



FABLES



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
15RE-S7J8-G34C

1 Warm up

Match the animals with the qualities they often have in fables.

Fables are short stories that often have animals as the main characters. At the end of the fable, there is a **moral**, an important lesson that we can learn from the story.

hard-working	stupid	clever	lazy
strong	weak	fast	slow



fox



mouse



goat



ant



tortoise



lion



rabbit



grasshopper

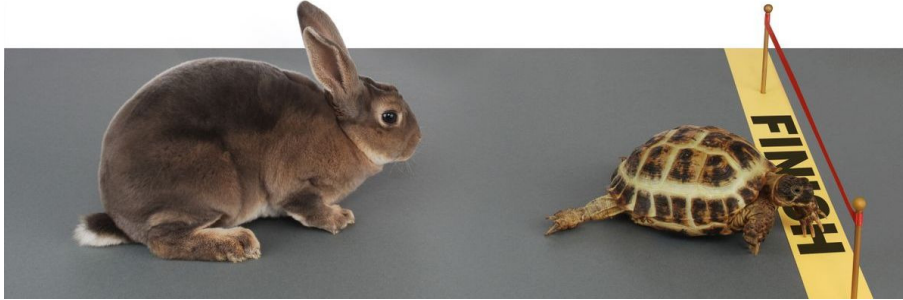
Do you know any fables about these animals?



2

Listening

This famous story is called the Tortoise and the Rabbit. Can you predict or remember what happens? Listen and check your ideas.



Choose the best moral for this story.

1. Don't laugh at other people.
2. You should never take a rest.
3. It is better to do things slowly and carefully.

Listen again and choose the verb forms that you hear.

1. One day, a rabbit **watched / was watching** a tortoise. He **laughed / was laughing** because the tortoise was so slow.
2. The rabbit **thought / was thinking** this was a funny idea, but he agreed. They **decided / were deciding** on the start and finish lines for the race.
3. After a few minutes, the rabbit **looked / was looking** back. He **didn't see / wasn't seeing** the tortoise, so he decided to take a short rest.
4. While the rabbit **slept / was sleeping**, the tortoise **moved / was moving** as fast as he could.



3 Language point

Study the sentences.

- 1) One day, a rabbit **was watching** a tortoise. He **was laughing** because the tortoise was so slow.
- 2) The rabbit **thought** this was a funny idea, but he agreed. They **decided** on the start and finish lines for the race.
- 3) After a few minutes, the rabbit **looked back**. He **didn't see** the tortoise, so he decided to take a short rest.

Choose the best option to complete the rules.

1. The sentences in 2 and 3 use **past continuous / past simple** verb forms. These describe **finished actions / actions in progress** at a specific time in the past.
2. The sentences in 1 use **past continuous / past simple** verb forms. These describe **finished actions / actions in progress** in the past.
3. We make past continuous with **was/were + verb with -ing / is/are + verb with -ing**.
4. We often use **past continuous / past simple** at the beginning of a story, to set the scene.
5. We cannot use state verbs in continuous forms. In sentences 1-3, the two state verbs are **decide & look back / see & think**.

Study the sentence.

- 4) While the rabbit **was sleeping**, the tortoise **moved** as fast as he could. Soon, he **passed** the rabbit and **continued** toward the finish line.

Choose the best option to complete the rule.

We can use past continuous and past simple together in the same sentence. We use the past continuous to talk about a **long action / short action** and the past simple to talk about actions that happen at the same time.

Study the table.

<i>positive</i>	I/he/she/it was sleeping.	You/we/they were sleeping.
<i>negative</i>	I/he/she/it wasn't sleeping.	You/we/they weren't sleeping.
<i>yes/no questions</i>	Was I/he/she/it sleeping?	Were you/we/they sleeping?
<i>short answers</i>	Yes, I/he/she/it was. Yes, you/we/they were.	No, I/he/she/it wasn't. No, you/we/they weren't.
<i>question word questions</i>	Why was I/he/she/it sleeping?	Why were you/we/they?



4

Practice

Complete the story using the verbs in brackets. You need to change the verbs to past simple or past continuous.

The Ants and the Grasshopper

One autumn, a family of ants _____¹ (work) in the sunshine. They _____² (pick up) food and _____³ (save) it for the winter. A hungry grasshopper _____⁴ (stop) to talk to them. He _____⁵ (have) a violin.

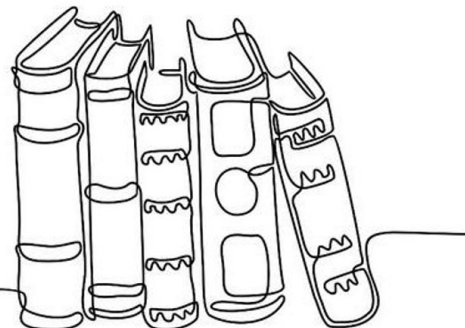
"Please can I have something to eat", _____⁶ (ask) the grasshopper.

