

The Chair



Vocabulary

Loads of friends	Много друзей
Show off (showed – shown)	хвастаться
To have – had – had To have loads of friends	Иметь много друзей
I bet you a big bag of popcorn	Спорим на большую упаковку попкорна
Accepted to bet	Принял спор
Without hesitation	Без колебания
He didn't know how he would test his friends	Но он не знал, как будет проверять своих друзей
...it's quite tricky to sit on it	На него довольно непросто сесть
You'll activate its magic	Ты включишь волшебство
You'll be able to tell	И ты сможешь сказать
Just a slight technical problem	Небольшая техническая неполадка
Keep doing smth Keep – kept -kept	Пытался снова и снова, но постоянно падал
He kept trying but he kept falling	
He sat hovering in mid-air Sit-sat -sat	Он висел в воздухе

There was once a boy called Mario who loved to have loads of friends. He showed off a lot, always talked about how many friends he had at school, and how friendly he was with everyone.

One day his grandfather said to him.

'Mario, I bet you a big bag of popcorn, you don't have as many friends as you think. I'm sure many of them are just companions or acquaintances.

Mario accepted the bet without a hesitation. But he didn't know how he would test his schoolmates to find out if they were real friends or not. So, he asked his grandpa. The old man said,

'I have just exactly what you need, it is in the attic. Wait here a minute'.

Grandpa left and returned carrying something in his hand, but Mario could see nothing there.

'Take it, it's a very special chair. It is invisible and it's quite tricky to sit on it. But if you take it to school and manage to sit on it, you'll activate its magic and you'll be able to tell who your real friends are'.

Mario felt brave, he took the strange invisible chair and set off to school. During the break he asked everyone to make a circle and sat in the middle with his chair.

'Nobody move. You will see something amazing!'

And Mario tried to sit on the chair. But he couldn't see it and fell down onto his backside. Everyone laughed!

'Wait, please. Just a slight technical problem!'

He tried to sit again but he missed the seat. He kept trying but he kept falling on the ground...until he tried again and didn't fall. This time he sat hovering in mid-air....

Then it was that he finally realized the magic that his grandpa was talking about! Mario saw George, Lucas and Diana – three of his best friends – holding him up so he couldn't fall.

And there the show came to an end. He left with his three friends and he told them about his grandpa and how he explained to him that true friends are those who care for us.

That evening the four friends went to see Mario's grandpa to pay out the bet. They had a great time listening to stories and eating pop-corn.

Exercise 1. Read the following sentences and tick 'True' or 'False'

1. There was once a boy Mario who had few friends.	T F
2. He treated everyone in a nice and kind way.	T F
3. One day his grandpa said 'I bet you a big bag of potatoes'.	T F
4. Grandpa had a very special table. And it was invisible.	T F
5. Mario sat on a chair in the middle of the circle and said 'Nobody move!'	T F
6. Mario kept trying to sit on a chair and he kept falling down.	T F
7. He finally could sit on a chair himself and his friends made fun of him.	T F
8. Grandpa explained that true friends are careful and helpful.	T F

Exercise 2. Paraphrase the underlined words and word combinations with the ones from the text.

1. There was once a boy called Mario who loved to have many friends _____.
2. He talked about how many friends he had at school, and how nice _____ he was with everyone.
3. Mario accepted the bet immediately _____.
4. That was a very special chair which you can't see _____.
5. He tried many times _____ but he fell on the ground a lot _____.
6. He finally sat but he found himself hanging in the air _____.
7. Mario's grandpa explained to him that true friends are those who are caring and helpful _____.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

There was _____ a boy called Mario who loved to _____ friends. He showed _____ a lot, always talked about _____ friends he had at school, and how _____ he was _____ everyone.

One day his grandfather said to him.

'Mario, I _____ you a big bag of popcorn, you don't have _____ many friends _____ you think. I'm _____ many of them are _____ companions or acquaintances.

Mario _____ the bet without a _____. But he didn't know how he would test his _____ to find _____ if they were real friends or not. So, he asked his grandpa. The old man said,

'I have just _____ what you need, it is in the attic. Wait here a minute'.

Grandpa left and _____ carrying something in his hand, but Mario could see _____ there.

'Take it, it's a very special chair. It is _____ and it's quite _____ to sit on it. But if you take it to school and _____ to sit on it, you'll activate its _____ and you'll be able to tell who your real friends are'.

Mario felt _____, he took the _____ invisible chair and _____ off to school. During the break he asked everyone to make a circle and sat in the middle with his chair.

'Nobody move. You will see something _____!'

And Mario tried to sit on the chair. But he couldn't see it and _____ down onto his backside. Everyone laughed!

'Wait, please. Just a _____ problem!'

He tried to sit again but he missed the seat. He kept _____ but he _____ falling on the ground...until he tried again and didn't fall. This time he sat _____ in mid-air....

Then it was that he finally realized the magic that his grandpa was _____ about! Mario saw George, Lucas and Diana – three of his best friends – holding him _____ so he couldn't fall.

And there the show came to an end. He left with his three friends and he told them about his grandpa and how he explained to him that true friends are those who _____.

That evening the four friends went to see Mario's grandpa to pay out the _____.
They had a great time listening to stories and eating pop-corn.

Exercise 4. Unscramble the words in the sentence.

1. was/There/once/boy/a/Mario/called.
2. off/He/showed/lot/a/talked/always/about/friends/school/at.
3. you/ I/a/bet/bag/big/pop-corn/of.
4. It/invisible/it/is/it/tricky/quite/on/to/sit/it
5. finally/realized/ He/ magic/ the/grandpa/ that/his/about/ talked