

The Lazy Horse

Read the text below carefully for the questions number 1 - 10.

In a land far away lived a hardworking and kind trader. Mostly he traded in salt. He also had a horse that was very lazy and always avoided work. The trader used him to carry sacks of salt from one town to the other.

"Here, let me load these sacks up and let's go to the town across the river to sell this salt," said the trader.

"I am so tired today. Why do I have to work every day? I wish I could sleep throughout the day. But no, I have to carry these loads of salt and move," the horse complained.

"Come on horse, start walking. Cross that bridge. Until then, I'll pack some food for myself," said the trader.

The horse was crossing the river. Suddenly, he slipped and fell into the water. As he was carrying sacks of salt on his back the salt got wet and dissolved in the water. So, when the horse got up the sacks on his back were lighter. The horse thought to himself.

"Wow! This seems to be a good idea. Every time I dip in the river the salt would dissolve and my burden could be less. I must try doing this more often. I hope master is not watching.

When the master reached the town to sell the salt it weighed just half of what he loaded. Thinking it might be his miscalculation he sold whatever salt was left and returned home with his horse.

The next morning, he again loaded his horse with the sacks of salt and started to pack his food. The horse yet again started walking before him and made it to the bridge. "I must try the dipping trick again before master reaches here." The trader got really confused as the sacks started weighing lesser every time. The horse was very happy. The horse purposely started slipping into the water every day so that the sacks became lighter.

One day, the trader followed the horse, and hid in the bushes. To his surprise, he noticed the horse's new trick.

"Oh! That's so cunning. I must teach this lazy horse a lesson soon."

So, the following day, instead of salt the trader filled the sacks with cotton and tied him to the horse's back. Out of his new habit, the horse purposely fell into the river.

"Oh no! No! What is happening today? What is going wrong? How are these sacks getting heavier? Oh! My back hurts. What?"

This time, as the sacks were filled with cotton it soaked water and became heavier. The horse dipped again and again in water thinking to drain the salt off somehow but all went in vain. He somehow managed to get up and cross the bridge. He sat on the ground and panted as the sacks had gotten really really heavy. The trader laughed at him and said "Horse, I am your master. This is your work. I work very hard and worship my work. I don't make excuses or find tricks to fool others and avoid work. I must teach you to never repeat this and avoid your work."

The horse learnt his lesson and never tried to avoid his work again.

A. Choose the word A, B, C or D.

1 What is the main idea of the story?

- A lazy horse who tried to avoid work but finally learned a lesson
- A trader who sold cotton in the market
- A trader who lost all his goods in the river
- A horse that became sick because of hard work

2 What did the trader mostly trade in?

- Rice
- Sugar
- Cotton
- Salt

3 Why did the horse feel happy after falling into the river for the first time?

- He found food in the water
- He enjoyed swimming in the river
- The trader praised him
- The sacks became lighter because the salt dissolved

4 What did the horse do after discovering the trick?

- He worked harder than before
- He refused to cross the bridge
- He purposely slipped into the river every day
- He ran away from the trader

5 Why was the trader confused?

- The horse became stronger every day
- The sacks of salt weighed less every time
- The horse could talk to him
- The cotton disappeared from the sacks

6 What did the trader do after he found out the horse's trick?

- He sold the horse immediately
- He punished the horse by beating it
- He stopped using the horse
- He filled the sacks with cotton instead of salt

7 What happened when the horse fell into the river with the cotton sacks?

- The sacks became heavier because they absorbed water
- The sacks became lighter
- The sacks disappeared in the water
- The horse crossed the river easily

8 Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the text?

- The horse was hardworking and obedient from the beginning
- The trader never noticed the horse's trick
- The horse purposely fell into the river to reduce its burden
- The trader always carried the sacks by himself

9 What lesson did the horse learn at the end of the story?

- Swimming is dangerous for animals
- Don't make excuses or find tricks to fool others and avoid work.
- Salt is better than cotton
- A trader should never trust animals

10 What is the moral value of the story?

- Always avoid work if it is too hard
- Clever tricks are the best way to solve problems
- Hard work and honesty are better than laziness and deceit
- Animals should never cross rivers

B. Listen and record your voice! (Dengarkan dan rekamlah suaramu!)



1. We wrote a letter.

2. You brought a big bag.

3. You began to play the game.



4. She collected many flowers.

5. They wondered who the winner is.

C. Change the positive sentences to be the negative sentences!

(Ubahlah kalimat-kalimat positif menjadi kalimat-kalimat negatif!)

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