The ants _____⁷ (be) surprised. "Why don't you have any food? What _____ you _____⁸ (do) all last summer?"

The grasshopper _____⁹ (answer), "I didn't have any time to look for food. I _____¹⁰ (play) music all summer on my violin."

The ants _____¹¹ (continue) with their work, saying, "We cannot help you if you _____¹² (not help) yourself."

What do you think the moral of this story is?





5 Speaking

Work in A/B pairs. Look at the correct page of the worksheet.

- Read your fable and make sure you understand the story. Make notes of 12 key words or short phrases from your fable in the box. You will use these words to help you remember the fable and tell it to your partner.
- Practise telling the fable from your notes. Use past simple and past continuous correctly. Then tell your partner the story. Listen and choose the best moral.

Student A: The Lion and the Mouse

- A lion was sleeping in the forest. A little mouse was going along in a hurry, and by mistake, she ran across the lion's nose and woke him up. This made the lion angry and he wanted to kill the mouse.
- The mouse said, "Please don't kill me! I'm sorry that I woke you up. If you let me go free, one day I will help you, if I can."
- The lion laughed at this idea, but he let the mouse go free.
- A few days later the lion was hunting in the forest when a hunter's **trap** caught him. He was very angry and made a lot of noise. The mouse heard his voice and ran to help him. She used her teeth to cut the **net** and open the trap. Soon, the lion was free.
- The mouse said, "You laughed about a mouse helping a lion. Look at you now!"

Glossary: A **trap** is something people use to catch animals. A **net** is a type of material used to catch fish or animals.

Listen and choose the best moral for B's fable:

1. Don't help other people when they're in trouble.
2. Don't ask other people for help.
3. Look carefully at new situations before you take action.



Work in A/B pairs. Look at the correct page of the worksheet.

- Read your fable and make sure you understand the story. Make notes of 12 key words or short phrases from your fable in the box. You will use these words to help you remember the fable and tell it to your partner.
- Practise telling the fable from your notes. Use past simple and past continuous correctly. Then tell your partner the story. Listen and choose the best moral.

Student B: The Fox and the Goat

- A fox was walking by a farm when he fell into a **well**. He tried to get out, but the well was too deep. He was calling for help for a long time before a goat heard him. The goat thought that the fox was drinking the water in the well.
- "Is that good water?" he asked.
- "It's the best in the country", said the fox. "Jump in and try it!"
- The goat jumped in and started to drink. The fox quickly jumped onto the goat's back and climbed out of the well.
- The goat was very angry about this trick. He asked the fox to help him climb out too.
- However, the fox was already far away.

Glossary: a well is a deep hole in the ground where people get water.

Listen and choose the best moral for A's fable.

1. Don't disturb anyone when they're asleep.
2. If you are kind to someone, they will be kind to you.
3. Hunting is a dangerous activity.



6 Extra practice/homework

Read the fable and find and choose the best verb form to complete the sentences.

The travellers and the bear

- Two friends ¹ **was / were** travelling together. They ² **were walking / walked** through the forest when they ³ **were seeing / saw** a bear.
- One man quickly ⁴ **was climbing / climbed** up a tree. The other man ⁵ **did not have time / was not having time** to climb the tree, so he ⁶ **was lying / lay** down on the ground. He ⁷ **has / was** pretending to be dead.
- The bear came close to the man on the ground and, with his big nose, smelled carefully around his face and ears. After a few minutes the bear left.
- After a while, the first man came down from the tree. He asked his friend, "What did the bear say to you while he was ⁸ **smelling / smelled** your face and ear?"
- "The bear was ⁹ **given / giving** me some advice", the second man said. "He said you are not a good friend because you ¹⁰ **left / have left** me alone in a dangerous situation."

What's the moral of this story?

7 Optional extension

There are lots of special verbs which describe how animals make noise. Match the animal and the verb. Saying the verbs out loud will help you.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. bear | a. bark |
| 2. bee | b. bleat |
| 3. dog/fox | c. buzz |
| 4. goat/sheep | d. growl |
| 5. grasshopper | e. grunt |
| 6. horse | f. hiss |
| 7. lion | g. neigh |
| 8. mouse | h. roar |
| 9. pig | i. sing |
| 10. snake | j. squeak |

Answer these questions.

1. Which verbs sound the most like the noise that the animal makes?
2. What are the words for these animal noises in your language?