Animal Tales

动物故事

Level 2

CONTENTS

This story is recorded in full. 故事全文录音

🎧 END These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities. 听力练习开始和结束的标记

Introduction

In this collection of animal tales there are two main types of stories.

In 'The Elephant's Child' and 'The Shameful[1] Behaviour of a Fox Terrier'[2] the animals are without question the main characters, they are the so-called protagonists.[3] The reader's attention is completely focused on them, their characteristics and their almost human behaviour. The animals speak amongst themselves, and all this seems quite normal to the reader.

The other type of stories includes 'Pigs is Pigs', 'Mrs Packletide's Tiger' and 'The Stolen White Elephant'. In these stories the animals are not the main characters. They behave like 'real' animals. The reader knows little about them and sometimes the animals are imaginary; we never really 'see' them. The authors' intent[4] is not to write about the animals, but to ridicule[5] certain types of behaviour in our society.

Before you read these stories make a list of all the animals you know.

Then write down some words to describe them, for example:

Animal: cat/kitten: tail, whiskers, paws, soft etc.

While you read the following stories, add any new words you learn to your list. It will be interesting to see how many new words connected to animals you include.

1. **Shameful**：可耻的。
2. **Fox Terrier**：猎狐㹴狗（旧时用以将狐狸从洞中赶出）。
3. **protagonists**：故事的主角。
4. **intent**：意图。
5. **ridicule**：嘲笑。

9

Notes on
the Authors

'The Elephant's Child' by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) comes from his collection of *Just So Stories* (1902) which also contains stories about other types of animals. Kipling began to write these stories when he visited South Africa. That is probably why this story is not set in India where he was born.

'Pigs is Pigs' is by Ellis Parker Butler (1869-1937). He was born in Muscatine, Iowa, USA. He published 2,200 stories, books, essays and poems and is best known for the story in this collection of *Animal Tales*.

'Mrs Packletide's Tiger', set in India and England, is by Saki, Hector Hugh Munro (1870-1916). Saki was born in Burma, a now independent republic called Myanmar in south-east Asia, but returned to London because he could no longer serve in the Burma police.

In London he began to write political satires [1] for *The Westminster Gazette*. He died while fighting during WWI.

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1.   **satires**：讽刺作品。

Mark Twain, Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), wrote 'The Stolen White Elephant', a hilarious [1] satire about the New York police. Although Mark Twain was a prolific [2] writer he is probably best remembered as the American author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876).

'The Shameful Behaviour of a Fox Terrier' comes from *Three Men in a Boat* (1889) by Jerome K(lapka) Jerome (1859-1927). Jerome was born near Staffordshire and moved to East London where he became an actor and a reporter before becoming a writer. Although the story is actually about a boating holiday on the River Thames, the extract included here is indeed about a fox terrier.

Other Black Cat English Readers by some of these same authors include:
The Jumping Frog by Mark Twain – Level 3
The £1,000,000 Bank Note by Mark Twain – Level 4

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1. **hilarious** : 十分有趣的。   2. **prolific** : 多产的。
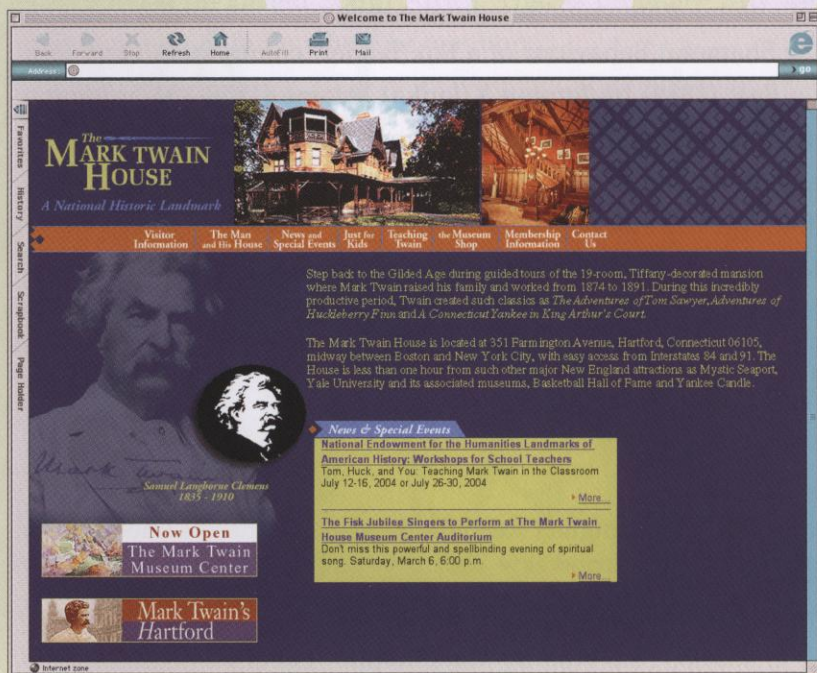
INTERNET PROJECT

Find out 5 things about the authors of this collection of *Animal Tales*.

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

Welcome to The Mark Twain House

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The Mark Twain House is located at 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06105, midway between Boston and New York City, with easy access from Interstates 84 and 91. The House is less than one hour from such other major New England attractions as Mystic Seaport, Yale University and its associated museums, Basketball Hall of Fame and Yankee Candle.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens 1835 - 1910

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The Elephant's Child

by Rudyard **Kipling**

Before you read

1 Look at the animals shown in the pictures on pages 17 and 21 and list them in the table below. Use a dictionary or an encyclopedia to list the main characteristics of each species.

	Animal	Characteristics
Reptiles		*air-breathing vertebrates they are cold-blooded*
Birds		
Mammals		

2 Use a dictionary or an encyclopedia to list the main characteristics of herbivores and carnivores, then say if the animals you listed above are herbivores [1] or carnivores. [2]

3 Look at the words (1.-3.) below and match them to the appropriate country (a.-c.).

1. ☐ jungle/forest   **a.** Australia
2. ☐ wood   **b.** Africa
3. ☐ bush   **c.** England

1. **herbivores**：食草动物。   2. **carnivores**：食肉动物。
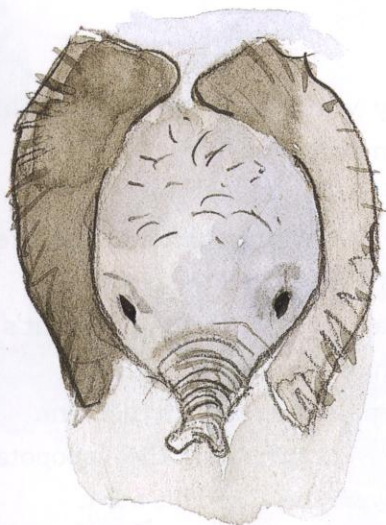
The Elephant's Child Wants Some Answers

In the beginning elephants had noses. They had large noses, but they could not pick things up[1] with them.

One day the Elephant's Child began to ask everybody questions. He always asked a lot of questions. He asked his aunt the ostrich[2]:

'Why have you got long feathers?'[3]

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1. **pick things up** : 举起物件。
2. **ostrich** : 鸵鸟。
3. **feathers** :

ANIMAL TALES

The ostrich was angry with the Elephant's Child. She punished him [1] and sent him away.

'Don't ask questions, Elephant's Child!' she told him.

The Elephant's Child then went to his uncle the giraffe. [2]

'Why have you got spots?' [3] he asked the giraffe.

His uncle the giraffe was angry with the Elephant's Child. He punished him and sent him away.

'Don't ask questions, Elephant's Child!' he told him.

The Elephant's Child now went to his aunt the hippopotamus. [4]

'Why have you got red eyes?' he asked his aunt.

The hippopotamus was angry, and she, too, punished the Elephant's Child.

'Don't ask questions!' she told him.

The Elephant's Child now went to his uncle the baboon. [5]

'Why do you like melons?' he asked. 'Why are they good to eat?'

The baboon was angry and he punished the Elephant's Child.

'Don't ask questions, Elephant's Child!' he told him.

One day the Elephant's Child had a new question.

'What does the crocodile [6] eat?' he asked everybody.

'Be quiet, Elephant's Child!' everybody shouted at him.

His uncles and aunts were angry with the Elephant's Child. They all punished him for a long time. He was very unhappy. He went away for a walk in the forest.

1. **punished him** : 惩罚他。
2. **giraffe** : 长颈鹿。
3. **spots** :

4. **hippopotamus** : 河马。
5. **baboon** : 狒狒。
6. **crocodile** : 鳄鱼。

Go back to the text

1 **Based on what you read in this part of the story and your general knowledge, decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A. If it is incorrect, write B.**

1 The Elephant's Child lived in Africa.
2 Elephants did not have noses in the beginning.
3 Ostriches only live in Africa.
4 The Elephant's Child didn't ask many questions.
5 The animals punished the Elephant's Child.
6 The Elephant's Child's uncles were the giraffe and the baboon.
7 Hippopotamuses have red eyes.
8 The Latin name for melons is *cucumis melo*.
9 This was the Elephant's Child question: 'What does the crocodile eat?'
10 His aunts and uncles were happy with the Elephant's Child.

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

Now correct the incorrect statements.

2 **Topic — Animals and Pets**
Choose a picture of your favourite animal or pet and think about these questions/statements.

a. What is your favourite animal or pet?
b. Compare your pet to an animal that lives in the wild.
c. When did you get your pet?
d. Describe the things your pet or animal does and the ways it does them.

The Great, Grey, Green Limpopo River

he Elephant's Child met the Kolokolo bird [1] in the forest. He told the Kolokolo bird everything.

'My father punished me, my uncles punished me, and my aunts punished me,' he said. 'What does the crocodile eat? Do you know?'

The Kolokolo bird thought for a moment [2], then he said.

'Do you know the great, grey, green Limpopo River?'

'Yes,' replied the Elephant's Child. 'I know it.'

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1. **Kolokolo bird**：一种人想像出来的鸟。   2. **a moment**：一会儿。

'Go there,' the Kolokolo bird told the Elephant's Child. 'You can ask there.'

'I'll go there immediately!' the Elephant's Child decided.

The Elephant's Child walked through the forest until he came to the great, grey, green Limpopo River. Then he saw a python snake. [1]

'Excuse me,' he said, 'but is there a crocodile here?'

'Yes,' the python snake told him. 'A crocodile lives here.'

'Good,' replied the Elephant's Child. 'What does he eat?'

The python was angry now, and he punished the Elephant's Child.

'Don't ask questions, Elephant's Child!' he told him.

The Elephant's Child walked some more. He walked on something big. It was the crocodile!

The Elephant's Child looked down.

'Where is the crocodile?' he asked politely.

The crocodile opened one eye very slowly. He looked at the Elephant's Child.

'Come here, Elephant's Child,' he said quietly. 'I'm the crocodile.'

'Good!' cried the Elephant's Child. 'What do you eat?'

'Come here,' the crocodile told him again.

The Elephant's Child came very close to the crocodile. The crocodile opened his mouth very wide. He held the Elephant's Child by the nose.

'Today,' said the crocodile, 'I think I'll eat an Elephant's Child!'

