

BASIC READING



English Department, Faculty of Humanities

DIAN NUSWANTORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG 2020

BASIC READING

Code of Course : C11.03103

Number of Credits : 2

Course Description : Mata kuliah ini memberikan kemampuan awal kepada mahasiswa dan memotivasi mereka dalam pemahaman bacaan berbahasa Inggris dan penerapan dininya dalam percakapan (English conversations) dengan penekanan pada bagian kalimat (parts of speech), dalam situasi proses belajar mengajar yang menyenangkan, dengan mahasiswa yang aktif dan partisipatif di dalam situasi proses tersebut.

Standard Competence : Setelah mengikuti mata kuliah ini mahasiswa mampu menerapkan dan menjadi termotivasi dalam membaca berbagai teks berbahasa Inggris tertulis yang sederhana dari berbagai sumber yang mereka dapatkan, sehingga minat baca, kosakata, dan kebiasaan mereka dalam membaca teks tersebut dapat meningkat ke tahap yang lebih lanjut.

References

Main References :

- (1) **Nasarudin**, at www.classroom.jc-schools.net/basic/la-read.html
- (2) **Study Zone**, ELC, at www.mrnussbaum.com/readingpassageindex

Supplementary References :

- (3) **96 Basic Skills: Reading Comprehension 97 Basic Skills:**
www.aepa.nesinc.com/PDFs/AZ_Fields96_98_StudyGuide.pdf
- (4) **Basic Reading Skills - Brain Training,**
www.learningrx.com/basic-reading-skills-faq.htm
- (5) **Top 10 Tips for Teaching Basic Reading Skills - Worksheet Library**
www.worksheetlibrary.com/teachingtips/teachingreading.html

BASIC READING

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MEETING 1 BALD EAGLE AND BANKS

Read the passages and answer the questions.

Bald Eagle The Bald Eagle is a majestic bird. The adult bird has a brown body, brown wings, white head, and large, hooked yellow bill. Younger birds appear all brown. Bald Eagles almost always live near water because their main food source is fish. Sometimes, however, Bald Eagles will eat dead animals (carrion). They will even steal food from other birds such as ospreys and gulls! It was for this reason that the famous Patriot Benjamin Franklin preferred the Wild Turkey as America's National symbol. Nevertheless, the Bald Eagle remains America's symbol.

1. How are younger Bald Eagles different from adult Bald Eagles?
 1. They have black bills.
 2. They are smaller.
 3. They are totally brown.
 4. They have lighter bodies.
2. The author seemed surprised that...
 1. Bald Eagles steal food from other birds.
 2. they eat fish.
 3. Bald Eagles have white heads.
 4. the Bald Eagle is America's symbol.
3. Benjamin Franklin thought...
 1. the Bald Eagle was a better choice as America's symbol than the Wild Turkey.
 2. the Bald Eagle was a fine choice as America's symbol.
 3. the Wild Turkey was a better choice as America's symbol than the Bald Eagle.
 4. Neither the Wild Turkey or Bald Eagle were good choices as America's symbol.
4. Why do Bald Eagles usually live near water?
 1. Bald Eagles eat fish.
 2. Bald Eagles like to swim.
 3. Because they steal food.
 4. It protects the nest from predators.
5. What color is the Bald Eagle's bill?
 1. brown
 2. black
 3. yellow
 4. white

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MEETING 1

BALD EAGLE AND BANKS

Banks Banks are places where people can keep their money. Most people use banks to save money in their savings accounts and to pay money from their checking accounts. Today, when a person earns money from their job, their paycheck is often electronically deposited (put) into their savings or checking account. Then, he or she can pay their bills by writing checks from their checking accounts or pay online where their bills are electronically connected to their bank accounts. Banks also give loans to people. Banks use the money that their customers deposit to lend to people to buy new houses, cars, or to start businesses among other reasons. The bank makes money from lending by charging interest. In other words, people have to pay back more than they borrowed. This amount depends on how risky the bank thinks the borrower is and how fast the loan is paid back among other things.

1. What do banks NOT do?
 1. provide a place for people to save their money
 2. provide a place where people can pay their bills from
 3. lend money to people
 4. help people get jobs
2. How does "interest" work?
 1. Banks pay people more money than they borrowed.
 2. Banks require people to pay back money they borrowed very quickly
 3. Banks require people to pay back more money than they borrowed
 4. Banks require people to pay back the same amount they borrowed.
3. How do banks make money?
 1. By having a lot of accounts
 2. Electronically
 3. Saving their customers deposits
 4. Charging interest to those they lend to
4. How much "interest" do lenders have to pay?
 1. Everyone pays the same amount of interest.
 2. Most borrowers don't have to pay interest
 3. It depends on a lot of things
 4. The story doesn't say
5. What do banks NOT do?
 1. Give loans
 2. Tax people
 3. Charge interest
 4. Allow people to pay bills online from their accounts

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MEETING 2

BLUE WHALE AND DOLPHINS

Blue Whale The blue whale is the largest living animal to have ever lived on the planet Earth. Blue Whales are way larger than the largest dinosaur that ever lived. The largest Blue Whales can grow as large as 100 feet long, which is longer than three school buses put together! Even though blue whales are huge, they eat tiny creatures known as krill. Krill are tiny shrimp-like animals. The whale simply opens its mouth, fills it with krill and salt water, and filters the water out of plates in its mouth called baleen. The blue whale may eat over 8,000 pounds of krill in a single day!

- The Blue Whale is _____.
 1. larger than any animal that has ever lived on Earth.
 2. large, but smaller than some dinosaurs
 3. large, but smaller than a school bus

- Which is NOT true?
 1. The blue whale is smaller than some elephants
 2. A blue whale can eat over 8,000 pounds of krill in a day
 3. A blue whale is larger than the largest dinosaurs

- A blue whale eats...
 1. big fish
 2. small creatures called krill
 3. sharks

- What happens to the salt water that the blue whale gulps?
 1. It swallows the water
 2. It turns it to fresh water
 3. It filters the water out

- A Blue Whale can grow as long as _____ feet.

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MEETING 2

BLUE WHALE AND DOLPHINS

Dolphins Dolphins are marine mammals that are related to whales and porpoises. A marine mammal is one that lives in the water. Dolphins are found all over the world's oceans as well as in rivers and marshes. Dolphins are carnivores (meat-eaters) and feed on fish, squid and other marine life. They often swim together in groups called "pods." They are thought to have powerful eyesight and hearing, but do not have a sense of smell. Dolphins come in different sizes. Some are smaller than the average person, but others, such as the Orca, can be 30 feet long, or more than five times as long as the average person. Dolphins are thought to be very intelligent and communicate with each other using clicks and whistles. All dolphins are powerful swimmers. Have you ever seen a dolphin? Groups of dolphins can often be seen bobbing in and out of waves close to the shoreline.

1. Marine mammals live _____.
 1. on land
 2. in the desert
 3. in the water
 4. in the forest
2. _____ are most closely related to the dolphin.
 1. Cats
 2. Sharks
 3. Whales
 4. Squid
3. Dolphins do not _____.
 1. communicate
 2. have a sense of smell
 3. have good hearing
 4. have good eyesight
4. Which of the following would a dolphin probably not eat?
 1. squid
 2. marine life
 3. fish
 4. plants
5. An Orca is _____.
 1. a little bit larger than an average person.
 2. about the same size as an average person.
 3. smaller than an average person.
 4. much larger than an average person.

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MEETING 3

REDWOOD TREES AND SPIDERS

Redwood Trees The magnificent Redwood trees are some of the largest trees in the world! They are found mostly in northern California where cool temperatures, misty rains, and dense fog allow them to grow. Redwood Trees can live thousands of years. The oldest of these trees can grow to over 300 feet tall. Some rise higher than the Statue of Liberty! A few are so wide, that roads can be built through them. Redwoods trees are preserved in California's Redwood National Park. Every year, nearly a million visitors come to see the giant trees. Others just like to drive along the 33-mile long Avenue of the Giants, a road that winds through the park and surrounding areas.

1. The author seems...
 1. to not know that much about the trees
 2. to think Redwoods can grow anywhere
 3. impressed with the Redwood trees
 4. bored by the Redwood trees
2. Redwood trees grow...
 1. where it is icy cold
 2. everywhere in the United States
 3. where it is hot and dry
 4. where it is cool and misty
3. Redwood trees can...
 1. stop growing at 100 feet tall
 2. live about as long as a person
 3. live without water
 4. live a very long time
4. How many people come to Redwood National Park?
 1. no one knows
 2. almost a million
 3. a few
 4. a couple of hundred
5. _____ Redwood Trees can grow to over 300 feet tall.
 1. No
 2. One or two
 3. Old
 4. All

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MEETING 3

REDWOOD TREES AND SPIDERS

Spiders Did you know that spiders are not insects? They are actually called arachnids, a group of animals related to insects that have eight legs and that have venom. There are many different kinds of spiders. They live all over the world and can be found in just about every habitat. Most like dark places, which may include your home, closets, or basement!

Spiders are very interesting. Some spin silk webs to catch and eat prey, while others attack their prey. Some spiders, like tarantulas, are large enough to eat lizards and mice! Many people are afraid of spiders because they bite. Most spiders, however, will only bite if they think they are danger and most are harmless. Spiders are actually helpful to people because many eat insect pests like cockroaches and mosquitoes.

1. Spiders have _____ legs.
 1. the passage doesn't say
 2. four
 3. eight
 4. six
2. Which is NOT true about spiders?
 1. Some spiders attack their prey.
 2. Spiders are actually helpful to people.
 3. All spiders are dangerous.
 4. Spiders like dark places.
3. Spiders are....
 1. tarantulas
 2. all harmful
 3. related to insects
 4. insects
4. Why are spiders helpful to people?
 1. Some eat insect pests.
 2. They have eight legs.
 3. They live all over the world.
 4. Some eat lizards.
5. Which question is NOT answered in the passage?
 1. Where would I find a spider?
 2. What do spiders eat?
 3. How long do spiders live?
 4. How many legs do spiders have?

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MEETING 4

GREEN AND WOODPECKERS

Green Green is a beautiful color! In nature, the grass that you walk on is green and the leaves that you see on trees are usually green. Most of the plants that you see are green too! Frogs are green and many grasshoppers are green too. Turtles are different shades of green. Did you know that you can make green paint by mixing blue and yellow? Because you can make green by mixing two primary colors, it is called a secondary color. Green is also the name used to describe the movement to make products that do not harm the Earth. Green products are often those made from recycled materials or those that are safe to throw out in the trash.

