

11B And the moral is ...

Activity type: Reading, speaking and grammar – Story-telling – Pairs / Whole class

Aim: To practise using definite, indefinite and zero articles

Language: Articles – Use at any point from 11.2.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners and cut each worksheet up along the dotted lines to make four boxes.

Time: 20 minutes

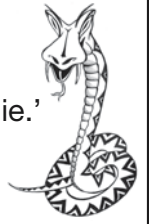
- 1 Divide learners into pairs. Give one learner in each pair a copy of box 1, and give their partner a copy of box 2. They shouldn't look at each other's sheets. Explain that on their worksheet they have the first half of a story. They each have two paragraphs, one complete and one with gaps in it. Learners should work alone to fill the gaps using *a*, *an* or *the*, or leaving the gap empty if they decide that no article is necessary.
- 2 When they have finished, ask Learner A to read his/her first paragraph to Learner B. Learner B should listen and check his/her answers to the gap-fill activity. Then ask Learner B to read his/her second paragraph to Learner A and ask Learner A to listen and check his/her answers.
- 3 Give out copies of boxes 3 and 4 to the first and second learner in each pair respectively. Explain that this time they have alternate lines complete but on the other lines they have all the articles removed. They work alone to decide where the articles should go. They can write the new versions of each line on a separate piece of paper if they wish.
- 4 When they have finished, learners take it in turn to read the rest of the story to each other, line by line. When one learner reads out their new version of each line, the other should compare it with the original version in his/her box.
- 5 When they have completed the story-telling, learners discuss with their partner what they think the moral message of the story might be. Elicit suggestions from different pairs. *Note:* this story is a Native American fable; the moral is subjective, but may be either that one cannot change one's character (as in the proverb: *a leopard can't change its spots*) or that one should always trust one's instincts and not be persuaded otherwise.

Extension

Ask learners whether they know any similar fables from their country. You could also look online before the lesson to find more folk tales from around the world.

11B And the moral is ...

One day, a little boy went for a walk in the forest. Suddenly he saw a snake at the side of the road. The snake looked at the boy and said: 'Please, little boy, can you take me to the top of the mountain? I am very old, and I want to see one more sunset before I die.'



_____ boy said: 'Mr Snake, I am not stupid. I know that _____ snakes bite people, and if I pick you up you will bite me and I will die.' _____ snake said: 'No, little boy, I promise not to bite you. Please take me up the mountain.' In the end the little boy decided to help _____ snake, so he picked it up and carried it to _____ top of the mountain.

1

One day, _____ little boy went for a walk in the forest. Suddenly he saw _____ snake at the side of the road. _____ snake looked at _____ boy and said: 'Please, little boy, can you take me to _____ top of the mountain? I am very old, and I want to see one more sunset before I die.'



The boy said: 'Mr Snake, I am not stupid. I know that snakes bite people, and if I pick you up you will bite me and I will die.' The snake said: 'No, little boy, I promise not to bite you. Please take me up the mountain.' In the end the little boy decided to help the snake, so he picked it up and carried it to the top of the mountain.

2

At top, they sat down and watched sunset together.

It was the most beautiful thing in the world.

After, snake turned to boy and said:

'Can I go home now? I am tired, and I want to die in my own home in the forest.'

little boy picked snake up and carried it back down mountain to its home in forest.

When they arrived at the snake's home, it suddenly turned its head and bit the boy's arm.

boy cried out with pain. 'Mr Snake, why did you bite me? Now I'm going to die!'

The snake looked up at the little boy and replied:

'Yes, little boy. But you knew I was snake before you picked me up.'



3

At the top, they sat down and watched the sunset together.

It was most beautiful thing in world.

After, the snake turned to the boy and said:

'Can I go home now? I am tired, and I want to die in my own home in forest.'

The little boy picked the snake up and carried it back down the mountain to its home in the forest.

When they arrived at snake's home, it suddenly turned its head and bit boy's arm.

The boy cried out with pain. 'Mr Snake, why did you bite me? Now I'm going to die!'

snake looked up at little boy and replied:

'Yes, little boy. But you knew I was a snake before you picked me up.'



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