1. **python snake**：蟒蛇。
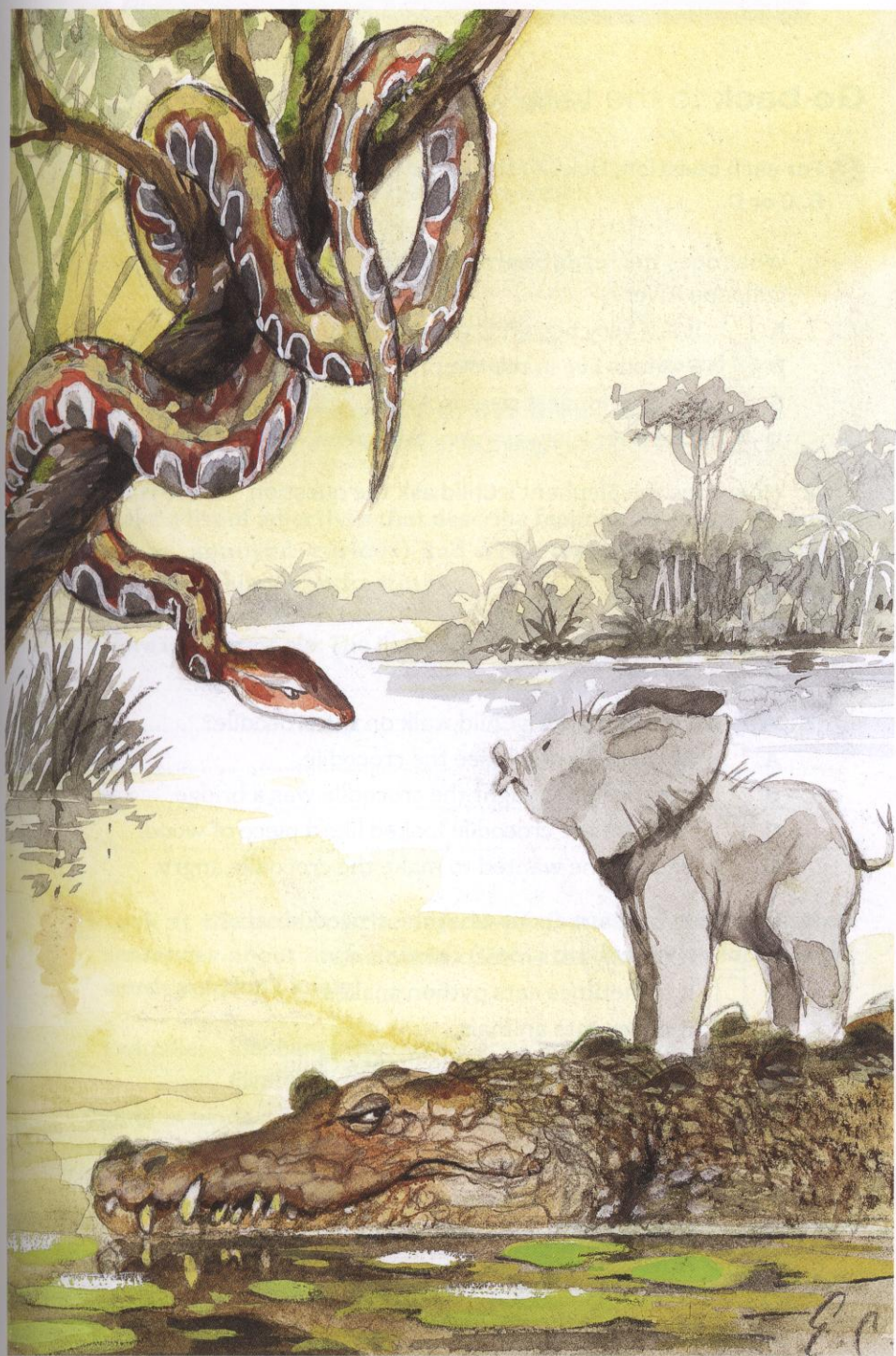
Go back to the text

1 For each question, tick (✓) the letter next to the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

1 What does the reader learn about the great, grey, green Limpopo River?
   A ☐ It is a very big, grey, green river in an African forest.
   B ☐ Pythons live in the river.
   C ☐ It is the longest river in Africa.
   D ☐ The river is always grey and green.

2 How does the Elephant's Child ask the question 'Where is the crocodile?'?
   A ☐ Rudely.
   B ☐ Politely.
   C ☐ Quickly.
   D ☐ Slowly.

3 Why did the Elephant's Child walk on the crocodile?
   A ☐ Because he didn't see the crocodile.
   B ☐ Because he thought the crocodile was a bridge.
   C ☐ Because the crocodile looked like a piece of wood.
   D ☐ Because he wanted to make the crocodile angry.

4 What do you learn about what the crocodile eats?
   A ☐ It usually eats insects and plants.
   B ☐ It sometimes eats python snakes.
   C ☐ It never eats animals.
   D ☐ Today, it will eat the Elephant's Child.

5 Which Greek author do you think wrote fables about animals?
   A ☐ Aesop.
   B ☐ Dante.
   C ☐ Shakespeare.
   D ☐ Aristotle.

The great, grey, green Limpopo River

Order of adjectives （形容词）

In English most adjectives go before the noun:
*The **great, grey, green** Limpopo River*

In this sentence the order of the adjectives is:

Size	Colour	Colour	Noun
(The) great	*grey*	*green*	*Limpopo River*

But be careful, adjectives usually go after the following verbs:
be, seem, look, become: *The python was **angry**.*

2 Make a list of adjectives that describe feelings (for example, angry, happy, annoyed, curious) and write five sentences about the different animals in the story.

Here is an example: *The Elephant's Child was curious.*

a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

d. ....

e. ....

3 Look at the order of the adjectives above and write complete sentences about each animal. (Use a dictionary to look up the words you don't know).

