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Stay Home Reader

Stories for Fun and Skills



VIVA EDUCATION



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HOW THIS BOOK WILL HELP YOU

Staying home and practising social distancing are simple yet decisive ways in which we all contribute to the epic battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. School closure is indeed the heavy price students and teachers have to pay as a result. However, this is no reason for learning to stop. As a committed provider of educational content, Viva Education has taken extraordinary steps to make learning accessible to every student via online means. We have released the vast range of online learning material on VivaDigital.in to learners and educators for unrestricted use.

Continuing this effort, we are proud to present our *Stay Home Readers* for classes 1 to 8, which have been specially compiled for home learning and remote teaching. Engagement is the key to better home learning, and this series adopts the route of stories to effective language-skill building. The content is enjoyable, stimulating and requires hardly any teacher supervision. We wish you safety and good health as you enjoy learning with these readers.

1

What a Fright!



Tom was on holiday at the seaside. He loved to play on the sands. One day he was tired and sat on a chair.



Suddenly he saw a ship sailing into the bay. The flag was the Jolly Roger. Tom knew that it was a pirate ship.



Soon after, a few boats came ashore. Three pirates jumped out and quickly caught him. They put him into the boat and went back to the big ship.





Tom was taken before the pirate chief. He looked very fierce and cruel. He gave orders that Tom must walk the plank.





A big plank was put over the side of the ship. They made Tom walk on it. After two steps he fell into the sea.



Splash! Tom woke up in the water. The pirates were all a dream. The tide had come in and upset his chair.

□ Do You Remember?

1. Where was Tom on holiday?
2. Why did he sit on the chair?
3. What kind of ship did he see?
4. How many pirates came ashore?
5. What did they do to Tom?
6. What kind of man was the pirate chief?
7. What orders did he give?
8. Where did Tom wake up?
9. What had really happened?

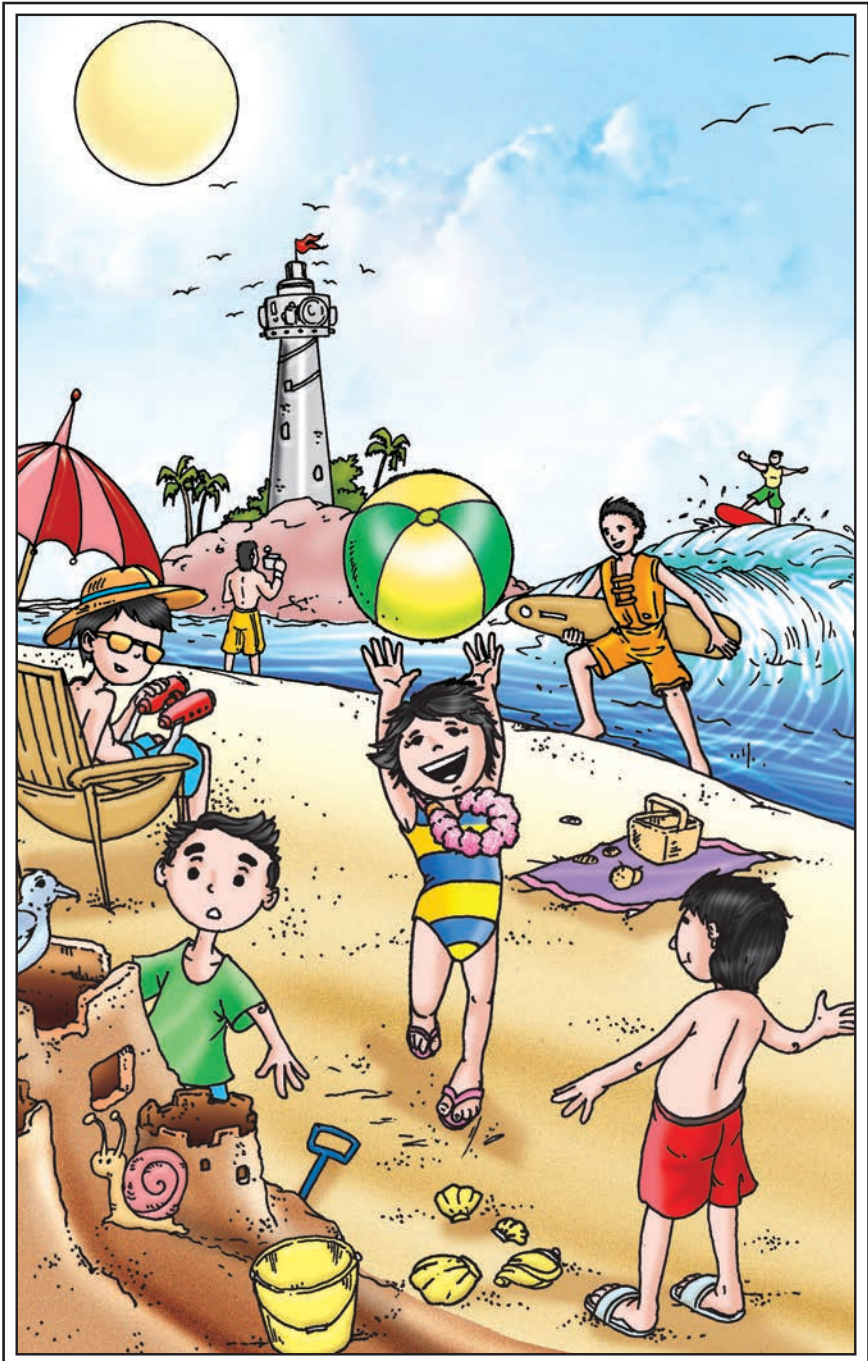
□ Can You Tell?

