

Lesson 35: The Horse and Cart

Conversation Lesson with a Story, Vocabulary Practice, Questions and Activities

Content

- The Story
 - Vocabulary Practice
 - Questions for Discussion
 - Activities
 - <u>A Related Saying</u>
- <u>Role Play</u>
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The Story

There was once an inn which was called 'The Horse and Cart'. It had a sign outside it which has a picture of a horse and a cart on it, but the sign was getting very old, so the owner of the inn decided to have a new one made. He went to a painter and asked him him to paint one, and to write 'The Horse and Cart' on it in large letters.

A few days later, he went to see how the painter was getting on. He liked the picture of the horse and the cart very much, but he did not like the writing at all. He said to the painter, 'No, no! There's too much space between HORSE and AND and AND and Cart!'



Source: ESL Short Stories

Choose the best answer.

- 1) An **'inn'** means ...
 - a) an innovative approach
 - b) an intellectual
 - c) a small hotel or pub, especially one in the country

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Story

Choose the best answer.

- 2) A 'sign' here means ...
 - a) evidence that someone is present
 - b) a flat object with words on it, put in a public place to provide information
 - c) a movement that you make with your hands



Choose the best answer.

- 3) A 'cart' here means ...
 - a vehicle with four wheels and no roof that is pulled by a horse and is used for carrying things
 - b) a shopping trolley
 - c) a trolley for serving food or drinks



Story

Choose the best answer.

4) To 'get on' here means ...

- a) to get into a bus, plane, or train
- b) to be chosen to be part of a group or team
- c) to continue doing something (used for asking about how well someone has done a particular activity)



Questions for Discussion

- 1) Why was the inn called 'The Horse and Cart'?
- 2) Why did the owner want to have a new sign made?
- 3) Did the owner make the new sign himself? How do you know? Name two reasons.
- 4) How satisfied was the owner with the painter's work?
- 5) What is 'special' about the last sentence of the story?



Questions for Discussion

Solution (Q5):

At the end of this story there is a sentence in which the word 'and' appears five times, without any words in between.



Activities

- Now tell your friend(s) the story in your own words.
- Pronounce the following words several times:

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Story

- a) The Horse and Cart
- b) sign
- c) owner
- d) too much space

A Related Saying

'It is not as black as it is painted.'

- What does the saying mean?
- Is there a saying in your mother tongue which bears the same meaning?



A Related Saying

'It is not as black as it is painted.'

 i.e. it is not as bad as people say
The boss is not as black as she's painted; in fact, I find her quite helpful and friendly.



Role Play

Imagine the following situation:

You would like to **invite** your **English friend** to go on a trip with you at the weekend. However, he/she must pass a difficult test on Wednesday after the weekend and does not know whether to go with you or stay home studying. Try to **convince** your friend to go with you. Person B will play the role of **your friend** and **will start** the conversation.



Role Play: Ideas to Help You

The following ideas may help you:

- Relaxing
- Going to the countryside
- Meeting friends
- Going out in the evening
- Doing sports
- Other

Role Play