

Elephant & Blind People

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Long ago, some students were having a _____ discussion about god, religion and truth. Nobody could _____ on anything. Each person thought their idea was right and the others were wrong.

Like many discussions about religion, few people were _____ listening to others. Instead, each person wanted to be heard. Soon the discussion became a _____. Finally, one person suggested _____. She said, "Let's talk to the old professor. He is very wise. Perhaps he can settle this _____ and tell us what god is."

Everyone agreed and they _____ to the teacher's house.

The old teacher welcomed the students into his home and _____ their questions. After careful consideration, he made a rather strange _____. He asked the group to go outside, find a large elephant and three blind people and then _____ back to his home.

The group was a little _____, but they did as the old teacher asked.

The following day, the elephant and three blind people were standing in the front _____ of his home. The old teacher asked the blind people to do one thing: find out what the elephant _____.

Each person touched one part of the elephant and made a _____. The first person touched the leg and said, "I know what it is. It's a _____." The second person felt the tail and said with confidence, "No, you're wrong. It's a long piece of _____."

The third person put her hand on the animal's _____ and declared, "I'm certain that all of you are wrong. I know what it is. It's a wall."

The old teacher listened and then _____. "Each person believes they know the truth, yet everyone has a different _____ of the elephant. Who has the correct answer?"

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. heated discussion | a. resolve |
| 2. settle this argument | b. puzzled |
| 3. strange | c. loud debate |
| 4. declare | d. unexpected |
| 5. confused | e. state |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. The students agreed on one thing. T or F
2. The teacher asked the students to complete a task. T or F
3. The teacher told the students who had the correct answer. T or F
4. The elephant was in the teacher's garden. T or F
5. Each blind person had a different answer. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

OGILIREN _____

NDECIFNOCE _____

TTESEL _____

TICENRA _____

UTRQEES _____

EODHCUT _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What did the students want to learn?
 2. What did they decide to do?
 3. What was the teacher's suggestion?
 4. What did each blind person conclude?
 5. Where they right or wrong?
 6. Does the ESL listening story teach us a message?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. old / and / teacher / spoke / then / the / listened

2. person / part / elephant / and / one / touched / statement / the / made / each / of / a

3. careful / made / strange / after / rather / consideration / a / request / he

4. a / soon / shouting / became / discussion / match / the

5. can / argument / tell / he / settle / god / is / what / this / perhaps / and / us