1. What games can you play on the beach?
2. What kinds of toys do you use?
3. What kinds of boats do you see?
4. What birds fly around the shore?
5. What is a lighthouse?
6. What is a: (a) beach (b) pier (c) tide?
7. What do you enjoy doing on the beach?
8. Is the sea always the same?

□ Exercises

1. (a) Why should you be very careful when:
 - i. wading in the sea?
 - ii. walking on a pier?

At the Beach



- iii. exploring caves?
 - iv. sailing in a boat?
- (b) Why should you not go near:
- i. big rocks?
 - ii. steep cliffs?
 - iii. soft quicksands?
 - iv. living jellyfish?
2. (a) Write correctly.
- i. the boy threw a stone in the water
 - ii. once upon a time there lived a cruel king
 - iii. john and molly are coming on friday
 - iv. both harry and nan became seven years old in august
- (b) Use **a** or **an**.
- i. She gave ___ coin to ___ old beggar.
 - ii. On ___ chair lay ___ empty box.
 - iii. There was ___ knife and ___ fork on the table.
 - iv. We saw ___ eagle and ___ ostrich at the animal park.
3. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from those given below.
- hat shoes ring scarf gloves
- (a) He wore _____ on his feet.
- (b) She wore a _____ round her neck.

- (c) He wore _____ on his hands.
 - (d) She wore a _____ on her head.
 - (e) She wore a _____ on her finger.
4. Fill in the blanks using the correct words.

in on under between over

- (a) The aeroplane flew _____ the mountain.
 - (b) Susha kept her book _____ the desk.
 - (c) Nalin put the coin _____ a box.
 - (d) Who is sitting _____ Alex and Fatima?
 - (e) Never stand _____ a coconut palm.
5. Write the **plurals** of:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| (a) chair | (b) pirate |
| (c) puppy | (d) sheep |
| (e) man | (f) teacher |

2

The Three Wishes



Once there was a woodcutter who lived with his wife in a hut near a forest. One day he sharpened his axe and set out to cut down some branches for his winter firewood.

As he entered the forest he heard a sudden call for help. The woodcutter rushed to the rescue and quickly reached the spot. He found a tiny old man caught among the thorny bushes. The woodcutter cut away some branches with his axe and set him free.

In return for his kindness, the tiny old man said, "I know that you are poor, and I want to help you. I will give you three wishes. Wish for anything that you please and you shall have it."



Without waiting to cut his firewood, the woodcutter hurried home. When he reached the hut, he told the good news to his wife.

“Oh, how wonderful!” she said. “Let us sit down and think of the lovely things we can have with our wishes.”



“I am very hungry,” said the woodcutter. “We can talk about our good luck while we eat.”

As soon as the dinner was ready, they sat at the table and began to eat and talk.

“We can wish for plenty of money,” said the woodcutter.

“We can ask for a house like a palace,” said his wife.

“We can wish to be king and queen,” said the husband.

“We can wish for rich clothes and jewels,” said his wife.

They could not make up their minds about what to ask for first. Then the man said, “This dinner is not very good. I wish I had a nice big sausage to eat with this bread.”

As soon as he spoke, a large sausage appeared on the table.





His wife was very angry and kept scolding him. “You silly man! You have wasted one of the wishes! How could you be so stupid? Oh! I wish the sausage was sticking to your nose!”

