

The Salt Vendor and his Donkey

A salt vendor had a donkey. Every morning he loaded the donkey with bags of salt. Then the master and the animal went to customers who lived in surrounding villages.

On the way, they had to cross several streams and small rivers. One morning, the donkey accidentally tumbled in the water while crossing a river. A lot of the salt in the bags got dissolved in the water. So the burden on the donkey's back became much lighter. The vendor returned home with the donkey. That day was a rest day for the donkey.

The next day, they went out on their usual trip. The donkey took a dip in the first stream on the way. Again the burden became light and the trip for the day was cancelled.



The master was very angry with the donkey. He was sure that the second day's dip of the donkey was intentional. So he gave him hard blows with his stick. He said, "If the stupid animal of mine becomes so clever, it will be all up with me. I must teach him a lesson."

So the next day he loaded the donkey with bales of cotton. When the donkey took a dip in the water, the cotton absorbed water and became many times heavier. The donkey had to struggle very hard to come out of the water.

From that day onwards, the donkey gave up the trick of dipping in a stream.

Glossary

Vendor – a person selling something

Burden – a heavy load

Absorb – take in

Read the story and answer the questions carefully.

Mark **True** or **False**

1. Every morning the vendor and donkey went to surrounding villages. ()
2. The first time, the donkey accidentally fell into the water while crossing the river. ()
3. The second time, the donkey accidentally fell into the water while crossing the river. ()
4. The vendor loaded the donkey with bales of cotton to make it comfortable. ()
5. The donkey was clever to take a dip in the water with the load of cotton on its back. ()

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the vendor and the donkey go to surrounding villages every morning?

2. Who is a vendor?

3. What happened to a load of salt when the donkey fell into the water?

4. How many times did the donkey fall into the river with the bags of salt?

5. What did the vendor put into the bags instead of salt?

6. What was the trick the donkey tried to play?

7. What's the opposite of the word 'heavy'?

8. Did the vendor teach a lesson to the donkey? How?

9. Who do you think was cleverer, the vendor or the donkey? Why?

10. Do you think the donkey will try to take a dip in the water again? Why?

11. What's the moral of the story?

You will find these verbs in the story. **Give a synonym for each of the words.**

Went –

Tumbled –

Angry –

Clever –

Choose the correct answer from the bracket.

1. The vendor sold _____. (wood, salt, cotton)
2. The donkey fell in a _____. (pond, sea, stream)
3. The donkey was happy because the _____ got washed away. (sugar, salt, cotton)
4. In the end, the donkey left its bad _____. (habit, sad, vendor)
5. The _____ became very heavy because of water. (salt, cotton, donkey)

ANSWER SHEET

True or false

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False

1. To sell salt to customers of surrounding villages.
2. A person selling something. (given in Glossary)
3. Salt dissolved in water and the load became light.
4. Twice
5. Cotton
6. Tried to take a dip in water to make the load light.
7. Light
8. Yes. He loaded the donkey with cotton instead of salt.
9. Vendor. Donkey doesn't know the difference between salt and cotton.
10. No. He has learnt his lesson.
11. You should never try to play tricks to avoid work.

Synonyms

Went- left

Tumbled – fell

Angry – cross

Clever – intelligent

1. Salt
2. Stream
3. Salt
4. Habit
5. Cotton