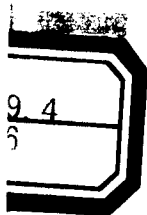


L.A. Hill

**INTERMEDIATE
STORIES
FOR
REPRODUCTION**

FIRST SERIES



Oxford University Press

Intermediate Stories for Reproduction

First Series

L. A. HILL

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

OXFORD LONDON GLASGOW
NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE AUCKLAND
KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE HONG KONG TOKYO
DELHI BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS KARACHI
NAIROBI DAR ES SALAAM CAPE TOWN

and associated companies in

BEIRUT BERLIN IBADAN MEXICO CITY NICOSIA

OXFORD is a trade mark of Oxford University Press.

ISBN 0 19 432542 3

© OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 1965

First published 1965

Reprinted four times

Reset and Reprinted 1970

Eleventh impression 1983

Illustrated by DENNIS MALLEY, MSIA

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Introduction

In this book there are 54 stories, each about 150 words long, which can be used for oral or written reproduction work. Here are some ways in which these stories can be used:

(i) *Listening and Speaking*

Only the teacher has the book. He reads one of the stories aloud to the students two or three times, and then gets one or more of the students to retell the story orally, or to answer oral questions* about it. This is best done in very small classes, of course.

(ii) *Listening and Writing*

Only the teacher has the book. He reads one of the stories aloud to the students two or three times, and they then write down as much of it as they can remember, or answer questions about it in writing (these questions can be written on the blackboard or dictated by the teacher). This can be done in a large class.

(iii) *Reading and Writing*

Each student has a copy of the book. He reads one of the stories for a certain number of minutes, then shuts the book and writes down as much of the story as he remembers, or answers questions about it in writing. The questions can be written on the blackboard or dictated by the teacher.

With (i), (ii) and (iii), there can be an interval of time—even of several days—between the telling or reading of the story and the reproduction.

(iii) can be done by students who have not got a teacher. They can read, close their books and then write down as much of the story as they can remember. When they have finished, they can open their books again and check what they have written by referring to the story in the book.

All the stories in this book are written within the 1,500 word vocabulary which can be found in the appendix. The grammatical structures in the book are also limited.

* Suggested questions follow each piece.



I

Ali, who was working a long way from home, wanted to send a letter to his wife, but he could neither read nor write, and he had to work all day, so he could only look for somebody to write his letter late at night. At last he found the house of a letter-writer whose name was Nasreddin.

Nasreddin was already in bed. 'It is late,' he said. 'What do you want?' 'I want you to write a letter to my wife,' said Ali. Nasreddin was not pleased. He thought for a few seconds and then said, 'Has the letter got to go far?'

'What does that matter?' answered Ali. 'Well, my writing is so strange that only I can read it, and if I have to travel a long way to read your letter to your wife, it will cost you a lot of money.'

Ali went away quickly.

What was Ali doing?

Where was he?

What did he want to do?

Why couldn't he write the letter himself?

When did he look for somebody to write his letter?

Whom did he find?

What was Nasreddin doing?

What did Ali say to Nasreddin?

How did Nasreddin feel when

Ali spoke to him?

What did Nasreddin then ask

Ali?

What did Ali reply?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did Ali then do?



2

An old man died and left his son a lot of money. But the son was a foolish young man, and he quickly spent all the money, so that soon he had nothing left. Of course, when that happened, all his friends left him. When he was quite poor and alone, he went to see Nasreddin, who was a kind, clever old man and often helped people when they had troubles.

'My money has finished and my friends have gone,' said the young man. 'What will happen to me now?'

'Don't worry, young man,' answered Nasreddin. 'Everything will soon be all right again. Wait, and you will soon feel much happier.'

The young man was very glad. 'Am I going to get rich again then?' he asked Nasreddin.

'No, I didn't mean that,' said the old man. 'I meant that you would soon get used to being poor and to having no friends.'

How did the young man get his money?

What kind of man was he?

What happened to the money?

What did the young man's friends then do?

What did the young man do after that?

Why did he go to Nasreddin?

What did the young man say to Nasreddin?

What did Nasreddin answer?

How did the young man feel then?

What did he ask Nasreddin?

What was Nasreddin's answer?



When Mr Jones went to a restaurant one day, he left his coat near the door. There was nothing in the pockets of the coat when he left it, so he was very surprised when he took his coat after his meal and found the pockets full of jewellery!