1. Green is...
 1. a kind of plant
 2. a type of kite
 3. a primary color
 4. a secondary color
2. Which of the following might be an example of a green product?
 1. a big truck
 2. a frog
 3. a plastic bottle that can not be recycled
 4. a plastic bottle that can be recycled
3. Turtles are...
 1. not green
 2. not found in nature
 3. different shades of green
 4. green products
4. What is a green product?
 1. One that is mixed together
 2. One that is safe for Earth
 3. One that is fun
 4. One that is made from grass
5. According to the reading, which is green?
 1. A mushroom
 2. A bat
 3. A primary color
 4. A frog

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MEETING 4

GREEN AND WOODPECKERS

Woodpeckers A woodpecker is a kind of bird. Woodpeckers are found all over the world except in the North and South poles, Australia, and New Zealand. There are over 200 different kinds of woodpeckers. The two largest woodpeckers, the Imperial Woodpecker and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker are most likely extinct. Animals that are extinct are no longer found on Earth. Woodpeckers have sharp bills for drilling into wood, and short, stiff tails which help prop them up against tree trunks and branches. Woodpeckers also have very long tongues, which help them get at insects deep within trees. Woodpeckers are often heard drumming loudly on trees before they are seen. Woodpeckers can even become pests if they learn to drum on siding of a house. Woodpeckers can easily be attracted to backyard bird feeders with sunflower seeds or suet. Suet is a kind of animal fat that is very tasty to woodpeckers and other birds.

1. Why do woodpeckers have long tongues?
 1. To eat seeds
 2. So they can drum on trees
 3. To get at insects on the ground
 4. To get at insects within trees
2. When do woodpeckers sometimes become pests?
 1. When they eat suet
 2. When they become extinct
 3. When they drum on houses
 4. When they visit feeders
3. Woodpeckers are often
 1. heard before they are seen
 2. seen before they are herd
 3. found in Australia
 4. found in the North Pole
4. The two largest woodpeckers in the world are
 1. found all over the world.
 2. most likely no longer on Earth.
 3. pests.
 4. normally found at bird feeders
5. Which is NOT true about woodpeckers?
 1. They will come to bird feeders.
 2. They are only found in a few places in the world.
 3. Woodpeckers like suet.
 4. They have short, stiff tails.

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MEETING 5

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

A Special Christmas Present



David wants to buy a Christmas present for a very special person, his mother. David's father gives him \$5.00 a week pocket money and David puts \$2.00 a week into his bank account. After three months David takes \$20.00 out of his bank account and goes to the shopping mall. He looks and looks for a perfect gift.

Suddenly he sees a beautiful brooch in the shape of his favourite pet. He says to himself, "My mother loves jewelry, and the brooch costs only \$17.00." He buys the brooch and takes it home. He wraps the present in Christmas paper and places it under the tree. He is very excited and he is looking forward to Christmas morning to see the joy on his mother's face. But when his mother opens the present she screams with fright because she sees a spider.



1. What does David want to buy his Mother?
 1. a special birthday present
 2. a Christmas present
 3. a spider ring
2. Who does David get his money from?
 1. his pet
 2. his mother
 3. his father
3. How much money does David take to the mall?
 1. \$20.00
 2. \$5.00
 3. \$17.00
4. What does David buy his mother?
 1. a ring
 2. a brooch
 3. a spider
5. What does David do with the present when he takes it home?
 1. he gives it to his mother
 2. he wraps it in Christmas paper
 3. he is very excited

6. Why does David's mother scream?
 1. because the present is beautiful
 2. because she doesn't like Christmas presents
 3. because she thinks she sees a real spider
7. Why does David buy a spider brooch?
 1. spiders are his favourite pet
 2. he loves Christmas
 3. to scare his mother
8. Where does David put the present on Christmas Eve?
 1. under his pillow
 2. under a spider
 3. under the Christmas tree

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MEETING 6

TWO SISTERS AND THE CAT

Two sisters and the cat



Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Smith are sisters. Mrs. Wilson lives in a house in Duncan and Mrs. Smith lives in a condominium in Victoria. One day Mrs. Wilson visited her sister. When her sister answered the door, Mrs. Wilson saw tears in her eyes. "What's the matter?" she asked. Mrs. Smith said "My cat Sammy died last night and I have no place to bury him".



She began to cry again. Mrs. Wilson was very sad because she knew her sister loved the cat very much. Suddenly Mrs. Wilson said "I can bury your cat in my garden in Duncan and you can come and visit him sometimes." Mrs. Smith stopped crying and the two sisters had tea together and a nice visit.



It was now five o'clock and Mrs. Wilson said it was time for her to go home. She put on her hat, coat and gloves and Mrs. Smith put the dead Sammy into a shopping bag. Mrs. Wilson took the shopping bag and walked to the bus stop. She waited a long time for the bus so she bought a newspaper. When the bus arrived, she got on the bus, sat down and put the shopping bag on the floor beside her feet. She then began to read the newspaper. When the bus arrived at her bus stop, she got off the bus and walked for about two minutes. Suddenly she remembered she had left the shopping bag on the bus. [Story by Laurie Buchanan]

1. Where does Mrs. Smith live?
 1. in a condominium in Duncan
 2. in a condominium in Victoria
 3. in a house in Duncan
2. Why is Mrs. Smith upset?
 1. because her sister came to see her cat
 2. because her cat died
 3. because Mrs. Wilson was sad
3. What did Mrs. Wilson do?
 1. take the cat with her on the bus
 2. put her gloves in the shopping bag
 3. prepare dinner for her sister
4. Who did Sammy the cat live with?
 1. Mrs. Wilson
 2. Mrs. Smith
 3. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Smith
5. What time did Mrs. Wilson go home?
 1. when the bus arrived
 2. at 5 p.m.
 3. after she walked for two minutes
6. How did Mrs. Wilson go home?
 1. walked for two minutes before she caught the bus
 2. read a newspaper on the bus
 3. took a bus
7. What did Mrs. Wilson forget?
 1. the newspaper
 2. her handbag
 3. the shopping bag
8. Where did Sammy die?
 1. in Mrs. Smith's house in Duncan
 2. in Mrs. Wilson's garden
 3. in Victoria

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MEETING 7 THE HITCHHIKER

The Hitchhiker

As Andrea turned off the motorway onto the road to Brockbourne, the small village in which she lived, it was four o'clock in the afternoon, but already the sun was falling behind the hills. At this time in December, it would be completely dark by five o'clock. Andrea shivered. The interior of the car was not cold, but the trees bending in the harsh wind and the patches of yesterday's snow still heaped in the fields made her feel chilly inside. It was another ten miles to the cottage where she lived with her husband Michael, and the dim light and wintry weather made her feel a little lonely. She would have liked to listen to the radio, but it had been stolen from her car when it was parked outside her office in London about two weeks ago, and she had not got around to replacing it yet.