As soon as she said these words, the sausage jumped up and stuck to his nose. In vain they tried to pull it off.

It was the man’s turn to be angry. “You silly woman!” he cried. “Why did you make such a wish? I cannot go about with a sausage hanging to my nose! I wish the sausage would go back to the table.”

The sausage suddenly dropped to the table. The woodcutter and his wife looked sadly at each other. The three wishes were gone and they were still as poor as ever.

□ Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of the story?
2. Who lived in a hut near a forest?
3. Why did the woodcutter go out with his axe?
4. Who was caught among the thorn bushes?
5. What did the little man say when he was free?
6. To whom did the woodcutter tell the good news?
7. What did they talk about at dinner?
8. Why did the sausage appear on the table?
9. What did his wife say?
10. What happened next?
11. What did the woodcutter say?
12. Why did they look sadly at each other?

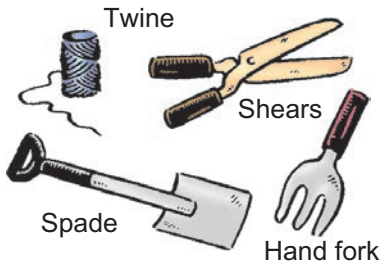
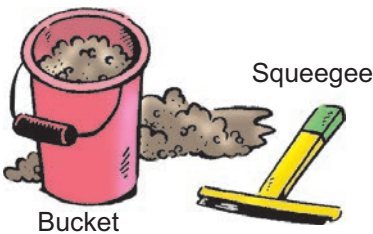
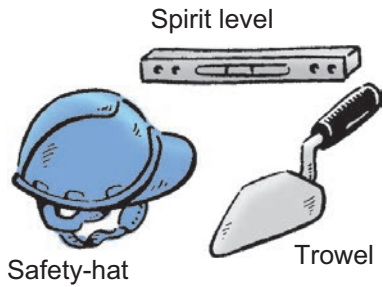
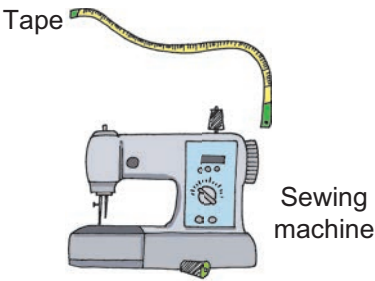
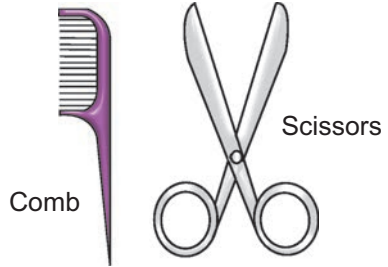
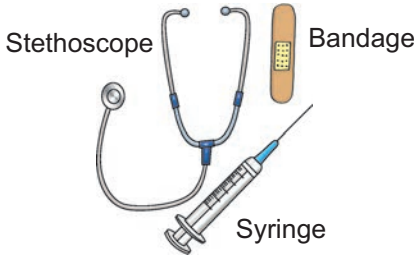
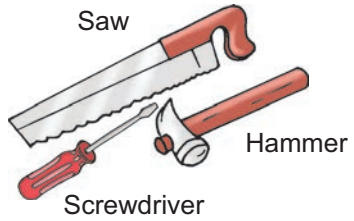
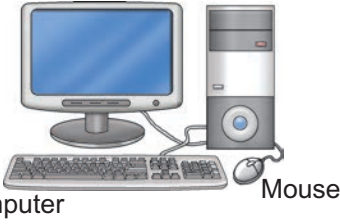


□ Can You Tell?

Write who uses at his work:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| (a) a saw | (b) an anvil |
| (c) a brush | (d) a pair of shears |
| (e) weighing scales | (f) a pair of scissors |
| (g) a chopper | (h) an axe |
| (i) a safety lamp | (j) a flat trowel |

Working Tools



□ Exercises

1. spade, axe, knife, hammer, saw, sponge, key, brush
 - (a) He cut the bread with a _____.
 - (b) He locked the door with a _____.
 - (c) He dug the ground with a _____.
 - (d) He hit the nail with a _____.
 - (e) He washed the car with a _____.
 - (f) He chopped down the tree with an _____.
 - (g) He painted the walls with a _____.
 - (h) He cut through the plank with a _____.
2. A **noun** is the **name** of anything.
Pick out the **name words**.
 - (a) Cows eat grass.
 - (b) The girl wrote a letter.
 - (c) The child dropped the doll on the floor.
 - (d) After supper, the children went to bed.
 - (e) The parcel came from Paris in France.
 - (f) Hens lay eggs.
 - (g) A boy kicked the ball.
 - (h) The man lit the candle with a match.
 - (i) The hunters saw a fire near the cave.
 - (j) Next Sunday will be the last day of April.
3. What colours are they?
sugar, blood, soot, butter, sky, tar, milk, moon

3

How Many Crows?

