



Build Bridges - Not Fences

Sometimes it takes a stranger to help

■ Adapted from an American Tale by Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig
PAGE DESIGN BY MARIA CHEN
ILLUSTRATED BY ARNOLD LEE

20

Once upon a time two neighbors who lived on **bordering** farms had an argument with each other. It was the first serious **dispute** in years of farming side by side. They had traded labor and goods and shared **machinery** as needed without a problem.

Their long **friendship** fell apart. It began with a small difference of opinion and then grew into a war of words. It ended with the two no longer speaking to one another.

Usage Tip

They had traded labor and goods and shared machinery as needed without a problem. (p. 38, line 5)

本句雖長但其結構為簡單句，因此 and shared 之前不須加逗號。句型：主詞 + 動詞 A and 動詞 B，則句中 and 之前不必加逗號。

- Sarah bought rice and vegetables at the market and put them away in the cupboard once she got home.

Your turn

One morning there was a knock on the door of one of the neighbors. He opened it and saw a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days of work," he said. "Do you happen to have any work I could do for you?"

"Yes," said the man. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's where my neighbor lives."

21

The neighbor continued, "Last week there was a **meadow** between us. Then he took his bulldozer and dug a **ditch** between us. It goes all the way to the river, so now there is a creek between us. I don't want to see him or his farm any more. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence – an 8-foot fence on my side of the creek."



22

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the **situation**. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger, and I'll do a job that pleases you."

The neighbor had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day: he measured, **sawed** and nailed. When the farmer returned about sunset, the carpenter had just finished his job.

Usage Tip

*It goes **all the way** to the river, so now there is a creek between us. (p. 38, line 13)*

慣用語 all the way 在此用來強調越過頗長的一段距離。

- Suzanne walked all the way to the bank and home again.

Your turn

Talk About It

- Have you ever had words with someone? What happened?
- *Yes, I have. Once ...*
- Is it harder to build a bridge or a fence? Explain your answer.
- *I think it is harder to build a ... because ...*
- Who do you think is the wisest person in the story? Explain.
- *I think ... is the wisest person in the story because ...*

The farmer's eyes opened wide, and his **jaw** dropped. There was no fence there at all.

The carpenter had built a bridge – a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work with **handrails** and all. As the farmer watched, his neighbor was coming across with his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done. I am sorry we **had words**. Please forgive me. Let's be friends again."

Usage Tip

*The carpenter had built a bridge – a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! **A fine piece of work with handrails and all.** (p. 39, line 3)*

因為 A fine piece of work with handrails and all. 沒有動詞，所以並非完整句；這是一種寫作的特殊表達方式，用來凸顯前句所描述的事物，應避免過度使用。

- The little boy stared at the bicycle. A shiny red bicycle with yellow handles and a yellow seat.

Your turn





The neighbor stood still at his end of the bridge. Then he **proceeded** forward, and they took each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter **hoist** his toolbox on his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the farmer.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said. "But, I have many more bridges to build." 🗨️

Word Bank

border (v) [ˈbɔrdə] 接壤；圍著

My neighbor and I have cattle on **bordering** fields.

dispute (n) [dɪˈspjuːt] 爭端，爭執

Frank and John had a **dispute** over 15 years ago, and they still don't speak to one another.

machinery (n) [məˈʃɪnəri] 機械，（大型的）機器

What kind of **machinery** do you use on your farm?

friendship (n) [ˈfrendʃɪp] 友誼

Our **friendship** has lasted more than 50 years.

meadow (n) [ˈmeɪdoʊ] 草地，牧場

The horses and cows are in the **meadow** eating grass.

ditch (n) [dɪtʃ] 溝渠

There is a big **ditch** behind my house that fills up with water whenever it rains.

situation (n) [ˌsɪtʃuˈeɪʃən] 情況，形勢

We don't want this small problem to turn into a terrible **situation**.

saw (v) [sɔ] 鋸

Joseph **sawed** the wood he needed to make the table.

jaw (n) [dʒɔ] 下巴

James became angry, hit Mark and broke his **jaw**.

handrail (n) [ˈhændˌreɪl] 扶手

Hold onto the **handrail** when you walk up the stairs so you don't fall.

have words (with) (idiom) [hæv][wɜːdz][wɪð] 發生爭吵

Sherry and Angela **had words** last week and haven't spoken to each other since then.

proceed (v) [prəˈsiːd] （朝特定方向）前進；繼續進行

John **proceeded** to his office after stopping to chat with the building guard.

More Information

war of words (n) [wɔː][əv][wɜːdz] 公開的論戰

creek (n) [kriːk] 小溪，小河

bulldozer (n) [ˈbʊlˌdɒzə] 推土機

lumber (n) [ˈlʌmbə] 木材，木料

post-hole digger (n) [ˈpɒsˌhoʊl][ˈdɪɡə] 鑽洞機

outstretch (v) [aʊtˈstretʃ] 伸出

hoist (v) [hɔɪst] 抬起，吊起

Word Bank Focus

friend (n) [frend] 朋友

Bob and Michael are very good **friends**.

friendly (adj) [ˈfrendli] 友善的

Bryan is **friendly** to everyone he meets.

be friends with (idiom) [bi][frendz][wɪð] 與...交朋友

Sharon is **friends with** many people in her neighborhood.

