The Man With the Coconuts
It pays to listen

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Juan had been working hard for hours. He had been hired to *harvest* coconuts for a wealthy man. He started early in the morning before the sun came up. He traveled in the dark to get to the grove where the coconuts grew. All morning he had climbed up and down the coconut palms.

He tied his machete to a long rope. Up the tree he climbed. He then pulled up the sharp machete on the rope. He cut the coconuts from their high branches on the tree. He dropped each coconut to the ground.

Juan *loaded* all of the coconuts into large baskets. He then *fastened* the baskets to the back of his horse. It had been a huge and exhausting job. It should have taken him several days to harvest the fruit. Yet he was done by the time the sun was at its highest in the sky.

Usage Tip

Up the tree he climbed. (p. 18, line 8)

本句為表「地方」的介系詞片語置於句首所構成的倒裝句，用以強調「位置」與「主詞」的關係；此種倒裝句型中的動詞通常為 be 動詞或不及物動詞。
• On the tops of the mountains sit white, fluffy clouds.
Your turn

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All he had to do was to **deliver** the coconuts to the home of the owner to receive his **pay**. Just as Juan started on the road to the owner's house, he saw a young boy.

"How long will it take to reach the owner's house?" asked Juan.

"If you go slowly," said the boy, "you will be there very soon. But if you go very fast, you will get there tomorrow."

"What a **foolish** boy!" thought Juan. "That boy is not very **intelligent**!" Then Juan began to hurry down the road. As he pulled the horse along at a fast speed, coconuts began to fall out of the loaded baskets. Juan had to stop to pick up the coconuts and to adjust the load on the horse's back.

"Now I have lost time," Juan thought. "I have to hurry to make up for lost time."
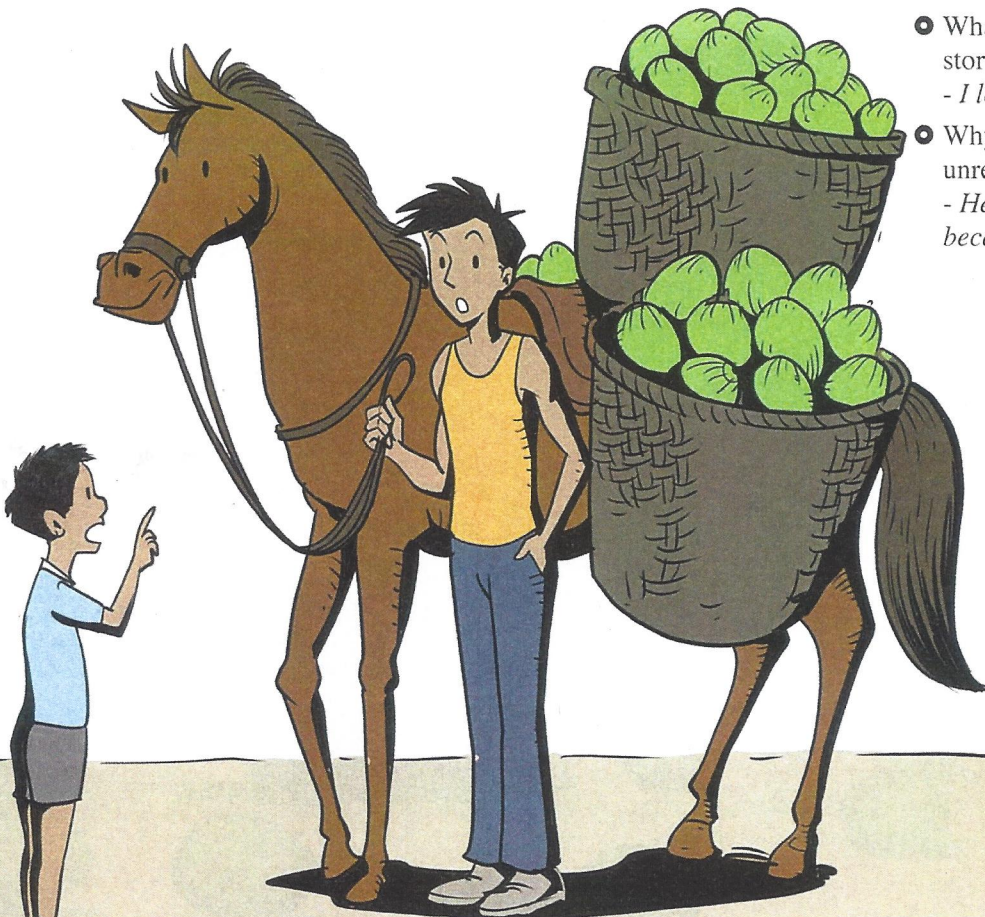
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More coconuts fell off the top of the full baskets. Coconuts inside the baskets bounced out and rolled down the hill. The more Juan tried to hurry, the more coconuts fell and rolled away. Each time, Juan found it more tiring. He had to **go after** the fallen coconuts, pick them up and <u>reload</u> his horse.

