



Learn English Through Stories.

B Series

B50

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## **Contents**

- 1. A Most Peculiar Bird**
- 2. Comprehension**
- 3. Grammar Page.**

# 1. A Most Peculiar Bird



## A Story for Charles

Peter and Betty were arguing. Their mother heard them and looked unhappy.

“Betty, you took it!” Peter said loudly. “I put it by the window!”

“I didn’t take it!” Betty answered. “You always say I take your things, but I don’t. You take my things!”

“You’re lying!” Peter shouted. “Tell me where my Red Indian hat is, or I’ll hit your dolls!”

Red Indian hat: A hat with colourful feathers, like the ones Native Americans wear in stories.

“Peter, stop!” Mother called. “Don’t talk like that. Your hat is probably on the floor. It’s very windy today. Maybe the wind blew it off the window.”

“No, Mother, I looked,” Peter said. “Betty was in my room. She took it!”

“I didn’t!” Betty shouted. She was angry. “I didn’t see your stupid hat!”

“It’s not stupid!” Peter said. “It’s beautiful. It has many coloured feathers. They go around my head and down my back. It’s the best hat in town! Right, Mother?”

Mother came into the room. “Stop arguing,” she said. “I don’t think Betty took it. Let me look for it. It’s just a small thing. Don’t make a big problem!”

Mother looked everywhere. She looked under the bed. She looked by the window. She looked on the floor. But she couldn’t find the hat. “It will come back,” she said. “Things like this don’t get lost forever.”

Betty looked at Peter with an angry face. Peter looked at Betty with an angry face.

“She hid it!” Peter thought. He didn’t want to play cards with Betty.

“He thinks I took it!” Betty thought. She turned away from Peter.

The morning was full of arguing. But in the afternoon, something exciting happened. Mother was sewing by the window. She was quiet. Suddenly, she heard the children shouting upstairs.

“Look at that!” Peter said.

“What is it?” Betty asked.

“It’s amazing! It’s colourful! Maybe it’s a rare animal or bird!”

Rare: Not common, very special.

Mother was curious. What were the children talking about? They ran to her, very excited.

“Mother! There’s something in the poplar tree!” Peter said.

“It’s full of colours!” Betty said. “We think it’s a rare bird!”

Poplar tree: A tall tree with thin branches.

Mother was surprised. She looked out the window. She saw the poplar tree in the garden. Near the top, there was something bright and colourful. She smiled a little.

“Oh my, it looks very unusual,” she said.

“Can we go see it?” Peter asked. “Mother, it might be a very rare bird! We should tell Mr Kenny next door. He loves birds!”

Next door: The house beside their house.

Mr Kenny was their neighbour. He was a bird expert. He loved watching birds and writing about them.

“I wouldn’t bother Mr. Kenny,” Mother said. But the children didn’t listen. They ran to the garden and shouted over the wall.

“Mr. Kenny! There’s a rare bird in our poplar tree!” Peter called.

“It’s very colourful!” Betty said. “Maybe it’s a bird of paradise! Or a parrot! Or a macaw! Maybe it’s lost and tired. It’s resting in our tree.”

Bird of paradise, parrot, macaw: Colourful birds from faraway places.

“Really?” Mr Kenny said. “That’s extraordinary! I’ll come in one minute.”

The children were so excited. They ran to the poplar tree and looked up.

“It has a long tail!” Betty said.

“It’s so beautiful,” Peter said. “I want to see its head, but it’s too high.”

“It’s not moving,” Betty said. “It’s not singing or making noise. Maybe it’s sleeping.”

“Let’s get a ladder,” Peter said. “If it’s asleep, we can catch it!”

They found a ladder in the garden. They put it against the tree. Just then, Mr Kenny arrived. He looked up at the tree. He saw the colourful thing. His eyes were wide.

“Amazing!” he said. “What is it? This is so exciting!”

Mr Kenny climbed the ladder carefully. He didn’t want to scare the bird. The children watched quietly. They held their breath.

Mr Kenny went higher and higher. He was close to the colourful thing. He touched its long, feathery tail. The bird didn’t move. It didn’t fly away. Mr Kenny pulled the tail a little. Still, it didn’t move.

Then, Mr Kenny came down the ladder fast. He jumped off and looked at the children. His face was not happy.

“Silly children!” he said. “This is a stupid trick! You wasted my time. I’m ashamed of you!”

He walked away quickly. The children were confused. Mr Kenny was never angry with them before.

“He left the bird in the tree!” Peter said.

“Why is he so mad?” Betty asked. “Peter, go up the ladder. I’ll come with you.”

Peter climbed the ladder. Betty followed him. Peter reached the colourful thing. He touched the long, bright tail. He pulled it.

Something fell from the tree! It wasn’t a bird. It was... Peter’s Red Indian hat!

The wind had blown the hat off the window that morning. It flew high into the poplar tree. It stayed there until Peter and Betty saw it in the afternoon.

“Betty! It’s my Red Indian hat!” Peter said. His face was red. “You didn’t take it. I’m sorry!”

“It’s okay,” Betty said. She wasn’t angry anymore. “But no wonder Mr Kenny was mad! He thought we played a trick!”

They ran to Mr. Kenny’s house to explain. “Mr. Kenny, we’re sorry!” Peter said. “We thought it was a bird, too. It was my hat! The wind blew it into the tree.”

Mr Kenny listened. Then he laughed. “I see!” he said. “I thought it was a very strange bird! The wind played a trick on all of us!”

