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# The Cunning Tomcat



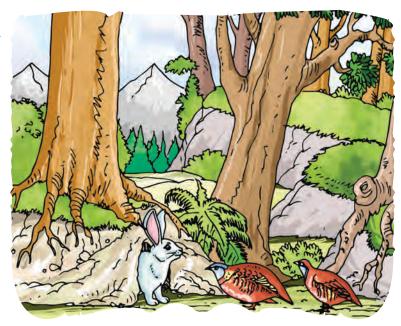
Quarrelling with one another is always harmful for both of the persons. Both have to lose something. Do you remember the story of two cats who quarrelled over a piece of bread, and a money took advantage of their quarrel, ate the whole bread while the two cats have to go hungry? Here is one more story where a tomcat pretended to be a holy man and made a meal out of two partridges quarrelling over a home to own.

Once, there were two partridges, who lived in a certain tree in the jungle. While one of them lived on the branches, the other lived inside a hole at the foot of the tree.

They became good friends, and they would spend long hours with each other telling each other stories and events of their lives. In this manner, the partridges spent their time in happiness.

One day, one of them went away with some more partridges in search of food.

As was usual, when he did not return back even at sunset, the other partridge started worrying. He thought, "He has not done this ever. Why has the partridge not returned home today? Has he been trapped by some hunter? Or maybe even killed? I cannot live without him. I am certain



there is some reason why he has not returned even at nightfall."

He did not return even the next day, or the day after. For several days, the partridge kept worrying. Then he gave up hope of his friend's return. He said to himself, "I spent several days worrying."

One night, a hare came to the tree and observing an empty hole at the foot of the tree, took shelter inside. Since the partridge had given up hope, he did not object to the hole being occupied by the hare.

After a few days, the partridge returned. He had gone to a place where there was plenty of food to eat. He had grown fat, but remembering his dear friend, he thought of returning.



On his return, when he found that a hare had taken over his house, he objected strongly, "Hare! This hole is my home and you have taken over during my absence. This is very unfair of you. I demand you to leave immediately."

The hare said, "This place is mine now. I am not leaving. I found this hole empty, and therefore made it my home." Thus, they began to quarrel.

The partridge understood there was no point in quarrelling with the greedy hare. He said, "Hare! You seem to lack the basic ethics. Let us approach someone holy and knowledgeable. Let someone well-versed in holy books decide who is right, and thus, who shall have the right to occupy the hole."

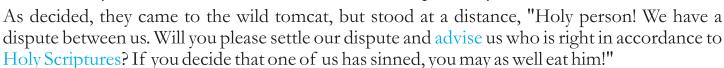
The hare agreed as suggested, and they went to look for a holy man to settle their dispute.

Meanwhile, a wild tomcat came to know that they wanted to settle their dispute through a holy man. He quickly posed as a learned animal. He held a blade of holy Kusha grass in his paw and stood on the bank of a river, where he would be quickly spotted. Standing on his hind legs with his eyes closed, he started chanting.

When the partridge and the hare came across him, the hare said, "He looks holy and a learned. Let us go and seek his advice."

The partridge agreed and said, "Yes, let us seek his opinion. But he is a wild cat by birth and a

natural enemy for both of us. We should be careful and speak only from a distance."



The tomcat replied, "O my friends, I have denounced the violent life as it leads to hell. Non-violence is the very essence of true religion. I shall not harm any of you. However, I will hear both of you and settle your dispute with the knowledge I have gained."

Both the partridge and the hare were impressed. The wild tomcat continued, "But I am old and cannot hear you from that distance. Fear not! I do not even harm a louse, bug or a mosquito. Come close and explain the reason of your dispute. I shall make the most just settlement."

With all these sayings, he won the confidence of both of them. Both the partridge and the hare came near him and sat close to him to explain the reason of their dispute. This was the very opportunity that the tomcat was looking for. As soon as they sat beside him, he jumped and seized one of them in his teeth and the other with his claws. He killed both of them and made a meal out of them.

The wise indeed say that beware of a rascal who pretends to be holy.



## Word-Web

- partridge: a brown bird with a round body and a short tail, that people hunt for sport or food.
- trapped: caught in a net
- empty: having nothing or nobody inside
- object: to stand against, oppose
- ethics: humane behaviour
- look for: in search of
- wild: living in forest
- chanting: to say hymns
- holy scriptures: books of religious importance
- essence: gist, outcome
- opportunity: chance, right time
- rascal: wicked person

- hope: expectation, want for something to happen
- shelter: a safe place for protection
- immediately: at once, within no time
- knowledgeable: wise, prudent
- dispute: quarrel, disagreement
- posed: pretended
- advise: to tell to do what is right
- denounced: gave up, quit
- settlement: solution, decision
- beware: be careful of



# **Comprehension**

Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

			4.4		
Α.	lick	<b>/</b>	the	correct	t answers.

