

Sentences for Practice

Predicate Verbs & Direct Objects

Day 3.1

Analyze the following sentences.

1. The October air briskly blew.
2. Aunt Bea was pruning the roses.
3. Several children are helping now.
4. Uncle Roy was planting a tiny maple tree.
5. The boys were digging a deep hole.
6. Suddenly, two boys discovered a heavy brick.

Day 3.2

Sentences for Practice

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7. One boy used the big shovel.

8. Then, Otis lowered the tree down.

9. Later, the bell rang loudly.

10. The whole family gave thanks together.



Sentences for Practice—Tale Predicate Verbs & Direct Objects

Day 3.3

Analyze the following sentences, which summarize “A Missing Man Found.”

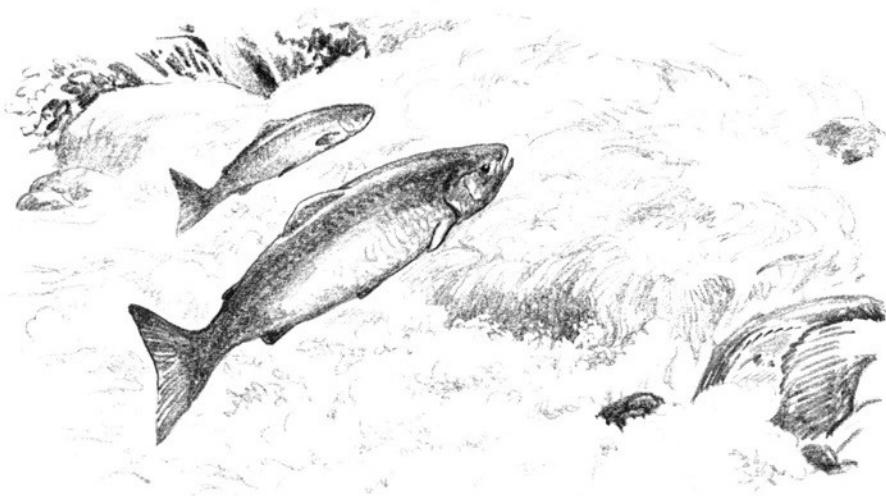
1. The twelve men had supplies.
2. The first man fished alone.
3. Another fisherman went upstream.
4. The foolish men counted the men.
5. Unfortunately, the fishermen did not count every man.
6. A stranger helped the fools.

7. The wise stranger had a clever idea.

8. Slowly, each fisherman received a number.

9. Each fisherman also received a switch.

10. The stranger found the lost fisherman.



Lesson to Enjoy—Tale

Predicate Verbs & Direct Objects

Day 3.5

Folktales are narratives that often poke fun at others. This story makes light of twelve fishermen from Gotham. Searching high and low, the fishermen could not find their missing friend. It was a stranger from Nottingham who helped the foolish fishermen solve their problem. Although this story has been retold many, many times, the humor of it has stayed the same.

A Missing Man Found

by Clifton Johnson (Adapted)

Once upon a time twelve men of Gotham went fishing in the stream that supplied the town pond. They first fished from the shoreline, and then they waded out into the stream to get better positions to cast their lines. They fished from morning until twilight.

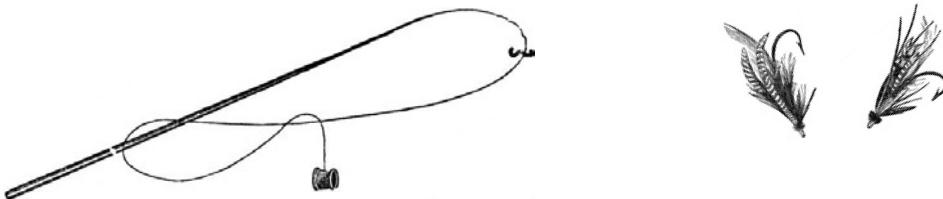
As they were coming back, the oldest of the group said, “We have fished a long time today and in various places. I hope that none of us, who did come today, be drowned.”

“Let us see about that,” said a second man. “Twelve of us came this morning. I will count and see if there be twelve going back.” So he counted, “One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven.” But he forgot to count himself. “I can make no more than eleven,” said he.

“Surely, one of us is drowned,” stammered the third man.

Then each man counted, but each forgot to count himself. “Alas! There is no doubt about it. One of us is drowned,” said the fishermen of Gotham.

They went back to the stream where they had been fishing and looked up and down the shoreline for him that was drowned. They cried out with great lamentation. By and by a man of Nottingham came riding past. “What are you looking for there?” he asked. “Why are you so sorrowful?”



“On this day, we came to fish in this stream. There were twelve of us, and now one is drowned, for now there are but eleven of us,” said the oldest fisherman.

“Count for me,” said the stranger from Nottingham.

One of the men of Gotham counted, and as he did not count himself, he counted but eleven.

“Well,” said the stranger. “What will you give me if I will find the twelfth man?”

“Sir, we will give you all the money we have,” they said eagerly.

“Give me the money,” said the Nottingham man. When the money was safe in his pocket he said, “Now pass in front of me.” Then he began with the first man and hit him a crack on the shoulders with his whip. “There is one,” said he.

The next one he cracked with his whip likewise. “There are two,” said he. So he served them all down to the last, whom he gave an extra hard blow. “Here is your twelfth man,” said the stranger.

“Blessings to you!” said all the company. “You have found our neighbor.”¹

Questions to Ponder

1. What counting mistake did the men of Gotham make?
2. How did the stranger from Nottingham help them?
3. How did the stranger from Nottingham take advantage of them?

1. Clifton Johnson, “A Missing Man Found,” in *The Oak-tree Fairy Book: Favorite Fairy Tales*, ed. Clifton Johnson (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1905), pp. 341–343. Available online at: <https://books.google.com/books?id=o4VCAAAIAAJ>.