

L.A. Hill

**ELEMENTARY
STORIES
FOR
REPRODUCTION**

First Series

Oxford University Press

Elementary Stories for Reproduction

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Introduction

In this book there are 56 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 they have to retell the story orally, or to answer oral questions¹ 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.

The listening tape, which is available separately, can be used for both (i) and (ii), by the teacher in group teaching or by an individual student working on his own.

(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 1,000 word vocabulary of my *Elementary Comprehension Pieces* and *Elementary Composition Pieces* (both published by Oxford University Press). This vocabulary is given in the appendix to this book.

The grammatical structures used in this book are also strictly limited. For example, no conditionals, passives, relative clauses, reported speech or modal auxiliaries are used; and the tenses are limited to the present simple, the present continuous, the present perfect, the simple future with *will*, the *going to* future, the past simple and the past continuous.

¹ Suggested questions follow each piece.



I

It was two weeks before Christmas, and Mrs Smith was very busy. She bought a lot of Christmas cards to send to her friends and to her husband's friends, and put them on the table in the living-room. Then, when her husband came home from work, she said to him, 'Here are the Christmas cards for our friends, and here are some stamps, a pen and our book of addresses. Will you please write the cards while I am cooking the dinner?'

Mr Smith did not say anything, but walked out of the living-room and went to his study. Mrs Smith was very angry with him, but did not say anything either.

Then a minute later he came back with a box full of Christmas cards. All of them had addresses and stamps on them.

'These are from last year,' he said. 'I forgot to post them.'

When was Mrs Smith very busy?

What did she do?

Why did she buy the cards?

Where did she put them?

What did she say to her husband?

What did Mr Smith say?

What did he do?

How did Mrs Smith feel?

What did she say?

What did Mr Smith do a minute later?

What did he say?



Mrs Jones was waiting for an important telephone call, but she had no bread in the house, so she left the baby at home and said to his five-year-old brother, 'I am going to the shops, Jimmy, and I will be back in a few minutes.'

While she was out, the telephone rang, and Jimmy answered. 'Hullo,' said a man, 'is your mother there?'

'No,' answered Jimmy.

'Well, when she comes back, say to her, "Mr Baker telephoned".'

'What?'

'Mr Baker. Write it down. B-A-K-E-R.'

'How do you make a B?'

'How do I make . . . ? Listen, little boy, is there anybody else with you? Any brothers or sisters?'

'My brother Billy is here.'

'Good, I want to talk to him, please.'

'All right.' Jimmy took the telephone to the baby's bed and gave it to Billy. When their mother came back, she asked, 'Did anyone telephone?'

'Yes,' said Jimmy, 'a man. But he only wanted to talk to Billy.'

What was Mrs Jones waiting for?

Why did she go out?

What did she do with the baby when she went out?

What did she say to Jimmy?

How old was he?

What happened while she was out?

What did Jimmy do?

What did the man say?

What did Jimmy answer?

What did the man say then?

What did Jimmy say?

What was the man's answer?

What did Jimmy ask him then?

What did the man say then?

What did Jimmy answer?

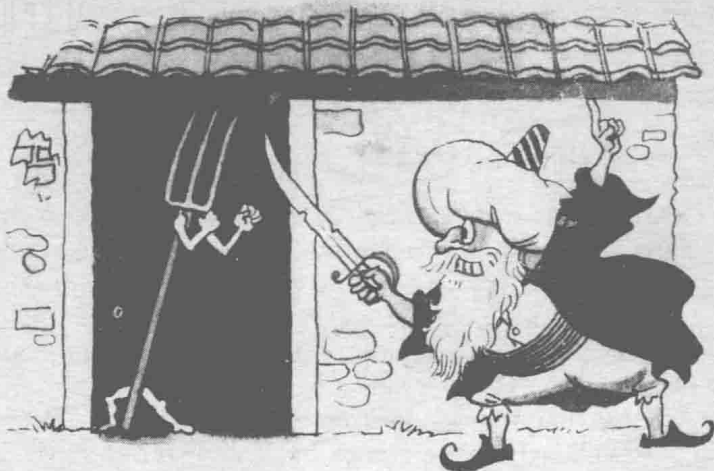
What did the man say?

What did Jimmy say?

What did he do?

