

Joe and the Thieves

Age: Young Adult- Adult

Level: Beginners, pre-int

Length: 1 hour to 2 hours

Vocab: Basic words, past tense regulars and irregulars.

Focus: Listening and recounting a story. Writing a story from memory using the past tense.

1. Slowly read out the story to students. You might like to pre-teach the following vocab, *Thief, thieves, rope, remove, neck, amazed, curse, become, respect* and *naughty*. Make sure they understand what happens, this will be apparent if they smile. Go over any vocab they find difficult on the board.
2. When you are happy that students have understood ask them to recount it back to you. In order to avoid one person telling you the whole story again, have them take turns so that each student gets a go at telling a little bit of the story.
3. Now the difficult part. Get students to try and write down the story in their own words. This is very difficult for a lot of students, and they will have problems with sentence structure, spelling and the use of the past tense. Monitor how they are doing, offering advice and corrections.

You can use this lesson to assess what problems students have with written English, and concentrate on these areas in later lessons.

If your students are too basic to write the story for themselves you can always have them read it and answer the optional comprehension questions. (Answers 1.b 2.c 3.b 4.a 5.c)

This is also a great dictation lesson.

CS 12/02/04

Joe and the Thieves

Joe's donkey died. He took his last money and went to the market to buy another one.

He was going home with the new donkey. On the way two thieves saw him. They thought of stealing the donkey. When Joe was not looking, one of them removed the rope from the donkey's neck and put it in his own neck. The other thief took the donkey to the market and sold it.

When Joe arrived home and looked behind at the donkey he saw a man "the thief" instead of the donkey. He was amazed.

"I bought a donkey how did it become a man?" Joe thought! Then he asked the thief,

"Who are you?"

The thief answered,

"I didn't respect my mother, she cursed me and I became a donkey. She took me to the market and sold me. Then you bought me. Because of this I became a man again".

The next day Joe went to the market to buy another donkey. Sure enough he saw the same donkey as the one he had bought. He whispered in the donkey's ear,

" You've been a naughty boy again!"



Questions.

1. Why did Joe go to the market?
 - a) Because his donkey died.
 - b) Because he wanted a new donkey.
 - c) Because he wanted to go shopping.

2. How did the thieves steal the donkey?
 - a) One of them killed Joe.
 - b) One of them killed the donkey.
 - c) One of them changed places with the donkey.

3. What did Joe think when he saw the thief as the donkey?
 - a) He was angry.
 - b) He was amazed.
 - c) He was sad.

4. Why did the thief say he had become a donkey?
 - a) His mother had cursed him.
 - b) He was a naughty boy.
 - c) He was a good boy.

5. What did Joe do the next day?
 - a) He killed the donkey.
 - b) He sold the donkey.
 - c) He went to buy a new donkey.