She was just coming out of the little village of Mickley when she saw the old lady, standing by the road, with a crude hand-written sign saying "Brockbourne" in her hand. Andrea was surprised. She had never seen an old lady hitchhiking before. However, the weather and the coming darkness made her feel sorry for the lady, waiting hopefully on a country road like this with little traffic. Normally, Andrea would never pick up a hitchhiker when she was alone, thinking it was too dangerous, but what was the harm in doing a favor for a little old lady like this? Andrea pulled up a little way down the road, and the lady, holding a big shopping bag, hurried over to climb in the door which Andrea had opened for her.

When she did get in, Andrea could see that she was not, in fact, so little. Broad and fat, the old lady had some difficulty climbing in through the car door, with her big bag, and when she had got in, she more than filled the seat next to Andrea. She wore a long, shabby old dress, and she had a yellow hat pulled down low over her eyes. Panting noisily from her effort, she pushed her big brown canvas shopping bag down onto the floor under her feet, and said in a voice which was almost a whisper, "Thank you dearie - - I'm just going to Brockbourne."

"Do you live there?" asked Andrea, thinking that she had never seen the old lady in the village in the four years she had lived there herself.

"No, dearie," answered the passenger, in her soft voice, "I'm just going to visit a friend. He was supposed to meet me back there at Mickley, but his car won't start, so I decided to hitchhike -- there isn't a bus until seven, and I didn't want to wait. I knew some kind soul would give me a lift."

Something in the way the lady spoke, and the way she never turned her head, but stared continuously into the darkness ahead from under her old yellow hat, made Andrea uneasy about this strange hitchhiker. She didn't know why, but she felt instinctively that

there was something wrong, something odd, something....dangerous. But how could an old lady be dangerous? it was absurd.

Careful not to turn her head, Andrea looked sideways at her passenger. She studied the hat, the dirty collar of the dress, the shapeless body, the arms with their thick black hairs....

Thick black hairs?

Hairy arms? Andrea's blood froze.

This wasn't a woman. It was a man.

At first, she didn't know what to do. Then suddenly, an idea came into her racing, terrified brain. Swinging the wheel suddenly, she threw the car into a skid, and brought it to a halt.

"My God!" she shouted, "A child! Did you see the child? I think I hit her!"

The "old lady" was clearly shaken by the sudden skid. "I didn't see anything dearie," she said. "I don't think you hit anything."

"I'm sure it was a child!" insisted Andrea. "Could you just get out and have a look? Just see if there's anything on the road?" She held her breath. Would her plan work?

It did. The passenger slowly opened the car door, leaving her bag inside, and climbed out to investigate. As soon as she was out of the vehicle, Andrea gunned the engine and accelerated madly away. The car door swung shut as she rounded a bend, and soon she had put a good three miles between herself and the awful hitchhiker.

It was only then that she thought about the bag lying on the floor in front of her. Maybe the bag would provide some information about the real identity about the old woman who was not an old woman. Pulling into the side of the road, Andrea lifted the heavy bag onto her lap and opened it curiously.

It contained only one item -- a small hand axe, with a razor-sharp blade. The axe, and the inside of the bag, were covered with the dark red stains of dried blood.

Andrea began to scream.

MDH 1994 -- From a common urban legend

1. Where did Andrea work?
 1. Brockbourne
 2. Mickley
 3. London
 4. the text doesn't say
2. How was Andrea feeling as she drove home?
 1. happy
 2. afraid
 3. lonely
 4. hot
3. Why didn't she listen to the radio?
 1. The radio had been stolen from her car.
 2. She liked peace and quiet.
 3. The radio was broken.

4. There was a strike at the radio station.
4. Why did she stop to give the old lady a ride?
 1. It was a cold evening.
 2. Andrea felt lonely.
 3. She felt sorry for the lady.
 4. All of the above.
5. Where did the lady want to go?
 1. Brockbourne
 2. Mickley
 3. London
 4. The text doesn't say
6. What made Andrea afraid when she looked at the old lady?
 1. She had a moustache.
 2. She had a hard voice like a man.
 3. She had a shopping bag.
 4. She had hairy arms.
7. Why did Andrea suddenly stop the car?
 1. She thought she had hit a child in the road.
 2. She skidded on some ice in the road.
 3. She wanted to trick the passenger into getting out.
 4. She was so afraid that she couldn't concentrate, and she nearly had a crash.
8. What did Andrea do when the "old lady" got out?
 1. waited for her
 2. drove away quickly
 3. opened her bag
 4. switched off the engine
9. Why did Andrea look in the old lady's bag?
 1. She wanted to steal what was in it.
 2. She wanted to find her address so that she could send the bag back to her.
 3. She wanted to borrow the old lady's tools.
 4. She wanted to find out who the strange passenger was.
10. What was the "old lady" probably going to do to Andrea?
 1. nothing
 2. kill her
 3. give her an axe
 4. visit her in Brockbourne

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MEETING 8 THE HITCHHIKER

The Hitchhiker

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"I'm sure it was a child!" insisted Andrea. "Could you just get out and have a look? Just see if there's anything on the road?" She held her breath. Would her plan work?

