

A New Man



1. PRE-READING

Look at the pictures.

- ▶ Do they show two different men or the same man?
- ▶ What are the man and woman doing?

Read the title of the story. Look at the pictures again.

- ▶ What do you think this story is about?
- ▶ Can you guess what happens?

A New Man

The man in the first picture lives in Northern Ireland. His name is Roley McIntyre. Roley McIntyre was big—he was very big. He weighed 600 pounds.¹

For lunch Roley ate ten pieces of bacon, four eggs, ten potatoes, and fried vegetables. For dinner he ate meat and more potatoes, and after dinner he always ate dessert. Before he went to bed, he ate a few sandwiches and some cake.

Roley couldn't drive a regular car because he was too big. He couldn't fit in the front seat. Roley had a special car. It had no front seat. Roley drove his car from the back seat.

One day Roley went to the doctor. The doctor said, "Mr. McIntyre, you have a special car. Now you need to buy a special coffin—a coffin for a very big man. You have to lose weight, or you're going to die soon."

Roley went on a diet. For breakfast he ate cereal with nonfat milk. For lunch he ate baked beans on toast. For dinner he ate fish and vegetables.

After Roley began to lose weight, he met a pretty woman. Her name was Josephine. Josephine told Roley, "Don't stop your diet."

Roley didn't stop his diet. He continued to lose weight. In 18 months he lost 400 pounds.²

Two years after Roley started his diet, he and Josephine got married. You can see them together in the second picture. Roley and Josephine are wearing a pair of Roley's old pants.

¹ 272 kilograms

² 181 kilograms

2. VOCABULARY

Complete the sentences. Find the right words. Circle the letter of your answer.

- After dinner Roley ate cake, cookies, or ice cream. He always ate ____.
 - lunch
 - b. dessert**
 - breakfast
- Roley couldn't drive a regular car because he was too big. He couldn't ____ in the front seat.
 - fit
 - stand
 - see
- The doctor told Roley, "You have a special car. Now you need to buy a special ____ because you're going to die soon."
 - refrigerator
 - garage
 - c. coffin**
- The doctor told Roley, "You are too big. You have to go on a diet. Don't eat potatoes and dessert. You need to ____."
 - eat more
 - b. lose weight**
 - buy clothes

3. COMPREHENSION

LOOKING FOR DETAILS

What did Roley eat when he was big? Find the words in the story. Write them here.

bacon
eggs

What did Roley eat when he was on a diet? Find the words in the story. Write them here.

cereal with nonfat milk

REVIEWING THE STORY

Complete each sentence. Then read the story again and check your answers.

Roley McIntyre was very big. He weighed 600 pounds. Roley couldn't drive a regular car. He couldn't fit in the front _____, so Roley's car had no front seat. He could drive his car from the _____ seat.

Roley's doctor said, "Mr. McIntyre, you have to lose weight, or you're going to _____." Roley went on a _____. He began to lose _____. He met a pretty _____. She told Roley, "Don't _____ your diet." Roley didn't stop his diet; he lost 400 _____.

Two years after Roley started his diet, Roley and Josephine got _____.

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. Roley McIntyre was big c
 2. Roley couldn't drive a regular car _____
 3. Roley needed to buy a coffin _____
 4. Roley ate only fish and vegetables for dinner _____
 5. Roley and Josephine could wear a pair of Roley's old pants _____
- a. because he was going to die.
 - b. because he was on a diet.
 - c. because he ate a lot.
 - d. because he couldn't fit in the front seat.
 - e. because the pants were very big.

4. WRITING

What did you usually eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks in your native country? What do you usually eat in the United States? Complete the chart.

	IN MY NATIVE COUNTRY I USUALLY ATE	IN THE UNITED STATES I USUALLY EAT
Breakfast		
Lunch		
Dinner		
Snacks		

5. DISCUSSION

Take turns reading your charts to a partner.

- Do you and your partner eat the same food?
- Which food do you think is healthier—the food you ate in your native country, or the food you eat in the United States?