



Colegio España
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Reading Comprehension exercises

Objective: Develop reading and writing skills and recognize different verbal tenses.

Nasreddin Goes Shopping

One day Nasreddin went to town to buy new clothes. First he tried on a pair of trousers. He didn't like the trousers, so he gave them back to the shopkeeper. Then he tried a robe which had the same price as the trousers. Nasreddin was pleased with the robe, and he left the shop. Before he climbed on his donkey to ride home, the shopkeeper and the shop-assistant ran out.

"You didn't pay for the robe!" said the shopkeeper.

"But I gave you the trousers in exchange for the robe, didn't I?" replied Nasreddin.

"Yes, but you didn't pay for the trousers, either!" said the shopkeeper.

"But I didn't buy the trousers," replied Nasreddin. "I am not so stupid as to pay for something which I never bought."

Answer:

How did Nasreddin get to the shop?

? on foot ? by camel ? by donkey ? the story doesn't say

What did Nasreddin do first in the shop?

? He tried on some trousers. ? He tried on a robe. ? He tried on a hat. ? He greeted the shopkeeper.

What did Nasreddin try on next?

? a robe ? a pair of trousers ? a hat

Which item did Nasreddin like best?

? the robe ? the hat ? the trousers

How many people were working in the shop?

? four ? three ? two

Why was the shopkeeper angry when Nasreddin left?

? He didn't take the trousers. ? He didn't pay for the robe. ? He didn't say goodbye.

What did Nasreddin actually pay for?

? nothing ? the robe ? the trousers ? the hat

Nasreddin and the Pot

One day Nasreddin borrowed a pot from his neighbour Ali. The next day he brought it back with another little pot inside. "That's not mine," said Ali. "Yes, it is," said Nasreddin. "While your pot was staying with me, it had a baby."



Some time later Nasreddin asked Ali to lend him a pot again. Ali agreed, hoping that he would once again receive two pots in return. However, days passed and Nasreddin had still not returned the pot. Finally Ali lost patience and went to demand his property. "I am sorry," said Nasreddin. "I can't give you back your pot, since it has died." "Died!" screamed Ali, "how can a pot die?" "Well," said Nasreddin, "you believed me when I told you that your pot had had a baby."

Answer:

Who was the owner of the pot?

? Nasreddin ? Ali ? the baby

How many times did Nasreddin borrow the pot?

? once ? twice ? three times

How many pots did he give back the first time?

? none ? one ? two

Why was the neighbour happy to lend his pot a second time?

? He was greedy. ? He was a good neighbour. ? He had lots of spare pots.

How many pots did Nasreddin return the second time?

? none ? one ? two

What probably happened to the pot?

? It died. ? The neighbour took it back. ? Nasreddin kept it.

Write 10 verbs in past tense from the text.

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| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |