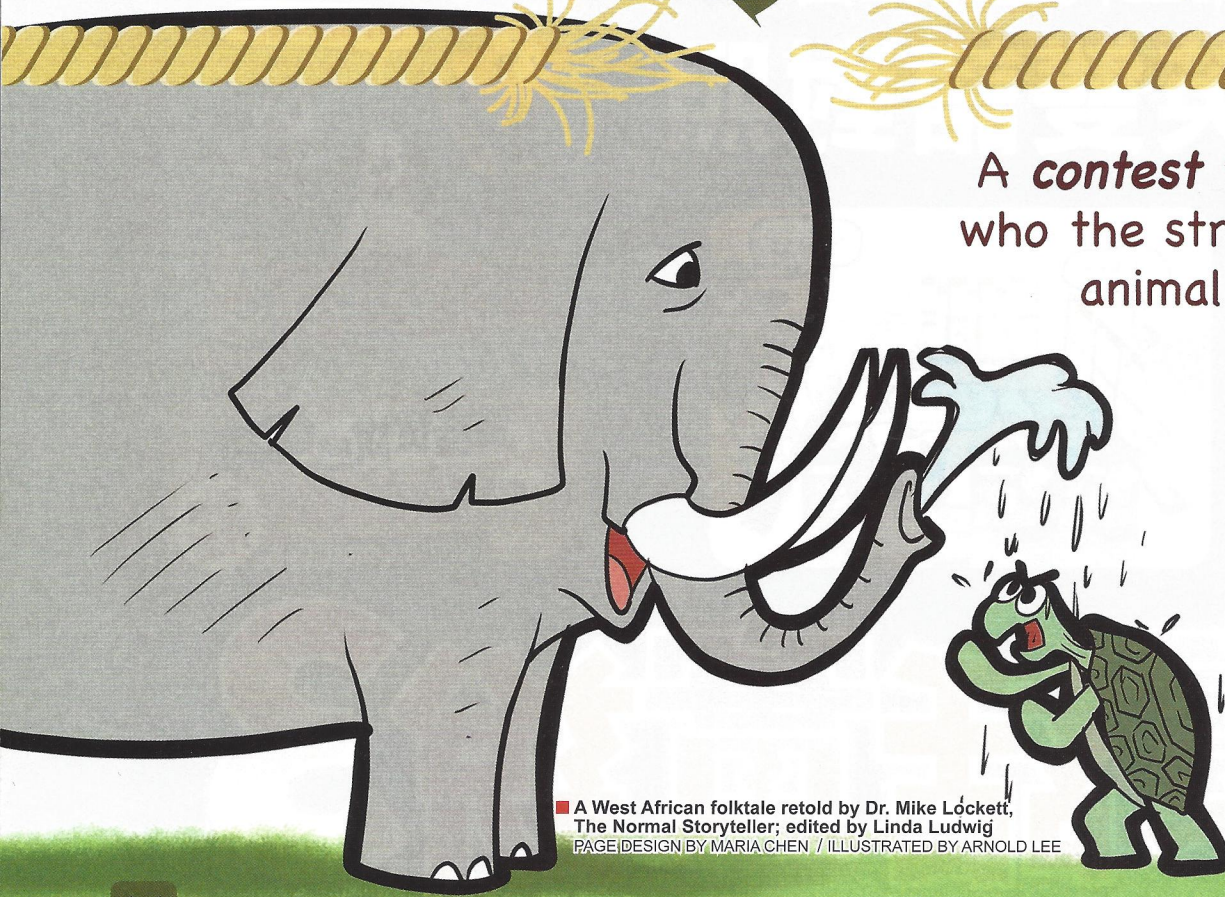




The Tug of War

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A *contest* to see
who the strongest
animal is



■ A West African folktale retold by Dr. Mike Lockett,
The Normal Storyteller; edited by Linda Ludwig
PAGE DESIGN BY MARIA CHEN / ILLUSTRATED BY ARNOLD LEE

11

Elephant stomped across the ground. Every footstep made a *crashing* sound.

“Look out!” called Turtle. “You almost stepped on me.”

“Look out for yourself,” said Elephant. “I am big and strong. I can do anything, and you cannot stop me!”

“I may not be big,” called Turtle, “but I am strong. I *challenge* you to a tug of war. After I beat you, maybe you will look out for those smaller than you.”

“You cannot beat me,” said Elephant. “I accept.”

Turtle said, “Meet me by the river after sunrise tomorrow. I will put a rope on the ground from the trees to the river. Pull on the end by the trees. You cannot pull me out of the river!” Elephant went to tell his friends about the contest.

Meanwhile, Turtle lay down in the river. Hippo’s footsteps made giant prints in the mud. “Hey!” called Turtle. “You almost stepped on me.”

“Look out for yourself,” said Hippo. “I am big. I can do anything, and you cannot stop me.”

Usage Tip

“*Look out for yourself*,” said Elephant. (p. 28, line 5)

片語 look out for someone 相當於 take care of someone 表「小心、注意或照料、看顧某人」。

• Please look out for Bella when you go shopping. I don’t want her to get lost.

Your turn

12

"I may not be **gigantic**," called Turtle, "but I'm strong. I challenge you to a tug of war. After I win, maybe you will look out for us smaller ones."

Hippo replied, "I accept."

Turtle said, "Meet me by the river at sunrise tomorrow. I will put a rope from the trees to the river. Pull on the end by the river. You cannot pull me into the river." Hippo went to tell his **relatives** about the contest. That night, Turtle laid a **tough** rope on the ground. One end was by the trees. The other was by the river. Then Turtle hid behind a rock.

Usage Tip

Turtle said, "Meet me by the river at sunrise tomorrow."
(p. 29, line 5)

Elephant grasped the rope and walked into the trees to wait for the sun to rise. (p. 29, line 3)

名詞 sunrise 指日出的那段時間；意思和 the sun rises 相同。只不過後者的 rise 是動詞，且和 sun 是分開的兩個字。

- My husband always wakes up early and goes jogging at sunrise/when the sun rises.

Your turn

Elephant came just before the sun rose. He saw the rope but not Turtle. "Turtle must be in the water," he thought. Elephant **grasped** the rope and walked into the trees to wait for the sun to rise.

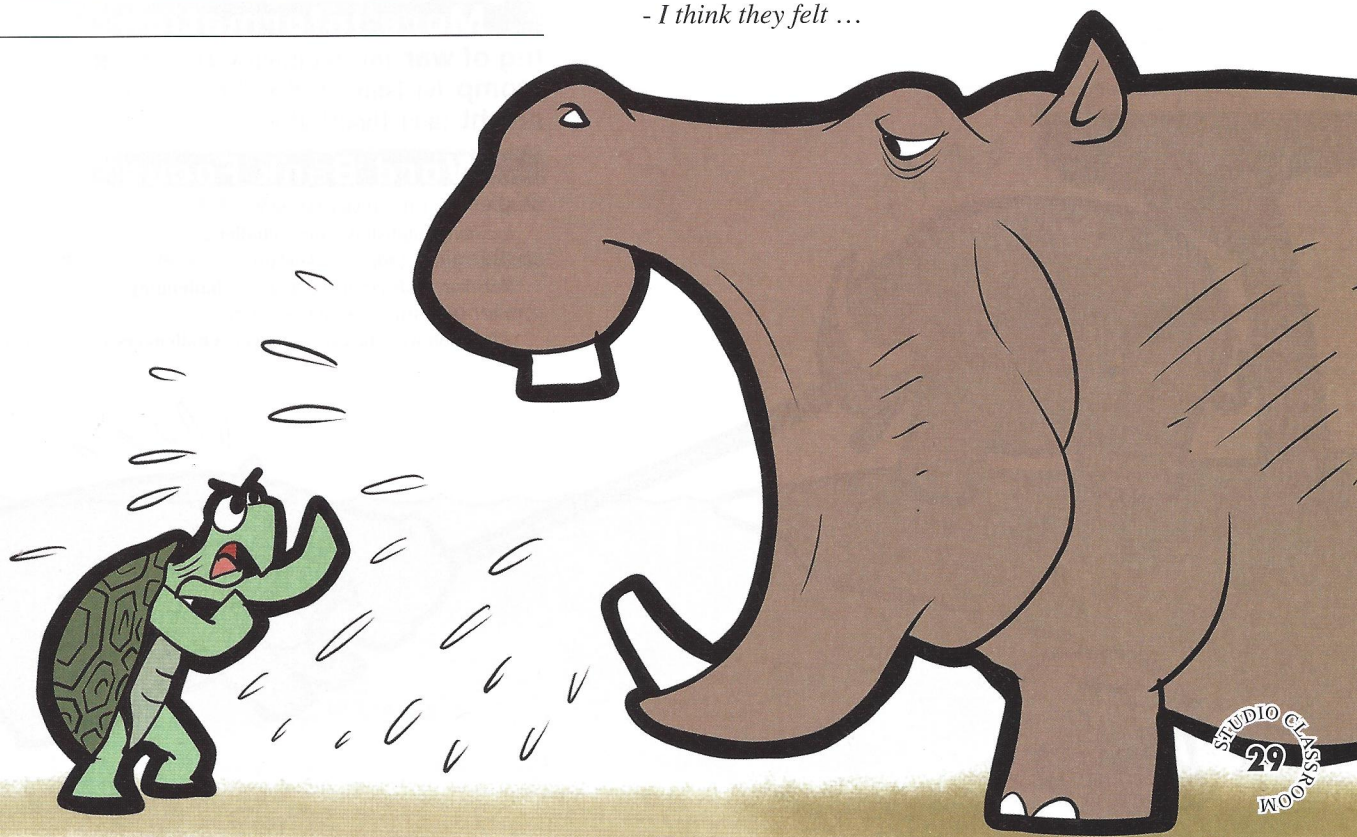
Then Hippo came and saw the rope but not Turtle. He picked up the rope and went into the river to wait for the sunrise.

