A WAY TO ENGLISH

Book II



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

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A WAY TO ENGLISH

BOOK II

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PREFACE

ALL the prose pieces in this reader, as in all the readers, have been specially written or rewritten to ensure that they are well within the capacity of the pupils, who are not called upon to learn too many words or constructions at once.

Each lesson assumes a knowledge only of the words used in the primer, the preceding reader, and the preceding lessons of this reader; and the lessons must, therefore, not be taken out of order. New words are given at the head of each prose lesson or after each piece of poetry. This will make easier the teacher's work of oral preparation for the lesson, and will ensure that the reading can then proceed with the minimum of interruption and without loss of interest.

The pupil's command of language is thus built up gradually by extension of his existing knowledge.

This system, too, is followed in dealing with pronunciation, to which, as is officially recommended, special attention is given. The sounds of new words are taught by reference to the sounds of words already learnt in the primer. Sometimes, where it is especially advisable, pronunciation is further indicated by respelling, e.g. *busy* [bĭzĭ], *enough* [ĭnŭf]. Pupils will thus be saved from many doubts and pitfalls.

Some exercises are appended to the prose lessons. These, especially the questions on grammar, are kept within the scope suggested by the Government syllabuses. The teacher may, however, amplify or supplement them at his discretion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE publishers' thanks for permission to include copyright poems are due to Sir Humphrey Milford for "The Merry Stream", "A Little Talk", "The Ducklings' School", "Lamps and Stars", "The Stars", "The Rabbits" and "A Greeting" from *Fifty Poems for Infants* and "The Snail" from *One Hundred Poems for Children*.

They also wish to acknowledge their indebtedness to *First Book of Verse*, published by Sir Humphrey Milford, for the source of "Long time ago", "I Love little Pussy" and "Little Robin Redbreast".

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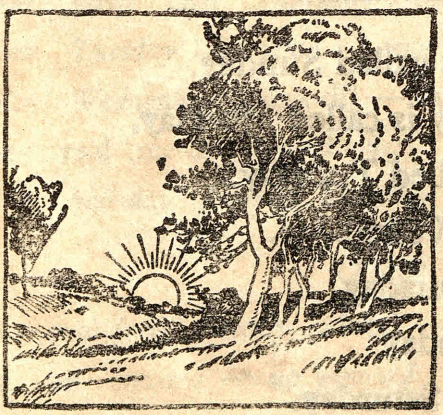
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THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

onward during really holiday
turn count start
Sunday Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday
Friday Saturday

I

In the morning the sun rises in the east. It climbs higher in the sky, and moves onward during the day. In the evening it sets in the west.



During the night we do not see it, but it still moves onward on the other side of the earth. Then in the morning we see it again in the east.

The sun goes right round the earth once in a day. There are twenty-four hours in a day. We start counting from midnight. We count twelve hours by the clock from midnight to midday or noon. Then we start again, and count twelve hours from noon to midnight. Then another day begins.

The sun does not really go round the earth. We all know that. But it seems to do so. The sun really stands still, and the earth turns round. It turns right round once in twenty-four hours.

Seven days make a week. Each day of the week has its own name.

The first day is called Sunday.
The second day is called Monday.
The third is called Tuesday.
The fourth is Wednesday.
The fifth is Thursday.
The sixth is Friday.
The seventh is Saturday.

II

Do you come to school every day?

No, we do not come every day.

On which days do you not come?

We do not come to school on Sunday.

Do you come on Saturday?

We come on Saturday morning, but we go home early. Saturday is a half-holiday.

PRONUNCIATION

sun Sunday Monday [mŭn-dĭ] — *cow count*
her earth turn Thursday [thurz-dĭ]
few Tuesday [z] *your during*
pen Wednesday [wĕnz-dĭ] — *my Friday*
see real [ree-*a*l—*two syllables*]
hot hólĭ-day ónward [ŏn-wud]

LEARN

1. *real* (adj.) *really* (advb.) — *quick quickly*
2. *on onward* — *up upward*

EXERCISE

Make sentences in which the following words are properly used: *on, onward, during, count, start, turn.*

DICTATION

(a) *In the morning the sun rises in the east. It climbs higher in the sky, and it moves onward during the day. In the evening it sets in the west. At night we do not see it, but it still moves onward on the other side of the earth.*

(b) *We come to school on six days of the week, but Saturday is a half-holiday. We do not come at all on Sunday.*

GRAMMAR

Pick out five nouns and five verbs from the sentences in the dictation exercises above.

QUESTIONS

1. Say the days of the week in order.
2. What is today?
3. What was yesterday?
4. What will tomorrow be?
5. What was the day before yesterday?
6. What will the day after tomorrow be?
7. On what day do you have a half-holiday?
8. How many hours are there in a day?
9. How many times does the earth turn round in a day? in a week?
10. Write down the days of the week in order.

THE MERRY STREAM



Between the trees and in and out
The little streamlet goes.
I wonder it is never tired,
So fast it always flows.
It never stops to rest or play
But hurries on its way.



a stream **merry** **wonder**
a streamlet **hurry** **flow**

PRONUNCIATION

men merry [-ɪ] — *tree stream*
sun won-der hurries [-ɪz] — *go flow*

LEARN

a stream *a stream-let* (a little stream)
a book *a book-let* (a little book)

BIRDS THAT SWIM

I DUCKS

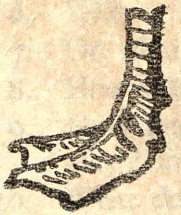
swim	paddle	waddle	spread
webbed	forward	funny	a bill
push	dive	flat	broad
mud	wild	an insect	a weed

Some birds can swim as well as fly. The best known of these are ducks.

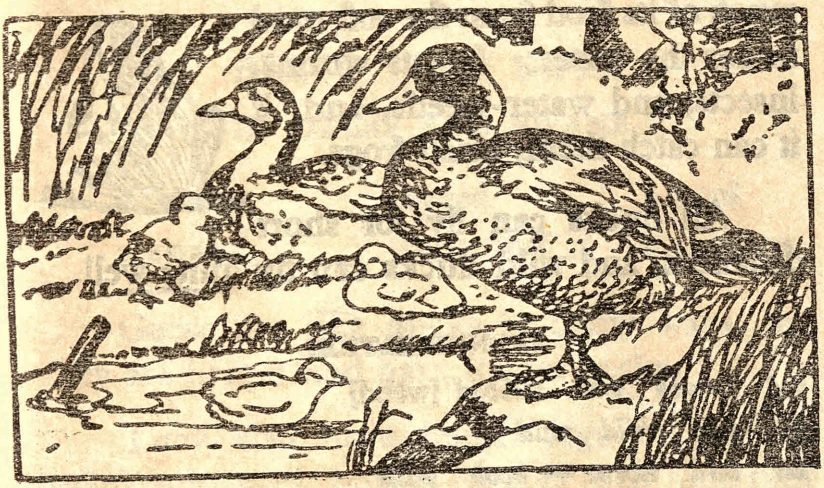


Their legs are shorter than hens' legs, and are not very good for walking. When a duck walks, its body moves from side to side in a funny way, which is called waddling.

But young ducks can swim as soon as they walk into the water. They have webbed feet. Their toes are joined by pieces of strong skin. So they can use their feet to paddle through the water.



They put their toes together to move their feet forward in the



water. Then they spread them out and push their feet back. This pushes their bodies forward through the water.

They look for their food in the water, or very near its edge. The duck puts its head right under the water, and only its tail can be seen. Some ducks dive under the water and stay there for a minute or two.

The duck has a broad, flat bill, or beak. It is round at the end, and with this it can get

much of its food from the soft mud under the water. It eats worms, insects, and water-weeds, and, if it can catch them, small frogs.



All ducks can fly for short distances, and wild ducks can fly quite well.

PRONUNCIATION

bed spread web webbed [wĕbd]
fly dive child wild
her bird worm — book push
sun mud funny [-I] — *hat paddle*
hot wash waddle — paw broad forward

LEARN

1. *broad narrow broad long*
   push pull forward back(ward)
2. *fun* (noun) *funny* (adj.) *mud muddy*

EXERCISE

Make sentences with the words *forward, back, push, spread, broad, wild.*

GRAMMAR

Pick out five singular nouns and five plural nouns.

