

Reading Comprehension Exercise 2

Middle Primary Advance English

The Singing Cat



Once upon a time, there lived a baker who owned a few cats and some geese and rabbits. Life was barely manageable for the baker and his wife. They were as poor as church mice.

One day, as the baker's wife looked out of their shabby kitchen, she was surprised at what she saw. One of the cats was singing! It purred, meowed, and trilled like a sweet violin.

"Come, look!" the wife said to the baker.

"Hey! What are you doing?" the baker called out to the singing cat.

"Singing. I can hear music in my head. It makes me want to sing," replied the cat. It continued to meow and hum around the garden.

"That cat can make me some money. People will pay to see an unusual happening!" the baker thought.

The baker separated the cat from the rest of the animals and built a special area for it. He erected a huge stage and put up many rows of seats.

When everyone was seated, the baker brought his cat out and proudly proclaimed, "Ladies and gentlemen, the singing cat!"

Everyone clapped and cheered. However, the cat just sat there. Everyone started to jeer and demanded their money back.

"Why didn't you sing? You've brought shame to me!" the baker yelled at the cat.

"I could not hear the music in my head. I can't sing if I don't have music in my head," said the cat sadly. "And in my heart too..." added the cat.



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Questions:

1 Who were the main characters in the story?

2 Which word in the passage has the same meaning as 'run-down'?

3 What did the cat say it was doing?

4 What idea did the baker have when he saw the cat sing?

5 Besides being able to sing, in what other way was the cat different from normal cats?

6 The cat was able to sing only when it heard music in its head. (True / False)

7 The audience demanded their money back when the cat did not perform. (True / False)

8 The cat happily sang on the stage for everyone. (True / False)

9 The baker owned cows and sheep. (True / False)



Reading Comprehension Exercise 2 - Solutions

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Questions:

1 Who were the main characters in the story?

The baker, his wife, and the cat.

2 Which word in the passage has the same meaning as 'run-down'?

The word is 'shabby'.

3 What did the cat say it was doing?

Singing because it could hear music in its head.

4 What idea did the baker have when he saw the cat sing?

To make money by showing the singing cat to people.

5 Besides being able to sing, in what other way was the cat different from normal cats?

The cat was able to talk. /The cat could hear music in its head.

6 The cat was able to sing only when it heard music in its head. (True / False) ✓

7 The audience demanded their money back when the cat did not perform. (True / False) ✓

8 The cat happily sang on the stage for everyone. (True / False) ✓

9 The baker owned cows and sheep. (True / False) ✓