The sun began to set, and Juan saw the owner's house at the top of the hill. He began to hurry once more. His hurrying caused the horse to <u>stumble</u>. The coconuts again flew out of the baskets and **onto** the ground. This time, the sun set. ▶

Talk About It ━━━

○ Have you ever worked hard at something and had everything go wrong?
 - *Yes, once when I … / No, I…*

○ What did you learn from this story?
 - *I learned that …*

○ Why wasn't the boy so unreasonable after all?
 - *He wasn't unreasonable because …*

Poor Juan. He could not see the coconuts in the dark and could not deliver them until the next day. If he had gone slowly, he would have been there sooner. *Instead*, he hurried too fast and could not deliver the coconuts until the next day.

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The boy's suggestion had not been so *unreasonable* after all. 🦉

Word Bank

coconut (n) [ˈkokəˌnʌt] 椰子
I took a picture of John drinking the milk from a fresh **coconut**.

harvest (v) [ˈhɑrvɪst] 收穫，收割
We **harvested** apples last week, so my mom is making apple pie today.

load (v) [lod] 裝，裝載
Please **load** all of these bags into the back of the car.

fasten (v) [ˈfæsən] 繫牢；紮好
Maria **fastened** a rope around the neck of the horse.

deliver (v) [dɪˈlɪvɚ] 運送，遞送
I need to **deliver** this message to my boss right away.

pay (n) [pe] 報酬；工資
She asked her boss for a raise in **pay**.

foolish (adj) [ˈfulɪʃ] 傻的，愚蠢的
They were **foolish** to pay so much money for that house.

intelligent (adj) [ɪnˈtɛlədʒənt] 聰穎的；有才智的
Man is thought to be the most **intelligent** creature on Earth.

go after (phr v) [go][ˈæftɚ] 追逐；謀求
I had to climb a fence to **go after** the baseball Johnny hit.

onto (prep) [ˈɑnˌtu] 到…之上
We loaded the apples **onto** the truck.

instead (adv) [ɪnˈstɛd] 反而；作為替代
We are out of coffee, so would you like some tea **instead**?

unreasonable (adj) [ʌnˈrizənəbəl] 不合理的
It is **unreasonable** to think I can finish all of this work by 5 p.m.

More Information

grove (n) [grov] 小樹林；樹叢
machete (n) [məˈʃɛti] 大砍刀
reload (v) [ˌriˈlod] 重新裝填
stumble (v) [ˈstʌmbəl] 絆倒；絆腳

Word Bank Focus

foolishly (adv) [ˈfulɪʃli] 愚蠢地
Sandra **foolishly** did her friend's homework and then didn't have time to finish her own.

fool (n) [ful] 傻瓜，笨蛋
Henry is a **fool** if he thinks Sabrina still loves him.

fool (v) [ful] 欺騙，愚弄
Don't be **fooled** by how poor Bob looks because he is actually very rich.