BIRDS THAT SWIM

II GEESE AND SWANS

frighten	breed	a pool
a swan	beautiful	a chicken

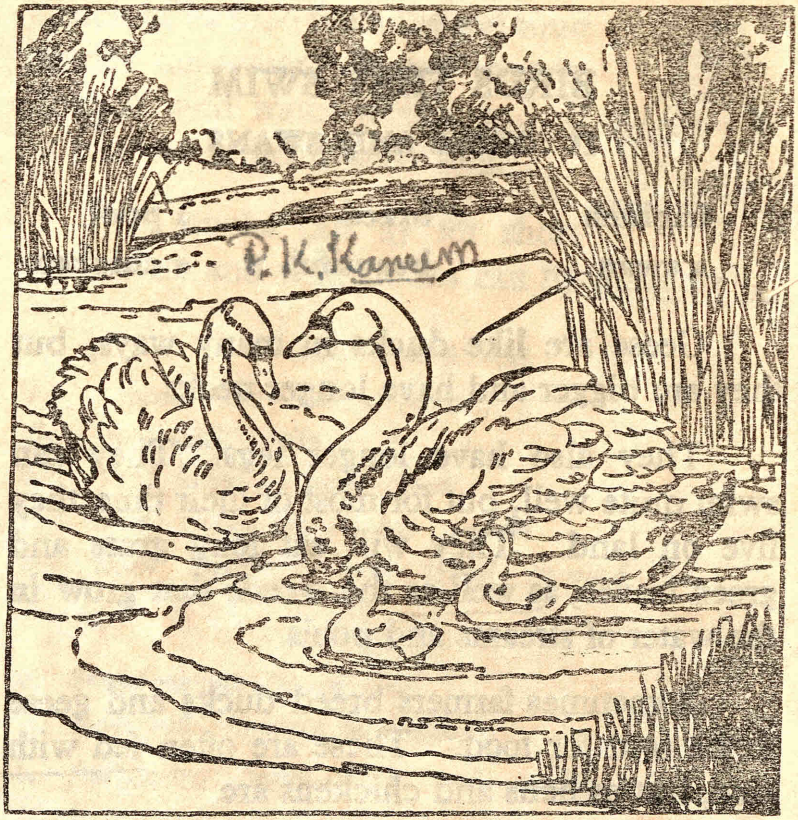
Geese are like ducks in many ways, but they are bigger and have longer necks.

They also have longer legs. They can swim quite well, but for most of their time they live on land. They will eat long grass and green leaves, as well as the weeds that grow in the water of streams and pools.

Sometimes farmers breed ducks and geese to be sold for food. These are often fed with rice, just as hens and chickens are.

Geese are not so friendly as ducks, and they often look angry when people go near them; but they are easily frightened.

Swans are still larger birds. Their feathers are all white, and they look very



beautiful when they swim about in the water.

The swan has a very long neck. Its bill is like that of the duck, and it eats food of the same kind.

A young swan is grey when it comes out of the egg, and is not at all good-looking. But when it grows up, its feathers become white.

Swans are heavy birds; but they too can fly, for their wings are very strong.

PRONUNCIATION

my right fright frighten
you few beau-ty [ti] *beau-ti-ful*
not gone swan — cool pool

REVISE

goose geese tooth teeth leaf leaves

LEARN

friend (n.) *friendly* (adj.) *man manly*
easy (adj.) *easily* (advb.) *real really*

GRAMMAR

Pick out four adjectives and four adverbs.

DICTATION

Geese are like ducks in many ways. They can swim quite well. They are not so friendly as ducks, and they often look very angry when people go near them; but they are easily frightened.

Swans are still larger birds. Their feathers are all white, and they are very beautiful.

A LITTLE TALK

The big brown hen and the fat white duck
Went walking out together.
They talked about all kinds of things—
The farmyard and the weather.
But all *I* heard was: "Cluck, cluck, cluck!"
And "Quack, quack, quack!" from the fat white duck.

yard **quack** **cluck**

PRONUNCIATION

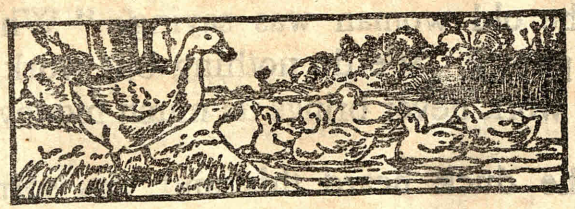
farm yard — duck cluck — back quack

LEARN

farm yard farmyard

THE DUCKLINGS' SCHOOL

Little ducklings go to school
On the clear and sunny pool,
And the queerest things they learn :
How to swim, and dive, and turn ;
How to spread their toes, and walk
With a waddle ; how to talk
In the funny duckling way,
Quack, quack, quacking all the day.
Have you seen the ducks at school.
By the clear and sunny pool ?



clear **queer** **duckling**

PRONUNCIATION

ear clear queer

LEARN

duck duckling

THE DUCK WITH THE GOLDEN FEATHERS

hurt **belong** **nothing**
greedy **suddenly**

There was once a duck with feathers of gold. He was flying one day past a village. He was very tired, so he stopped for a little rest near a small house. The house belonged to a poor woman. She had two daughters, and they had to work very hard.

The old woman was saying, " Why are we so poor ? We do nothing but work, and all our work never brings us much money."

The duck heard this and was sorry for them. So with his beak he pulled out one of his golden feathers, dropped it in front of the woman, and flew away.

She went to the town and sold the golden feather, and bought food with the money.

After that the duck came again and again, and each time dropped another golden feather. This helped them a great deal, and they were well fed and well clothed, and lived in comfort.

But the old woman was very greedy. One day she said to her daughters, "Will this duck always give us these golden feathers? Perhaps one day he will go away and never come back. What shall we do then? He will come back again in a few days. We will catch him and pull out all his golden feathers at once. Then we shall have plenty of money for a long time."

"Oh, no!" cried the two daughters. "We must not hurt the kind bird. That would be too cruel."

"Do you want to be poor again?" asked the old woman. "Do you like hard work and no money?"

In a few days the good duck came again. The greedy old woman caught the poor bird



and began to pull out the feathers, two or three at a time.

Then she suddenly stopped. She looked at the feathers on the ground. They were no longer golden. They had become white, or grey, or brown, just like those of any other duck.

The woman forgot to keep hold of the duck, so the unhappy bird flew away and never came back ; and the greedy old woman became poor once more.

Adapted from the Jatakas

PRONUNCIATION

bird hurt — sun sudden nothing

LEARN

sudden suddenly — slow slowly
greed greedy — noise noisy
happy unhappy (not happy) — *clean unclean*

EXERCISES

1. Make adverbs from *quick, equal, easy, high, hungry, quiet, rough, wrong, sad.*
2. Make adjectives from *rain, hill, fur, sleep, trick, wind, oil, milk.*
3. Give single words meaning the opposite of *equal* (not equal), *fair, paid, broken.*
4. Use correctly in sentences: *belong, hear, at once, must, suddenly.*
5. Turn the following statements into (i) questions, (ii) statements of present time.
   (a) *The duck heard this.*
   (b) *The duck flew away.*
   (c) *She sold the feathers.*
   (d) *She bought food.*
   (e) *The duck came again.*
   (f) *She caught the bird.*

WATCHES

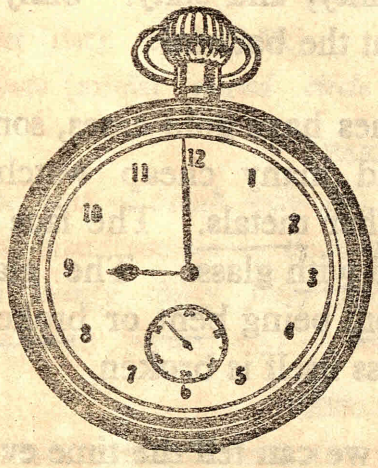
a pocket	metal	a strap	a case
fasten	bent	broken	within
tenth	thirty	forty	fifty

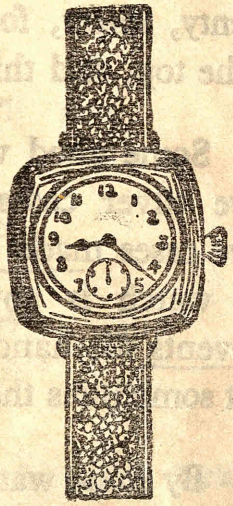
When we are at home or at school we can tell the time from a clock. How can we tell the time when we are a long way from home and not near any houses ?