There was a waiter near the door, so Mr Jones said to him, 'Somebody has made a mistake. He has put some jewellery in my coat. Take it, and when he comes back, give it to him.' The waiter took it and went away. Suddenly another man came in with a coat just like Mr Jones's. 'I am sorry,' said this man. 'I made a mistake. I took your coat and you have got mine. Please give me my coat and jewellery.' Mr Jones answered, 'I gave the jewellery to the waiter. He will give it to you.'

Mr Jones called the manager of the restaurant; but the manager said, 'We have no waiters here. We only have waitresses.' 'You gave the jewellery to a thief!' shouted the other man. 'I shall call the police!' Mr Jones was frightened and paid the man a lot of money for the jewellery.

Where did Mr Jones go one day?

What did he do with his coat?

Was there anything in the pockets of the coat when Mr Jones left it?

What happened when he took the coat after his meal?

Whom did he see near the door?

What did Mr Jones say to him?

What did the waiter do then?

What happened after that?

What was the man wearing?

What did he say to Mr Jones?

What did Mr Jones answer?

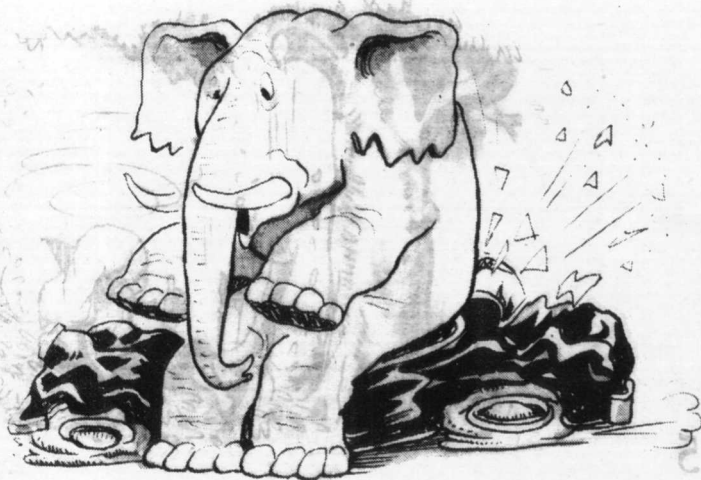
What did Mr Jones do then?

What did the manager of the restaurant say?

What did the man shout then?

What did Mr Jones do?

4



A man was travelling abroad in a small red car. One day he left the car and went shopping. When he came back, its roof was badly damaged. Some boys told him that an elephant had damaged it. The man did not believe them, but they took him to a circus which was near there. The owner of the elephant said, 'I am very sorry! My elephant has a big, round, red chair. He thought that your car was his chair, and he sat on it!' Then he gave the man a letter, in which he said that he was sorry and that he would pay for all the damage.

When the man got back to his own country, the customs officers would not believe his story. They said, 'You sold your new car while you were abroad and bought this old one!'

It was only when the man showed them the letter from the circus man that they believed him.

What was the man doing at the beginning of the story?

Where did he leave his car?

Why did he leave it there?

What did he see when he came back?

What did the boys say?

Where did they take him?

What did the owner of the elephant say?

Why had the elephant sat on the car?

What did the owner of the elephant do then?

What did he write in his letter?

What happened when the man returned to his own country?

What did the customs men say?

How did the man make them believe him?



Nasreddin was cutting a branch off a tree in his garden. While he was sawing, another man passed in the street. He stopped and said, 'Excuse me, but if you continue to saw that branch like that, you will fall down with it.' He said this because Nasreddin was sitting on the branch and cutting it at a place between himself and the trunk of the tree.

Nasreddin said nothing. He thought, 'This is some foolish person who has no work to do and goes about telling other people what to do and what not to do.'

The man continued on his way.

Of course, after a few minutes, the branch fell and Nasreddin fell with it.

'My God!' he cried. 'That man knows the future!' and he ran after him to ask how long he was going to live. But the man had gone.

What was Nasreddin doing at the beginning of this story?

Who passed in the street?

What did the man say?

Why did he say this?

What did Nasreddin say?

What did he think?

What did the other man do then?

What happened after a few minutes?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did he do?

Why did he do this?

Did he find the man?

Why (not)?

6



It was half-past eight in the morning. The telephone bell rang and Mary went to answer it.

'Hullo, who's that?' she asked.

'It's me—Peter.'

Peter was a friend of Mary's eight-year-old brother, Johnny.

'Oh, hullo, Peter. What do you want?' said Mary.

'Can I speak to Johnny?'

'No,' said Mary, 'you can't speak to him now. He is busy. He is getting ready for school. He is eating his breakfast. Grandmother is combing his hair. Sister is under the table, putting his shoes on. Mother is getting his books and putting them in his school bag. Goodbye, I've got to go now. I have to hold the door open. The school bus is coming.'

