

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES, INC.**



# **THE SILVER ELEPHANT**

**Collier Macmillan International, Inc.**

**New York**

**Collier Macmillan Publishers**

**London**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES, INC.**

# **THE SILVER ELEPHANT**

**Collier Macmillan International, Inc.**

**New York**

**Collier Macmillan Publishers**

**London**

Copyright © 1964 MACMILLAN PUBLISHING CO., INC.

Philippines Copyright 1964

by MACMILLAN PUBLISHING CO., INC.

*All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publisher.*

*Eighteenth Printing 1979*

Collier Macmillan International, Inc.

866 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022

Collier Macmillan Canada, Ltd., Don Mills, Ontario

*Printed in the United States of America*

## PREFACE

*The Silver Elephant*, in the series COLLIER MACMILLAN ENGLISH READERS, is for students of English as a second language. This book contains seven original stories written with controlled vocabulary and with restricted choice of sentence patterns, but designed to maintain the interest of adult readers. The total number of vocabulary items is approximately 700. The seven selections are graded; that is, the stories become progressively more difficult both in vocabulary and in grammatical structure.

Each reading in *The Silver Elephant* is followed by an exercise section made up of comprehension questions, true/false questions, or multiple-choice items designed to test the student's understanding of the story. In addition, there are word-study exercises which reinforce new vocabulary items and grammar exercises based on structures or sentence patterns occurring in the story.

The vocabulary and grammatical structures used in *The Silver Elephant* are taken from lesson materials introduced in two basic courses in the Collier Macmillan English Program. When used as supplementary reading material with Book Three of *English 900®* or with Workbook Four of *Audio-Lingual English*, this reader will review and reinforce the corresponding text or workbook material in a new and interesting context. Those expressions in the exercise sections that have not occurred in the corresponding study units of *English 900®* or *Audio-Lingual English* are marked with asterisks (\*). The dagger mark (†) indicates words which have been introduced in the more elementary reader, *The People Speak*.

This book can be profitably used as supplementary reading in any intermediate course of instruction, both for classroom presentation and for outside reading assignments, since there is a high correlation between the vocabulary and structures used in *The Silver Elephant* and

those found in standard textbooks. This reader has been successfully tested with students using a variety of basic text materials.

A wide range of material has been created for the Collier Macmillan English Program by the Materials Development Staff of English Language Services, Inc., under the co-direction of Edwin T. Cornelius, Jr., and Willard D. Sheeler. The original stories in *The Silver Elephant* were written by George P. McCallum, and adapted and edited by Joyce R. Manes who added the exercises.

The illustrations are by Alex Kenné.

If this reader is used with the basic series: *English 900®* or *Audio-Lingual English*, the selections should be assigned upon completion of the following study units or lessons:

	<i>English 900®</i> Book Three Unit	<i>Audio-Lingual English</i> Workbook Four Lesson
The Silver Elephant	2	4
An Extremely Good Day	4	8
The Concert Singer	6	12
The Unhappy Hero	7	14
The Chemistry Teacher	8	16
The Missing Finger	9	18
The Blue and the Gray	10	20

## CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
<b>The Silver Elephant</b> . . . . .	1
Questions and Exercises . . . . .	6
<b>An Extremely Good Day</b> . . . . .	10
Exercises . . . . .	14
<b>The Concert Singer</b> . . . . .	18
Exercises . . . . .	24
<b>The Unhappy Hero</b> . . . . .	28
Questions and Exercises . . . . .	33
<b>The Chemistry Teacher</b> . . . . .	37
Exercises . . . . .	42
<b>The Missing Finger</b> . . . . .	47
Exercises . . . . .	54
<b>The Blue and The Gray</b> . . . . .	58
Questions and Exercises . . . . .	64
<b>Key to Exercises</b> . . . . .	69

## THE SILVER ELEPHANT

From the first time he saw her in the office where they both worked, Eric Warren liked Janet West. Eric rarely went out with girls from his office, but Janet was different. She was not only pretty, but extremely interesting to talk to. They had lunch together several times and Eric was pleased to learn that Janet liked the same things he did. Before very long, they were having dinner together, and going to the movies and to the theater. After a few months Eric knew he wanted Janet to be his wife, but he wasn't sure how she felt about him. There was another man in their office, George Perkins, who went out with Janet once in a while. Eric hoped in time he, not George, would be Janet's choice as her husband.