No one can carry a clock about with him. But a man can carry a watch in his pocket.

A watch is a small clock. Some watches are much broader than a rupee, and very much thicker.

Sometimes a man carries a small watch fastened to his wrist by a leather strap. These watches are not quite as broad as a rupee; some are about as broad as an eight anna piece.





Many watches will tell us how the seconds pass, as well as the minutes. Each minute has sixty seconds in it. At the bottom of the face of the watch there is another circle, and round the edge of this there are sixty small marks.

There is a small hand or pointer which goes round the whole circle in a minute.

Often every tenth mark has a number against it, so that you have the numbers ten,

twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, and sixty. Sixty is at the top, and thirty at the bottom.

Some good watches have gold cases, some have silver cases, and many cheap watches have cases made of other metals. The face of the watch is covered with glass. The glass prevents the hands from being bent or broken. But sometimes the glass itself is broken.

By some watches we can tell the time even in the dark. The hands and the numbers of the hours are covered with a kind of paint. This paint shines in the dark. So it is easy to see the time within a minute or two.

PRONUNCIATION

small broad [brawd] *forty* [fawti]
her thirty — we cheap
tenth bent metal [mĕt'l]
clock watch pocket
it fifty [i] — *say case palm*
for glass fast fasten [fahs'n]

REVISE

wrist [rĭst] *whole* [hōle]
minute [mĭnĭt] *second circle* [serk'l] *quite*

LEARN

bend bent — break broke (is) broken
wide broad narrow — thick thin
ten twenty thirty forty fifty sixty
fast (adj.) *fasten* (vb.) — *deep deepen*

EXERCISE

Make sentences with the words *broad(er), thick(er), metal, prevent, bent, broken, within, whole.*

GRAMMAR

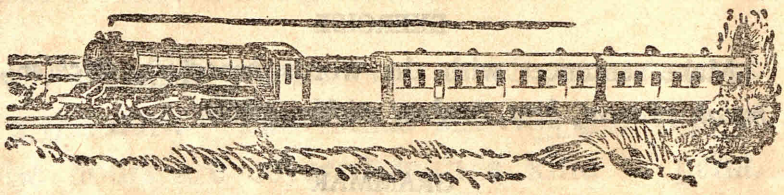
Pick out five singular nouns, five plural nouns, and five prepositions.

DICTATION

Many watches will tell us how the seconds pass, as well as the minutes. Each minute has sixty seconds in it. At the bottom of the face of the watch there is another circle, and round the edge of this there are sixty small marks. There is a small hand or pointer which goes round the whole circle in a minute.

LAMPS AND STARS

Far away over the railway—
Over the river, over the trees—
The stars are slowly coming out
By ones, and twos, and threes.



Up in the sky they are lighting the stars,
And here we have in the busy town
So many lamps you'd think the stars
Had all come tumbling down.

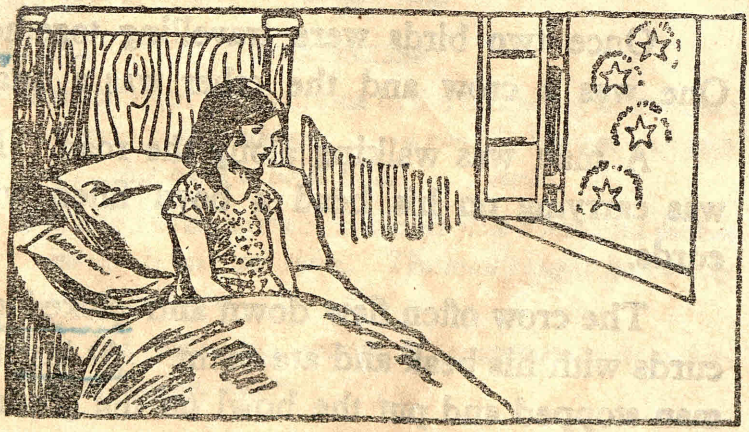
tumbling
you'd = you would

THE STARS



I like the little friendly stars,
With faces small and bright,
Who look into my bedroom,
And watch me through the night.

For when I waken in the dark,
How lonely it would be
If their kind faces were not there
To smile and blink at me !





A BAD FRIEND

a quail a bowl curds

travel fill(ed)

Once two birds were travelling together. One was a crow and the other was a quail.

A man was walking along the road. He was carrying on his head a bowl filled with curds.

The crow often flew down and picked out curds with his beak and ate them. At last the man stopped and put the bowl on the ground.

The crow flew away to a distance, where he was safe. But the quail stayed there. He had done no wrong, so he did not fly away.

As the quail was not so quick as the crow, the man caught him easily and killed him.

We should not be friendly with bad people.

From the Hitopadesha

PRONUNCIATION

bad trawl — crow bowl
bird curd — tail quick quail
kill killed [kĭld] *fill filled* [fĭld]

REVISE

wrong [rŏng] *right — write read*

EXERCISES

1. Put the right prepositions in the following sentences : *A man was walking . . . a road. He was carrying . . . his head a bowl filled . . . curds.*
2. Put into the negative : *The crow flew down and picked out curds and ate them. The man caught him easily and killed him.*
3. Use the following words in sentences : *together, along, away, easily.*

THE POST OFFICE

post	postage	mail	chief
an office	a street	a clerk	a van
the address	a guard	a stamp	a card
a parcel	iron	canvas	care

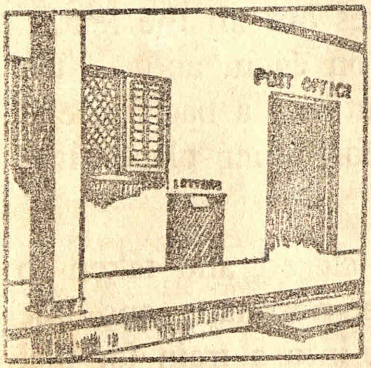
Father. Romesh, will you please post this letter for me?

Romesh. Yes, father. But you must tell me what to do. I have never posted a letter before.

Father. Well, you must take it to the post office. In the wall you will see an iron box, painted red. At the top of the box is a long hole. You must push your letter through the hole into the box.

Romesh. Where is the letter going, father?

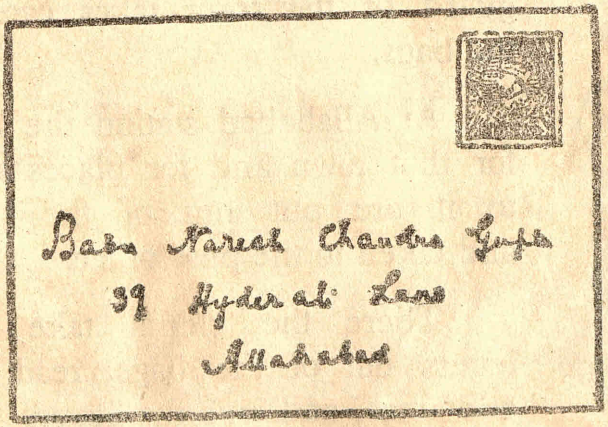
Father. It is going to your uncle in Allahabad. You will see that I have written his name on it—Babu Naresh Chandra Gupta. After that I have written his address; that is,



the name of the street where he lives, and the number of his house—39 Hyder Ali Lane; and then the name of the town—Allahabad. So the postman will know where to take it.

Romesh. How does the letter go, father? Does the postman go by train?

Father. Oh, no! A postman doesn't take it all the way. In the evening the letter-box is



opened, and a clerk takes out all the letters. He looks at the address on each, and all the letters for one place are put into a bag made of thick canvas, and those for other places into other bags.

Then the bags are closed and taken to the railway station by a postman, and the bag for Allahabad is put into a train for that town.

In some of the chief trains there is a van or carriage for the post only, with two or three men to take care of the bags and letters. They are called mail trains. In other trains the guard of the train takes care of the bags.



At Allahabad station the bags for that town and for places near to it are put out of the train and taken to the post office.

There the clerks take the letters out of the bags, read the addresses, and put the letters into

different boxes. There is one box for each part of the town, and for each of the places near to it.

The letters are then taken by postmen. Each postman takes the letters for his part of the town, and puts all the letters for one road together, and so on. Then he goes out and takes the letters to the addresses written on them.

Romesh. What is that coloured paper on the corner of the letter ?

Father. That is the stamp. We buy stamps at the post office. Then we put a stamp on each letter, and that shows that we have paid for the letter.