What did Jimmy's mother do when she came home?

What did Jimmy answer?



Nasreddin* had an old shed. It had no windows, so it was very dark, and it was full of old things.

One day Nasreddin went into this shed to get a ladder, but slipped on something and fell against a big garden fork. The fork hit him on the head and knocked him down. Then it fell on top of him and hit him hard on the left leg. The ends of the fork then went into his long beard. He fought with the fork fiercely, and at last threw it off him, jumped up and ran out of the shed. He was very angry. He had an old sword under his bed, and he now ran and got this. Then he ran back to the shed, opened the door suddenly and shouted in a terrible voice, 'All right, come out and fight, you and all the other forks in the world! I'm not afraid of you!'

* Pronounced /nasred'di:n/ (*nuss*, to rhyme with *bus*; *red*; *deen*, to rhyme with *seen*. The stress is on the last syllable).

What did Nasreddin have?
 What was it like inside?
 Why was it dark?
 What happened one day?
 Why did Nasreddin go into
 the shed?
 What did he do inside the
 shed?
 What did the fork do?

What did it do after that?
 What did the ends of the fork
 do?
 What did Nasreddin do?
 How did he feel?
 What did he have under his
 bed?
 What did he do now?
 What did he shout?



4

A man always went to the same bar at the same time every day and asked for two glasses of beer. He drank them and then asked for two more.

One day the man behind the bar said to him, 'Why do you always ask for two glasses of beer? Why don't you get one big glass instead?'

The man answered, 'Because I do not like to drink alone. I drink with my friend.'

But a few days later the man came in and asked only for one beer.

'Oh,' said the barman, 'has your friend died?'

'Oh, no,' said the man. 'He is very well. This beer is for him. But I have stopped drinking beer. My doctor doesn't want me to drink any more because it is dangerous for me.'

What did the man in this story do every day?

What did he ask for?

What did he do then?

What did the man behind the bar say one day?

What did the man answer?

What happened a few days later?

What did the man ask for this time?

What did the barman ask?

What did the man answer?



Old Mr Black loved shooting bears, but his eyes were not good any more. Several times he nearly shot people instead of bears, so his friends were always very careful when they went out shooting with him.

One day a young friend of his wanted to have a joke, so he got a big piece of white paper and wrote on it in very big letters 'I AM NOT A BEAR'. Then he tied it to his back and went off. His friends saw it and laughed a lot.

But it did not save him. After a few minutes Mr Black shot at him and knocked his hat off.

The young man was frightened and angry. 'Didn't you see this piece of paper?' he shouted to Mr Black. 'Yes, I did,' said Mr Black. Then he went nearer, looked carefully at the paper and said, 'Oh, I am very sorry. I did not see the word NOT.'

What did Mr Black love?

What was the matter with him?

What happened several times?

What did his friends do when they went out shooting with him?

What did one of his young friends want to do one day?

What did he do?

What did he write on the piece of paper?

What did he do then?

What did his friends do?

What happened then?

Did the paper save the young man?

How did he feel?

What did he shout?

What did Mr Black do?

What did he say?



6

Mrs Brown's old grandfather lived with her and her husband. Every morning he went for a walk in the park and came home at half past twelve for his lunch.

But one morning a police car stopped outside Mrs Brown's house at twelve o'clock, and two policemen helped Mr Brown to get out. One of them said to Mrs Brown, 'The poor old gentleman lost his way in the park and telephoned us for help, so we sent a car to bring him home.' Mrs Brown was very surprised, but she thanked the policemen and they left.

'But, Grandfather,' she then said, 'you have been to that park nearly every day for twenty years. How did you lose your way there?'

The old man smiled, closed one eye and said, 'I didn't quite lose my way. I just got tired and I didn't want to walk home!'

Who lived with Mr and Mrs Brown?

What did he do every morning?

When did he come home?

What did he come home for?

What happened one morning?

At what time did it happen?

What did the two policemen do?

What did one of them say to Mrs Brown?

