

The Stone Cutter

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Long ago, an old man _____ a stone cutter. He cut large rocks into small _____ and sold them in the market. Life was difficult and the old man wasn't happy. He wanted something different. He sought _____. The spirit in the mountain _____ his wish and decided to help him.

One early morning, the old man went to the _____ in search of the most powerful thing in the land. He looked up at the sun. " _____ could be stronger than the sun! All life depends on its _____. I wish I were the sun," he said to himself.

The mountain spirit heard the old man and _____ into the sun. For several days, he was happy. His light _____ around the world. Then a cloud _____ in the sky. It blocked the sun's light and made the land dark. The sun, he learned, wasn't so powerful.

"Nothing is stronger than a cloud! I wish I were a cloud" he _____.

The mountain spirit listened to his cry and changed him _____ . He was the largest cloud in the sky. He made storms and he was _____. Then he _____ a rock. He tried to move it with heavy rain and strong winds, but _____.

"Nothing is stronger than a rock! I wish I were a rock" he said. The mountain spirit heard the old man's voice and _____ him into a huge rock. The old man was pleased.

He rested on the mountain side thinking his _____ made him powerful. Some months later, a young stone cutter _____ the mountain. He approached the rock, opened his bag and _____ some tools.

Suddenly, the old man heard a noise. He felt his body _____. He soon _____ the stone cutter was more powerful than a rock.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. changed | a. happy |
| 2. block | b. understood |
| 3. content | c. transformed |
| 4. heavy rain | d. obstruct |
| 5. realized | e. downpour |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. The man bought cut stones in the market. T or F
2. The mountain spirit granted all of the man's wishes. T or F
3. The sun was stronger than the cloud. T or F
4. The rock wasn't changed by the cloud. T or F
5. The young man cut the rock with his tools. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

EARLVES _____

AMTRKE _____

NEONTTC _____

WPEORFUL _____

SOENI _____

EEYRNG _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
 2. Why did the man want to change into so many different things?
 3. Why did the main want to be a rock?
 4. What do you think might happen to the old man?
 5. What do you think about the mountain spirit? Was the spirit kind or cruel?
 6. Does this ESL listening story have a message? What is it?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. and / was / man / old / happy / the / difficult / life / wasn't

2. up / sun / at / the / he / looked

3. the / heard / the / him / old / the / spirit / man / mountain / changed / and / into / sun

4. the / it / the / light / land / made / and / dark / sun's / blocked

5. the / than / more / he / stone / cutter / realized / soon / was / a / rock / powerful