Romesh. You can send a letter a very long way for a very little money then.

Father. Yes, that is true. Postage is very cheap; but twenty years ago it was much cheaper. The postage on a letter to any part of India was then only half an anna; and you could send a postcard for a pice.

Small parcels can also be sent by post. So things can be sent from shops in big towns to small places where there are few shops or none at all. You pay more for parcels than for letters, and more for heavy parcels than for light ones.

You see then that the post is a great help to us, and may often save us money as well as time.

PRONUNCIATION

hole post postage [pōstĭj] — *street chief*

card guard [gard] *clerk* [clark] *parcel* [pars'l]

sun colour [kŭll*er*][1] — *shop office* [ŏfĭs]

postage [ĭj] *carriage* [ĭj]

lion iron [*i not sounded*]

REVISE

care heavy money station

[1] When a word is re-spelt within brackets the weak vowel sound found in the *-er* of "father" or the *a-* of "about" is generally indicated by italic letters.

LEARN

1. *I write wrote (have) written*
   take took taken
2. *post postage postman post office postcard*

QUESTIONS

1. What is the postage now (*a*) on a letter, (*b*) on a postcard?
2. What is your address? Write it.
3. How does the post help us?

EXERCISES

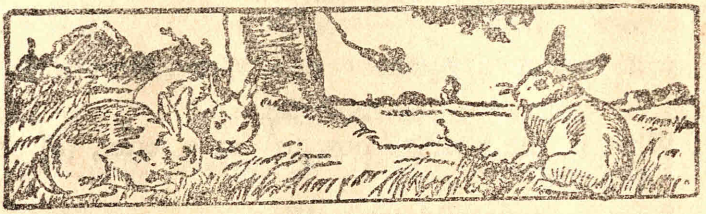
1. Use the following words in sentences: *iron, hole, top, into, in, written, chief.*
2. Put the right prepositions in the following sentences:
   (a) *Some . . . the chief trains have a van . . . the post only, with men to take care . . . the letters.*
   (b) *The bags are taken . . . the station . . . a postman.*
   (c) *The clerk looks . . . the addresses, and all the letters . . . one place are put . . . a bag made . . . thick canvas.*

GRAMMAR

1. Pick out five adjectives.
2. Give the plural forms of *letter, address, postman, clerk, place.*

DICTATION

In some of the chief trains there is a van or carriage for the post only, with two or three men to take care of the bags and letters. They are called mail trains. In other trains the guard of the train takes care of the bags.

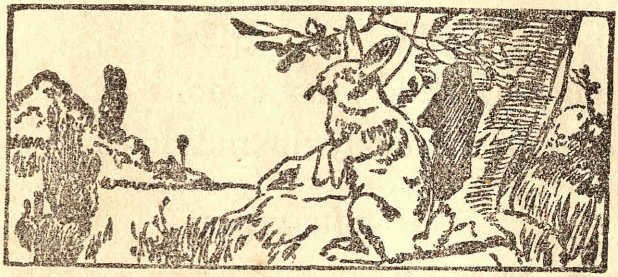


THE RABBITS

The little furry rabbits
Keep very, very still,
And peep at me across the grass
As I walk up the hill.

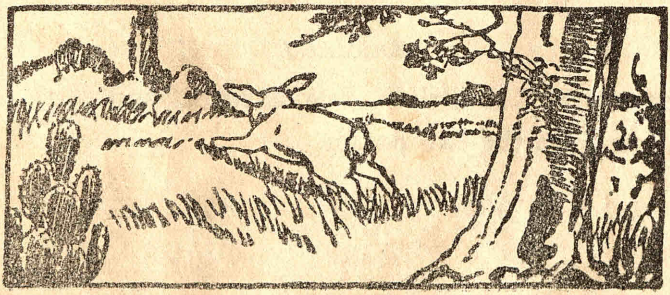
But if I venture nearer
To join them at their play,
A flash of white—and they are gone,
Not one of them will stay!





A GREETING

I went to say good morning
To a little furry bunny;
He sat beside his door-way,
For the day was bright and sunny;
But, oh! I grieve to tell you,
He would not stay to play;
He turned his tail and bobbed it,
And quickly ran away.



a rabbit furry peep

beside grieve

bunny=(a child's name for) a rabbit

bob=move quickly up and down

PRONUNCIATION

sun sunny bunny [-ɪ]

her fur furry [-ɪ]

my side beside [bɪ-]

peep leave grieve

LEARN

1. *sun sunny fur furry*
2. *near nearer bright brighter*
3. *good morning good evening good afternoon*
4. *door way door-way*

GRAMMAR

Pick out two adjectives, two adverbs, and four prepositions from the two poems.

THE TWO PEDLARS

a pedlar	brass	worth	scales
grand	honest	dishonest	generous
scratch	pretend	weigh	meanwhile

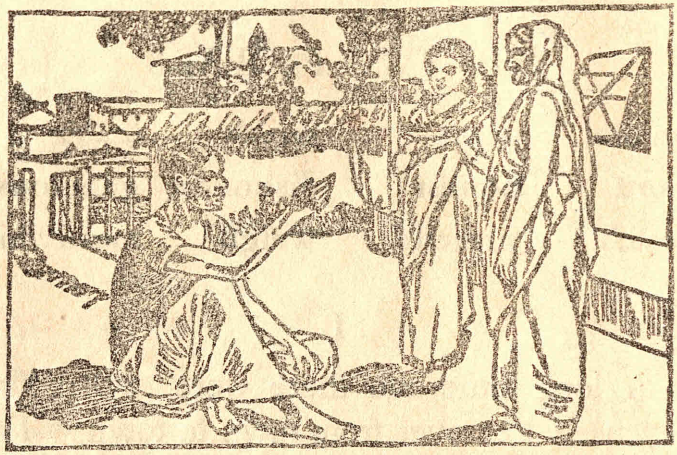
I

A long time ago there were two pedlars. They used to travel from town to town. They bought and sold brass pans and dishes, and knives and spoons.

They were not friends, but they sometimes happened to be in the same town on the same day. One was greedy and dishonest, but the other was honest and generous.

One day they were both in the same town. In the morning they set out to go round the streets.

In a small house in the middle of the town there lived an old woman with her young granddaughter. A long time ago her husband



had been rich; but all his money had been lost, he had died, and now they were very poor.

They heard someone outside calling, "Dishes and pans! Dishes and pans!"

It was the dishonest pedlar; but of course they did not know that he was dishonest.

The little girl said, "Grandmother, there is a pedlar. You remember the old dish that I found two days ago in the little room. Let us sell it to the pedlar, for we have no money to buy more rice."

"That dirty old dish!" said her grandmother. "He will not buy it. We will clean it and use it for ourselves, for our others are almost worn out. But you may show it to him if you like, and ask him how much he will give for it."

So the girl called in the pedlar, and they showed him the dish.

"I will weigh it," he said, and took it to the gate, where he had left his basket. The dish was very heavy for its size, so he took a pin and scratched the dish. Under the dirt he saw that the dish was made of gold.

He said to himself, "I must pretend that the dish is worth nothing. I will go away now, and come back later. Then perhaps they will sell it for a few pice."

So he took the dish back, threw it down, and pretended to be angry, saying, "That is worth nothing. You are wasting my time." He took up his basket and went away.

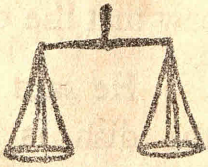
II

About an hour later the honest pedlar came through the street, calling out, "Dishes and pans! Dishes and pans!"

The girl said, "Grandmother, there is another pedlar. We have no money at all. Perhaps he will give us a little for the dish."

"It will be of no use," said the old woman. "He will only be angry if you ask him."

But the girl called in the pedlar and showed him the dish.



"I will bring my scales and weigh it," he said. So he weighed it in front of them.

"It is very heavy for its size," he said. He took out a pin and scratched it. Then he saw the gold shining through the dirt, and said, "This is a gold dish. It is worth a lot of money. I have not enough money here to buy it."

The old woman said, "Is that true? Another pedlar said that it was worth nothing. But we must have some money; so if you will buy it, you may give us what money you can."

The honest man said, "It is certainly real gold. I shall want a little of my money for food, but I will give you all the rest for it."

So he gave them nearly all his money, and several new dishes and pans, and knives and spoons as well. They thanked him for his kindness, and he went away with the dish in his bag.