1.	The other partridge live	d inside a hole at the	of the tree.	
	(a) top	(b) foot	(c) branch	
2.	When the partridge did	not return back, the other part	tridge started	•
	(a) weeping	(b) calling	(c) worrying	
3.	The partridge returned			
	(a) after a week	(b) after a few days	(c) after three years	
4.	The tomcat quickly pose	ed as a anima	ıl.	
	(a) gentle	(b) fearful	(c) learned	
5.	Beware of a	who pretends to be holy.		
	(a) rascal	(b) tomcat	(c) partridge	

#### Pick and Fill

#### B. Fill in the blanks with correct words from the box.

immediately	quickly	strongly	denounced	several
<b>1.</b> For	day:	s, the partridge ke	pt worrying.	
2. He objected		·		
3. I demand you to le	eave	•		



4.	He posed as a learned animal	
5.	I have the violent life.	
Wr	te 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.	
1.	The two partridges became good friends.	
2.	The partridge did not return for several days.	
3.	A snake began to live in the partridge's empty hole at the foot of the tree.	
4.	The hare refused to leave the partridge's home.	
5.	Both the partridge and the hare were not impressed by the tomcat.	

#### Matching-Mania

C.

#### D. Match the adjectives in Column A with correct nouns in Column B.

#### 



#### Question-Queue (Short)

#### E. Answer each of the following questions in one or two sentences.

- 1. Where did the other partridge live?
- 2. With whom did one of the partridges go away in search of food?
- 3. Who came to live in the empty hole at the foot of the tree?
- 4. Who came to know about the dispute between the partridge and the hare?
- 5. Who decided to seek advice of a learned man to settle the dispute?

#### Question-Queue (Long)

#### F. Answer each of the following questions in detail.

- 1. How did the two portridges spend their time?
- 2. Why did the other partridge not object to the hole being occupied by the hare?
- 3. What was the cause of quarrel between the partridge and the hare?
- 4. What did they decide to do to settle their dispute?
- 5. How did the tomcat impress the partridge and the hare?



- 6. What happened when the partridge and the hare came close to the tomcat?
- 7. What lesson does this story teach you?



#### Study the following phrases as used in the story

in search of taken over look for

These are called prepositional verbs. Prepositional verbs have more than one word. And a slight change in them, completely changes their meanings.

For example: take over means: to get control of something

take in means: to make somebody believe something take off means: to leave the ground and start flying

look for means: to search

look into means: to study or examine something look out means: to pay attention in order to see

#### Now fill in the blanks with correct prepositional verbs given in the box.

pulled down	gave up	carryout	came across	go through			
1. The obedient	son agreed to _		his father's order.				
2. My father	2. My father smoking altogether.						
3. The poor have to many hardships.							
<b>4.</b> The municipa	The municipality authorities the encroachment.						
5. I	Isome old friends of mine yesterday.						

#### Think-n-Thrive

• Can you tell some solution that the partridge and the hare could have tried? How could they have saved themselves from the crafty tomcat?



### **Grammar-Grip**

#### Formation of Nouns

#### Read this line:

I was going to a distant town in the southwest.

The noun southwest is a combination of two nouns, south and west. Nouns can be used in combination to form new nouns.

Examples: flowerpot toothpaste bookshop homework



0	Use th	ne wor		ie box giv						nouns	of you	own.
	path	man	foot	master	way	post	road	cover	bed	head	seat	water
	Examp	oles:	bedco	ver	_							
			headn	nan	_							
					_							
					-							
					_							
	N				-		C• 1	-	1 1	1*1*	Cil	r. 1.c.
		•		es its mea		•	пх со а	noun. I	ne add	iition o	r tne pr	efix modifie
			_	pecomes <mark>r</mark>	_							
			pilot ca	an change	e to co	-pilot						
	Select	t a pre	fix fro	m the bo	x belo	w and	add it	to the r	nouns	given i	n the I	orackets and
				o formed			blanks	•				
	re-	un-	semi-	mis- r	non-	auto-						
	<b>1.</b> Ga	ndhiji	preach	ed and pra	actised	d			(viole	nce)		
			ked her erself. (		0			_ her sh	oelace	s, beca	use she	did not wan
	3. Th	e child	ren sat	in a			faciı	ng the m	agicia	n. (circ	le)	
		ter wri iograpl	_	few best	sellers	s, Ham	id deci	ded to	write	his		·
	5. Th	e flowe had to	ers and	balloons	hung	around the ho	the ho use. (de	use wer ecorate)	e pulle	ed dowr	by the	e children, so
	6. Th	ere was	s no rea	son for th	ie king	to			the	loyal ol	d soldie	er. (trust)
	Read	ing Sk	kills									
	Read	the fol	lowing	passage	caref	ully and	danswe	er the qu	uestio	ns that	follow	•
	India	too ha	s a des	ert— the	Thar	desert,	also kn	own as	the Gr	eat Ind	ian Des	ert. The Tha
					_							o a variety o
				he Thar d				•				مانده د داده
				•						•		Bishnoi tribe The Bishnoi
				s to be the					•	_		



The most surprising thing when reaching a Bishnoi village is the fact that you can see deer everywhere. The Bishnois respect and protect them at all costs. The animals around a Bishnoi village are not afraid of humans.

- 1. Where is the Thar desert located in India?
- 2. Which is the most interesting tribe of Rajasthan and where does it live?
- 3. What do the Bishnois worship and respect?
- 4. What is the most surprising thing when you reach a Bishnoi village?
- 5. Why are the animals around a Bishnoi village not afraid of humans?

6.	Pick out the wo	s from the passage which are antonyms to:	
	(i) destroy	(ii) boring	

#### Fun to Write

Image yourself to be the first partridge. Your friend, the other partridge has got somewhere and did not return for many days. How would you feel? Write your feeling in the form of a diary entry.						
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