

Reading

with Fun

1

75 English Anecdotes with Practice for
Elementary & Pre-intermediate
Learners of English

Self-study and Classroom Use



In the name of God

1

READING

WITH
FUN

75 English
Anecdotes

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Abolfazl Hadinia

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They Are All The Same Size



Little Mary and her family live *in the country*¹, so they *seldom*² have guests. Mary's father works in an office in the city. He goes to work in the morning and usually comes back home at 4:00 in the afternoon.

One day Mary's father came home with two guests from the office. Mary liked to help her mother. She helped her mother cook dinner and bake a cake for the guests. When the dinner was finished, little Mary went to the kitchen and brought the first *piece*³ of the cake, and gave it to her father. Her father didn't eat the cake and *passed*⁴ it to a guest. Little Mary came in with a second piece of the cake and gave it to her father, who again gave it to the other guest.

Little Mary was surprised and said to her father, "It's no use, Dad. The pieces are all the *same*⁵ size."



A: Answer the following questions.

1. Where do Mary and her family live?
2. Do they usually have guests?
3. How many guests did they have?
4. How did Mary help her mother?
5. What did her father do with the pieces of the cake?

1 area outside towns and cities with fields, farms, etc.

2 not often

3 a small part

4 gave

5 not different

B: True or False?

- 1. Mary's father works in an office in the city.
- 2. Mary and her family had a lot of guests.
- 3. Mary brought the pieces of the cake one by one.
- 4. Some pieces of the cake were bigger than the others.
- 5. Mary's father didn't like small pieces of the cake.

C: Check the correct answer.

- 1- How often do Mary and her family have guests?
 - a. every day
 - b. never
 - c. sometimes
 - d. often
- 2- Little Mary helped her mother -----.
 - a. clean the kitchen
 - b. serve the dinner
 - c. serve the dessert
 - d. wash the dishes
- 3- Mary's father gave the first two pieces of the cake to the guests because -----.
 - a. he was full
 - b. they were small
 - c. he didn't like cakes
 - d. he wanted to be polite to his guests

D: Match the words with the pictures.

- the same size
- a piece of cake
- bake a cake
- surprised



E: Fill in the blanks with the words given.

guests, surprised, brought, the same, pieces

- 1. He cut the pizza into small -----.
- 2. She ----- her little son to the party.
- 3. She had invited a lot of ----- to her birthday party.
- 4. Her dress was just ----- as mine.
- 5. I was ----- that he didn't come to the party.

F: Food for thought: How do you say these proverbs in Persian?

- 1. It's a piece of *cake*.
- 2. You can't have your *cake* and eat it, too.

Would You Please Tie My Shoe!?



Sara went to a kindergarten near her house when she was 5 years old. One day she was going to kindergarten when one of her *shoelaces*¹ opened. She tried to tie it herself, but she couldn't. She looked *around*² and then she saw a policeman who was *passing*³ by her. Little Sara stopped him, looked up and down at his uniform and then asked, "Are you a police officer?"

"Yes," he answered.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that *right*⁴?"

"Yes, that's right," answered the policeman.

Sara put her foot up *towards*⁵ him and said, "Well, then, would you please tie my shoe?"



A: Answer the following questions.

1. How old was Sara when she went to kindergarten?
2. What happened on her way to kindergarten?
3. Who did she ask for help?
4. What did the little girl want the policeman to do?

1 a string that you tie to close a shoe

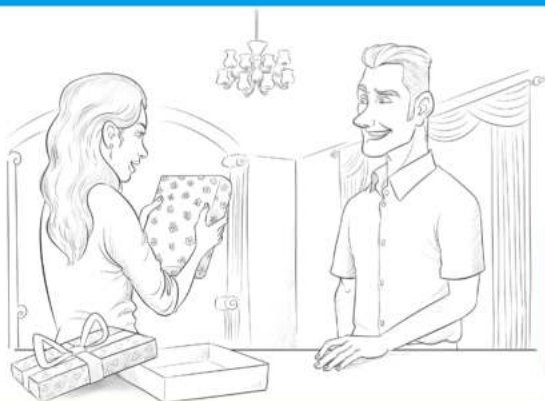
2 everywhere; here and there

3 going by

4 true

5 to

Meaning of Dreams



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When Lora woke up in the morning, her husband had finished his breakfast and was getting ready to go to work. Lora said, "Good morning, Mike." Then she smiled at her husband and said, "I had a nice *dream*¹ last night."