As he went he saw the other pedlar going back to the house. He knew that the dishonest man was playing some trick, for he had seen the other scratch on the dish. So he left the town at once, and went right away to another part of India as quickly as he could.

Meanwhile the dishonest pedlar went back to the old woman and said, "You wanted to sell an old dish to me this morning. It is really of little use to me; but if you are very

poor I will give you a few pice for it, just to help you."

"You greedy, dishonest man!" cried the old woman. "You will not get it for a few pice, or even for a few rupees. You will not get it at all. You knew that it was gold, but you said that it was worth nothing. An honest and generous pedlar has paid us well for it. You are too late."

Angry at having lost the gold dish, he went quickly away. He looked everywhere for the honest pedlar, for he wanted to rob him; but the good man was far away by the evening, and he never found him.

Adapted from the Jatakas

PRONUNCIATION

say way weigh waste scales
get péd-lar gén-e-rous [jĕn-] *pretĕnd* [prĭ-]
are class brass — dirt worth
rat scratch grand — sit pretĕnd [prĭ-]
on hónest [ŏnĭst — h *not sounded*]
tea time mean-while

REVISE

husband [z] *nothing* *enough* [inʌf]

knife *knives*

we use knives [z] — *this is of no use* [s] — *we used to travel* [s]

LEARN

1. *honest* *dis-honest*
2. *grand* *grandmother* *grand-daughter*
3. *throw* *threw* — *know* *knew*

EXERCISE

Use in sentences the words *used* (2), *brass*, *pretend*, *meanwhile*, *worth*, *weigh*.

DICTATION

A long time ago there were two pedlars. They used to travel from town to town. They bought and sold brass pans and dishes, and knives and spoons. They were not friends, but they sometimes happened to be in the same town on the same day. One was greedy and dishonest, but the other was honest and generous.

GRAMMAR

Write out lists of the nouns, verbs, and adjectives in these sentences.

CATS AND KITTENS

a sight	movement	Egypt	a pad
stroke	purr	rub	hunt
graceful	sacred	narrow	wide
a slit	the pupil	whiskers	a feeler
scoop	lick	joy	behind

Nearly everyone likes dogs and cats, and many people keep cats in their houses.

Most cats and kittens are pretty animals, and very graceful in their movements. There are few prettier sights than young kittens playing together. They have beautiful soft fur, and it is very pleasant to stroke their backs.

They too like being stroked, and show it by purring and rubbing their heads against your legs.

People who keep cats in their houses always give them food. They will generally



eat rice; but they will like it much better if there is some meat or fish with it, for cats are really flesh-eaters.

Cats like milk more than anything else, and sometimes a cat will push over a jug or bowl of milk in trying to get the milk out of it.

Cats can also get plenty of food for themselves. They will hunt for mice and small rats; and that was why people first kept them in their houses, for mice and rats eat rice and

other food, and do much harm in other ways. Thousands of years ago the people of Egypt looked upon cats as sacred, and protected them.

When cats find out where mice are hiding, they will sit for a long time waiting for them to come out. A cat is much better than a dog at catching mice, for it is quicker, and it can use its paws, which have sharp claws. A dog has to use its teeth.

Cats are born hunters, and a cat, even when she is not hungry, will often hunt for

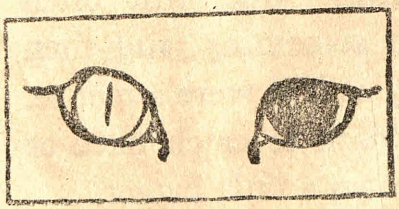


a mouse just for the joy of hunting. When she has caught a mouse she will sometimes let it go and catch it again.

Cats can climb trees very well, and they love catching birds, both those that are sitting on the branches of a tree and those that are on the ground looking for worms. They will often hide behind a bush, a big stone, or the trunk of a tree, waiting for a bird to come near, then creep forward quietly, and suddenly jump on the bird.

They can move without noise, for they have soft pads under their paws—one in the middle and one under each toe. The claws can be drawn in when they are not needed.

Cats can see quite well when there is hardly any light; so they can hunt well at night. In the daytime the pupil of a cat's eye is only a narrow



slit; but at night the pupil is opened wide so as to let in all the light there is.

A cat's whiskers, too, act as feelers at night. They stand out in front of her face, and she can feel at once if they touch anything, so that she does not run her head against the leg of a table or a chair, even on the darkest night.

Cats and dogs both use their tongues for drinking. They use the end of the tongue like a spoon, and scoop up the milk or water into their mouths. But while a dog's tongue is smooth, a cat's tongue is quite rough. Cats also use their tongues to keep themselves clean, and they wash their kittens by licking them.

Kittens love playing. One will often pretend to hide behind something, and then jump out on to another, as if it were a mouse. In this way they soon learn to catch mice or birds when they have grown a little bigger.

PRONUNCIATION

like wide sight — go stroke

bird purr — lick slit whisker

play sacred — room scoop movement

mud rub hunt — few pupil

boy joy — feel Egypt [eejĭpt]

COMPOUNDS

sómething ánything móvement

LEARN

1. *narrow wide — in front (of) behind*
2. *feel a feeler — hunt a hunter*
3. *big bigger — pretty prettier — good better*

EXERCISE

Use in sentences : *wide, narrow, harm, sight, protect, smooth, rough.*

GRAMMAR

Pick out five adverbs and five prepositions.

LONG TIME AGO

Once there was a little kitty,
White as the snow;
In a barn she used to frolic,
Long time ago.

In the barn a little mousie,
Ran to and fro,
Till she spied the little kitty,
Long time ago.

Two black eyes had little kitty,
Black as a sloe;
And she spied the little mousie,
Long time ago.

Four soft paws had little kitty,
Paws soft as dough;
And they caught the little mousie,
Long time ago.

Nine pearl teeth had little kitty,
All in a row;
And they bit the little mousie,
Long time ago.

When the teeth bit little mousie,
Little mouse cried, "Oh!"
But she got away from kitty,
Long time ago.

kitty	**frolic**	**fro**	**snow**
spied	**a barn**	**a sloe**	**dough**
	pearl	**bit**	

kitty, mousie—(children's names for) a kitten, a mouse

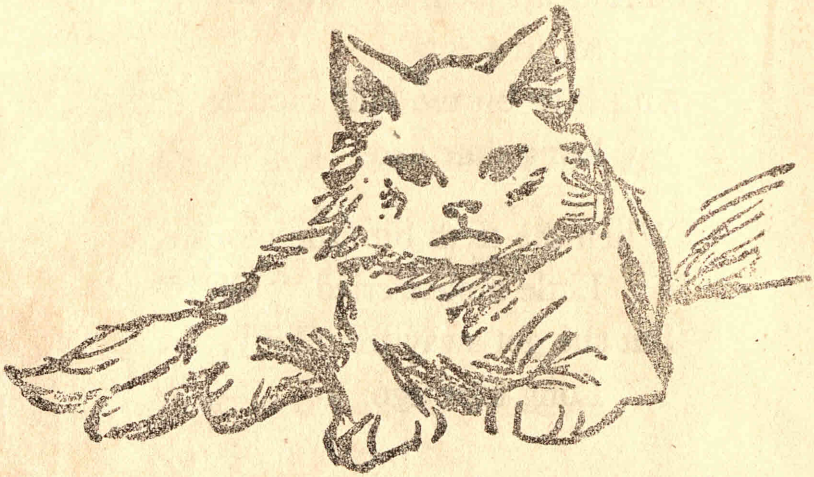
PRONUNCIATION

bird pearl — dropping frolic

go snow fro dough row sloe

LEARN

1. *fro — from*
2. *spy spied — bite bit*



I LOVE LITTLE PUSSY

I love little Pussy,
her coat is so warm;
And if I don't hurt her
she'll do me no harm.

So I'll not pull her tail,
nor drive her away;
But Pussy and I
very gently will play.

I'll stroke little Pussy
and then she will purr,
And thus show her thanks
for my kindness to her.

