
YOUR FAVOURITE PASTIME

- 1 Read the story *The Hedgehog And The Hare* and answer the questions: How many times did the animals race? Did the hare understand why the hedgehog won each race?

The Hedgehog And The Hare

One bright summer morning a little hedgehog was sitting at the door of his home. He was a merry little fellow¹ who wished everybody to be happy.

“I think I’ll just run over to the field and take a look at the turnips²,” he said to his wife.

“I hope you won’t meet any of those rude hares,” said Mrs Hedgehog. “Yesterday two of them came to the cabbage patch³ when our little ones and I were there. They laughed aloud at our short legs, and said that it must be terrible to be so slow.”

“Don’t think about them,” said her husband. “A hedgehog is as good as a hare any day. I’ll be back soon.”

Just as Mr Hedgehog reached the turnip field, he met a big hare on his way to the cabbage patch. This hare was proud, and thought himself a very fine fellow indeed because he could run like the wind.

When the little hedgehog saw the hare, he said in his best manner, “Good morning, Mr Hare.”

The hare did not answer this polite greeting, but said in a rude voice, “Why are you out so early this morning?”

“I am just taking a nice short walk in the fresh air,” answered the hedgehog.

¹ **merry little fellow** ['felou] — маленькое веселое существо

² **turnip** ['tə:nɪp] — репа

³ **patch** — небольшой участок земли



“How can you enjoy a nice walk with such short legs?” said the hare. “By the way I saw your wife and little ones yesterday. They were trying to run races, but not one of them could run faster than a tortoise. I nearly died laughing at them.”

Of course the hedgehog became very angry. “You think that your long legs are better than my short ones, do you?” he said. “If you are not afraid, I’ll run a race with you. I’ll show you that I am much faster than you.”

“You? Faster than me?” said the hare with a laugh. “Let us race down the furrows¹ between these fine turnips. You run in one furrow and I’ll run in another. We shall soon see who will reach the other end first.”

“I can’t race with you just now,” said the hedgehog. “I’m very hungry and must go home for breakfast. I’ll be back again in half an hour.”

The hare agreed, and the hedgehog went off home.

“That rude hare is too proud of himself”, said the little hedgehog to himself. “I’ll teach him not to boast.”

When he reached home, he asked his wife to help him play a joke on the hare. “Here is my plan,” he said. “You and I look so much alike² that the hare cannot tell me from you³. You must hide at the far end of a furrow in the turnip field. Just before the hare reaches you, pop up your head in front of him and say, “I knew I could beat⁴ you quite easily.”

Soon they reached the field, and the little hedgehog placed his wife at the far end of the furrow. Then he went to the other end, where he found the hare in the next furrow.

“Let us start at once,” said the proud hare.

“I am now quite ready,” said the little hedgehog, as he took his place in his furrow.

The hare also took his place. Then he called, “Ready, steady, go!”⁵ and off he ran like the wind.

¹ **furrow** [ˈfʌrou] — борозда, колея

² **to look much alike** — походить друг на друга

³ **to tell someone from ...** — отличить кого-либо от ...

⁴ **to beat (beat, beaten)** — побить, побеждать

⁵ **Ready, steady, go!** [ˈstedɪ], go! — На старт, внимание, марш!

The little hedgehog ran only a few steps and then lay quite still among the turnip leaves. Just before the hare reached the far end of the furrow, the hedgehog's wife popped up her head and said, "I knew I could beat you quite easily."

The hare stood still in wonder.

"Let that be a lesson to you," said the hedgehog's wife.

"I'll race you back," said the hare. "You can't beat me again."

"Of course I can," answered Mrs Hedgehog.

The hare turned quickly and ran back through his furrow even faster than before.

Just before he reached the other end, Mr Hedgehog popped up his head and shouted, "Ha! Ha! I have beaten you again, Mr Hare."

"I can't understand this at all," said the hare in surprise. "Let us try another race."

"Very well," replied Mr Hedgehog.

This time the hare counted, "One, two, three!" and was off like the wind. When he reached the other end, Mrs Hedgehog jumped up in front of him and said, "Well, Mr Hare, I am first again."

"Race with me for the last time," asked the hare.

"All right," replied Mrs Hedgehog.

Off the hare went down the furrow again. Mr Hedgehog met him and said, "It's no use. I can beat you every time."

The hare was now too tired to run any more, and so he hopped¹ slowly and sadly away.