Emperor Akbar was a good and kind king who ruled the land many years ago. His favourite minister was Birbal, who was dearly loved by all because of his ready wit and wisdom.

One evening, when Akbar and Birbal were on their daily walks in the palace gardens, they noticed a host of crows sitting on the tree branches and cawing loudly. Watching them, Akbar thought out loud, “How many crows are there in my kingdom?”

Birbal readily answered, “There are ninety-five thousand four hundred and sixty-three crows in your kingdom.”





Amazed at his quick response, Akbar asked, “What if there are more crows than your answer?”

Without hesitation, Birbal replied, “Then some crows must be visiting from neighbouring kingdoms.”

“And what if there are fewer crows?” asked Akbar, smiling.

“Then some crows from our kingdom must have gone on vacation to other parts,” Birbal answered.

Emperor Akbar realized that he could not outwit Birbal easily and both returned to the palace laughing happily.

□ Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of the story?
2. Who was Akbar?
3. Who was Birbal?
4. When were they walking?
5. Where were they walking?
6. What did they notice?
7. What were the crows doing?
8. What did Akbar think out loud?
9. What was Birbal's answer?
10. What did Emperor Akbar realize?

□ Can You Tell?

1. What kind of a king was Akbar?
2. Why was Birbal loved dearly?
3. How often did Akbar and Birbal take walks?
4. What colour is a crow?
5. What is a raven?
6. Where do you see crows?
7. What does a crow eat?

□ Exercises

1. (a) A crow is a _____ (carnivore/omnivore/herbivore).
(b) A crow has _____ (webbed feet/cloven hooves/claws).

- (c) A crow has a coat of _____
(feathers/scales/fur).
 - (d) A crow lives in a _____ (nest/
burrow/cave).
 - (e) A baby crow is called a _____
(calf/gosling/chick).
 - (f) A crow _____ (chirps/mews/
caws).
 - (g) A crow has _____ (two/four/six)
legs.
2. The proper names of **people** and **places** should always start with a **capital letter**. Write correctly:
- (a) maya chen, anita, faruq ali, alex taylor
 - (b) president obama, prime minister lee hsien loong, emperor akbar, prince charles
 - (c) singapore, delhi, dhaka, colombo
 - (d) india, bangladesh, china, pakistan
3. Give the **opposites** of: up, big, bad, top, sad, wide, thick, cruel, lost, buy.
4. We often see the **two together**.
- (a) bat and b ___ _ l
 - (b) needle and t ___ _ _ _ d
 - (c) book and s ___ _ _ _ f
 - (d) pen and i ___ k
 - (e) lock and k ___ y

4

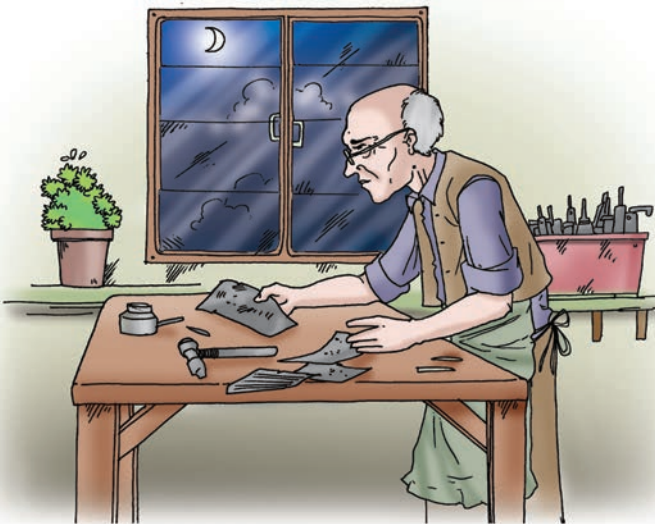
The Elves and the Shoemaker



Long, long ago, there lived a shoemaker and his wife. They were honest and hardworking. They were also kind to those who needed help.

Times were hard and work was very scarce. The shoemaker became poorer and poorer until he had no food and no money. All he had left was just enough leather to make one pair of shoes.