13

Turtle watched them from his hiding place. Finally, the sun came up. Elephant began to pull **forcefully** as did Hippo. Elephant pulled. Hippo pulled. Turtle **gazed** at them and smiled.

Talk About It

- Do you think Turtle is clever? Explain.
- Yes, I do because ... / Not really, because ...
- Have you ever been picked on? Discuss.
- Yes, when I ... / No, I have never ...
- Have you ever picked on someone? If yes, why?
- Yes, I used to ... because ...
- How do you think Elephant and Hippo felt?
- I think they felt ...





Elephant could not pull Turtle out of the water. He was amazed at how strong little Turtle was.

Hippo also could not pull Turtle into the river. Hippo was amazed at how strong Turtle was.

Turtle was amazed at how two animals were so strong. But neither was very **bright**. They didn't notice that Turtle was not at the other end of the rope. When neither could pull any longer, both Elephant and Hippo went home to rest before finding Turtle to ask for his **forgiveness**.

The story soon spread throughout the jungle about how strong Turtle was. But his strength was really in his brains. Still, no animal tried to **pick on** Turtle. After all, they heard that he had won a tug of war with both Elephant and Hippo. 🐢

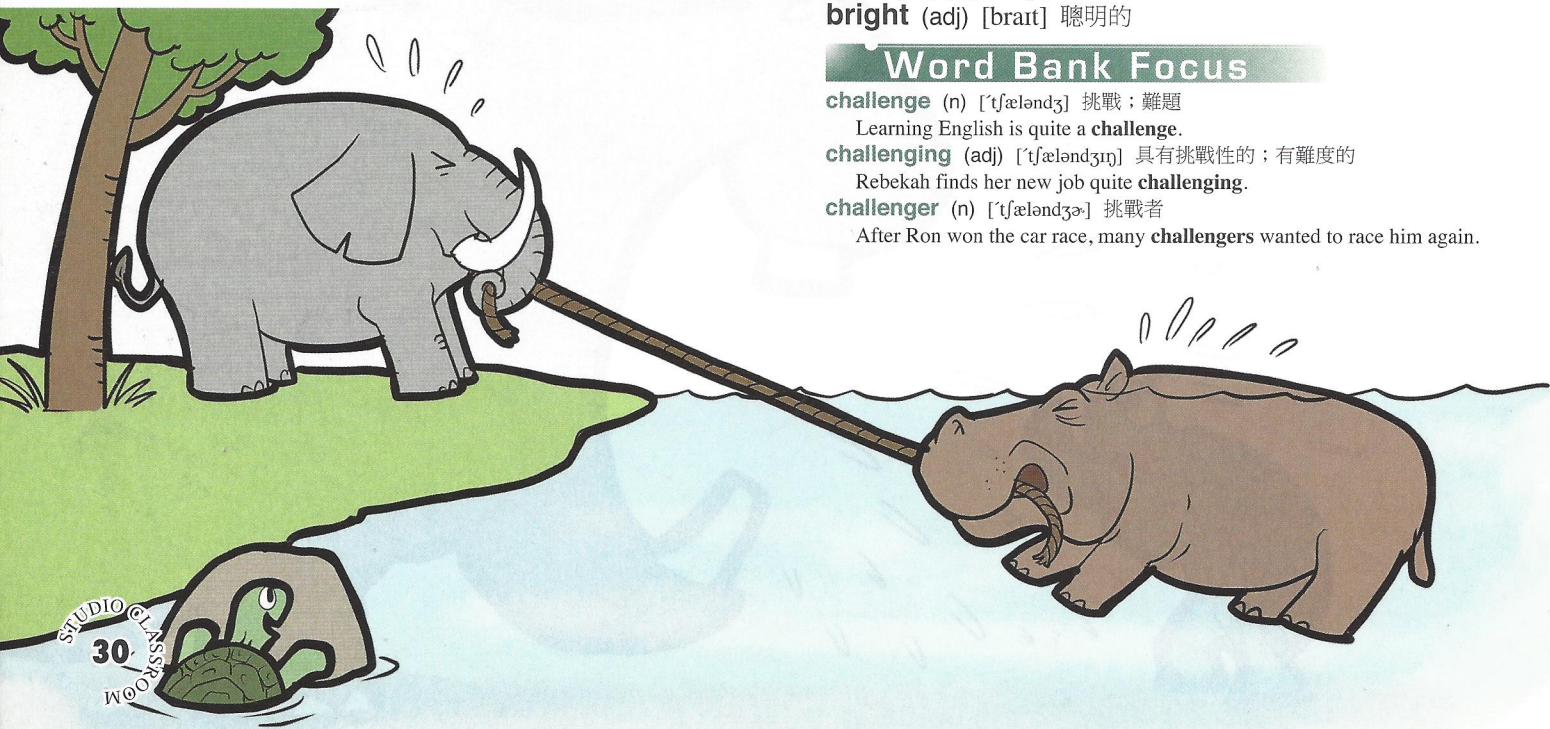
Usage Tip

Elephant began to pull forcefully as did Hippo. (p. 29, line 12)

句尾的 *as did Hippo* 相當於 *and so did Hippo* 或是 *and Hippo did, too*，表示 Hippo 也用力的拉。

• Bob decided to study electronics as did Bill.

Your turn



Word Bank