What time was it at the beginning of this story?

What happened at that time?

What did Mary do?

What did she say?

What was the answer?

Who was Peter?

What did Mary ask Peter?

What did he answer?

What did Mary then say?

What was Johnny doing?

What was his grandmother doing?

What was his other sister doing?

What was his mother doing?

Why did Mary say goodbye?

Why did she have to go?



7

Two rich ladies were sharing a taxi and talking about the high cost of going anywhere by taxi.

One of the ladies said, 'Taxis are terribly expensive these days. The owners get a lot of money for nothing.'

'Yes,' said the other lady, 'and the drivers get such big tips that they soon become rich. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.'

One of the ladies was smoking a cigarette. After a minute or two she said to the other lady, 'Can you see an ashtray in this taxi? There isn't one on my side.'

'No,' said the other, 'there isn't one on this side either. Driver! Where is the ashtray in this taxi? Why haven't you got one?'

The driver, who had heard everything the ladies had said, answered, 'Oh, just drop the ashes on the carpet—I have a servant who comes in and cleans three days in the week!'

What were the two rich ladies doing?

What were they talking about?

What did one of them say?

What did the other one say?

What was one of the ladies doing?

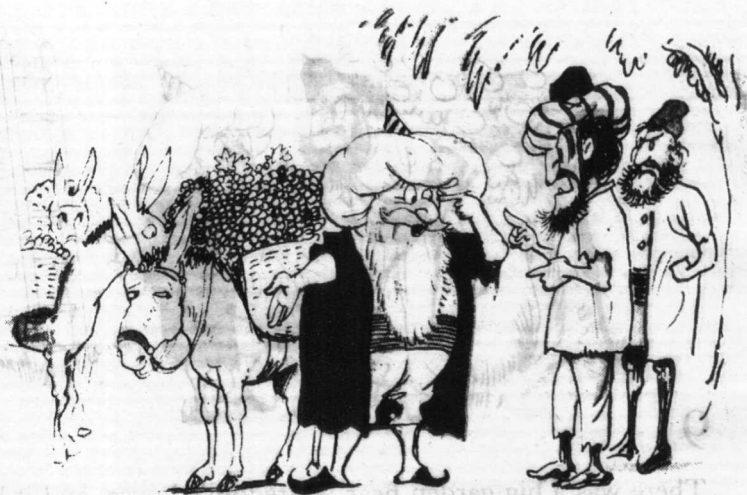
What did she say to the other lady?

What did the other lady answer?

What did she say to the driver?

What did he answer?

Why did he answer in this way?



Nasreddin put two big baskets of grapes on his donkey and went to market. At midday it was very hot, so he stopped in the shade of a big tree. There were several other men there, and all of them had donkeys and baskets of grapes too. After their lunch they went to sleep. After some time, Nasreddin began to take grapes out of the other men's baskets and to put them in his.

Suddenly one of the men woke up and saw him. 'What are you doing?' he said angrily.

'Oh,' said Nasreddin, 'don't worry about me. I am half mad, and I do a lot of strange things.'

'Oh, really?' said the other man. 'Then why don't you sometimes take grapes out of *your* baskets and put them in somebody else's baskets?'

'You did not understand me,' said Nasreddin. 'I said that I was *half* mad, not *quite* mad.'

What did Nasreddin put on his donkey?

Where did he then go?

When did he stop?

Why did he stop?

Where did he stop?

What did he see there?

What did the men have?

What did they do after lunch?

What did Nasreddin do then?

What happened then?

What did the man say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the man say then?

What was Nasreddin's answer?



9

There was a big garden near Nasreddin's house, and it had a lot of fruit trees in it. One day Nasreddin saw some beautiful apples on one of them. He went home and got a ladder, put it against the high wall of the garden and climbed up. Then he pulled the ladder up, put it down on the other side, and climbed down into the garden. Just then a gardener came round a corner and saw him.

'What are you doing here?' he shouted.

Nasreddin thought quickly and then said, 'I am selling my ladder.'

'Selling your ladder? In somebody else's garden? Do you think I believe such a stupid story?' said the gardener and came towards Nasreddin with a stick.

'It is my ladder,' said Nasreddin, 'and I can sell it where I like. You needn't buy it if you don't want to.' And he took his ladder and climbed over the wall again.

What was there near

Nasreddin's house?

What did it have in it?

What did Nasreddin see one day?

What did he do then?

What did he do with the ladder?

How did he get into the garden?

What happened then?

What did the gardener shout?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the gardener say then?

What did he do?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did he do?



