

Sentences for Practice

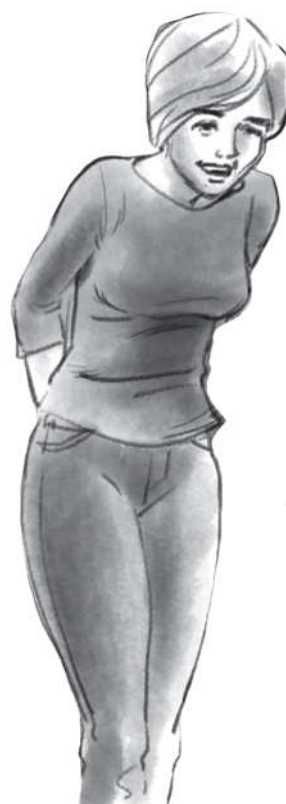
Predicate Nominatives

Day 4.1

Analyze the following sentences.

1. All the schoolmates are cousins.
2. Millie is a good reader.
3. Otis is a math student.
4. The children were young scholars.
5. Calvin was an Adventure Scout.
6. Phoebe is a junior scout.

7. Max is a kindergartener.
8. That classmate is also a kindergartener.
9. Mom is a PTA member.
10. Soon, Mrs. Smith will be the music advisor.



Sentences for Practice—Tale

Predicate Nominatives

Day 4.3

Analyze the following sentences, which feature the characters from “The Lame Man and the Blind Man.”

1. The wise king was a fig tree owner.
2. The fine figs were delicious fruit.
3. Initially, the king appointed two gardeners.
4. Now, the first man was a lame man.
5. The other fellow was a blind man.
6. These two gardeners were hungry companions.

7. The sly workers were also crooks.
8. Sneakily, two bodies were one tall thief.
9. The observant king immediately spotted the absent figs.
10. The two gardeners were two guilty lawbreakers.



Two wrongs don't make a right. In this Hebrew narrative from the Talmud, two gardeners plot against their master. Because they both have disabilities, they need each other to pull off their wicked deed. Together they are partners in crime, and together they suffer the consequences.

The Lame Man and the Blind Man

Adapted from the Talmud

There once was a king who had an orchard of fine young fig trees. He appointed two gardeners to take care of the orchard—a lame man and a blind man. One day, while the king was away, the two gardeners hatched an idea. The lame man asked the blind man to put him on his shoulders, and he would pluck the ripest fruit. So the lame man served as the blind man's eyes and the blind man served as the lame man's legs. Together they made a feast of the figs.

lame: unable to walk because of physically disabled legs

When the king returned, he immediately spotted the missing fruit. He demanded an explanation from his two gardeners. "I could not have taken the figs," said the lame man, "for I have no legs."

"I could not have taken the figs," said the blind man, "for I have no eyes."

What did the king, the lord of this garden, do? He had the lame man mount upon the back of the blind man and he judged them as one together. And they were both found guilty.¹



1. Adapted from the Talmud, "The Lame Man and the Blind Man," in *Writing & Rhetoric Book 2: Narrative I*, by Paul Kortepeter (Camp Hill, PA: Classical Academic Press, 2013), p. 46.

Clever Riddles

Riddles are great ways to play with language. In the puzzles below, see if you can use the word clues to find the answers. They may be a little challenging, but try using what you've learned about grammar to figure them out. When you do, write each answer using a sentence with a predicate nominative.

1. Once there was a cowboy who rode into town on Monday. He stayed for three nights and then left on Monday. How is this possible?

2. Joe's coach had five players on his team: January was the tallest, February was the fastest, March was the most aggressive, and April was just moody. What was the name of the fifth player?

3. Elizabeth, Elspeth, Betsy, and Bess—they all went together to seek a bird's nest. They found one with five eggs in it. They each took one, and left four in it. How can this be?