contest (n) [ˈkɒnˌtɛst] 比賽；競賽

Our class is going to have a math **contest** next week.

crash (v) [kræʃ] 猛撞（發出巨大聲響或造成破壞）

I could hear the **crashing** waves as I drove toward the ocean.

challenge (v) [ˈtʃæləndʒ]（尤指比賽或辯論）挑戰，邀請

Marie **challenged** Doug to a spelling contest.

meanwhile (adv) [ˈmiːnwaɪl] 在此期間；同時

I went into the kitchen to make dinner. **Meanwhile**, Jack cleaned the living room.

gigantic (adj) [dʒaɪˈɡæntɪk] 巨大的，龐大的

We couldn't drive around the **gigantic** rock in the middle of the road.

relative (n) [ˈrɛlətɪv] 親戚；親屬

All of our **relatives** got together for a picnic last Saturday.

tough (adj) [tʌf] 強韌的，牢固的；（食物）老的，咬不動的

This steak is too **tough** to chew.

grasp (v) [græsp] 抓緊；握緊

The monkey **grasped** the tree branch and began to swing.

forcefully (adv) [ˈfɔːrsfəli] 強有力地

Martin pulled **forcefully** on the horse to get it to stop.

gaze (v) [geɪz] 注視；凝視

She **gazed** at her baby with love in her eyes.

forgiveness (n) [fɔːˈɡɪvnɪs] 原諒；寬恕

Frank asked Pauline for **forgiveness** after he forgot to pick her up for school.

pick on (phr v) [pɪk][ən] 刁難；找碴

Rick's mom told him to stop **picking on** his sister.

More Information

tug of war (n) [tʌg][əv][wɔːr] 拔河比賽

stomp (v) [stɒmp] 邁著沈重的步子走

bright (adj) [braɪt] 聰明的

Word Bank Focus

challenge (n) [ˈtʃæləndʒ] 挑戰；難題

Learning English is quite a **challenge**.

challenging (adj) [ˈtʃæləndʒɪŋ] 具有挑戰性的；有難度的

Rebekah finds her new job quite **challenging**.

challenger (n) [ˈtʃæləndʒə] 挑戰者

After Ron won the car race, many **challengers** wanted to race him again.