It did. The passenger slowly opened the car door, leaving her bag inside, and climbed out to investigate. As soon as she was out of the vehicle, Andrea gunned the engine and accelerated madly away. The car door swung shut as she rounded a bend, and soon she had put a good three miles between herself and the awful hitchhiker.

It was only then that she thought about the bag lying on the floor in front of her. Maybe the bag would provide some information about the real identity about the old woman who was not an old woman. Pulling into the side of the road, Andrea lifted the heavy bag onto her lap and opened it curiously.

It contained only one item -- a small hand axe, with a razor-sharp blade. The axe, and the inside of the bag, were covered with the dark red stains of dried blood.

Andrea began to scream.

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11. Where did Andrea work?

1. Brockbourne
2. Mickley
3. London
4. the text doesn't say

12. How was Andrea feeling as she drove home?

1. happy
2. afraid
3. lonely
4. hot

13. Why didn't she listen to the radio?

1. The radio had been stolen from her car.
2. She liked peace and quiet.
3. The radio was broken.

4. There was a strike at the radio station.
14. Why did she stop to give the old lady a ride?
 1. It was a cold evening.
 2. Andrea felt lonely.
 3. She felt sorry for the lady.
 4. All of the above.
15. Where did the lady want to go?
 1. Brockbourne
 2. Mickley
 3. London
 4. The text doesn't say
16. What made Andrea afraid when she looked at the old lady?
 1. She had a moustache.
 2. She had a hard voice like a man.
 3. She had a shopping bag.
 4. She had hairy arms.
17. Why did Andrea suddenly stop the car?
 1. She thought she had hit a child in the road.
 2. She skidded on some ice in the road.
 3. She wanted to trick the passenger into getting out.
 4. She was so afraid that she couldn't concentrate, and she nearly had a crash.
18. What did Andrea do when the "old lady" got out?
 1. waited for her
 2. drove away quickly
 3. opened her bag
 4. switched off the engine
19. Why did Andrea look in the old lady's bag?
 1. She wanted to steal what was in it.
 2. She wanted to find her address so that she could send the bag back to her.
 3. She wanted to borrow the old lady's tools.
 4. She wanted to find out who the strange passenger was.
20. What was the "old lady" probably going to do to Andrea?
 1. nothing
 2. kill her
 3. give her an axe
 4. visit her in Brockbourne

9

English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 9 THE CARPET FITTER

The Carpet Fitter

Eddie was a carpet fitter, and he hated it. For ten years he had spent his days sitting, squatting, kneeling or crawling on floors, in houses, offices, shops, factories and restaurants. Ten years of his life, cutting and fitting carpets for other people to walk on, without even seeing them. When his work was done, no-one ever appreciated it. No-one ever said "Oh, that's a beautiful job, the carpet fits so neatly." They just walked all over it. Eddie was sick of it.

He was especially sick of it on this hot, humid day in August, as he worked to put the finishing touches to today's job. He was just cutting and fixing the last edge on a huge red carpet which he had fitted in the living room of Mrs. Vanbrugh's house. Rich Mrs. Vanbrugh, who changed her carpets every year, and always bought the best. Rich Mrs. Vanbrugh, who had never even given him a cup of tea all day, and who made him go outside when he wanted to smoke. Ah well, it was four o'clock and he had nearly finished. At least he would be able to get home early today. He began to day-dream about the weekend, about the Saturday football game he always played for the local team, where he was known as "Ed the Head" for his skill in heading goals from corner kicks.

Eddie sat back and sighed. The job was done, and it was time for a last cigarette. He began tapping the pockets of his overalls, looking for the new packet of Marlboro he had bought that morning. They were not there.

It was as he swung around to look in his toolbox for the cigarettes that Eddie saw the lump. Right in the middle of the brand new bright red carpet, there was a lump. A very visible lump. A lump the size of -- the size of a packet of cigarettes.

"Blast!" said Eddie angrily. "I've done it again! I've left the cigarettes under the blasted carpet!"

He had done this once before, and taking up and refitting the carpet had taken him two hours. Eddie was determined that he was not going to spend another two hours in this house. He decided to get rid of the lump another way. It would mean wasting a good packet of cigarettes, nearly full, but anything was better than taking up the whole carpet and fitting it again. He turned to his toolbox for a large hammer.

Holding the hammer, Eddie approached the lump in the carpet. He didn't want to damage the carpet itself, so he took a block of wood and placed it on top of the lump. Then he began to beat the block of wood as hard as he could. He kept beating, hoping Mrs. Vanbrugh wouldn't hear the noise and come to see what he was doing. It would be difficult to explain why he was hammering the middle of her beautiful new carpet.

After three or four minutes, the lump was beginning to flatten out. Eddie imagined the cigarette box breaking up, and the crushed cigarettes spreading out under the carpet. Soon, he judged that the lump was almost invisible. Clearing up his tools, he began to move the furniture back into the living room, and he was careful to place one of the coffee tables over the place where the lump had been, just to make sure that no-one

would see the spot where his cigarettes had been lost. Finally, the job was finished, and he called Mrs. Vanbrugh from the dining room to inspect his work.

"Yes, dear, very nice," said the lady, peering around the room briefly. "You'll be sending me a bill, then?"

"Yes madam, as soon as I report to the office tomorrow that the job is done." Eddie picked up his tools, and began to walk out to the van. Mrs. Vanbrugh accompanied him. She seemed a little worried about something.

"Young man," she began, as he climbed into the cab of his van, laying his toolbox on the passenger seat beside him, "while you were working today, you didn't by any chance see any sign of Armand, did you? Armand is my parakeet. A beautiful bird, just beautiful, such colors in his feathers... I let him out of his cage, you see, this morning, and he's disappeared. He likes to walk around the house, and he's so good, he usually just comes back to his cage after an hour or so and gets right in. Only today he didn't come back. He's never done such a thing before, it's most peculiar..."

