. She wanted to see Lotta, a girl who rode a horse called Black Beauty. She wanted to see Jimmy and his clever dog, Lucky. She also wanted to see Jumbo, the big elephant, play cricket with his keeper. And she wanted to see Lillinut and his funny monkeys. "It will be so much fun!" Eileen said to her mother.

She counted the days until the circus day came. "Only three days left!" she said. Then, "Only two days!" Finally, the big day arrived. But when Eileen woke up, she felt bad. Her throat hurt. It was sore, and she coughed a lot. She didn't want to tell her mother because she was afraid she couldn't go to the circus. But Eileen always told the truth.

"Mother, my throat hurts a little," she said. "But it's not bad. I can still go to the circus, can't I?"

Mother looked at Eileen's throat. "Oh, darling," she said. "Your throat is very red and sore. You can't go out today. You must stay in bed. If you go, you might make Mary sick too."

Eileen was very sad. She started to cry. "It's not fair!" she said. "I was so excited for the circus! Why does this happen to me? Mary will go without me. Someone else will take my place. It's not fair!"

Mother felt sorry for Eileen. "I know it's hard," she said. "Sometimes things are not fair. But don't worry. I'll buy you a nice toy this afternoon while you sleep. You can play with it at tea-time."

Mother left the room. Eileen cried more, then she fell asleep. She didn't want breakfast. She didn't want lunch. Her throat hurt, and she felt miserable. In the afternoon, Mother tucked her into bed for a nap. "Rest now," Mother said. "I'm going to buy your surprise."

Eileen tried to sleep, but she couldn't. She kept thinking about Mary at the circus. "They're at the circus now," she thought. "They're sitting in the big tent. The band is playing. I'm missing everything!" She started to cry again. "It's not fair," she said. "I don't think it's fair at all."

At that moment, someone walked past Eileen's window. It was Mr Pink-Whistle! He was a kind little man who loved to help people. He was half-magic,

with green eyes and pointed ears like a fairy. When he heard Eileen crying, he stopped. "A little girl is sad," he said to himself. "I must help her."

Mr Pink-Whistle went to the front door. He pushed it, and it opened because of his magic. He walked up the stairs and into Eileen's bedroom. Eileen heard the door and looked up. She was surprised to see a man with green eyes and pointed ears.

"Hello," said Mr Pink-Whistle. "Why are you crying?"

Eileen wiped her tears. "I was going to the circus today," she said. "But my throat hurts, and I have to stay in bed. I'm so sad. Who are you?"

"I'm Mr Pink-Whistle," he said. "I like to help people. I like you, Eileen. You'd be very pretty if you didn't cry."

Eileen smiled a little. "I can't help crying," she said. "I really wanted to see the circus. You'd cry too if you missed it."

Mr Pink-Whistle thought for a moment. Then he smiled. "Would you like to see my circus?" he asked. "It's not as big as Galliano's Circus, but it's fun."

Eileen was confused. "How can I see a circus? I'm in bed."

"Easy!" said Mr Pink-Whistle. "My circus can come to your bed. It will perform right here! Put your legs flat, please. Your bed is the circus ring, and you are the audience. Clap when you see something good, okay?"

Eileen was excited. "Where's the circus?" she asked.

"Wait a minute," said Mr Pink-Whistle. He went to Eileen's nursery, where her toys were. He found a baby doll, a pink cat, a toy elephant, a boy doll, a sailor doll, teddy bears, a brown horse, a fairy doll, two monkeys, and toy soldiers. Mr Pink-Whistle rubbed a little magic on the toys. The magic made them come alive! He told them what to do, and they listened. Then he went back to Eileen's room.

"The circus is coming!" he said. "Listen to the band!"

First, the band came. The baby doll carried a musical box and turned the handle to play a happy tune. The pink cat played a little drum: rum-ti-tum, rum-ti-tum! They climbed onto Eileen's bed and played together. Eileen was amazed. "A band on my bed!" she said.

Next came the toy elephant, Jumbo, with a boy doll as his keeper. They climbed onto the bed too. Jumbo played cricket, just like the real elephant in the big circus. The boy doll threw a tiny ball, and Jumbo hit it with his trunk. Once, the ball hit Mr Pink-Whistle's nose with a loud ping! Eileen laughed and clapped. "That's so funny!" she said.

The band played again: rum-ti-tum, rum-ti-tum! Then the sailor doll came with all the teddy bears tied in a row. "The performing bears!" said Mr Pink-Whistle. The bears danced on the bed. They rolled, grunted, and growled. They had so much fun, and Eileen laughed. "My teddy bears are so clever!" she said. "I didn't know they could dance."

Then the brown horse galloped onto the bed. The fairy doll rode on its back. She looked beautiful! The fairy doll stood up on the horse and didn't fall. Then she stood on one leg while the horse galloped. Eileen clapped loudly. "That's amazing!" she said. "My fairy doll is so clever."

Next came the two toy monkeys. They grinned and jumped all over the room. They didn't stay on the bed. They swung from the lamp on the ceiling with their tails. They climbed on Mr Pink-Whistle, and he gave them bananas. The monkeys peeled the bananas and ate them. Eileen laughed. "My monkeys are so funny!" she said. "I love them."

Finally, the toy soldiers came. They rode little horses and galloped onto the bed. The band played a happy tune, and the horses danced in time to the music. They moved in a circle, just like horses in a real circus. Eileen clapped and clapped. "This is wonderful!" she said. "Mr Pink-Whistle, your circus is the best!"