The little hedgehogs laughed and laughed when they heard the story. "Brains² are far better than legs," said Mr Hedgehog to his happy little wife. "Mr Hare will not be so proud next time we meet him."

¹ **to hop** — хромать, прихрамывать, ковылять

² **brain** [breɪn] — мозг

Do You Understand The Story?

- 2 *Number the facts below in the order in which they come in the story. You may look back at the story.*
- 3 • The hedgehog went home to discuss his plan with his wife.
 - 6 • The hedgehog ran a few steps and then lay quite still among the leaves.
 - 1 • The hedgehog wanted to take a look at the turnips that grew in the field.
 - 2 • When the hedgehog saw the hare, he greeted him very politely.
 - 8 • "I'll race you back," said the hare.
 - 5 • The hedgehog placed his wife at the far end of a furrow in the turnip field.
 - 7 • The hare ran off like the wind.
 - 9 • The hare was too tired to run any more and went slowly and sadly away.
 - 4 • The hedgehog's wife agreed to help her husband.
- 3 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*
- 1 The hedgehog won because:
 - he ran faster.
 - he hid in the furrows.
 - he thought of a clever plan to teach the hare a good lesson.
 - 2 The hare was proud of himself because:
 - he thought he could run like the wind.
 - he had good manners.
 - he had long legs.

- 3 The hedgehog wanted to run a race with the hare because:
- he was going to teach him not to boast.
 - he was going to show him he could run fast.
 - he was sure he could beat him.

4 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Why was the hedgehog's wife upset with the hare? What did he say that made her upset?
- 2 What was the hare so proud of?
- 3 Did the hedgehog and his wife look very much alike?
- 4 What was the hedgehog's plan to teach the hare a lesson?
- 5 Why did the Hare ask the hedgehog to race?
- 6 Were the hedgehogs glad that they could teach the hare a lesson?

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 46—47)



What Do You Think?

5 *Choose the reason which you think more correct.*

This story was written to tell you...

- that hares are very fast animals.
- that it is bad to be boastful and too proud of oneself.
- that brains are far better than legs.

6 *Choose a better title for this story.*

- 1 A Fair Race.
- 2 The Two Runners.
- 3 A Trick That Worked.

7 *Say what you think of the hedgehog and the hare, their behaviour and actions.*





How Good Is Your English?



8 *Use the proper word from the box.*

- 1 It will do you only good to take a nice short walk in the air every day.
- 2 Everybody enjoys talking to people who are and friendly, and nobody likes those who are
- 3 Train hard if you want to be the first in the
- 4 We are always of our friends when they win a victory in the competitions.
- 5 All the sportsmen ran

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| rude |
| merry |
| proud |
| race |
| fresh |
| fast |

9 *How did they do it? Choose the proper word.*

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| quickly |
| slowly |
| politely |
| rudely |
| easily |
| happily |
| sadly |

- 1 The hedgehog spoke with the hare very, but the hare answered him
- 2 The hare boasted that he could beat the hedgehog on the race quite
- 3 The hare turned and ran back even faster than before.
- 4 The hare was so tired after the races that he could run no more, and he hopped and away.
- 5 The hedgehog and his wife laughed when the races were over.

10 Find the words which are opposite in meaning.

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| merry | rude |
| quick | difficult |
| polite | sad |
| to agree | to disagree |
| easy | behind |
| tired | slow |
| in front of | cheerful |

11 Use the correct preposition where necessary.

- The hare looked very proud himself.
- The hedgehog and his wife were very angrythe hare because he used to laugh their short legs.
- It was pleasant to take a walkthe fresh air.
- The hedgehog decided to play a joke the hare.
- The hedgehog ran a little and lay quite still the turnip leaves.
- Soon they reachedthe field, and the race began.

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| of |
| at |
| among |
| with |
| on |
| in |

12 **Present Indefinite? Past Indefinite? Future Indefinite?** Use the correct form of the verb.

- When the hedgehog (reach) the turnip field, he (meet) a big hare.
- "I hope you (not meet) any of those rude hares", said Mrs Hedgehog.
- "If you are not afraid of me", said the hare, "I (run) a race with you. I (show) you that I'm much faster than you".
- "I (come back) in an hour", said the hedgehog.
- The hare (stand) still in wonder when he (see) the hedgehog at the far end of the furrow.
- "You and I (look) so much alike", said the hedgehog to his wife.