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中学生浅易英语注释读物



# Fables and Fairy Tales

## 寓言与童话

外语教学与研究出版社

中学生浅易英语注释读物

寓言与童话

Fables and Fairy Tales

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## 内 容 简 介

《寓言与童话》共收小故事十七篇。其中“两个朋友和熊”、“猫和铃”、“麻雀和狐狸”、“狼死了”等寓言通俗易懂，生动有趣，富有教育意义。“牧鹅姑娘”、“金鹅”、“大海公主”等童话也是广大读者熟悉的。本书用五百英语词撰写，适合中学学生和初级英语自学者阅读，书后附有比较详细的注释及词汇表。另有插图二十七幅。

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## 1. The Old Cat

An old woman had a cat. The cat was very old, she could not run quickly, and she could not bite, because she was so old. One day the old cat saw a mouse. She jumped and caught the mouse. But she could not bite it, so the mouse got out of her mouth and ran away.

The old woman was very angry because the cat had not killed the mouse. She wanted to hit the cat. But the cat said, "Don't hit your old sergant. I have worked for you for many years and I would work for you still, but I am too old. Don't be unkind to



the old, but remember the good work that the old did when they were young.<sup>2</sup>"

## 2. The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

Once there were two mice. They were friends. One mouse lived in the country; the other mouse lived in the city. After many years the Country mouse saw the City mouse; he said, "Do come<sup>1</sup>, and see me at my house in the country."

So the City mouse went. The Country mouse took him to his house in a field. He gave him the nicest food that he could find<sup>2</sup>.



The City mouse said, "This food isn't good, and your house isn't good. Why do you live in a hole in the field? You should<sup>3</sup> come and live in the city. You would live in a nice house made of stone<sup>4</sup>. You

would have nice food to eat. You must come and see me at my house in the city."

The Country mouse went to the house of the City mouse. It was a very good house. Nice food was set ready for them to eat<sup>5</sup>. But just as<sup>6</sup> they began to eat they heard a great noise. The City mouse cried, "Run! Run! The cat is coming!" They ran away quickly and hid.

After some time they came out. Then the Country mouse said, "I don't like living in the city<sup>7</sup>. I like living in my hole in the field. It is nicer to be poor and happy, than to be rich and afraid.<sup>8</sup>"

### 3. The Man and the Apples

The man was going to a rich man's house. As he went along the road<sup>1</sup>, he saw a box of good apples at the side of the road<sup>2</sup>. He said, "I don't want to eat those apples because the rich man will give me a lot of very nice food to eat." Then he took the apples and threw them away into the dust<sup>3</sup>.

He went on and came to a river. The river had become very big, so he could not go over it<sup>4</sup>. He waited for some time, then he said, "I can't go to

the rich man's house today because I can't get over the river."



He began to go home. He had eaten nothing that day. He began to want food. He came to the apples, and he was glad to take them out of the dust<sup>5</sup> and eat them.

Don't throw good things away; you may be glad to have them at some other time<sup>6</sup>.

#### 4. The Friends and the Bear

Two friends were going through the forest<sup>1</sup>. One friend said to the other. "If any beast comes out from the trees, I'll stay with you and help you."





The other friend said, "I will help you too, if any beast comes out at you<sup>2</sup>."

After a little time there was a great noise, and a big bear came out from the trees. At once one of the friends ran and got up into a tree. The other friend was fat; he tried to get up into a tree but he fell down at the foot of the tree. There he stayed still.

The bear came near to him; it put its nose down and smelled him<sup>3</sup>. It thought that the man was dead, so it went away.

The other man came down from the tree, and said, "What did the bear say to you when it put its mouth so near to your ear?"

His friend answered, "The bear said, 'Don't go with friends who run away from you when you

want their help most.<sup>4</sup>

## 5. The Cat and the Bell

There were a lot of mice in a house. The man of the house got a cat. The cat killed many of the mice.

Then the oldest mouse said, "All mice must come to my hole tonight, and we will think what we can do<sup>1</sup> about this cat."



All the mice came. Many mice spoke, but none knew what to do.

At last a young mouse stood up and said, "We must put a bell on the cat. Then, when the cat comes near, we'll hear the bell and run away and hide. So the cat will never catch any more<sup>2</sup> mice."

Then the old mouse asked, "Who will put the bell on the cat?"

No mouse answered.

He waited, but still no one answered.

At last he said, "It is not hard to say things; but it is harder to do them."

## 6. Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Fox

Not a nice little bird

Mr.<sup>1</sup> Sparrow was a little bird. He was not a nice little bird—not at all nice<sup>2</sup>; he liked to tell stories about one person to another person<sup>3</sup>.

One day, as Mr. Sparrow sat in a tree, he saw Mr. Rabbit coming through the forest<sup>4</sup>. Mr. Rabbit came near to the tree, and Mr. Sparrow heard him speaking.

Mr. Rabbit was saying, "I'm going to do something which will make Mr. Fox very angry<sup>5</sup>! Ha! Ha! Ha! He will be very, very angry!"

Then Mr. Sparrow cried out to Mr. Rabbit, "No, you will not! For I'm going to tell Mr. Fox what you have said."

Mr. Rabbit thought, "Now I don't know what to do. What shall I do if that ugly little Mr. Sparrow tells Mr. Fox what I said?"

Mr. Sparrow went away quickly and told Mr. Fox

what Mr. Rabbit had said. Mr. Rabbit thought and thought; at last he said, "I know what I shall say!"



"I'll hear you nicely"

In a little time Mr. Fox came running along the lane.<sup>6</sup> Mr. Rabbit called out to him, "Mr. Fox, Mr. Fox!"

"What?" said Mr. Fox.

"Don't come near me," said Mr. Rabbit.

"Why?" said Mr. Fox.

"Because you'll kill me and set my house on fire."<sup>7</sup>

"Why do you say that?" asked Mr. Fox.

"Because I was told so,"<sup>8</sup> said Mr. Rabbit. "I was told that you said, 'I'm going to kill Mr. Rabbit and set his house on fire.'"

"Who told you that?" asked Mr. Fox.

"It was Mr. Sparrow"

"It was, was it?" said Mr. Fox.

The next day, Mr. Fox saw Mr. Sparrow in the forest. Mr. Sparrow called out to Mr. Fox.

"What do you want?" said Mr. Fox.

"I have something to tell you," said Mr. Sparrow.

"You have, have you?" said Mr. Fox.

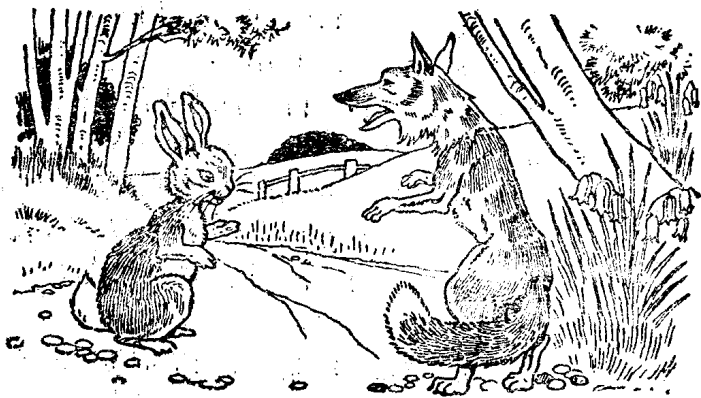
"Yes, I have," said Mr. Sparrow.

"Stand on my head, little Mr. Sparrow, because one of my ears is bad, and I can't hear with the other," said Mr. Fox.

So Mr. Sparrow jumped on to Mr. Fox's head.

"Stand in my mouth," said Mr. Fox, "then I'll hear you nicely."

Mr. Sparrow stood in Mr. Fox's mouth. Mr. Fox shut his mouth and ate Mr. Sparrow. "Now go and tell stories about me!" said Mr. Fox.



## 7. Mr. Rabbit Kills a Wolf

The creatures of the forest

One day all the creatures of the forest came to one place. All the big creatures came, and all the little creatures came. There were horses and cows and rabbits and foxes and ducks and mice and birds, and all the other living things.<sup>1</sup> They were very afraid. For<sup>2</sup> a great big wolf had come to the forest, and the great big wolf had said, "I'll kill you all if you don't give me food three times every day."

"What shall we do?" said Mrs. Duck. "What shall we do?"

"What ever shall we do?" said Mr. Fox.

"What shall we do?" said all the creatures.

"I know what we must do," said Mr. Rabbit, looking very big<sup>3</sup>. "We must kill this Mr. Wolf.... And I shall do it." Then he walked away along the road to Mr. Wolf's house. All the beasts looked at him.

"What is he going to do?" said Mrs. Duck. "What is he going to do?"

As Mr. Rabbit went along the road, he saw a well in a field. The well was full of water.

Then Mr. Rabbit went on and came to a river. He jumped into the water; then he walked through some dust; then he jumped into the water; then he walked in the dust again. And soon he looked a very poor, ugly little rabbit, covered with water and dust<sup>4</sup>.

'It isn't hard'

At last Mr. Rabbit came to Mr. Wolf's house.

"Who are you?" said Mr. Wolf.

"Please, I am your food for today."



"You! You ugly little creature! Tell them to send me a big fat cow, or a horse, or a hundred fat ducks."

"Please," said Mr. Rabbit, "the other wolf wants all the good food. So we have sent him all the cows and the horses and ducks. We must give them to him because he is bigger and braver than you are."

"Oh, is he?" cried Mr. Wolf. "We shall soon see if he is<sup>5</sup>! Come with me and show me where he lives."

Then Mr. Rabbit led Mr. Wolf to the well in the

field.

"He's down there," said Mr. Rabbit. "Don't go near him or he'll kill you.<sup>6</sup>"

Mr. Wolf went to the side of the well and looked down. He saw his own angry face in the water. He thought that it was the face of another wolf looking up at him<sup>7</sup>. He jumped down into the well to kill the other wolf. He fell into the water, and he could not get out.

Mr. Rabbit went back to the other creatures. "It isn't hard to kill a wolf," he said, "if you know how to do it."





## 8. Mr. Fox Is Dead

### A plan to catch Mr. Rabbit

Mr. Rabbit sometimes did things that made other people angry, so that they wanted to catch him. But it was very hard to catch Mr. Rabbit.

One day Mr. Wolf said to Mr. Fox, "We'll catch Mr. Rabbit and eat him tonight. You go to your home and get into bed. I'll say that you are dead. Then Mr. Rabbit will come near you to look at you, and you can jump up and catch him."

Mr. Fox ran home and got into bed.

Mr. Wolf went to Mr. Rabbit's house. He stood at

