

**Reading
and
Understanding
Book 1**

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PAN PACIFIC BOOK DISTRIBUTORS (S) PTE LTD

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MANHATTAN PRESS (S) PTE LTD

PAN PACIFIC BOOK DISTRIBUTORS (S) PTE LTD
597, Havelock Road, Singapore, 0316
in association with
MANHATTAN PRESS (S) PTE LTD

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First Published August 1976
Second Impression November 1976
Third Impression 1977
Reprinted 1981
Reprinted 1986

ISBN 9971-63-508-9

PREFACE

Reading and Understanding is a series of four books. The series aims to bring to students a considerable body of good and interesting reading passages. The additional study materials in the form of vocabulary exercises, questions for discussion, and oral and written exercises, are designed to foster the student's growth in language skills.

Book One consists of 17 Units. Each unit is made up of (i) an interesting passage adapted from magazines, newspapers and books; (ii) exercises in comprehension; (iii) vocabulary exercises; (iv) language practice and (v) pronunciation drills.

The need for oral comprehension to develop reading skills and responses is greatly emphasized, but the approach to reading is left to the discretion of the teachers to suit the levels of their own students.

If, finally, students could be made to feel that reading, with all its difficulties, could be interesting and rewarding, the aim of this series would have been achieved.

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BOOKS BY JOHNNY ONG:

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Malaya This, Our Native Land (Poetry)

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Run Tiger Run (Novel)

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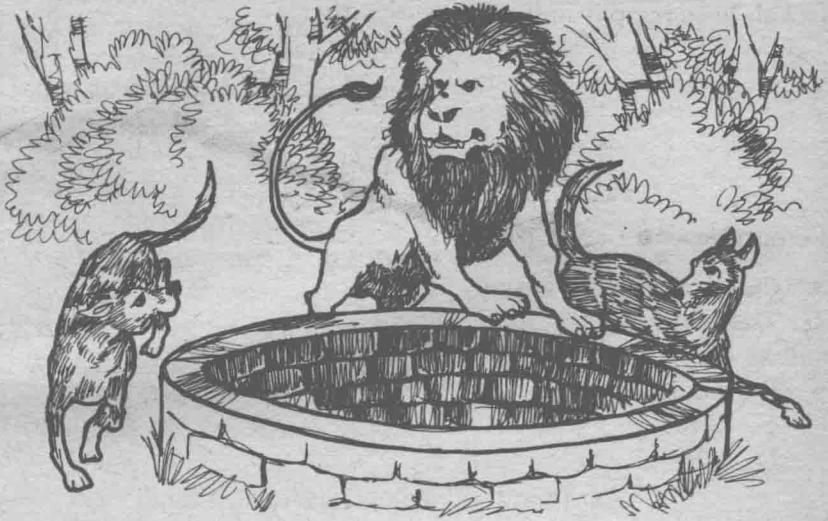
Creative Composition

Multiple Choice Comprehension, Structure & Usage

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There was once a fierce lion who was king of a great jungle. When he was hungry, he would come out of his cave and roar. This made the small jungle animals run out of their holes. The lion would then catch them and eat them up.

Soon there were only two other animals left in the jungle — two cunning jackals. The jackals knew it would be their turn next. They thought of a clever plan to trap the lion. They came out of hiding and ran towards the lion. The lion was very happy to see them.

“Ah, I see you have come to give yourselves up,” the lion smiled.

“No, Your Majesty,” the jackals replied. “We’ve come to tell you there’s a bigger lion in another part of the jungle. This lion says that he is greater than you and will eat you up one day.”

The lion stood up and began to roar. “Take me to this big lion!” he said angrily.

The jackals then led the lion to an old well. The lion looked into the well and saw a huge lion in the water. He did not realize that it was only his own reflection. He roared and the

lion in the well roared back at him. The lion was very angry at this. He leaped into the well. Of course, he was drowned. The two jackals lived happily in the jungle ever after.

(An Indian Folk Tale)

Comprehension

A Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The lion was very _____.
A old
B young
C fierce
D wild
()
- 2 When the lion was hungry, he would _____.
A run out of his cave and roar
B sleep
C sit still
D chase the animals
()
- 3 The lion's roar made _____ run out of their holes.
A other lions
B the jackals
C the small animals
D the big animals
()
- 4 Soon _____.
A the lion became very lonely
B all the small animals ran away
C there were no more animals in the jungle
D only the lion and the two jackals were left
()

- 5 The two jackals were very _____.
- A stupid
 - B cunning
 - C lazy
 - D happy

()

B Complete the answers to the following questions:

- 1 What happened to the small animals when they ran out of their holes?
They were _____ by the lion.
- 2 What plan did the two jackals think of?
They thought of a _____.
- 3 What did the jackals do?
They _____.
- 4 How did the lion feel when he saw them?
The lion was _____.
5. What did the jackals tell the lion?
They told him that _____.

C Answer these questions in complete sentences.

- 1 Where did the jackals take the lion?
- 2 What did the lion see in the well?
- 3 What did the lion do when the huge lion in the well roared back at him?
- 4 How did the lion die?

Vocabulary

A Choose the correct meaning for each of the words as used in the passage.

