

The Blind Men and the Elephant

It was six men of Indostan*
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.

*Indostan =
land of
Indians

The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me, but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, "Ho! What have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," said he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"



The Fourth reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he.
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Then, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," said he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

A Answer the questions. P.A.

- What difficulty did all six men from India have? _____
- What is it that they were trying to understand? _____
- Which man thought the elephant was like a: (i) spear? _____
(ii) wall? _____ (iii) rope? _____ (iv) tree? _____
- Why was there disagreement among the men? _____
- Which man do you think gave the best description? _____ Why? _____
- If you had to describe the elephant to these men, what four features would you mention?
(i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____ (iv) _____

B Find words in the poem that match the descriptions below.

1. amazing	wonderous	5. came up to	approached	9. feel about	grobe
2. not rough	smooth	6. looks like	resembles	10. grabbing	seizing
3. cry loudly	bawl	7. point of view	opinion	11. somewhat	partly
4. keen	eager	8. argued	disputed	12. wonder	marvel

C Imagine... P.A.

- The blind men were describing a giraffe. How might they describe the following:
(i) the neck? _____ (ii) the tail? _____ (iii) the legs? _____ (iv) the ears? _____
- Draw (i) the elephant, and (ii) the giraffe, as the blind men might imagine them to be.

Unit 27 - Word Study

A Comprehension. Match the idiom to its meaning.

1. give the green light	(i) do/say something on a whim
2. on the spur of the moment	(ii) leave for a while, defer, put on hold
3. put on ice	(iii) out of danger
4. walking on air	(iv) give the go-ahead
5. out of the woods	(v) very happy

B Vocabulary. Rewrite the lines from the poem "The Blind Men and the Elephant" in another way. P.A.

1.	To learning much inclined	
2.	At once began to bawl	
3.	What most this wondrous beast is like	
4.	Who chanced to touch the ear	
5.	Disputed loud and long	

C Word Structure. Ring the correct spelling of each word.

1.	gril	gurl	girl	6.	castel	castle	cassil
2.	they	tehy	thay	7.	electricity	electrisity	eletricity
3.	sircl	circle	circl	8.	elefint	elefant	elephant
4.	allready	already	alredy	9.	opinion	opinyun	opinon
5.	plese	pleace	please	10.	arguement	arguemint	argument

D Think, plan, write... Use the plan and the vocabulary to write an essay on the topic "The night the lights went out". Try to use lots of adjectives. P.A.

unexpected comical ridiculous awkward strange scream
confused apologised quiet immediately terrified recovered

Paragraph 1	1.	Where were you?	2.	Who was with you?
	3.	What were you doing?	4.	How did you feel?
Paragraph 2	1.	A walk in the dark....	2.	Eek... what was that...?
	3.	Description of that thing!	4.	Feelings - scared, confused?
Paragraph 3	1.	Causing trouble in the dark...	2.	What happened next?
	3.	The lights come back...	4.	Sorting things out...

E Teaser Time

1. Solve the riddle.

It goes up and it goes down at the same time: up towards the sky and down towards the ground. It is present tense and past tense at the same time. Come for a ride, just me and you. What is it? see-saw

2. Each letter represents a word in this important sequence. What is the missing letter?

(Hint: you probably sang this as a young child!) H D S O I W *Humpty Dumpty*

A Vocabulary. Match the related words. Use each word only once.

sturdy silly squeamish shameful scuffle sniffing spiteful surreal sly shivering

1.	mean, vindictive	spiteful	6.	very strange	surreal
2.	fight	scuffle	7.	ridiculous	silly
3.	strong	sturdy	8.	disgraceful	shameful
4.	fearful of things	squeamish	9.	cunning	sly
5.	sign of a cold	sniffing	10.	trembling	shivering

Score **B Comprehension. Write sentences that include each of the two words in brackets. P.A.**

- (inclined/learning) _____
- (satisfy/eager) _____
- (disputed/sturdy) _____
- (resembles/observation) _____
- (opinion/happening) _____

Give yourself 2 marks for each correct sentence.

Score **C Grammar: Cloze Procedure. Write words to complete the story. V.A.**

Triona helps her parents to run their B&B during the school holidays. The summer is the busiest time of the year because lots of tourists visit her town. The day begins early with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Triona sets the tables and makes sure that everybody has what they need. Afterwards she clears the dishes. When breakfast is finished, she tidies the kitchen while her dad makes the beds. Triona doesn't mind helping and earns some money doing it.

Score **D Proofing. Underline the ten errors and write the correction above the error.**

A hungry tramp was travelling through Ireland light. He saw a lite in the distance and followed it until he reached an inn, where people were eating. The tramp went to the door to ask four food. The cook was unfriendly. "Please, may I sit by the fire a while?" askd the tramp. The cook reluctant agreed. After a while the tramp spoke: "I am a good cook myself. i can make the best kind of soup and it is cheap."

Score **E Spelling. Ten words will be read aloud. Listen and write them correctly.**

1.		6.	
2.		7.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	
5.		10.	

Score