Example: Elephants (mammals/grey/brown/large)
   Elephants are large, grey, brown mammals.

a. Pythons (multi-coloured/carnivores/long)

b. Ostriches (long-necked/birds/brown/black)

c. Crocodiles (reptiles/long-snouted/green/brown)

d. Eagles (birds of prey/large/black and white)

e. Hippopotamuses (grey/brown/large/amphibious [1] mammals)

1.   **amphibious** : 两栖的。

The Elephant's Child and the Crocodile

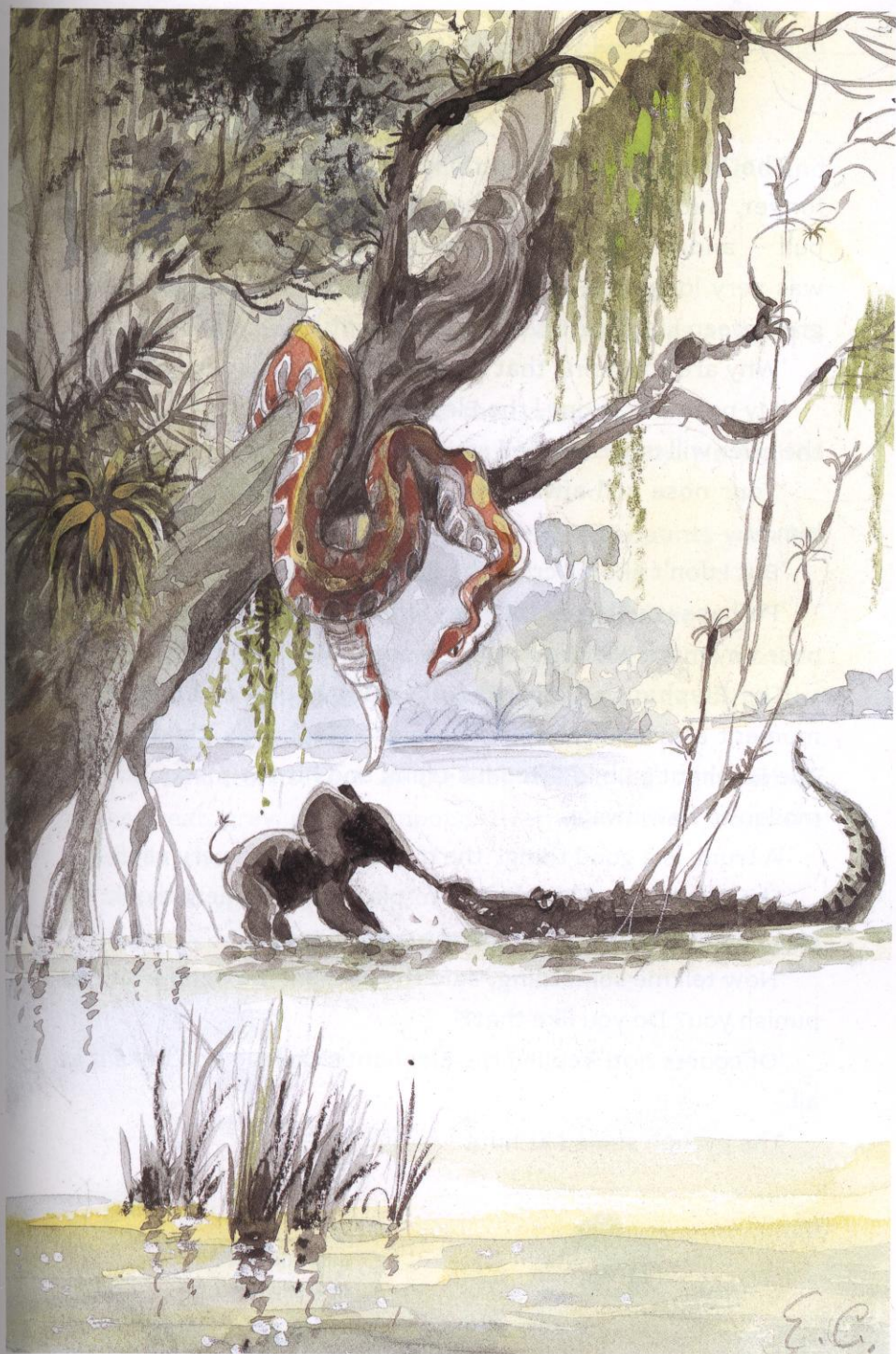T he python snake arrived at that moment.