"No, madam, I haven't seen him anywhere," said Eddie, as he reached to start the van. And saw his packet of Marlboro cigarettes on the dashboard, where he had left it at lunchtime....

And remembered the lump in the carpet....

And realised what the lump was....

And remembered the hammering....

And began to feel rather sick....

MDH 1994 -- from a common urban legend

1. Why did Eddie hate being a carpet-fitter?
 1. The pay was too low.
 2. He didn't like working alone.
 3. No-one appreciated his work.
 4. He couldn't smoke on the job.
2. What did Eddie think of Mrs. Vanbrugh?
 1. She was a kind, thoughtful lady.
 2. She was rich and selfish.
 3. She was always losing things.
 4. She had good taste in furniture.
3. Why was Eddie called "Ed the Head" by his friends?
 1. Because he was such an intelligent carpet-fitter.
 2. Because he had a large head.
 3. Because he was very proud and self-important.
 4. Because of his footballing skills.
4. What did Eddie want to do when he had finished fitting the carpet?
 1. have a cigarette
 2. hammer the carpet flat
 3. look for Mrs. Vanbrugh's lost bird
 4. start work in the dining room
5. Why didn't Eddie remove the carpet to take out the thing that was causing the lump?
 1. He couldn't take the carpet up once he had fitted it.

2. He didn't need the cigarettes because he had some more in the van.
 3. It would take too long to remove the carpet and re-fit it.
 4. He intended to come back and remove the lump the next day.
6. What did Eddie do with the hammer?
1. hammered nails into the lump
 2. fixed the coffee table
 3. left it under the carpet
 4. flattened the carpet
7. What was Mrs. Vanbrugh worried about?
1. Her bird was missing.
 2. She thought the carpet was going to be too expensive.
 3. She thought Eddie had been smoking in the house.
 4. She couldn't find her husband, Armand.
8. What was really under the carpet?
1. the cigarettes
 2. Eddie's toolbox
 3. nothing
 4. the missing bird
9. "Eddie was determined...." means that he:
1. had no idea
 2. decided for sure
 3. felt very angry
 4. couldn't decide
10. "Peculiar" in the sentence "He's never done such a thing before, it's most peculiar..." means:
1. normal
 2. like a bird
 3. difficult
 4. strange

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English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 10 THE AMERICAN PEPPER

The American Pepper

"Mummy! Mummy!" shouted little Murna racing from the front door through to the kitchen. "There's a parcel. The postman's brought a parcel!"

Her mother, Savni, looked at her in surprise. She had no idea who could have sent them a parcel. Maybe it was a mistake. She hurried to the door to find out. Sure enough, the postman was there, holding a parcel about the size of a small brick.

"From America, madam," he said. "See! American stamps."

It was true. In the top right-hand corner of the brown paper parcel were three strange-looking stamps, showing a man's head. The package was addressed to Savni, in big, clear black letters.

"Well, I suppose it must be from Great-Aunt Pasni," said Savni to herself, as the postman went on his way down the street, whistling. "Although it must be twenty years since we heard anything from her. I thought she would have been dead by now."

Savni's husband Jornas and her son Arinas were just coming in from the garden, where Murna had run to tell them about the parcel. "Well, open it then!" said Arinas impatiently. "Let's see what's inside!"

Setting the parcel down in the middle of the table, Savni carefully began to tear open the paper. Inside, there was a large silver container with a hinged lid, which was taped shut. There was also a letter.

"What is it? What is it?" demanded Murna impatiently. "Is it a present?"

"I have no idea," said Savni in confusion. "I think it must be from Great-Aunt Pasni. She went to America almost thirty years ago now. But we haven't heard from her in twenty years. Perhaps the letter will tell us." She opened the folded page cautiously, then looked up in dismay. "Well, this is no help!" she said in annoyance. "It's written in English! How does she expect us to read English? We're poor people, we have no education. Maybe Pasni has forgotten her native language, after thirty years in America."

"Well, open the pot, anyway," said Jornas. "Let's see what's inside."

Cautiously, Savni pulled the tape from the neck of the silver pot, and opened the lid. Four heads touched over the top of the container, as their owners stared down inside.

"Strange," said Arinas. "All I see is powder." The pot was about one-third full of a kind of light-grey powder.

"What is it?" asked Murna, mystified.

"We don't know, darling," said Savni, stroking her daughter's hair. "What do you think?" Murna stared again into the pot.

"I think it's coffee," she announced, finally. "American coffee."

"It's the wrong colour for coffee, darling," said Jornas thoughtfully. "But maybe she's on the right track. It must be some kind of food." Murna, by now, had her nose right

down into the pot. Suddenly, she lifted her head and sneezed loudly.

"Id god ub by doze," she explained.

"That's it!" said Arinas. "It must be pepper! Let me try some." Dipping a finger into the powder, he licked it. "Yes," he said, "it's pepper all right. Mild, but quite tasty. It's American pepper."

"All right," said Savni, "we'll try it on the stew tonight. We'll have American-style stew!"

That evening, the whole family agreed that the American pepper had added a special extra taste to their usual evening stew. They were delighted with it. By the end of the week, there was only a teaspoonful of the grey powder left in the silver container. Then Savni called a halt.

"We're saving the last bit for Sunday. Dr. Haret is coming to dinner, and we'll let him have some as a special treat. Then it will be finished."

The following Sunday, the whole family put on their best clothes, ready for dinner with Dr. Haret. He was the local doctor, and he had become a friend of the family many years before, when he had saved Arinas's life after an accident. Once every couple of months, Savni invited the doctor for dinner, and they all looked forward to his entertaining stories of his youth at the university in the capital.

During dinner, Savni explained to the doctor about the mysterious American pepper, the last of which she had put in the stew they were eating, and the letter they could not read.

"Well, give it to me, give it to me!" said the doctor briskly. "I speak English! I can translate it for you."

Savni brought the letter, and the family waited, fascinated, as the doctor began to translate.

"Dear Savni: you don't know me, but I am the son of your old Great-Aunt Pasni. She never talked much to us about the old country, but in her final illness earlier this year, she told us that after her death, she wanted her ashes to be sent back home to you, so that you could scatter them on the hills of the country where she was born. My mother died two weeks ago, and her funeral and cremation took place last week. I am sending her ashes to you in a silver casket. Please do as she asked, and spread them over the ground near where she was born. Your cousin, George Leary."

MDH 1995 -- from a common urban legend

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 1. America
 2. Arinas
 3. India
 4. The text doesn't say
2. How was the parcel wrapped?
 1. in brown paper
 2. in silver paper
 3. in grey paper
 4. in tape

3. Who was Savni?
 1. a little girl
 2. the Great-Aunt
 3. the mother of the family
 4. the son of the family
4. Why don't the family read the letter?
 1. They are too impatient to look in the container.
 2. It is addressed to the doctor.
 3. It is in English.
 4. It is missing.
5. What does Murna think is in the pot?
 1. dust
 2. ashes
 3. coffee
 4. pepper
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 1. as a souvenir
 2. for Dr. Haret
 3. to analyse it
 4. to spread it on the hills
9. How does Dr. Haret solve the mystery?
 1. He analyses the powder.
 2. He recognizes the powder.
 3. He is a friend of Pasni.
 4. He translates the letter.
10. What was really in the pot?
 1. coffee
 2. Great-Aunt Pasni
 3. dust
 4. special American pepper

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English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 11 THE AMERICAN PEPPER

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English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 12

NASREDDIN'S VISITORS AND THE FERRY MAN

Nasreddin's Visitors



One day a visitor came to Nasreddin's house. "I am your cousin from Konya," he said, "and I have brought you a duck to celebrate the visit." Nasreddin was delighted. He asked his wife to cook the duck, and served the visitor a fine dinner. The next day another visitor arrived. "I am the friend of the man who brought you the duck," he said. Nasreddin invited him in and gave him a good meal. The next day another visitor arrived, and said he was the friend of the friend of the man who had brought the duck. Again Nasreddin invited him in for a meal. However, he was getting annoyed. Visitors seemed to be using his house as a restaurant. Then another visitor came, and said he was the friend of the friend of the friend of the man who had brought the duck. Nasreddin invited him to eat dinner with him. His wife brought some soup to the table and the visitor tasted it. "What kind of soup is this?" asked the visitor. "It tastes just like warm water." "Ah!" said Nasreddin, "That is the soup of the soup of the soup of the duck."

1. How many visitors came to see Nasreddin?
 1. 2
 2. 3
 3. 4
2. How many of the visitors brought a duck?
 1. 1
 2. 2
 3. 3
3. Did Nasreddin know the first visitor?
 1. Yes
 2. No
4. Why did Nasreddin get angry?
 1. He did not like eating duck.
 2. His cousin didn't bring him a duck.
 3. The first visitor brought a duck, but the others didn't bring anything.
5. How did Nasreddin solve the problem?
 1. He served soup which tasted of nothing, so that no more visitors would want to come to his house.
 2. He served excellent soup, so that everyone would want to eat at his house.
 3. He opened a restaurant.

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English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 12

NASREDDIN'S VISITORS AND THE FERRY MAN

Nasreddin the Ferry Man



Nasreddin once had an old boat, which he used to ferry people across the river. One day, he was taking a university professor to the other side.

"What is the square root of 9?" asked the professor.

"I don't know," answered Nasreddin.

"How do you spell *elephant*?" asked the professor.

"I have no idea," replied Nasreddin.

"Didn't you study anything at school?" demanded the professor, surprised.

"No," said Nasreddin.

"Then you wasted half your life," said the professor.

Nasreddin was silent for a little while. Then he said:

"Can you swim?"

"No," said the professor.

"Then you wasted ALL of your life," said Nasreddin. "We are sinking."

1. What was Nasreddin's job?
 1. university professor
 2. ferry man
 3. judge
2. What kind of question did the professor ask him first?
 1. a language question
 2. a history question
 3. a math question
3. What kind of question did he ask second?
 1. a language question
 2. a history question
 3. a math question
4. Why didn't Nasreddin know any of the answers?
 1. He was a history professor.
 2. He never studied at school.
 3. He couldn't swim.
5. Which man was probably able to swim?
 1. Nasreddin
 2. the professor
6. Who had the most useful knowledge?
 1. Nasreddin
 2. the professor

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MEETING 13

NASREDDIN GOES SHOPPING AND THE SMELL OF SOUP

Nasreddin Goes Shopping



One day Nasreddin went to town to buy new clothes. First he tried on a pair of trousers. He didn't like the trousers, so he gave them back to the shopkeeper. Then he tried a robe which had the same price as the trousers. Nasreddin was pleased with the robe, and he left the shop. Before he climbed on his donkey to ride home, the shopkeeper and the shop-assistant ran out.

"You didn't pay for the robe!" said the shopkeeper.

"But I gave you the trousers in exchange for the robe, didn't I?" replied Nasreddin.

"Yes, but you didn't pay for the trousers, either!" said the shopkeeper.

"But I didn't buy the trousers," replied Nasreddin. "I am not so stupid as to pay for something which I never bought."

