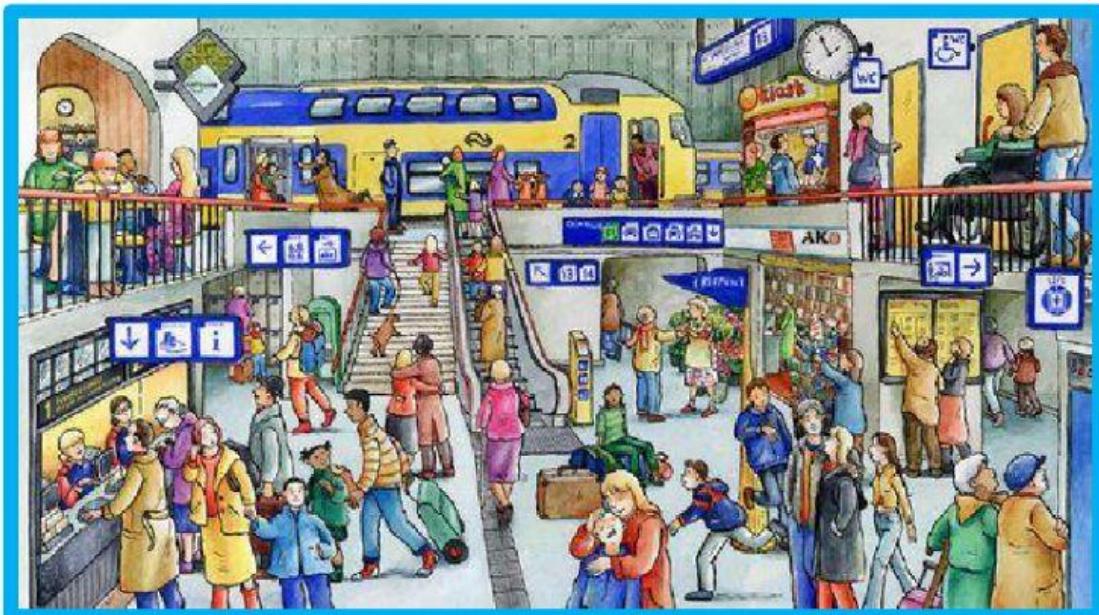


# At the train station



This is a busy station. Have a good look at the picture and then do the exercises.

Say if the statements are true or false, or we don't know. (T,F,?)

1. There are a lot of people in the station.
2. They are all getting on trains.
3. It is bad weather outside.
4. It is late at night.
5. You can buy tickets for the train.
6. There is a train in the background.
7. There are no animals in the station.
8. The train driver is a lady.

sitting, buy  
escalator  
drinks  
hugging  
afternoon  
out, catch

Read the passage, describing the scene. Replace the missing words.

It is nearly two o'clock in the \_\_\_\_\_. There are many people in the station. Some people are queuing up to \_\_\_\_\_. Some people are queuing up at the kiosk to buy \_\_\_\_\_ and food. Some people are going up the \_\_\_\_\_ and up the stairs towards the platforms. One boy is running to \_\_\_\_\_. At the bottom of the escalator, a girl is \_\_\_\_\_ on her suitcases. In the foreground, a mother is \_\_\_\_\_ her son and he is crying. The driver is getting \_\_\_\_\_ of the train because it has just arrived.

Choose the sentence opener you think is true. Complete it:

Stations are happy places because \_\_\_\_\_

Stations are sad places because \_\_\_\_\_

# THE OLD MAN AND HIS CHALLENGE

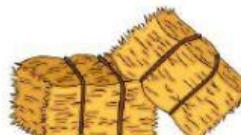
Many years ago, a young man opened a shop. He worked very hard and made a success of it. Soon, he bought another shop. He was a good man, who gave value for money. People loved him and they bought his goods. By the time he was forty, he owned shops from coast to coast. When he was old, he became ill and went to hospital. He called his three adult sons to his bedside.