Eric wanted a very unusual gift for Janet's birthday. He walked into a department store not knowing what to get for her. After going from one part of the store to another, he finally came to the jewelry department. At first, he didn't see anything he liked here either, and he was about to leave when he saw a little silver pin in the shape of an elephant. Eric knew immediately that the pin was exactly what he wanted for Janet.

"May I see that?" Eric asked the salesman.

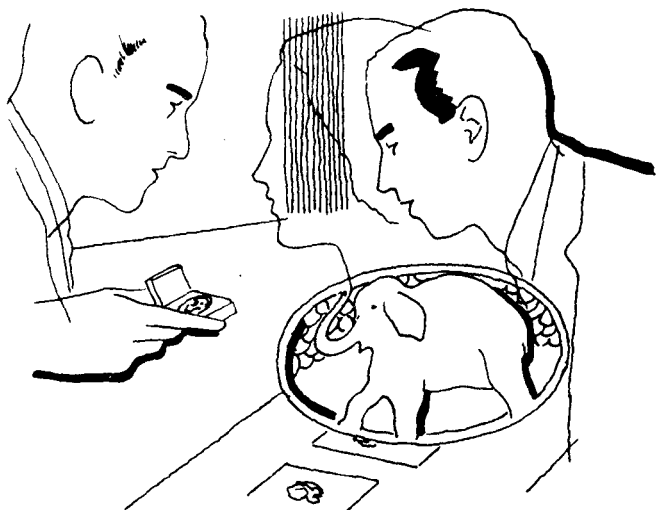
"The little silver elephant?" the salesman asked.

"Yes, that's the one. It's just what I've been looking for."

"You've made a good choice. This piece of jewelry is very unusual. It was made in Mexico by a man who is well-known for his fine work in silver. There are only a few others like it. Would you like me to put it in a box? This small square box looks about the right size."

"Yes, please put it in a gift box."

"I'm certain Janet's going to be very pleased," Eric thought that evening as he got dressed to go to Janet's



birthday party. "She likes fine jewelry and this pin is very unusual."

On the way to Janet's house, Eric thought about George Perkins. He knew that Janet's family and a few friends would be at the party. He didn't know if George was one of the "few friends." He was fairly sure George's gift wouldn't be anything as unusual as the silver elephant.

Eric was happy as he walked to Janet's house. When she opened the door he said, "Happy . . ." and then stopped talking for a moment before going on, ". . . birthday, Janet." He just couldn't believe what he saw. There on Janet's green dress was a little silver elephant pin. It was exactly the same as the one in his gift box. He couldn't give it to her now. He put the little square box away before Janet could see it and went in the house to say hello to Janet's mother and father.

"You're early, Eric," Mrs. West said. "None of the others are here yet. Please sit down. Can I get you something to drink?"



"Not now, thanks, Mrs. West," Eric answered. All he could think about was the little silver elephant. He had to know where Janet had gotten it. Could George Perkins possibly have given it to her? At the office perhaps? Eric didn't want to believe this, but he wasn't the only one who knew Janet liked jewelry. George knew it, too.

Janet's mother was still talking and Eric knew he should be listening to her. He had to forget about the little pin for a moment.

"How are things at the office, Eric?" Mrs. West was saying. "I understand you've been very busy during the last few months."

"Fine—just fine—not too busy, no," Eric said.

"That's good," Mrs. West answered. "Would you excuse us for a few minutes? I have to help Janet prepare a few things in the kitchen."

"Oh—yes." Eric was glad to see Mrs. West and Janet leave the room. He really didn't want to talk to anyone—not about the office or about anything else. But Janet's father was still there, and now he was talking.