“Yes,” Peter said. “And Betty and I argued about the hat this morning. I was wrong. Betty, you can wear the hat sometimes. Then we’ll always know where it is!”

Betty smiled. For the first time, she wore the Red Indian hat. She looked very nice in it.

The next day, Peter and Betty wanted to make sure the hat didn't get lost again. They decided to make a special box for it.

"Let's find a box in the house," Peter said.

"Okay," Betty said. "And we can decorate it!"

Decorate: To make something look pretty with colours or pictures.

They went to the kitchen. They found an old wooden box. It was big enough for the Red Indian hat.

"This is perfect!" Peter said.

"Let's paint it," Betty said.

They got some paint from the garage. They chose red, blue, and yellow—the same colours as the feathers on the hat. Peter painted a big feather on the top of the box. Betty painted small stars around the sides.

"It looks beautiful!" Betty said.

"Now the hat will be safe," Peter said.

They put the Red Indian hat in the box. They closed the lid carefully.

"Where should we keep it?" Betty asked.

"By the window," Peter said. "But not too close! We don't want the wind to take it again!"

Mother saw the box and smiled. "What a lovely idea," she said. "You two are working together nicely now."

"Yes," Peter said. "No more arguing!"

Betty nodded. "We're friends again."

Later, Mr Kenny came to visit. He wanted to see the hat.

"Show me your Red Indian hat," he said. "I want to see this 'bird' again!"

Peter opened the box. He took out the hat and gave it to Mr. Kenny.

"It's very colourful," Mr Kenny said. "No wonder we thought it was a bird!"

"Do you like birds, Mr. Kenny?" Betty asked.

"Oh, yes!" he said. "I have books about birds. Would you like to see them?"

The children went to Mr. Kenny's house. He showed them a big book with pictures of parrots, macaws, and birds of paradise.

"These birds are from faraway places," Mr Kenny said. "They have bright feathers, like your hat."

"I want to learn about birds," Peter said.

"Me too!" Betty said.

Mr Kenny gave them a small book about birds. "Read this," he said. "It's easy. You'll like it."

That evening, Peter and Betty sat together. They read the bird book. They learned about red parrots and blue macaws. They laughed about the "bird" in the tree.

"We were silly," Peter said.

"But it was fun!" Betty said.

From that day, Peter and Betty didn't argue about the hat anymore. They shared it. Sometimes Peter wore it. Sometimes Betty wore it. And they always kept it in the colourful box.

The wind never played a trick on them again.

## 2. Comprehension

Question 1: Why were Peter and Betty arguing in the morning?

Question 2: What is a Red Indian hat?

Question 3: What did Mother think happened to the hat?

Question 4: What did Peter and Betty see in the poplar tree?

Question 5: Who is Mr. Kenny?

Question 6: Why did Mr. Kenny climb the ladder?

Question 7: Why was Mr. Kenny angry with the children?

Question 8: What was the colourful thing in the tree?

Question 9: What did Peter and Betty make to keep the hat safe?

Question 10: What did Mr. Kenny give to Peter and Betty?

## **Answers**

Answer 1: Peter thought Betty took his Red Indian hat.

Answer 2: It is a hat with colourful feathers.

Answer 3: She thought the wind blew it off the window.

Answer 4: They saw something colourful and thought it was a rare bird.

Answer 5: Mr. Kenny is their neighbour who loves birds.

Answer 6: He wanted to see the rare bird in the tree.

Answer 7: He thought the children played a trick on him.

Answer 8: It was Peter's Red Indian hat.

Answer 9: They made a colourful box.

Answer 10: He gave them a small book about birds.

## 3. Grammar

### Unit 5

### I do/work/like etc. (present simple)

A



They have a lot of books.  
They **read** a lot.



He's eating an ice cream.  
He **likes** ice cream.

They **read** / he **likes** / I **work** etc. = the *present simple*:

I/we/you/they	<b>read</b>	<b>like</b>	<b>work</b>	<b>live</b>	<b>watch</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>have</b>
he/she/it	<b>reads</b>	<b>likes</b>	<b>works</b>	<b>lives</b>	<b>watches</b>	<b>does</b>	<b>has</b>

Remember:

**he works** / **she lives** / **it rains** etc.

- I **work** in a shop. **My brother works** in a bank. (*not* My brother work)
- Lucy lives** in London. **Her parents live** in Scotland.
- It rains** a lot in winter.

I **have** → he/she/it **has**:

- Joe has** a shower every day.

Spelling (→ Appendix 5):

<b>-es</b> after <b>-s</b> / <b>-sh</b> / <b>-ch</b> :	pass → <b>passes</b>	finish → <b>finishes</b>	watch → <b>watches</b>
<b>-y</b> → <b>-ies</b> :	study → <b>studies</b>	try → <b>tries</b>	
<i>also</i> :	do → <b>does</b>	go → <b>goes</b>	

B

We use the present simple for things that are true in general, or for things that happen sometimes or all the time:

- I **like** big cities.
- Your English is good. You **speak** very well.
- Tom **works** very hard. He **starts** at 7.30 and **finishes** at 8 o'clock in the evening.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.
- We **do** a lot of different things in our free time.
- It **costs** a lot of money to build a hospital.

C

**always/never/often/usually/sometimes** + present simple

- Sue **always gets** to work early. (*not* Sue gets always)
- I **never eat** breakfast. (*not* I eat never)
- We **often go** away at weekends.
- Mark **usually plays** football on Sundays.
- I **sometimes walk** to work, but not very often.