Suddenly, Eileen heard the front door open. "That's Mother!" she said. "She's back with my surprise. Please stay, Mr Pink-Whistle. Let Mother see the circus too!"

"I'm sorry, Eileen," said Mr Pink-Whistle. "I can't stay. Your mother can't see me. I'm going to disappear now. Watch!"

Eileen watched. Mr Pink-Whistle seemed to melt away, like sugar in water. He was gone! But his voice came from the door. "Goodbye, Eileen," he said. "I'm happy you liked my circus. Do things feel fairer now?"

"Yes!" said Eileen. "Thank you, Mr Pink-Whistle!"

Mr Pink-Whistle went down the stairs. He opened the front door and left. Mother saw the door open and close by itself. She was very surprised because she couldn't see Mr Pink-Whistle. She went upstairs to Eileen's room.

As Mother came to the door, something strange happened. All the toys jumped off Eileen's bed and ran to the nursery. The monkeys, dolls, bears, and soldiers went back to their places. They looked like normal toys again. Mother couldn't believe her eyes. "Am I imagining this?" she thought. She looked in the nursery. All the toys were still and quiet.

Mother went to Eileen's room. "Eileen!" she said. "Look what I bought you—a little toy circus! Do you like it?"

Eileen smiled. "Yes, Mother, I love it!" she said. "But Mr Pink-Whistle's circus was the best of all."

Mother was confused. "Who's Mr Pink-Whistle?" she asked.

Eileen just smiled. She felt happy now. Her throat still hurt, but she didn't mind. She had seen a wonderful circus on her bed, with all her own toys. It was a special day after all.

And I think you would love Mr Pink-Whistle's circus too, wouldn't you?

## **2. Comprehension Questions and Answers**

Question 1: Why was Eileen excited at the beginning of the story?

Question 2: Why couldn't Eileen go to the circus?

Question 3: How did Eileen feel when she couldn't go to the circus?

Question 4: Who was Mr Pink-Whistle?

Question 5: Where did Mr Pink-Whistle's circus perform?

Question 6: What did the baby doll and pink cat do in the circus?

Question 7: What did the toy elephant do in the circus?

Question 8: What did the fairy doll do on the brown horse?

Question 9: What did Mother buy for Eileen?

Question 10: How did Eileen feel at the end of the story?

### **Answers**

Answer 1: Eileen was excited because she was going to the circus with Mary and Mary's mother.

Answer 2: Eileen couldn't go because she had a sore throat and had to stay in bed.

Answer 3: Eileen felt sad and cried because she thought it was not fair.

Answer 4: Mr Pink-Whistle was a kind, half-magic man with green eyes and pointed ears who liked to help people.

Answer 5: His circus performed on Eileen's bed.

Answer 6: The baby doll played a musical box, and the pink cat played a drum for the band.

Answer 7: The toy elephant played cricket with a boy doll.

Answer 8: The fairy doll stood up on the horse's back and stood on one leg while it galloped.

Answer 9: Mother bought Eileen a little toy circus.

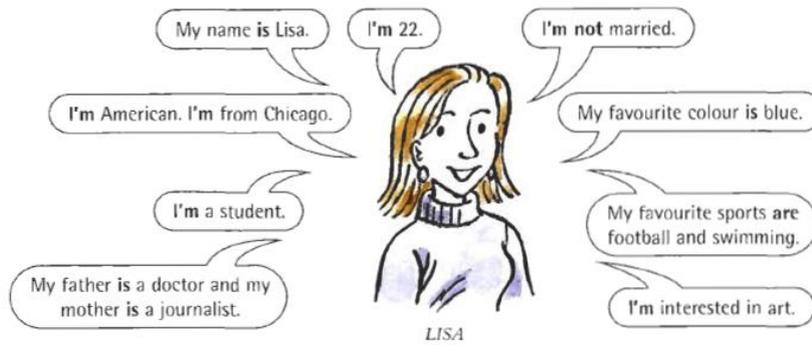
Answer 10: Eileen felt happy because she enjoyed Mr Pink-Whistle's circus.

# 3. Grammar

## Unit 1

### am/is/are

A



B

positive

I	<b>am</b>	(I'm)
he		(he's)
she	<b>is</b>	(she's)
it		(it's)
we		(we're)
you	<b>are</b>	(you're)
they		(they're)

short form

negative

I	<b>am not</b>	(I'm not)
he		(he's not or he isn't)
she	<b>is not</b>	(she's not or she isn't)
it		(it's not or it isn't)
we		(we're not or we aren't)
you	<b>are not</b>	(you're not or you aren't)
they		(they're not or they aren't)

short forms

- I'm cold. Can you close the window, please?
- I'm 32 years old. My sister is 29.
- Steve is ill. He's in bed.
- My brother is afraid of dogs.
- It's ten o'clock. You're late again.
- Ann and I are good friends.
- Your keys are on the table.
- I'm tired, but I'm not hungry.
- Tom isn't interested in politics. He's interested in music.
- Jane isn't a teacher. She's a student.
- Those people aren't English. They're Australian.
- It's sunny today, but it isn't warm.



C

that's = that is    there's = there is    here's = here is

- Thank you. That's very kind of you.
- Look! There's Chris.
- 'Here's your key.'    'Thank you.'