10

Nasreddin woke up in the middle of the night and saw something white in his garden. It seemed to be moving towards the house.

'That is a thief!' he thought, and he took his gun and shot at him. Then he went back to bed, because he was too frightened to go out of the house in the dark.

The next morning Nasreddin went out and saw one of his white shirts hanging on the clothes-line in the garden. His wife had washed it the day before and hung it out to dry. Now it had a bullet-hole right through the middle of it.

'My God,' said Nasreddin, 'I was lucky last night. If I had been wearing that shirt, the bullet would have killed me!' And he called his neighbours together and asked them to thank God for saving him.

When did Nasreddin wake up?

What did he see?

Where did he see it?

What did he think?

What did he do?

Why did he go back to bed after that?

What did he see the next morning?

Where was it?

Why was it there?

What was the matter with it?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did he do?

What did he ask his neighbours?

Why was Nasreddin silly?



II

A judge was working in his room one day when a neighbour ran in and said, 'If one man's cow kills another's, is the owner of the first cow responsible?'

'It depends,' answered the judge.

'Well,' said the man, 'your cow has killed mine.'

'Oh,' answered the judge. 'Everyone knows that a cow cannot think like a man, so a cow is not responsible, and that means that its owner is not responsible either.'

'I am sorry, Judge,' said the man. 'I made a mistake. I meant that my cow killed yours.'

The judge thought for a few seconds and then said, 'When I think about it more carefully, this case is not as easy as I thought at first.' And then he turned to his clerk and said, 'Please bring me that big black book from the shelf behind you.'

What was the judge doing at the beginning of the story?

Who ran in?

What did this man say?

What did the judge answer?

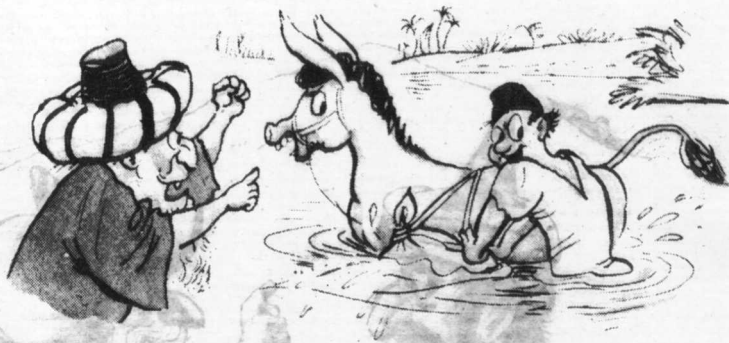
What did the man say then?

What did the judge answer?

What did the man say?

What did the judge do then?

What did he say?



When Nasreddin was a boy, he never did what he was told, so his father always told him to do the opposite of what he wanted him to do.

One day, when the two were bringing sacks of flour home on their donkeys, they had to cross a shallow river. When they were in the middle of it, one of the sacks on Nasreddin's donkey began to slip, so his father said, 'That sack is nearly in the water! Press down hard on it!'

His father of course expected that he would do the opposite, but this time Nasreddin did what his father had told him to do. He pressed down on the sack and it went under the water. Of course, the flour was lost.

'What have you done, Nasreddin?' his father shouted angrily.

'Well, Father', said Nasreddin, 'this time I thought that I would do just what you told me, to show you how stupid your orders always are.'

What was Nasreddin like when he was a boy?

What did his father do?

What were Nasreddin and his father doing at the beginning of this story?

What did they have to do?

What happened in the middle of the river?

What did Nasreddin's father then say?

What did he expect?

What did Nasreddin do?

What happened then?

How did Nasreddin's father feel?

What did he say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

Why did Nasreddin do what his father had told him to do that time?



13

Nasreddin had lost his donkey. He was going about looking for it everywhere, and while he was looking, he was singing gaily.

One of his neighbours saw him and said, 'Hullo, Nasreddin. What are you doing?'

'I am looking for my donkey,' answered Nasreddin.

'Don't you know where it is?' asked the neighbour.

'No, I don't.'

'Then why are you singing so gaily? Usually when somebody loses something, he is sad.'

'Yes, that is quite true,' answered Nasreddin. 'But you see, I am not yet sure that my donkey is lost. My last hope is that it is behind that hill over there. If you wait a little, you will hear how I will cry and complain if it is not there!'

What had happened to
Nasreddin?

What was he doing at the
beginning of this story?

What was he doing while he
was doing this?

Who saw him?

What did this man say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the neighbour say
then?

What was Nasreddin's answer?

What did the neighbour say
then?

What did Nasreddin answer?