

Twelve Short Stories for Learners of English



EASY READING

for ESL Students

BOOK 1

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INTRODUCTION

Easy Reading for ESL Students – Book 1 is a comprehensive reader designed especially for beginning and intermediate students of English as a Second Language. The book was developed and tested by full-time teachers of English.

There are twelve short stories. Each story is designed to engage students in a well-rounded language learning experience. There are comprehension, vocabulary, speaking, and writing exercises following each story.

The stories are entertaining and have plot twists and surprise endings. Teachers of English as a Second Language will enjoy using them to engage students on a wide range of topics and interests.

The stories are short (260 – 460 words). Each story and its exercises can be completed in 60 minutes.

You can download a free audio version of the book read by a native English speaker. See page 76.

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THE SHAMAN



“Laura, I’m very frustrated,” Mary says to her friend. “I’m thirty-five years old, and I’m still single. I want to find a husband, but I can’t. I have to do something, but I don’t know what.”

“Go to the Indian reservation,” Laura says. “There is a shaman there. He can help you.”

“A shaman? Are you joking?” Mary shouts. “I can’t go to the Indian reservation. I don’t want to go to the Indian reservation.”

Six months later Mary drives to the Indian reservation. She wants to see the shaman.

“Looking for a husband?” the shaman asks.

“How do you know that?” Mary is surprised.

“I’m a shaman. I know a lot of things.”

“Can you help me?” Mary asks.

“Yes, I can.”

“What do I have to do?” Mary asks. She is happy.

The shaman gives her a small statue of a young man and says, “Touch his head and say three times, ‘Give me the power to find you.’”

Mary touches the head of the statue and says, "Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you."

"Take the statue with you," the shaman says. "You have to do this every morning."

"Thank you very much," Mary says. "Good bye."

"Wait!" the shaman calls. "It costs \$1,000."

Mary gives the shaman the money and drives away.

Mary gets up every morning, touches the head of the statue and says, "Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you."

A year later Mary gets up. She still doesn't have a husband. She is angry. This time she says, "The shaman is a big liar." Then she takes the statue and throws it out of the window.

She hears a scream. She goes to the window and looks down. There is a man lying on the ground. He is not moving. His head is bleeding.

Mary takes the man to the hospital. He has to stay there for a week. She visits him every day. "I am sorry," she says." They talk and talk. Mary likes the man, and he likes her. Six months later they get married.

"The shaman is very good," Mary says to her friend Laura. "Thank you."

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Mary is frustrated because she _____.
 - a. doesn't have a job
 - b. doesn't have a friend
 - c. doesn't have a husband

2. Laura tells her to _____.
 - a. go to see a psychologist
 - b. go to see a shaman
 - c. go on vacation

3. The shaman gives Mary _____.
 - a. a small statue
 - b. medicine
 - c. \$1,000

4. Mary has to touch the statue and say, "_____."
 - a. I don't want to be alone
 - b. Give me the power to find you
 - c. I want to find a husband

5. A year later, Mary throws the statue _____.
 - a. in the fireplace
 - b. in the wastebasket
 - c. out of the window

6. Mary takes the man _____.
 - a. to the hospital
 - b. to a restaurant
 - c. on vacation

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

bleeding	throws	statue	frustrated
liar	scream	joking	single

1. Mary doesn't feel good. She has a problem. She is frustrated.
2. Mary doesn't have a husband. She lives alone. She is _____.
3. When people try to make others laugh, we can say that they are _____.
4. A three-dimensional art work is sometimes called a _____.
5. Someone who doesn't tell the truth is a _____.
6. Mary is very angry. She _____ the statue out of the window.
7. Mary hears a _____. She looks out the window. Someone is hurt.
8. The man is hurt. He is lying on the ground and he is _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

looking for	get married
drives away	Indian reservation

1. Some Native Americans live on an _____.
2. Mary is _____ a husband.
3. Mary pays the shaman and _____.
4. Mary and the man want to live together and have a family. They _____.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the question in full sentences.

1. Why is Mary frustrated?
2. What does Laura advise her to do?
3. Does Mary want to go to the Indian reservation?
4. How long does it take her before she goes there?
5. What does the shaman give her?
6. What does she have to do?
7. Does it work?
8. What does Mary do a year later?
9. What happens?

VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.
