



Learn English Through Stories

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Grandpa Banta and His Saving Ways

Grandpa Banta was very careful with money. He liked to save every penny. He did not like to spend money.

He kept empty tins and boxes at home. He used them again. He put things inside them for storage. He also used them as rubbish bins.

Grandpa Banta did not eat out often. Eating in restaurants costs money. But sometimes he went to a restaurant. When he finished his meal, he asked for the leftover food. "Please pack this for me," he said. He took home even small pieces of food. He ate them later as snacks. Sometimes there were only bones and hard bits left. But he still wanted a bag. "For my dog," he told the restaurant staff. He smiled and said this every time. But Grandpa Banta did not have a dog. Pets cost a lot of money. Food for dogs, visits to the vet – all cost money.

Grandpa Banta never went to a hospital before. When he felt sick, he stayed at home. He took his own medicine. He made himself better without doctors. But one day, Grandpa Banta was eighty-eight years old. He felt very ill. He had to go to the hospital this time.

In the hospital, Grandpa Banta started his old habits. From the first day, the nurses gave him pills and medicine. He took some, but he hid many pills. Then he asked for more. "I did not get my pills," he said. He looked very serious. He lied easily. The next day, he asked for more things. "Please give me cough mixture," he said. "I need vitamins too. And plasters. And bandages." The nurses gave him what was safe. Every day, he asked for more. By the end of the week, his table drawers were full. He had many pills, medicines, vitamins, plasters, and bandages. It was enough for his cabinet at home.

Soon, it was time to go home. His grandson Jake came to the hospital. He came to fetch Grandpa Banta. In secret, Grandpa Banta gave Jake a big bundle. It had all the things from the drawers. Jake was worried. "Grandpa, the hospital will put this on the bill. You will have to pay for all these supplies."

They went to the counter. The lady there gave them the bill. It was long. It had a list of everything Grandpa Banta got. The medicines, the bandages – all were there. But at the bottom, there was a line that said "Discount". The cost for all the supplies was zero. They did not charge for them. Jake looked at the lady. He had a question in his eyes. The lady smiled. "Your grandpa made us laugh a

lot. On the first day, the nurses saw what he was doing. They told the matron. Everyone had a good laugh. Hospital work is hard. Laughter helps. So the matron said, 'Let him have the things. We can give them for free.'

Grandpa Banta smiled. He saved money again. And he made people happy, too.

Jake shook his head, laughing. "Grandpa, you're impossible. Come on, let's celebrate. I'm taking you out for a proper meal—my treat." He drove Grandpa Banta to a bustling Indian restaurant famous for its all-you-can-eat lunch buffet. A big sign at the entrance read: "Eat as much as you like. No doggy bags allowed."

Grandpa's eyes lit up like Diwali lights. "All I can eat? And no need to pack leftovers? This is perfect! I'll eat enough for three days—no cooking, no spending! "The spread was glorious: butter chicken, biryani, naan, paneer tikka, and in the centre, a steaming pot of fiery Madras curry, bright red and fragrant with chillies.

Grandpa attacked the buffet like a man on a mission. Plate after plate. He piled on rice, ladled extra gravy, and went back for seconds, thirds, fourths. But the Madras curry was the star—spicy, rich, and tongue-searing hot. "This is the best!" he declared, sweat beading on his forehead. "So tasty, so filling. One more serving and I won't need dinner... or breakfast... or lunch tomorrow! "Jake watched in alarm as Grandpa kept going. "Grandpa, slow down! That Madras curry is really hot—maybe take it easy. "But Grandpa waved him off. "Nonsense! Value for money, beta. I'm saving future meals."

By the time they left the restaurant, Grandpa was walking a little slower, patting his stomach proudly. "Excellent investment," he muttered. Halfway home, the investment began to revolt. First came the burp—loud and ominous. Then a rumble. Then a sharper pain. Grandpa clutched his belly. "Are, something is burning inside! "Minutes later, he was doubled over. "Jake! Hospital—quick! Different hospital this time!"

Jake sped to the nearest emergency room. Doctors rushed Grandpa in, shaking their heads at the diagnosis: acute spicy food overload. As they wheeled him away for antacids, cooling IV drips, and observation, Grandpa managed a weak grin from the stretcher. "Beta... next time... maybe just two plates. "Jake laughed through his worry. "We'll see about that, Grandpa. "God knows what

happens next—but one thing was certain: Grandpa Banta’s legendary saving ways had finally met their match in a pot of Madras curry.

Comprehension Questions

Question 1: Who is the main character in the story?

Question 2: What was Grandpa Banta very careful with?

Question 3: Did Grandpa Banta like to spend money?

Question 4: What did Grandpa Banta reuse at home?

Question 5: Why did Grandpa Banta ask for leftovers in restaurants?

Question 6: Did Grandpa Banta have a real dog?

Question 7: How old was Grandpa Banta when he went to the hospital?

Question 8: What did Grandpa Banta do with the pills in the hospital?

Question 9: Why did the hospital not charge for the extra supplies?

Question 10: Where did Jake take Grandpa Banta to celebrate?

Question 11: What kind of meal was it at the restaurant?

Question 12: What was Grandpa Banta’s favourite dish at the buffet?

Question 13: Was the Madras curry very hot?

Question 14: Why did Grandpa eat so much at the buffet?

Question 15: What happened to Grandpa on the way home?

Answers

Answer 1: The main character in the story is Grandpa Banta.

Answer 2: Grandpa Banta was very careful with money.

Answer 3: No, Grandpa Banta did not like to spend money.

Answer 4: Grandpa Banta reused empty tins and boxes at home.

Answer 5: Grandpa Banta asked for leftovers in restaurants to take them home and eat later, so he could save money.

Answer 6: No, Grandpa Banta did not have a real dog.

Answer 7: Grandpa Banta was eighty-eight years old when he went to the hospital.

Answer 8: In the hospital, Grandpa Banta hid some pills and asked for more.

Answer 9: The hospital did not charge for the extra supplies because Grandpa Banta made the staff laugh a lot.

Answer 10: Jake took Grandpa Banta to an Indian restaurant to celebrate.

Answer 11: It was an all-you-can-eat buffet meal at the restaurant.

Answer 12: Grandpa Banta's favourite dish at the buffet was the Madras curry.

Answer 13: Yes, the Madras curry was very hot.

Answer 14: Grandpa ate so much at the buffet to save money on meals for the next few days.

Answer 15: On the way home, Grandpa's stomach got upset and he felt very ill.