He said to the Elephant's Child, 'The crocodile will eat you, my friend. You must pull as hard as you can. Pull, my young friend, pull!'

The Elephant's Child pulled and he pulled. It was no good.[1] His nose was still in the crocodile's mouth.

The crocodile also pulled as hard as he could. He pulled and he pulled.

1. **It was no good** : 这样做没有用。

24

The Elephant's Child's nose began to grow longer and longer. Suddenly the Elephant's Child gave an extra hard pull — and he was free! He sat back on the ground. His nose was very long now, and very warm. He put it into the great, grey, green Limpopo River for a moment.

'Why are you doing that?' asked the python snake.

'My nose is too long,' the Elephant's Child told him. 'Perhaps the river will make it small again.'

'Your nose will always be like that now,' the python told him.

'But I don't like it!' cried the Elephant's Child.

'Perhaps you'll like it one day,' the python said. 'But it isn't a nose any more. It's too long for a nose. We'll call it a trunk.'[1]

The Elephant's Child was not very happy at all. At that moment a mosquito[2] flew[3] onto the Elephant's Child's head. The Elephant's Child lifted his trunk and hit the mosquito. The mosquito flew away.

'A trunk is a good thing!' the python said. 'It's very useful.'

The Elephant's Child began to play with his new trunk. He picked up some grass. He ate the grass happily.

'Now tell me something,' said the python. 'Do people hit and punish you? Do you like that?'

'Of course not!' replied the Elephant's Child. 'I don't like it at all.'

The python smiled at him.

1. trunk：

2. mosquito：蚊子。
3. flew：fly 的过去式。

'Now you've got a trunk,' he said. 'Now you can hit and punish them!'

The Elephant's Child smiled too.

'That's an idea,' he said slowly. 'A very good idea!'

He walked home. When he arrived, all his uncles and aunts were happy to see him.

'Come here, Elephant's Child!' they cried.

The Elephant's Child moved towards them. He smiled happily.

One by one he punished his uncles and his aunts with his new trunk.

'Where did you get the new nose?' they asked him.

'It's not a nose,' the Elephant's Child told them. 'It's a trunk. I asked the crocodile what he eats. Then he gave me the trunk.'

'We want trunks, too!' all the elephants cried. They ran off to the great, grey, green Limpopo River. When they found the crocodile, they asked him:

'What do you eat?'

The crocodile pulled their noses. And now all elephants have got trunks.

Go back to the text

1 Based on what you read in the story and your general knowledge, decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A. If it is incorrect, write B.

1 The python snake told the Elephant's Child to push.

2 The crocodile ate the Elephant's Child.

3 The Elephant's Child's nose was now small and sore.

4 The python called the Elephant's Child's nose a trunk.

5 The Elephant's Child hit the mosquito with its ear.

6 The Elephant's Child discovered that trunks are very useful.

7 He punished his uncles and aunts.

8 The Elephant's Child did not tell them the story about his trunk.

9 The other elephants wanted trunks, too.

10 Not all elephants have trunks today.

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

Now correct the incorrect statements.

2 Find the following expressions in the chapter and use them to complete the sentences on page 29.

a. longer (and) longer

b. (an extra hard) pull

c. perhaps (you'll) like

d. hit

e. useful

1. 'Is it .... to learn English pronunciation?' 'Yes, it is. Actually, it depends.'

2. 'Does eat rhyme with .... ?' 'No, it doesn't.'

3. 'Does an extra hard .... mean it's very strong medicine?' 'No, of course it doesn't. What you are thinking of is, "a very strong (headache) pill." Pill rhymes with ill (sick). .... rhymes with bull.'

4. 'I am spending .... and .... learning English. I don't like it any more.'

5. '.................................. you'll .... it again one day. Just remember to do your homework every day.'

3 A fable is a short, funny story, usually with animals as characters, which tells us a moral. Think about 'The Elephant's Child'. Find three similar fables from your country. Write their titles and list their characteristics.

1. Title: ....

   Characteristic: ....

   ....

2. Title: ....

   Characteristic: ....

   ....

3. Title: ....

   Characteristic: ....

   ....