"Have you seen this evening's newspaper yet, Eric?" Mr. West asked. "There is a good story about . . ."

Janet's father went on talking, but most of the time Eric wasn't listening. Occasionally he would say, "You're right, Mr. West," or "I think so, too," but he really wasn't sure what Janet's father was talking about. He couldn't forget the elephant pin. Eric was positive he would be the only person at the party who wouldn't have a gift for Janet. But he couldn't give her something that she already had. How could he ask Janet to be his wife now? He didn't know what to do.

"What do you think about television?" Mr. West was talking about a different subject now. "Don't you think the programs could be better?"

"You're absolutely right, Mr. West," Eric answered. Janet came back in the room and Eric was glad he didn't have to say any more about television. He started to tell Janet he liked the pin on her dress, thinking that he might

learn where it came from. But just at this moment someone came to the door.

"It must be my aunt and uncle," Janet told Eric. "My friend, Marie, who lives next door, will be with us, too."

"Isn't anyone else from the office coming?" Eric asked.

"No," she answered, then went to meet her aunt and uncle at the door.

Now Eric was almost certain the pin was from George. He must have given it to Janet in the office during the day. What should he do? Should he say he had left his gift at home? Should he say he was getting something in New York and would give it to her later in the week?

Marie came in a few minutes later, and everyone sat down to have dinner.

The only good thing Eric could think about was that he was at the family dinner party and George was not.

Finally Janet asked him why he wasn't talking very much.

"I'm too busy eating this very good dinner," he answered. He couldn't think of anything else to say.

"Thank you, Eric," Mrs. West said. "I'm very glad you like it. Won't you have some more?"

Eric didn't really want to eat anything, but he wasn't able to say no. He wished he could leave the table and go home, but he couldn't do that, either.

Finally it was time for the birthday cake. "There are twenty-one candles on the cake, Janet," Mrs. West said as she brought the cake in and put it on the dinner table. "Do you think you can blow them all out?"

"Make a wish first," Marie said to Janet. "Wish for something that you want very much before you blow out the candles. If all the candles go out, you will get your wish. If not, then you won't. Let's see if you'll get your wish."

"I wish I had a silver elephant pin," Janet said and she blew out all the candles.

"What?" said Eric. "What did you say?"

"The pin on my dress isn't mine. It's Marie's. She thought it looked good on this dress and she said I could have it for this evening. It's a very unusual piece of jewelry. Marie's mother got it when she was in Mexico last year."

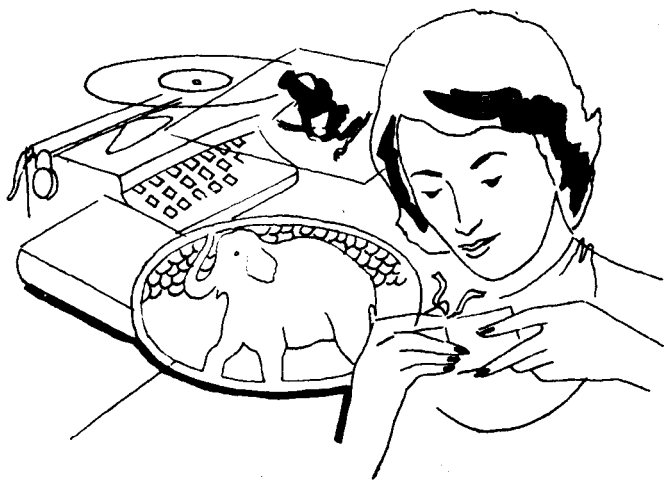
Eric quickly put his little square box with the other gifts. He couldn't wait for Janet to open it.

"It's time to open your gifts now, Janet," Mrs. West said.

"Yes," said her father. "Let's see if you get your wish."