One evening, the shoemaker cut out the shoes, all ready to make the next day. He left the pieces of leather on the table. Tired and weary, he went to bed.



In the morning, the shoemaker rose early to start work on the shoes. To his great surprise, he found that they were already made and standing side by side on the table. He picked them up and looked at them very carefully. They were so well done that he could not find one single bad stitch in them.

That same morning a man came in to buy a pair of shoes. When he saw how well they were made, he paid the shoemaker a good price. The shoemaker was now able to buy leather for two pairs. Again he cut them out in the evening, meaning to rise early the next day to finish them.

There was no need, for in the morning two lovely pairs of shoes stood on the table.

These shoes were soon sold and the shoemaker bought leather for four pairs. He cut them out at night and laid out the pieces as before. When he came down



in the morning, the shoes were finished and ready for sale.

This went on day after day. So good was his trade that the shoemaker soon became very rich.

One evening just before Christmas, he said to his wife, "My dear, I would like to find out who is helping us. Let us sit up tonight and watch."

That evening, they hid themselves in a corner of the workshop. At midnight, two little elves came running into the room. They climbed up on the table and took up the pieces of leather. Then they began to stitch and sew and hammer.

They worked so well and so fast that, in a short time, all the shoes were done. As soon as they were finished, they jumped off the table and ran away.

Next morning, the shoemaker said to his wife, "Those little elves have been very kind to us. What can we do to show our thanks?"



“I have a good idea,” said his wife. “It is very cold and I will make them warm clothes. You can make them nice little shoes.”

When everything was ready, the shoemaker and his wife laid the clothes and the shoes on the table. Then they hid to see what the little elves would do. At midnight they came running into the room, ready to begin work. Instead of pieces of leather, they saw the pretty little clothes and shoes. They shouted with joy and put them on. Soon after they left singing and dancing.

Everything went well with the kind shoemaker and his wife. They were rich and happy for the rest of their lives.

Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of the story?
2. What kind of people were the shoemaker and his wife?
3. Why did the shoemaker become very poor?
4. What was all he had left?
5. What did he do before going to bed?
6. What did he find in the morning?
7. What did he do on the next evening?
8. What did he find on the following morning?
9. What did the shoemaker say to his wife?
10. What did they see when they sat up to watch?
11. How did they show their thanks?

12. What happened to the kind shoemaker and his wife?

Can You Tell?

1. A **shoemaker** is a man who makes and mends shoes. Give a sentence about each of the following.

- (a) a chimney sweep
- (b) a house painter
- (c) a gardener
- (d) a joiner
- (e) a plumber
- (f) a baker
- (g) a butcher
- (h) a grocer

2. A **shop assistant** is a person who sells things in a shop. Give a sentence about each of the following.

- (a) a waitress
- (b) a hairdresser
- (c) a florist
- (d) a chemist
- (e) a cook
- (f) a dressmaker
- (g) a nanny
- (h) an office assistant

Exercises

1. Fill in the blanks using the correct options.

sheep coal letters
pictures luggage suits

- (a) A postman brings _____.
- (b) A shepherd watches _____.
- (c) An artist paints _____.

Occupations



Painter



Doctor



Engineer



Chef



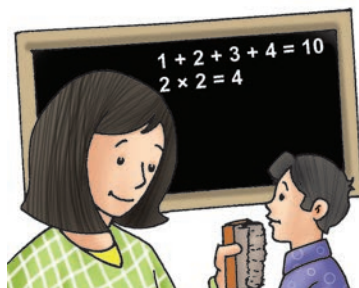
Plumber



Greengrocer



Joiner



Teacher

Occupations



Florist



Scientist



Gardener



Nanny



Waitress



Hairdresser



Secretary



Shop Assistant

- (d) A miner digs for _____.
- (e) A tailor makes _____.
- (f) A porter carries _____.

2. Put **was** or **were** in the spaces.

- (a) _____ the dresses pretty?
- (b) _____ the stone heavy?
- (c) _____ he in good time?
- (d) _____ we first?
- (e) They _____ frightened but I _____ not.
- (f) The spelling _____ easy but the sums
_____ difficult.

3. Which of these would you like to be?

silly, stupid, good, cruel, happy, kind, lazy,
clever, tidy, selfish, wise

4. "Excuse me!", "Thank you!", "Hush!", "Hello!",
"Goodbye!", "Oh!"

Which do I say when I:

- (a) get something? (b) meet a friend?
- (c) go in front? (d) am surprised?
- (e) want quiet? (f) leave a friend?