She shall sit by my side,
and I'll give her some food,
And then she will love me
because I am good.

gently because

puss or pussy—(a child's name for) a cat

I'll—I will she'll—she will don't—do not

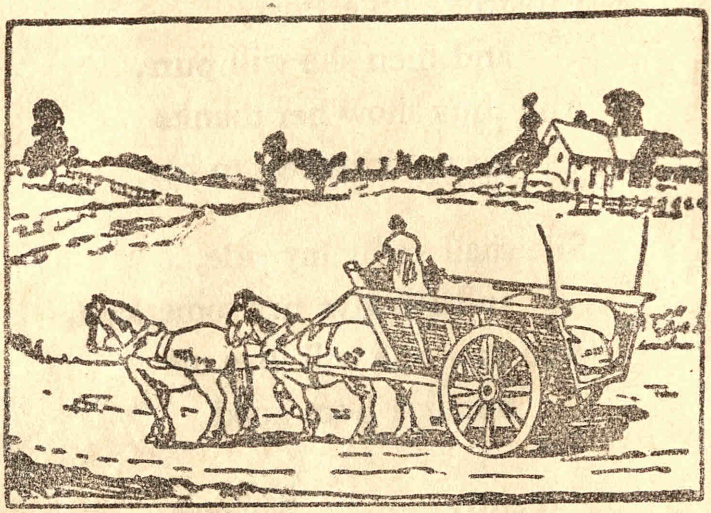
PRONUNCIATION

paw because [bĭkáwz] — *I smile I'll*

go don't — then gently [jĕntlĭ] — *feel she'll*

LEARN

1. *kind* (adj.) *kindness* (noun) — *good goodness*
2. *gentle* (adj.) *gently* (advb.) — *slow slowly*



A BOY AND HIS CAT

I

ride **mind** **felt** **smelt**
a penny **brush** **ask** **whose**
a merchant **best** **Dick** **London** **Alice**

A long time ago there was a boy whose name was Dick. His father and mother were dead, he had no friends, and he was very poor.

He lived in a village, and he often heard men talking of a big town called London.

They said that everyone in London got plenty of money, that there were many rich men there, and even that the streets were made of gold.

When he heard all this, Dick said to himself, "I want to go to London; but I don't know how I can get there."

A few days later a fine big cart stopped in the village. The driver saw Dick and asked him where he could get water for himself and his horses.

Dick showed him the place and then asked him where he was going.

"To London, my boy," was the answer.

The cart went on its way out of the village. Dick stood looking after it for a minute or two. Then he quickly made up his mind. He looked round. No one was watching him, so he ran along the road after the cart.

He soon caught it up, and he said to the driver, "Will you please let me go with you? I want to go to London."

The man said, "Yes, you may come with me if you like."

It was a long way, and before noon Dick was very tired. Then the driver said, "You may get up on to the cart and ride."

Dick thanked him, got up on to the cart, and had a good rest.

At last they reached London. He had eaten no food since the early morning; but he did not think of that. He at once ran off to find the golden streets. He looked everywhere, but nearly all the streets were nothing but mud, and even the best streets were made of stones.

He was very sad, and then he felt very tired and hungry. He had no money to pay for a bed. He had not even a penny to buy a little food. Then it began to rain. So he sat down on the door-step of a big house, where he got some shelter from the rain.

This was the house of a rich merchant. Dick was seen by the merchant's little

daughter, whose name was Alice. She was sorry for him, and told her father. Her father took him to the cook and said to her, "Let him sit near the fire, and give him a good meal."

He asked Dick where he lived, and Dick told him that he had come to London to find work. "Well," said the merchant, "you may stay here and work for the cook. You may have a small room at the top of the house."

So Dick used to cut wood and make the fires, brush the floors, and wash the plates and dishes and pans. He did not mind the hard work, but he was not very happy. The cook was not kind to him, and often used to beat him. But she did not dare to beat him when Alice was near, for Alice was very kind to him, and Dick loved her very much.

In the floor and walls of Dick's little room there were many holes. At night mice and rats came in, and they ran over his bed and even over his face. So he could not sleep well.

One day Dick met a boy and girl in the street. They were carrying a cat. He said to them, "Where are you taking that cat?"

They answered, "We are going to throw her into the river."

He said to them, "Oh! don't throw her into the river. Give her to me."

Someone had given Dick a penny the day before; so he said, "I will give you a penny for her."

They said, "Very well! You can have her for a penny." So Dick took her into his arms, and carried her up to his little room.

The cat at once began to walk around the room. She put her nose near the holes in the floor and walls, and smelt at them. Then she sat down in front of one and never took her eyes off it. In two or three minutes out came a mouse. Puss jumped on to it at once, caught it, and ate it. Then she went to another hole and watched that.

After two or three days Dick never saw another mouse or rat in his room. He loved his cat very much. He used to talk to her, and he always brought up some food for her to his room.

PRONUNCIATION

rice ride kind mind
pen penny [-ĭ] *felt smelt*
too who whose [hōōz]
mud brush London — are ask
cat this Álice [ălĭs] *— bird mer-chant*

LEARN

1. *he his — who whose — a cat a cat's eye*
2. *big bigger biggest — good better best*
3. *feel felt smell smelt*
4. *teach a teacher — drive a driver*

COMPOUNDS

door-step every-where every-one some-one

EXERCISE

Put into sentences: *at once, in front of, ride, mind* (2), *best, where, ask, whose.*

A BOY AND HIS CAT

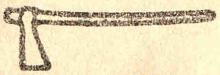
II

a land an axe a jewel a profit
change silk lucky
a clerk the country

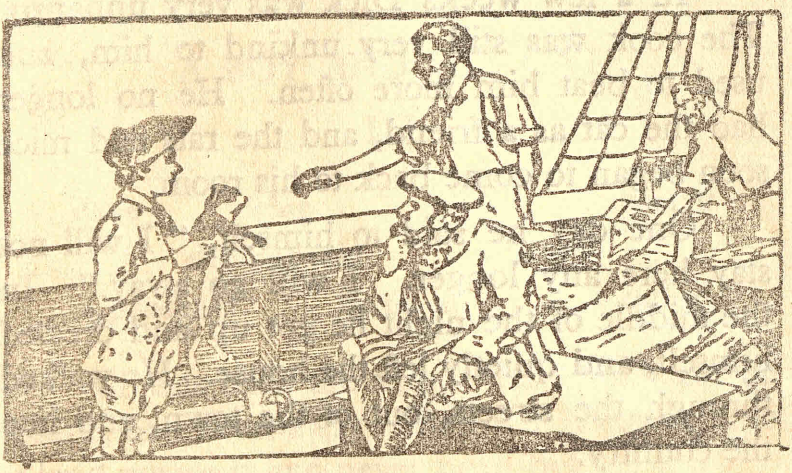
Some weeks later one of the merchant's ships was ready to set out for some far off lands. It was taking useful things like knives and axes and cloth. These were to be changed for gold and silver, or silk, or pearls and other jewels.



The merchant used to let his clerks and servants send things in the ship. If they were sold they would make a good profit on them. When the ship was ready, everyone but Dick brought something.



Alice said to her father, "Let me send something for him."



"No!" he answered. "He must send something of his own. Then the profit will be his own."

He called for Dick and said to him, "Have you nothing that you can send?"

"No, sir," answered Dick. "I have nothing but my cat."

But the merchant said, "Then you must send your cat. Take her down to the ship. You may be lucky. Who knows?"

So the ship sailed with Dick's cat on board.

In a few weeks Dick was very unhappy. The cook was still very unkind to him, and used to beat him more often. He no longer had the cat as a friend, and the rats and mice soon began to come back to his room.

One day he said to himself, "I will not stay here any longer. I will go away." In the middle of the night he got up and dressed himself, and quietly left the house. He walked through the streets, out of the town, and into the country.

When the day broke he was very tired, and he sat down on a stone for a little rest. Then he heard the bells ringing in London. They seemed to be saying, "Come back! Come back! Don't leave London."

So Dick turned round and was back in the house before the cook had come down to her work.

PRONUNCIATION

you few jewel — take change — not profit
but lucky country [kŭntrĭ] — *far clerk*

LEARN

1. *happy un-happy — kind un-kind*
2. *the town the country*

A BOY AND HIS CAT

III

dare clap offer marry

the captain a story

a present business a sailor

All this time the ship, with Dick's cat on board, had been away. Bad winds drove it to a land where it had never been before.

The captain, with two or three of his chief men, went to see the king. They showed him some of the things that they had brought. But he said, "I do not want any of those things. They are of no use to me."

Then he called to his servants, and said, "Bring food."

The food was brought and put before them. Then suddenly mice and rats came running out of holes in the walls. They came in hundreds and at once started to eat the food.

The servants tried to catch them, but the little animals were too quick. While the servants ran after some, others came and ate the food.

