

How many crows?

Birbal ~~be~~ the cleverest of Emperor Akbar's nine advisors. There seemed to be nothing he ~~not know~~. And so, from time to time, Akbar ~~amuse~~ himself by putting Birbal's wisdom to the test.

One evening, the emperor ~~walk~~ with Birbal in the palace gardens. It ~~be~~ a hot day, and a number of crows ~~splash~~ about in the fountains. "I ~~have~~ a question for you, Birbal," ~~say~~ Akbar, twirling his moustache mischievously.

"At your service, sir," ~~answer~~ Birbal with a bow. "How many crows ~~live~~ in my kingdom?" ~~ask~~ the emperor. He ~~smile~~ to himself – surely even Birbal ~~be~~ able to answer this question.



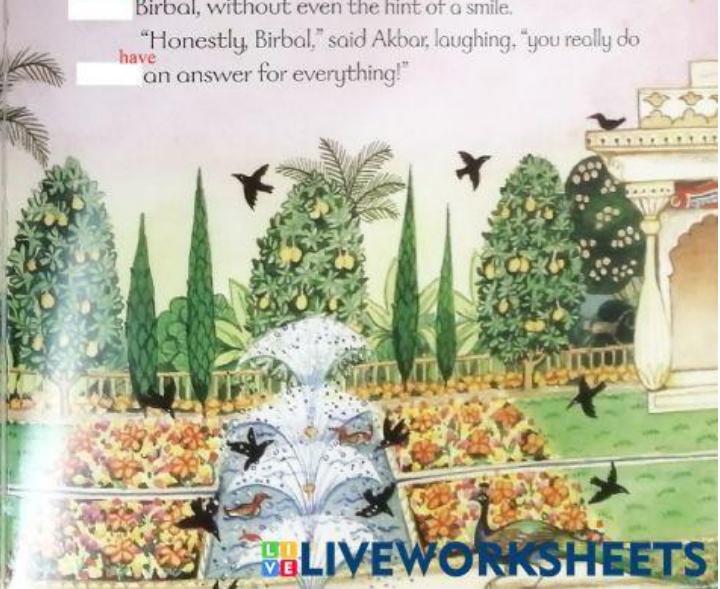
Without pausing to think even for a moment, Birbal ~~not hesitate~~. "Seven thousand, four hundred and thirty-eight," ~~look~~ the emperor. "Come now, Birbal," ~~look~~ the emperor. "What if I have somebody count them and find out there ~~be~~ more than that?"

"Well, sir," said Birbal solemnly. "I can't account for crows from other kingdoms coming to visit."

"And if there are fewer?" ~~laugh~~ Akbar.

"I can't account for crows going away on trips either, sir," ~~shrug~~ Birbal, without even the hint of a smile.

"Honestly, Birbal," said Akbar, laughing, "you really do ~~have~~ an answer for everything!"



LIVE WORKSHEETS