Janet opened all her gifts. She got a box of writing paper from George. He had given it to her at the office. Her parents gave her a typewriter, her aunt and uncle gave her some phonograph records, and Marie gave her a book. Then Janet opened the little square box. When she saw the pin, she said, "Eric, how could you possibly have known? It's exactly what I want. You've made me very happy. I knew that *your* gift would be very unusual."

Janet got her wish, and now Eric was sure he would get his wish, too. Tonight he would ask Janet to be his wife.



### Questions and Exercises

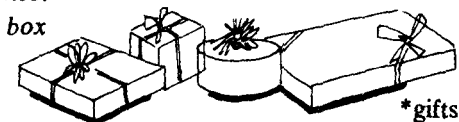
#### WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

*Answer the questions with complete sentences.*

1. Why did Eric Warren like Janet West?
2. Who was George Perkins?
3. What is a department store? Why is that a good place to look for a gift?
4. What did Eric see in the jewelry department?
5. What did the salesman tell Eric about this piece of jewelry?
6. What did Janet have on her dress?
7. Why didn't Eric want to give Janet his gift right away?
8. Who was at the birthday party? Who was not at the birthday party?
9. How old was Janet West? How do you know? Do you put a candle for each year on a birthday cake?
10. What did Marie want Janet to do before she blew out all the candles on her cake?
11. How many candles must you blow out to get your wish?
12. What was Janet's wish? Did she get her wish? How?
13. What other gifts did Janet get?
14. Do you think Eric will be Janet's choice as her husband?

#### DO YOU KNOW THESE WORDS?

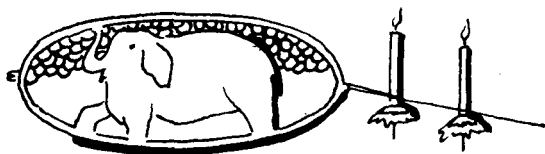
*Complete the sentences with the right word. Use each word once.*



\* Words which have not occurred in the corresponding ENGLISH 900 study units.

size  
 \*jewelry  
 \*choice  
 \*silver  
 \*pretty  
 \*unusual  
 \*pin

\*dress  
 \*salesman  
 \*wish  
 \*department store  
 shape  
 square  
 \*candle



*Example:* The salesman asked if he should put the gift in a box.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a piece of jewelry.
2. A man who works in a store is a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You have a choice of many gifts in a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Eric saw the little pin in the \_\_\_\_\_ department.
5. The pin was made of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The pin was in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an elephant.
7. The salesman put Eric's gift in a small \_\_\_\_\_ box.
8. The gift box was the right \_\_\_\_\_ for the pin.
9. The little elephant was an \_\_\_\_\_ pin. There were few others like it.
10. The pin on Janet's green \_\_\_\_\_ was Marie's.
11. Janet got several \_\_\_\_\_ for her birthday.
12. There is one \_\_\_\_\_ for each year on a birthday cake.
13. Ask for something you want very much. Make a \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Janet West was \_\_\_\_\_ and interesting to talk to.
15. Eric wished he would be Janet's \_\_\_\_\_ as her husband.

## 8 THE SILVER ELEPHANT

### DO YOU KNOW THESE VERBS?

Use the right form of the verb.

Example: Everyone *sat down* to have dinner. (*sit down, sat down, sitting down*)

1. Eric Warren \_\_\_\_\_ with Janet many times. (*go out, went out, gone out*)
2. After a few months, he \_\_\_\_\_ he wanted Janet to be his wife. (*know, knew, known*)
3. He was about to \_\_\_\_\_ the store when he saw the little silver pin. (*leave, leaving, left*)
4. Eric \_\_\_\_\_ the gift box away before Janet could see it. (*put, puts, putting*)
5. The young man knew he should be \_\_\_\_\_ to Janet's mother. (*listen, listens, listening*)
6. He just couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ about the pin. (*forget, forgot, forgotten*)
7. Janet \_\_\_\_\_ all the candles on the cake. (*\*blow out, blew out, blown out*)
8. Janet \_\_\_\_\_ the silver pin could be hers. (*\*wish, wished, wishing*)
9. George had \_\_\_\_\_ Janet a box of writing paper. (*gives, gave, given*)
10. Janet said Eric had \_\_\_\_\_ her very happy. (*make, makes, made*)

### CAN YOU USE THESE WORDS?

Use the right word to complete the sentences. You may use a word more than once.