"Now you can see what I want," said the king. "These rats and mice eat all our food. At night they eat our clothes, and run over us as we sleep. I want something to catch them and kill them. I will give half my gold for that."

"We have an animal which will do that for you," said the captain.

He said to one of his men, "Go to the ship and bring Dick's cat."

In half an hour the man came back with a basket. By that time more food was ready. Out came the mice again. The man opened the basket, and out jumped Puss. In a second she had caught a mouse. She bit through its neck and dropped it. She caught another and killed that; then another and another.

In two or three minutes nearly twenty mice and rats were lying dead on the floor, and all the others were running away.

The king clapped his hands with joy. "Ah! That is what I want," he cried. "Bring out one of my boxes of gold."

His servants brought a box full of gold. "Give me that animal," he said, "and you can have all this gold."

If any more mice came out that evening, Puss was on them at once. The next day not a mouse dared to appear. The king was full of joy, and bought all the goods that were left in the ship.

The captain then sailed back to England and reached London safely. The next day the merchant called Dick to his office. He went in and his master said, "Sit down, Dick," and pointed to a chair near his own. But Dick would not sit before his master.

"Very well," said the merchant. "But you are now rich and can become a merchant just like me."

Dick did not know what to think of this. But his master told him the captain's story. Then he called to some sailors, "Bring in the box."

It was the box of gold. It was opened in front of Dick and the merchant. Dick could hardly believe it all. He asked his master to take half of it; but the merchant said, "No, this is all yours. I have made a good profit on my own goods. You sent something of your own, and the profit on that is all yours. But what will you do with it? You must use it well. Do you want to leave us now?"

"No," answered Dick, "I want to stay with you."

"Very well," said the merchant. "But you shall not be my servant. You must join me in my business."

Dick also wanted Alice to take some of his gold; but she too said, "No, thank you. You are very good to offer it, but you must keep it. I am very glad that you were lucky."

So all that Dick could do was to give presents to the captain and the sailors.

Dick used his money well and made much more money with it. He became a good, honest merchant, and some years later married Alice. He became very rich, and before long was the chief merchant of London.

PRONUNCIATION

air dare — more store story [-ĭ]
map carry marry captain [kăp-tĭn]
seven present [z]
his busy [bĭzĭ] *business* [bĭz-nĕs]

LEARN

1. *Use it well* [z]. *This is of no use* [s]
2. *drive a driver sail a sailor*

DICTATION

The captain, with two or three of his chief men, went to see the king. Food was brought and put before them. Then suddenly mice and rats came running out of holes in the walls. They came in hundreds and at once started to eat the food. The servants tried to catch them, but the little animals were too quick. While the servants ran after some, others came and ate the food.

EXERCISES

1. Turn into questions :—

   (a) *The captain went to the king.*

   (b) *The servants tried to catch them.*

   (c) *The animals were too quick.*

   (d) *The others ate the food.*

2. Put in the right prepositions :—

   (a) *The box was full . . . gold.*

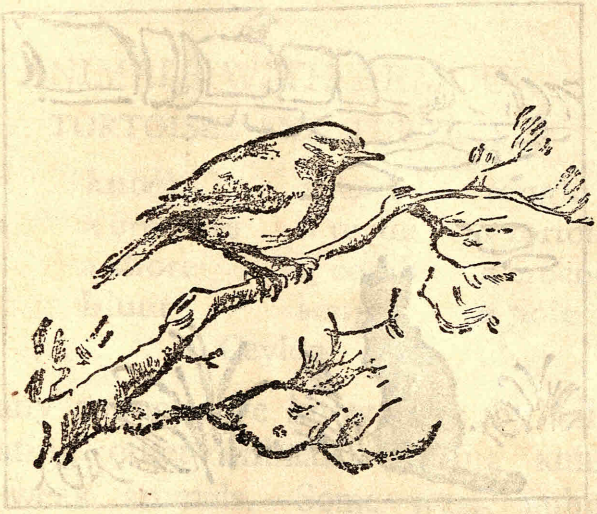
   (b) *Twenty mice were lying dead . . . the floor.*

   (c) *I shall stay . . . you.*

   (d) *He gave a present . . . the captain.*

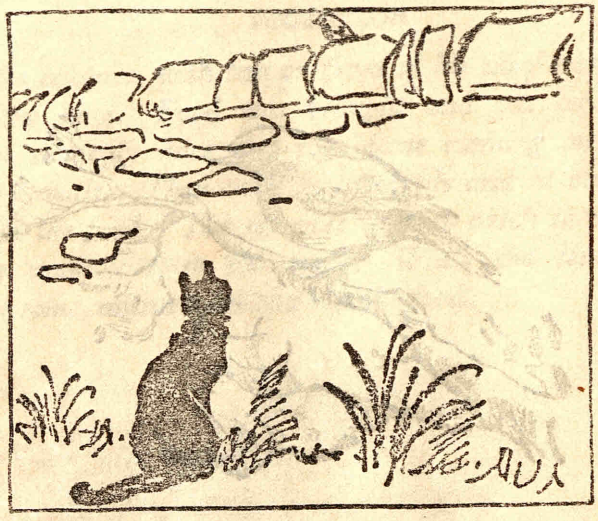
GRAMMAR

Pick out from the dictation piece two nouns, two verbs, two adjectives, and two conjunctions.



LITTLE ROBIN REDBREAST

Little Robin Redbreast
sat upon a tree ;
Up went Pussy-Cat,
and down went he.
Down came Pussy-Cat,
away Robin flew ;
Said little Robin Redbreast,
"I won't be caught by you."



Little Robin Redbreast
jumped upon a wall ;
Pussy-Cat jumped after him,
and almost got a fall.
Little Robin chirped and sang,
and what did Pussy say ?
Pussy-Cat said only " Mew ! "
and Robin flew away.

chirp

PRONUNCIATION

few mew — bird chirp — rest bread breast

ANIMALS WITH ARMOUR

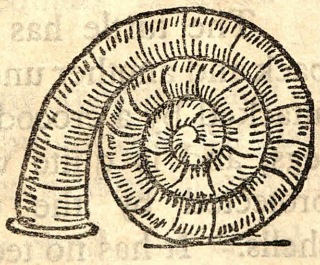
TORTOISES AND TURTLES

escape	knock	spend	tough
armour	a creature	a turtle	a tortoise
a snail	a shore	a comb	a crocodile
sharp	blunt	soup	a pole

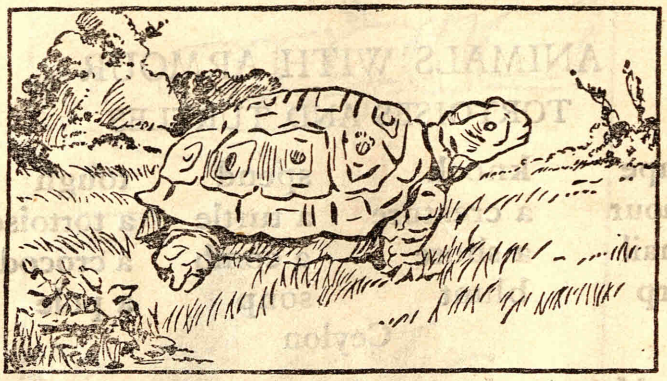
Ceylon

Many animals, we know, live by killing and eating other animals. Strong animals attack weak animals. Some weak animals, like deer and hares, escape because they can run very fast. Others are safe because they are protected by armour.

We all know the snail, and we say that " he carries his house on his back". This house is a round shell, and the snail can draw his head and body inside it, so that we can see nothing but a shell.



The snail is protected from above, but not from below. A clever bird can turn a snail

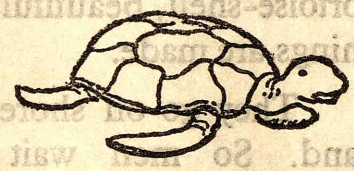


over on to its back. Then with its beak it can knock the shell against a stone till it breaks.

Tortoises are other creatures which are protected by shells. There are land tortoises and water tortoises. The best known water tortoises are what we call turtles.

The turtle has a very tough shell on its back and another under its body. If the turtle is attacked by a crocodile it draws in its head and legs, and is quite well protected by the two shells. It has no teeth, but has a strong, sharp beak, with which it can bite quite hard.





Turtles live in warm seas and also in many rivers of India. They are about two feet long and nearly as broad. They have short thick legs, which are better for swimming than for walking, as they have no feet. So the turtle spends most of its time in the water.