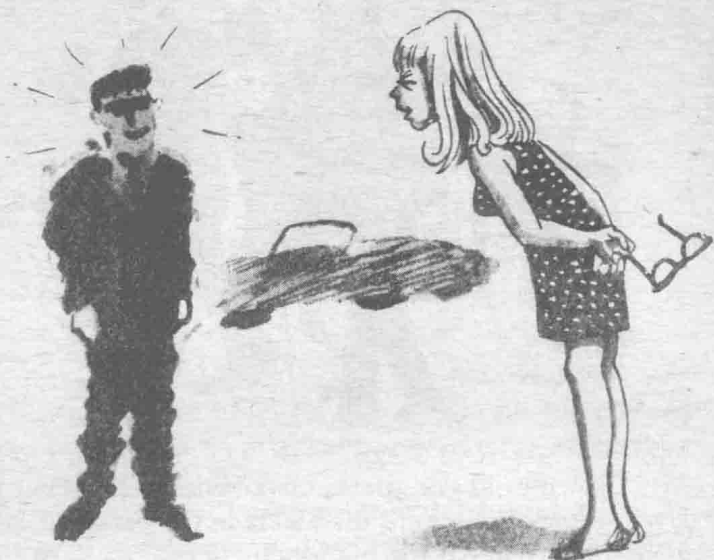
How did Mrs Brown feel?

What did she do?

What did she say to her grandfather?

What did the old man do?

What did he say?



7

Helen's eyes were not very good, so she usually wore glasses. But when she was seventeen and she began to go out with a young man, she never wore her glasses when she was with him. When he came to the door to take her out, she took her glasses off, and when she came home again and he left, she put them on.

One day her mother said to her, 'But Helen, why do you never wear your glasses when you are with Jim? He takes you to beautiful places in his car, but you don't see anything.'

'Well, Mother,' said Helen, 'I look prettier to Jim when I am not wearing my glasses—and he looks better to me too!'

What did Helen usually wear?

Why did she do this?

What did she begin to do when she was seventeen?

What did she do when she was with the young man?

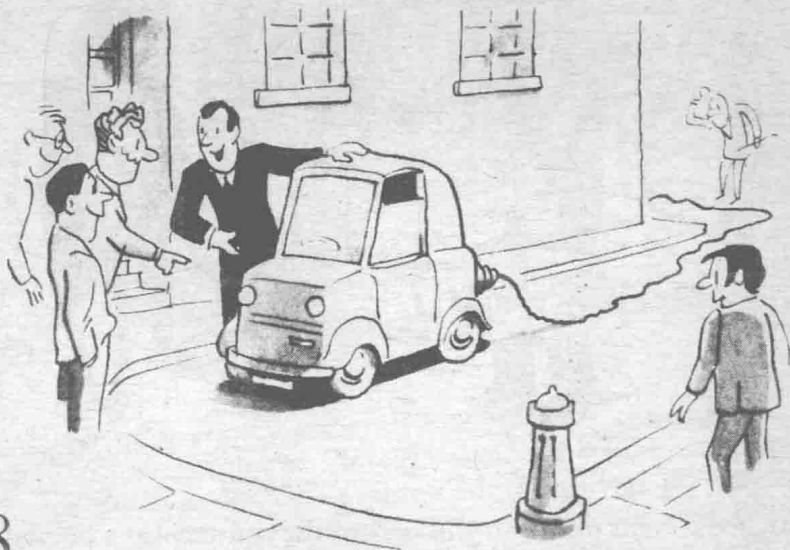
Why did the young man come to the door?

What did Helen do then?

What did she do when she came home?

What did her mother say to her one day?

What did Helen answer?



8

A man was trying to build an electric motor-car. He worked in an office in the town during most of the week, but on Saturdays and Sundays he stayed at home in the country and worked on his electric car. Every Monday he told his friends at the office about his work on the car, but his news about it was never very good. Then at last one Monday morning he came to the office and said to his friends, 'I have done it! I have driven from my home to here by electricity!'

His friends were all very glad. 'How much did it cost to get here by electricity?' they asked.

'Three hundred and two pounds,' he answered. 'Two pounds for the electricity, and three hundred pounds for the electric wires from my house to the car.'

What was the man in this story trying to do?

What did he do most of the week?

What did he do on Saturdays and Sundays?

What did he do every Monday?

What was his news about the car like?

What happened at last one Monday morning?

How did his friends feel?

What did they say?

What did the man answer?



9

An artist went to a beautiful part of the country for a holiday, and stayed with a farmer. Every day he went out with his paints and his brushes and painted from morning to evening, and then when it got dark, he went back to the farm and had a good dinner before he went to bed.