- 1 There was once a fierce lion who was king of a *great* jungle.
This means the lion was king of a _____ jungle.
- A small
 - B quiet
 - C noisy
 - D big

()

2 When he was hungry, he would come out of his cave and roar. This means the lion would _____.

- A make a loud deep sound
- B make a soft low sound
- C cry
- D jump about

()

3 Soon only two cunning jackals were left in the jungle. *Cunning* means _____.

- A slow
- B fast
- C clever
- D stupid

()

4 He leaped into the well. *Leaped* means _____.

- A sat
- B ran
- C walked
- D jumped

()

5 Of course, he was *drowned*. This means the lion _____.

- A died in the water
- B was killed by the huge lion
- C was killed by the cunning jackals
- D was trapped in the well

()

B For each word in Column X, pick out a word in Column Y which means the opposite of it.

X

great
fierce

Y

tame
new

smaller
thin
cunning
happy
old

fat
bigger
small
stupid
sad

Language Practice

Look at these sentences:

- 1 The lion came out of the cave.
The lion would come out of the cave.
- 2 It roared loudly.
It would roar loudly.
- 3 The lion caught them.
The lion would catch them.
- 4 He stood up and smiled.
He would stand up and smile.

The above sentences are all in the past tense. However, when there is the word "would" in the sentence, the verb that comes after it is an infinitive. An infinitive should never be spelt in the past tense form. Neither should we add '-s' or '-ing' to it.

Rewrite the following sentences adding in the word "would" and changing the tense of the underlined verbs:

- 1 When Ah Tuck was free, he went to the library.
- 2 After dinner, we watched television.
- 3 Every time he came to visit us, he brought some gifts.
- 4 When the dog saw Mr Ong, it barked loudly.
- 5 When the sun rose, the birds started singing.
- 6 The children ran and shouted during recess.
- 7 May Choo began to yawn when it was bed-time.
- 8 The elephant stretched out its trunk to take the banana.
- 9 Miss Yow drank a cup of tea before going to work.
- 10 They listened to the news after lunch.

Pronunciation Practice

p

<u>p</u> ad	<u>p</u> at	<u>p</u> in	<u>c</u> ap
<u>p</u> et	<u>p</u> ay	<u>p</u> lay	<u>t</u> ap
<u>p</u> ack	<u>p</u> ig	<u>m</u> ap	<u>n</u> ap
<u>p</u> ill	<u>p</u> en	<u>l</u> ap	<u>p</u> ot

The pig lives in the pen.
He plays with his pet.
There are pills in the pack.
She draws a map with a pen.



Once upon a time the animals of the forest came together to see who was the most beautiful. All the animals were happy and excited. However, the snake was very sad because she knew she was ugly.

The cock was very kind to her. He lent the snake his crown. She put it on her head and felt very happy. The snake told the cock she would return him the crown early the next morning.

The snake glided along proudly, like a queen. She wanted to show off her beautiful crown. The animals said she was the most beautiful. The snake did not see the large pool of water in front of her. She fell into the pool and dropped the crown. She searched for the crown but could not find it. She was afraid and did not want to tell the cock.

The next morning, the cock got up very early and waited for the snake. She did not appear. The cock called for her time and again. Still the snake did not come.

To this day, the cock still gets up early each morning and crows, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" He is saying, "Where are you?"

Comprehension

A Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The animals of the forest met to see who was _____
_____.
- A the kindest
 - B the happiest
 - C the most beautiful
 - D the biggest
- ()
- 2 The cock lent the snake _____.
- A his feathers
 - B his voice
 - C his tail
 - D his crown
- ()
- 3 The snake _____ the crown.
- A liked
 - B did not like
 - C did not want
 - D did not take
- ()
- 4 The snake told the cock she would give him back the crown _____.
- A the next evening
 - B late the next morning
 - C early the next morning
 - D early the next afternoon
- ()
- 5 The crown dropped into _____.
- A the sea
 - B a large pool
 - C a long river
 - D a big pond
- ()

B Complete the answers to the following questions:

- 1 Why did the animals come together?
They met _____.
- 2 Why was the snake sad?
The snake was sad because _____.
- 3 Who was kind to the snake?
_____ kind to the snake.
- 4 What happened to the crown?
It dropped _____.
- 5 Why was the snake afraid to tell the cock about the crown?
The snake was afraid because she _____.

C Answer these questions in complete sentences:

- 1 Who was very ugly?
- 2 Who made the snake happy?
- 3 What did the snake do with the crown?
- 4 What did the snake do next?
- 5 Why did the cock get up very early the next morning?

Vocabulary

A Choose the correct meaning for each of the words or phrases as used in the passage.

- 1 He *lent* the snake his crown. This means that the cock

- _____.
- A let the snake use his crown
 - B gave his crown to the snake
 - C asked the snake to look after his crown
 - D sold his crown to the snake

()

- 2 She *put it on her head*. This means the snake

- _____.
- A wore the crown
 - B sat on the crown
 - C bought the crown
 - D dropped the crown

()

3 She *searched for* the crown but could not find it. This tells us that the snake wanted to _____.

- A find the crown
- B look at the crown
- C buy another crown
- D hide the crown

()

4 The snake glided along proudly. *Glided* means _____.

- A walked
- B moved smoothly and easily
- C hopped like a frog
- D ran in a circle

()

B Look at these sentences:

- 1 The manager is rich but the beggar is poor.
- 2 Mr Lee is fat but Mr Tan is thin.

Find a word in the passage opposite in meaning to each word underlined in these sentences:

- 1 All the animals were happy but the snake was _____.
- 2 The snake was ugly but the crown made her look _____.
- 3 Many animals get up late but the cock gets up _____.
- 4 Some birds get up in the night but the cock gets up in the _____.
- 5 This house is small but that house is _____.

Language Practice

Look at the following sentences carefully:

- 1 Mr Chan goes to the forest.
He goes to the forest.