

## THE HOSPITAL WINDOW

Two men, both seriously ill, \_\_\_\_\_ (to lie) in the same hospital room. One of them, Ted, was luckier. He could sit in his bed and his bed was by the only window. Mike, however, had to lie on his back all the time.

Mike \_\_\_\_\_ (to feel) very depressed, because the doctors thought that he was going to die. So Ted would describe to him things that he could see outside. The window had a view over the park and its lovely lake. It was a beautiful day. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (to shine), birds \_\_\_\_\_ (to sing). Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ (to blossom). Ducks and swans \_\_\_\_\_ (to play) in the water. Children \_\_\_\_\_ (to give) bread to the ducks. Many couples of lovers \_\_\_\_\_ (to walk) in the park and \_\_\_\_\_ (to sit) under trees. Mike \_\_\_\_\_ (to listen) to the description with a smile on his face.

The next day, Mike asked Ted again what he \_\_\_\_\_ (to see) through the window. Ted described how some people \_\_\_\_\_ (to have)

a picnic. Children \_\_\_\_\_ (to walk) the dogs. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (to have) so much fun. A young lady \_\_\_\_\_ (to jog), a little girl \_\_\_\_\_ (to walk) along the lake with her father. Every day was a joyful sight. Mike, who could only see the ceiling, lived for the moments in which his friend would describe what he \_\_\_\_\_ (to see) day after day. He could not wait to recover.

One day Ted was released from the hospital. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (to leave), he said: »Goodbye, my friend. Stay strong and recover and soon you'll be able to see this beautiful park for yourself.« Mike promised to do so. Soon, he was finally able to get up and he immediately \_\_\_\_\_ (to want) to see this beautiful park that kept him alive and positive for so long.

But to his surprise the window of the room \_\_\_\_\_ (to face) a brick wall. The surprised man asked the nurse why his roommate \_\_\_\_\_ (to tell) him all the stories about the park if there \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) no park at all. The nurse \_\_\_\_\_ (to think) for a while and finally she said: »He just \_\_\_\_\_ (to want) you

to get better. He wanted to make you happy. And maybe by helping you, he \_\_\_\_\_ (to help) himself, too.«

Mike \_\_\_\_\_ (to realise) that making other people happy is the greatest happiness of all. Happiness, when shared, is doubled. He soon \_\_\_\_\_ (to leave) the hospital, promising the nurse to help others as Ted had helped him.