†why  
who

what  
which

where  
when

1. Eric met Janet in the office \_\_\_\_\_ they both worked.

2. George Perkins was another man \_\_\_\_\_ went out with Janet once in a while.
3. Eric's gift, \_\_\_\_\_ was made in Mexico, was a very unusual pin.
4. Eric couldn't give Janet something \_\_\_\_\_ she already had.
5. Janet asked Eric \_\_\_\_\_ he wasn't talking very much.
6. Janet's friend, Marie, \_\_\_\_\_ lived next door, was at the party, too.
7. Marie's mother had gotten the pin \_\_\_\_\_ she was in Mexico.
8. Janet was very happy \_\_\_\_\_ she saw Eric's gift.
9. The pin was exactly \_\_\_\_\_ she wanted.

## AN EXTREMELY GOOD DAY

Gregory Allen was a tall, thin boy about fourteen years old. Like most boys in their teens, he was either very happy or extremely unhappy; he either talked too much or he didn't talk at all. One day he would do everything right and on another day he would do nothing right. Gregory had trouble with his family, too. No matter what he did, his parents were never pleased with him. They argued with him about the way he dressed, the way he talked, the way he forgot to do things. They argued about everything. They were always telling him what to do and when to do it. They reminded him to put on his coat, take off his coat, hang up his coat. His mother and father didn't understand that he was a young man now and not a child. They said that when he was able to do things without being reminded several times, they would believe he wasn't a child any longer. They told him that when he stopped thinking about himself and began thinking about helping other people, then they would know that he was a young man.

Greg didn't know that many young people think their parents don't understand them. He believed he was the only boy who wasn't able to please his family.

Greg was usually glad to be out of the house where no one could bother him. One Saturday morning, he told his parents he was going for a walk before breakfast, and they gave him money to get milk at the store. A few minutes after he left the house he couldn't remember what he was supposed to buy. If he went home without it, his family would have something else to argue with him about.

As he went down the street thinking about what he should do, he saw an old man standing on the corner. The man looked very sick, and without thinking about it Greg went right over to him.



"Are you all right, sir?" he asked.

The old man answered slowly. "I think so—but I need a glass of water. I don't want to bother you, but would you mind helping me . . ."

"Oh, you're not bothering me," Greg answered quickly. "I'd be glad to help you. Let's go into the restaurant across the street where you can sit down."

Greg helped the old man into the restaurant. They sat down at a table not far from the door. When the waiter asked them what they wanted, the old man said, "Just a glass of water, please. I don't feel well."

"Wouldn't you like something to eat?" the waiter asked.

The old man didn't answer and Greg asked him, "Have you had breakfast yet, sir? Perhaps if you eat something, you'll feel a little better."

"Well, truthfully I haven't had breakfast," the old man said. "I haven't eaten anything since yesterday morning, but I don't have any money for . . ."

Greg interrupted him saying, "Please don't talk now. You can tell me all about it later."

Then the boy turned to the waiter and said, "My friend would like some orange juice, hot cereal, buttered toast, and coffee."

The old man started to say something and Greg asked him, "Would you rather have something else? That's what we usually have for breakfast . . ."

"Oh, no. It's fine," the man answered "but I'm giving you too much trouble. I'll just drink the water and leave. I'm sure I'll be all right. You've helped me enough already."

"Please, sir," Greg said. "I'd like to do it."

"And what would you like to eat?" the waiter asked Greg.

"Nothing for me," Greg said. "I've already eaten my breakfast." Greg wanted to eat, too, but knew he didn't have enough money for both of them. He actually didn't have enough for the old man's breakfast. He was really going to be in trouble when the waiter asked for money,