At the end of his holiday he wanted to pay the farmer, but the farmer said, 'No, I do not want money—but give me one of your pictures. What is money? In a week it will all be finished, but your painting will still be here.'

The artist was very pleased and thanked the farmer for saying such kind things about his paintings.

The farmer smiled and answered, 'It is not that. I have a son in London. He wants to become an artist. When he comes here next month, I will show him your picture, and then he will not want to be an artist any more, I think.'

Where did the artist go for his holiday?

Where did he stay?

What did he do every day?

What did he do when it got dark?

What did the farmer say when the artist wanted to pay him?

What did the painter thank the farmer for?

Why did the farmer want the artist's painting?

Did the farmer want his son to become an artist?



10

Mr Jones was very angry with his wife, and she was very angry with her husband. For several days they did not speak to each other at all. One evening Mr Jones was very tired when he came back from work, so he went to bed soon after dinner. Of course, he did not say anything to Mrs Jones before he went upstairs. Mrs Jones washed the dinner things and then did some sewing. When she went up to bed much later than her husband, she found a piece of paper on the small table near her bed. On it were the words, 'Mother.—Wake me up at 7 a.m.—Father.'

When Mr Jones woke up the next morning, it was nearly 8 a.m.—and on the small table near his bed he saw another piece of paper. He took it and read these words: 'Father.—Wake up. It is 7 a.m.—Mother.'

Why did Mr and Mrs Jones not speak to each other for several days?

Why did Mr Jones go to bed soon after dinner?

Did he speak to his wife before he went upstairs?

What did Mrs Jones do after dinner?

When did she go to bed?

What did she find when she went to bed?

Where did she find it?

What did she read?

At what time did Mr Jones wake up the next morning?

What did he see when he woke up?

What did he read?

Why did Mr Jones not wake up at 7 a.m.?



II

The lights were red, so the old man stopped his car and waited for them to change to green. While he was waiting, a police car came up behind him, hit his car hard in the back and stopped.

There were two policemen in the police car, and they were very surprised and glad when the old man got out of his car and walked towards them without any trouble after such an accident. He was over 70 years old.

The old man came to the door of the police car, smiled kindly, and said, 'Tell me, young man, how do you stop this car when the lights are red and I am not here?'

Why did the old man stop his car?

What did he wait for?

What happened while he was waiting?

What people were there in the police car?

What did the old man do?

How did the policemen feel about it?

Why were they surprised?

How old was the man?

What did he do then?

What did he say?



12

Mrs Williams loved flowers and had a small but beautiful garden. In the summer, her roses were always the best in her street. One summer afternoon her bell rang, and when she went to the front door, she saw a small boy outside. He was about seven years old, and was holding a big bunch of beautiful roses in his hand.

'I am selling roses,' he said. 'Do you want any? They are quite cheap. Five pence for a big bunch. They are fresh. I picked them this afternoon.'

'My boy,' Mrs Williams answered, 'I pick roses whenever I want, and don't pay anything for them, because I have lots in my garden.'

'Oh, no, you haven't,' said the small boy. 'There aren't any roses in your garden—because they are here in my hand!'

What did Mrs Williams love?

What did she have?

What were her roses like in the summer?

What happened one summer afternoon?

What did Mrs Williams do then?

What did she see?

Where did she see this boy?

How old was he?

What was he holding?

What did he say to Mrs Williams?

What did Mrs Williams answer?

What did the small boy say then?

Why weren't there any roses in Mrs Williams's garden?



I 3

A woman was having some trouble with her heart, so she went to see the doctor. He was a new doctor, and did not know her, so he first asked some questions, and one of them was, 'How old are you?'

'Well,' she answered, 'I don't remember, doctor, but I will try to think.' She thought for a minute and then said, 'Yes, I remember now, doctor! When I married, I was eighteen years old, and my husband was thirty. Now my husband is sixty, I know; and that is twice thirty. So I am twice eighteen. That is thirty-six, isn't it?'

Where did the woman in this story go?

Why did she go there?

Why did the doctor not know her?

What did he do first?

What was one of his questions?

What did the woman answer?

What did she do then?

What did she say after that?

How old was the woman *really*?