He told them that he wanted one of them to become the president of his business. In order to decide, he set them a challenge. He gave them each a dollar bill and said they must go out and spend it. He said that whatever they bought had to fill the room from corner to corner, top to bottom. The sons happily accepted the challenge and off they went. Soon they returned. The first son brought two bales of hay into the room. He cut the bales open and threw hay into the air. However, soon all the hay fell onto the floor. The room was not full. The second son brought in a pillow. He cut it open and threw the feathers into the air. They soon settled on the floor. The room was not full. The third son told his father that he gave most of the money to a good charity. He needed only a dime to buy a candle and a matchbook. He struck a match and lit his candle. Immediately, the room was filled with light. The father was delighted. He told the third son to be a good boss and to always let his light shine.

**Say if the statements are TRUE or FALSE:**

- A long time ago, a young man started up a business.
- He was a lazy man and his business failed.
- He was popular, because he gave people a fair deal.
- At age forty, he was very successful.
- Eventually, he had to go to hospital.
- He gave his business to his eldest son.
- His sons refused his challenge.
- The hay did not fill the room completely.
- The feathers from the pillows floated up to the ceiling.
- The third son donated most of the money to needy causes.
- The light from the candle lit up the entire room.
- The old man was very happy and gave his son some good advice.



**Answer the following questions in full sentences:**

- How did the young man make a success of his first shop? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did people like him enough to buy his goods? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who did he call when he went into hospital? \_\_\_\_\_
- What challenge did he set? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which son completed the challenge? \_\_\_\_\_
- How did he accomplish it? \_\_\_\_\_

This story is in the form of a fable. Fables usually involve animals, forces of Nature, or things which are a bit unrealistic. The point of a fable is that it offers us a moral, a lesson in life. This story is called 'Shine a Light'. Remember: it takes one match to burn a forest and do terrible damage. It takes one match to shine brightly and show the way forward. **Do you like the story? Why or why not?**

# THE BEAUTIFUL LADY AND HER MIRROR

There was once a lady and she had a wonderful mirror. She loved it so much. The mirror was in her living room. It was above the fireplace. It was a big rectangle-shaped mirror with a golden frame.



Every morning, before her breakfast, she went into the living room and she looked in her mirror. She checked that her make-up was right and her hair looked nice. Then she stepped back and turned from side to side to see how her clothes looked. This sight cheered her up and helped her prepare for her day.

One day, she painted the walls a different colour. They used to be dark blue and she painted them pale yellow. She still loved her mirror, but she began to think it was not right for the room: it was too old-fashioned. She went into town and she saw a beautiful, modern mirror.

It was smaller, octagon-shaped and it had a lattice pattern on it. She bought the mirror. She took down the old mirror and stored it in her garage. She hung the new mirror up. The next morning, she went into her living room and looked in her mirror. She could not see her face properly because of the lines. The mirror was too small to check her clothes. She felt flat, really disappointed. At first, she did not know why, but after a while, she realised what

she had liked most about her old mirror: the image of herself. *By the beautiful lady* ☺



Say if the statements are true or false and then answer the questions in full sentences:

- The lady hated her mirror. T/F
- It was in the bedroom. T/F
- It was above the fireplace. T/F
- It was rectangular. T/F
- It had a silver frame. T/F
- She checked her appearance before breakfast. T/F
- She checked make-up, hair and clothes. T/F
- Looking in the mirror cheered her up. T/F
- She wall-papered the walls. T/F
- She thought the mirror was not right for the room any more. T/F
- She bought a modern mirror. T/F
- She sold the old mirror. T/F
- The new mirror was not right for her. T/F
- She will put the old mirror back and sell the new one. T/F?

- How did the lady feel about her mirror?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Where was the mirror? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did it look like? \_\_\_\_\_
- How often did she check her appearance in the mirror? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did she check in the mirror?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How did she change her living room?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why did she decide to replace the mirror? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did the new mirror look like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Where did she put the old mirror?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why could she not see herself properly in the new mirror?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How did she feel? \_\_\_\_\_

**Possible morals of the tale:** Be careful what you wish for. Know yourself. Do not be vain. Always check your appearance. Be kind to yourself. **Which moral would you give this tale?**