Land tortoises have legs with blunt claws, and they spend more time on land than turtles do. But even they can walk only very slowly. Some big land tortoises live to be very old and grow to more than three feet in length. Two in Ceylon are known to have lived more than a hundred and fifty years.

Some tortoises are equally at home on land or in the water.

Turtles live on fish or any other flesh, and will even feed on dead bodies; but tortoises eat plants and leaves, and often do much harm in gardens.

Turtles, on the other hand, are useful to men. Very good soup can be made from their flesh ; and from the shell, which is called

tortoise-shell, beautiful boxes, combs, and other things are made.

They go on shore to lay their eggs in the sand. So men wait to catch them there. They cannot run quickly enough to escape; and, if the men can turn them over on to their backs with poles, they cannot get up again and are quite helpless.

PRONUNCIATION

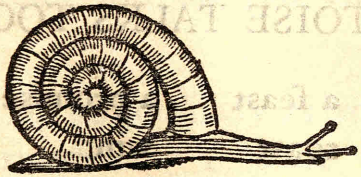
sun blunt rough tough [tŭf]
lock knock [nŏk] *crócodile*
claw broad tortoise [tawtŭs]
arm armour [ahmer] *sharp*
bird turtle — hole comb [kōme]
see creature [kreecher] — *food two soup*
more shore — it Ceylón [sĭlŏn]

LEARN

1. *lie lay — lay laid*
2. *sharp blunt*

GRAMMAR

1. Pick out five adjectives, five adverbs, and five prepositions, and say what words they qualify or govern.
2. Give the plurals of *leaf, body, foot, tooth, deer, he.*
3. Put into the past tense: *I lie, I lay, I eat, I run, I catch.*



THE SNAIL

How would you like to take with you
your house upon your back,
And such a funny house as this—
all curly, brown, and black ?

You say, " as slow as any snail ",
and yet I'd like to see
If *you'd* go any faster, if
you had a load like me.

Lucy Diamond

curly **load**

PRONUNCIATION

road load — girl curl

LEARN

curl curly — rain rainy

A TORTOISE TALKS TOO MUCH

a hare	**a feast**	**a promise**	**a race**
firmly	**roast**	**win**	**won**

Two geese once lived by the side of a large tank, and with them lived a tortoise, who was their friend.

One day some men came past the tank. They saw the geese and the tortoise, and said, " Tomorrow morning we will come here and kill the geese and catch some tortoises, and then we can have a good feast."

The tortoise heard them, and said to the geese, " My friends, did you hear those men ? We shall all be killed if we do not go away at once to some other place."

The geese said, " That is true. But how will you travel all the way by land to another tank ? It will be easy for us, for we can fly.

But with your short legs you walk so slowly that some man will see you on the way and catch you."

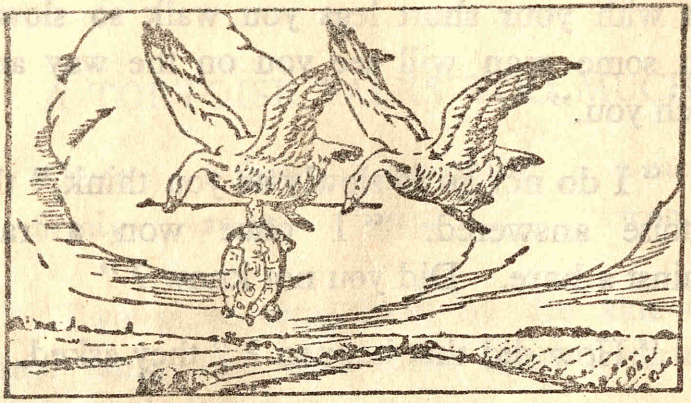
"I do not go so slowly as you think," the tortoise answered. "I once won a race against a hare. Did you not know?"

"How did that happen?" they asked.

"Well, it was a very hot day," said the tortoise. "The foolish hare thought he could win easily, so about half-way he lay down for a rest by the side of the road, and he fell asleep. I may go slowly, it is true; but I go on walking all the time. When the hare awoke, I had reached the end and had won the race."

"All the same you are not very safe when you are not near some water," said his friends.

"No, that is true," said he. "But I have a good plan. Listen to me. We will find a



strong wooden stick. I will hold on to it in the middle with my mouth. You must hold it at the ends with your beaks and fly to another tank."

"We can perhaps do that," said the geese. "But can you keep your mouth closed all the time? You like talking so much; but you must not say a word, or you will fall and be killed."

"I am not so foolish," said the tortoise. "I shall not speak a word."

"Very well," said the geese. "We will try. But people will see us carrying you, and

they will call out at the strange sight. You must be very careful and not say anything."

So the tortoise held the stick firmly by the middle with his mouth, the geese took hold of the ends, and they set off.

The tortoise was very heavy, and so they could not fly very high. The people in the fields saw the strange sight, and called out, "Look! There is a tortoise. He will fall to the ground soon, and break his shell. Then we can catch him, and roast him, and have a good feast."

This made the tortoise very angry, and he forgot his promise. He opened his mouth to answer them, and at once fell to the ground, and was killed.

Based on the Hitopadesha

PRONUNCIATION

word firm — not prómise [prŏmis]

geese field feast — road roast

sun won — there dare hare

REVISE

strange sight heard people

LEARN

1. *firm* (adj.) *firmly* (advb.)
2. *gold* (n.) *golden* (adj.) *wood wooden*
3. *win won fall fell lie lay*

EXERCISE

Use in sentences: *firmly, promise, heavy, wooden, roast.*

GRAMMAR

Turn into questions (1) *he heard,* (2) *he lay on the ground,* (3) *I won the race,* (4) *he fell,* (5) *you forgot,* (6) *he thought.*

THE TRAVELLERS AND THE BEAR

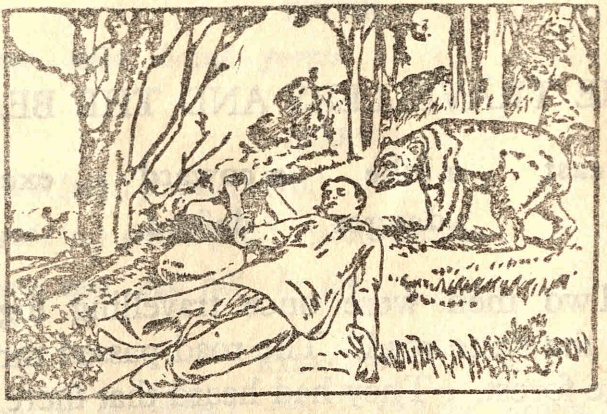
a beast a joke a coward except danger defend

Two men were once travelling together along the same road. The road passed through a large forest. They had heard that there were wild beasts in the forest, and that robbers often hid there. So they promised to help each other if there should be any danger.

When they had gone a little way into the forest a great bear came out into the road and stood facing them. One of the men at once ran to a tree that was near and climbed up into the branches.



There was no other tree near that was easy to climb, so the other man was left alone in the road. What could he do?



Bears do not often attack men or animals, except to defend their young. They are not really flesh-eating animals, and unless very hungry will not touch a dead body. The man remembered this. So he lay down on the ground.

The bear came up to the man and put his nose down close to him to smell at him. The man lay quite still and did not breathe. So the bear thought him dead and went away.

In a few minutes the other man came down from his tree, and tried to make a joke of what had happened. He smiled and said, "I

saw the bear put his mouth close to your ear. What did he say to you?"

"Oh!" answered the other, "he said, 'Never trust the promises of such cowards as your friend in the tree.'"

PRONUNCIATION

say strange danger — see feast beast
cow coward — end defénd excépt [ĕk-sĕpt]

REVISE

wild climb promise forest bear

DICTATION

Two men were once travelling together along the same road. The road passed through a large forest. They had heard that there were wild beasts in the forest, and that robbers often hid there. So they promised to help each other if there should be any danger.

EXERCISES

1. Make sentences with the words: *close, trust, should, promise, remember.*
2. Pick out three adjectives, three adverbs, and three prepositions from the dictation piece, and say what words they qualify or govern.

THE BABY BIRD

What does little birdie say
In her nest at peep of day?
"Let me fly," says little birdie,
"Mother, let me fly away."

Birdie, rest a little longer,
Till the little wings are stronger.
So she rests a little longer,
Then she flies away.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

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