

The Shoemaker and the elves

In a country far away there is a shoemaker. His job is not easy. He always gets up at 6 o'clock and he never goes to bed before 11 o'clock. The shoemaker always cuts the leather and then he makes the shoes. He works a lot, but he hasn't got a lot of money. One day he cuts the leather for ten pairs of shoes. But he is very tired, so he leaves the leather on the kitchen table and goes to bed.



The next morning, the shoemaker gets up and sees ten pairs of beautiful shoes on the kitchen table. He is very happy. That night, before he goes to bed, the shoemaker cuts the leather for twenty pairs of shoes and leaves it on the kitchen table. The next morning there are twenty pairs of beautiful shoes on the table. Every night, he leaves the leather for more pairs of shoes, and every morning there are beautiful shoes on the table!





Many people in the town want a pair of the shoes and soon the shoemaker has got a lot of money. But who is making the shoes? The shoemaker wants to know. One night he hides under a table and waits. At 12 o'clock the shoemaker sees five elves. They jump onto the table and start making the shoes. The shoemaker sees their clothes too. They are very old and not very nice. At 5 o'clock in the morning the elves stop and leave the house.

The shoemaker wants to say 'thank you' to the elves, so he makes five beautiful small pairs of trousers and shirts. That night, he leaves the clothes on the table with the leather. In the morning the clothes are gone, but the leather is still there.

First, the shoemaker is sad. 'The elves are not making shoes for me anymore!' he thinks. But then he thinks, 'It's great. The elves have beautiful, new clothes and I have a good life now.'



1 Read the shoemaker's story again. Tick ✓ the correct sentences.



- 1 The shoemaker works a lot of hours.
- 2 The shoemaker works hard but has little money.
- 3 Every morning he finds new shoes on the table.
- 4 The elves work after 5 o'clock in the morning.
- 5 The shoemaker makes nice clothes for the elves to thank them.
- 6 The elves still make shoes for the shoemaker.

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