"Really! What did you dream?" her husband asked *eagerly*².

"I just dreamt that you gave me a gold necklace for my birthday. What do you think it means?"

"You will know tonight," he said with a smile.

That evening Mike came home with a small *package*³ and gave it to Lora. She became very happy, thanked her husband and quickly opened the package, but she was surprised when she found ... she opened it. It was a book. She read the *title*⁴. It was: 'The Meaning of Dreams.'



A: Answer these questions:

1. What was Mike doing when Lora woke up?
2. Did Lora and Mike have breakfast together?
3. What did she say to her husband?
4. What did Mike give his wife when he came home?
5. Why was Lora surprised?
6. What was the book about?

1 thoughts passing through the mind while we are asleep

2 with interest

3 box, bag, etc.

4 name

B: Check the correct answer:

1. What did Lora tell her husband when she woke up?
 - a. She told him about the dream she had had.
 - b. She told him what the dream meant to her.
 - c. She told him that it was her birthday.
2. Why did Lora tell the dream to her husband?
 - a. Because she didn't know what it meant.
 - b. Because she wanted to make her husband happy.
 - c. Because she wanted to have a gold necklace.
3. Lora was happy when her husband gave her a package because-----.
 - a. he had bought her a book
 - b. she thought there was a necklace in the package
 - c. her husband had remembered her birthday
4. Mike bought the book for his wife because -----.
 - a. she had told him to buy it
 - b. she wanted to know what the dream meant
 - c. it was much cheaper than the necklace

C: Match the words with the pictures.

dream

necklace

title

package



D: Find words in the story for the following definitions:

1. You wear it around your neck. It is usually made of gold. -----
2. The day of the year on which you were born. -----
3. The name of a book, a play, a picture, etc. -----
4. A box, bag, etc. in which things are wrapped or packed. -----

E: Food for thought. How do you say these proverbs in Persian?

1. An ass is but an ass, though laden with *gold*.
2. Speech is silver but silence is *gold*.
3. All that glitters is not *gold*.

A Story about Einstein



Albert Einstein was a great *physicist*¹. He was born in Germany, but he lived in the United States. Einstein was one of the greatest scientists who ever lived, but he sometimes forgot small things.

Once he was invited to give a speech in a university in another city. He decided to go by train. A week later, he was travelling there on a train when the ticket *controller*² entered the *compartment*³ to check the tickets. All the *passengers*⁴ in the compartment showed their tickets *except*⁵ Einstein who couldn't find his. Looking carefully, the ticket controller knew Einstein at once, and said politely, "Mr. Einstein, I know who you are, and I'm sure that you have bought the ticket, so you don't have to show it to me."

Einstein, who was still searching his pockets for the ticket, turned to the man and said, "Oh, it's kind of you, but I still have to find the ticket."

The ticket controller was surprised and said, "I'm telling you Mr. Einstein, you needn't show me the ticket? Why do you want to find it?"

"Because I want to know where I'm going to get off," said Einstein.



- 1 a scientist who studies physics
- 2 a person who checks tickets on buses or trains
- 3 a small room in a train
- 4 travelers
- 5 but

A: Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Einstein?
2. Where was Einstein going? Why was he going there?
3. What did the ticket controller ask the passengers for?
4. What did he say to Einstein when he knew him?
5. What did Einstein answer?

B: Check the correct answer.

1. The ticket controller was surprised because Einstein -----.
 - a. hadn't bought a ticket
 - b. had lost his ticket
 - c. kept looking for the ticket
 - d. said that he had to find the ticket
2. We can say from the story that Einstein -----.
 - a. was originally from Germany
 - b. forgot things easily
 - c. always travelled by train
 - d. is the greatest scientist who have ever lived

C: Match the words with the pictures.

- give a speech compartment physicist ticket controller



D: Find words in the story which mean:

1. most important -----
2. talk -----
3. came into -----
4. travelers -----
5. immediately -----
6. certain -----

E: Fill in the blanks with the words given.

speech, passengers, compartment, university, check, except

1. We couldn't find any empty -----.
2. We work every day ----- Friday.
3. The president made a ----- on television last night.
4. ----- that all the windows are closed before you leave.
5. My sister is at ----- studying physics.
6. The new airplane can carry more than 500 -----.