



# The King and the Foolish Monkey

Is it the king or the monkey that is foolish?

■ An Indian folktale adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett; edited by Linda Ludwig / PAGE DESIGN BY ANGELA CHANG / ILLUSTRATED BY ARNOLD LEE

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A long time ago a king lived in a palace near a jungle. From the palace, he could hear the chatter of the monkeys. Looking at the monkeys made him happy. One day he ordered his hunters to use nets to **capture** one of the monkeys and bring it back to the palace. He decided to keep the monkey as a pet.

The king's advisors warned him that keeping the monkey in the palace was not a good idea. "Monkeys are wild animals and can be dangerous," the advisors told him. But the king was in charge. He gave the orders. He did not have to take the **advice** of anyone.

"This is my Royal Monkey," he told the palace **staff**. "It may go wherever it wants in the palace and may do whatever it wishes." But the monkey was not trained. It did many foolish things in the palace. It made many **messes**.

## Usage Tip

*But the king was **in charge**.* (p. 22, line 11)

Someone is in charge. 表達「某人負有監督管理之權」。

- If you can't find your bags, ask whoever is in charge at the airport.

Your turn

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But no one stopped it. They did not want to go against the wishes of the king. The monkey went everywhere it wanted, including the king's bedroom.

One day, the king decided to take a **nap** while his monkey kept watch. As the king slept, a fly came into the room and sat on the king's **chest**. The monkey **swatted** at the fly. It flew out of the monkey's reach but soon returned. The monkey swatted at it again. The fly moved out of the monkey's reach only to come back again seconds later. It landed this time on the king's head.

### Talk About It

- Do you think that having a monkey as a pet is a good idea or not? Explain.  
- *Maybe because ... / I'm not sure because ...*
- Have you ever swatted someone when trying to kill a fly or mosquito? Tell what happened.  
- *Once I swatted my friend and ...*
- Describe a foolish friend.  
- *I have a foolish friend who ...*

The monkey became very excited. It looked for something to hit the fly with and saw the king's scepter. The scepter was a metal **wand** made of gold and covered with **jewels**. The king carried it as a sign to show that he was powerful and in charge of everything. But this time the monkey took charge. ▶

### Usage Tip

*But this time the monkey took charge.* (p. 23, line 6)

片語 take charge 表「掌管」，相當於 have control over something。take charge of something 則表「掌管、負責某件事」。

- Frederik took charge of the project to make sure they finished it on time.

Your turn





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The monkey began chasing the fly with the scepter. When the fly landed on the king's head, the monkey swung the scepter at the fly. The fly moved. The hard gold scepter missed the fly, but it did not miss the king. The monkey hit the king right in the head.

The king's head bled, and he had a huge **bump** on his head. Now the king used his head for something besides a target. He sent the monkey back to the jungle to live. The giant bump on the top of the king's head never went away. He had to have his **crown** made larger to fit him better. The king also decided to listen to others' **input**. Maybe he was not right all of the time.

The king's advisors did not say, "I told you so." But they did say, "Beware of foolish friends. They can cause more **harm** than your enemies." 🐼

**Usage Tip**

Now the king **used his head** for something besides a target. (p. 24, line 8)

片語 use one's head 表示「某人用頭腦思考、用腦筋想」。

- Use your head, Marion. No one is going on a picnic in this rain.

Your turn

**Word Bank**

**capture** (v) [ˈkæptʃə] 捕獲；俘虜

They finally **captured** the tiger that had been killing the cattle and took it to a zoo.

**advice** (n) [ədˈvaɪs] 勸告；忠告

Bob never listens to anyone's **advice**.

**staff** (n) [stæf] 全體員工

The entire **staff** at the bank attended their boss's birthday party.

**mess** (n) [mes] 髒亂；雜亂

How many **messes** can a child make in one day?

**nap** (n) [næp] 小睡；打盹

I have to take a **nap** because I can't keep my eyes open.

**chest** (n) [tʃest] 胸部；胸膛

Harry ran so fast that his **chest** began to hurt.

**swat** (v) [swat] 拍打；擊打

The kids were **swatting** any bug they saw in the yard.

**wand** (n) [wɑnd] (表示官職的) 權杖；棒；魔杖

Cinderella's fairy godmother waved her **wand** and turned Cinderella into a princess.

**jewel** (n) [ˈdʒuəl] 寶石

Her wedding ring has a huge **jewel** in the middle of it.

**bump** (n) [bʌmp] 腫塊

Henry got a **bump** on his knee when he fell down.

**crown** (n) [kraʊn] 王冠；皇冠

The queen put on her **crown** and went out to meet the people.

**input** (n) [ˈɪn.pʊt] 貢獻意見；(資訊、能源或資金的) 輸入

The president gets so much **input** it is hard to know what the truth is.

**harm** (n) [hɑrm] 損傷；傷害

The little boy didn't mean any **harm**. He was just playing a joke on his friend.

**More Information**

**chatter** (n) [ˈtʃætə] 吱吱的叫聲；嘮叨

**scepter** (n) [ˈseptə] (象徵君權的) 權杖

**beware** (v) [biˈweə] 提防；當心

**Word Bank Focus**

**harmful** (adj) [ˈhɑrmfəl] 有害的

Eating junk food all the time is very **harmful** to your health.

**harmless** (adj) [ˈhɑrmlɪs] 無害的

This fly is **harmless**, but be careful of mosquitoes.