1. How did Nasreddin get to the shop?
 1. on foot
 2. by camel
 3. by donkey
 4. the story doesn't say
2. What did Nasreddin do first in the shop?
 1. He tried on some trousers.
 2. He tried on a robe.
 3. He tried on a hat.
 4. He greeted the shopkeeper.
3. What did Nasreddin try on next?
 1. a robe
 2. a pair of trousers
 3. a hat
4. Which item did Nasreddin like best?
 1. the robe
 2. the hat
 3. the trousers

5. How many people were working in the shop?
 1. four
 2. three
 3. two
6. Why was the shopkeeper angry when Nasreddin left?
 1. He didn't take the trousers.
 2. He didn't pay for the robe.
 3. He didn't say goodbye.
7. What did Nasreddin actually pay for?
 1. nothing
 2. the robe
 3. the trousers
 4. the hat

13

MEETING 13

NASREDDIN GOES SHOPPING AND THE SMELL OF SOUP

Nasreddin and the Smell of Soup

One day, a poor man, who had only one piece of bread to eat, was walking past a restaurant. There was a large pot of soup on the table. The poor man held his bread over the soup, so the steam from the soup went into the bread, and gave it a good smell. Then he ate the bread.



The restaurant owner was very angry at this, and he asked the man for money, in exchange for the steam from the soup. The poor man had no money, so the restaurant owner took him to Nasreddin, who was a judge at that time. Nasreddin thought about the case for a little while.

Then he took some money from his pocket. He held the coins next to the restaurant owner's ear, and shook them, so that they made a jingling noise. "What was that?" asked the restaurant owner.

"That was payment for you," answered Nasreddin.

"What do you mean? That was just the sound of coins!" protested the restaurant owner.

"The sound of the coins is payment for the smell of the soup," answered Nasreddin.

"Now go back to your restaurant."

1. What food did the poor man have?
 1. soup
 2. bread
 3. nothing
2. What kind of food did he see in the restaurant?
 1. bread
 2. meat
 3. soup
3. Why did he hold the bread over the soup?
 1. So the steam from the soup would go into the bread.
 2. So he could warm his hand.
 3. So the restaurant owner would get angry.
4. Why did the restaurant owner take the poor man to Nasreddin?
 1. Because Nasreddin was a judge.
 2. So that Nasreddin could pay for the soup.
 3. Because Nasreddin was the man's relative.

5. What did Nasreddin do with the coins?
 1. He gave them to the restaurant owner.
 2. He made a noise with them.
 3. He gave them to the poor man.
6. What was the payment for the smell of the soup?
 1. the sound of money
 2. a few coins
 3. there was no payment

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English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 14

NASREDDIN AND THE POT NASREDDIN AND THE BEGGAR

Nasreddin and the Pot

One day Nasreddin borrowed a pot from his neighbour Ali. The next day he brought it back with another little pot inside. "That's not mine," said Ali. "Yes, it is," said Nasreddin. "While your pot was staying with me, it had a baby."

Some time later Nasreddin asked Ali to lend him a pot again. Ali agreed, hoping that he would once again receive two pots in return. However, days passed and Nasreddin had still not returned the pot. Finally Ali lost patience and went to demand his property. "I am sorry," said Nasreddin. "I can't give you back your pot, since it has died." "Died!" screamed Ali, "how can a pot die?" "Well," said Nasreddin, "you believed me when I told you that your pot had had a baby."



1. Who was the owner of the pot?
 1. Nasreddin
 2. Ali
 3. the baby
2. How many times did Nasreddin borrow the pot?
 1. once
 2. twice
 3. three times
3. How many pots did he give back the first time?
 1. none
 2. one
 3. two
4. Why was the neighbour happy to lend his pot a second time?
 1. He was greedy.
 2. He was a good neighbour.
 3. He had lots of spare pots.
5. How many pots did Nasreddin return the second time?
 1. none
 2. one
 3. two
6. What probably happened to the pot?
 1. It died.
 2. The neighbour took it back.
 3. Nasreddin kept it.

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English Department – FIB – Dian Nuswantoro University

MEETING 14

NASREDDIN AND THE POT NASREDDIN AND THE BEGGAR

Nasreddin and the Beggar



One day, Nasreddin was up on the roof of his house, mending a hole in the tiles. He had nearly finished, and he was pleased with his work. Suddenly, he heard a voice below call "Hello!" When he looked down, Nasreddin saw an old man in dirty clothes standing below.

"What do you want?" asked Nasreddin.

"Come down and I'll tell you," called the man.

Nasreddin was annoyed, but he was a polite man, so he put down his tools. Carefully, he climbed all the way down to the ground.

"What do you want?" he asked, when he reached the ground.

"Could you spare a little money for an old beggar?" asked the old man. Nasreddin thought for a minute.

Then he said, "Come with me." He began climbing the ladder again. The old man followed him all the way to the top. When they were both sitting on the roof, Nasreddin turned to the beggar.

"No," he said.

1. Why was Nasreddin on the roof of his house?
 1. He was looking at the view.
 2. He was waiting for the old man.
 3. He was fixing the roof.
2. Who was the old man?
 1. a beggar
 2. Nasreddin's friend
 3. a roof-mender
3. Why was Nasreddin angry?
 1. It was a hot day.
 2. He knew the beggar only wanted money.
 3. It was a long way to go down the ladder.

4. Why did Nasreddin go down the ladder?
 1. He wanted to get away from his work.
 2. Because the beggar asked him to.
 3. He wanted to speak to the beggar.
5. Why did Nasreddin make the beggar climb up the ladder?
 1. He wanted to show him the view from the roof.
 2. He wanted to get his revenge on the beggar.
 3. He wanted the beggar to help him fix the roof.

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