



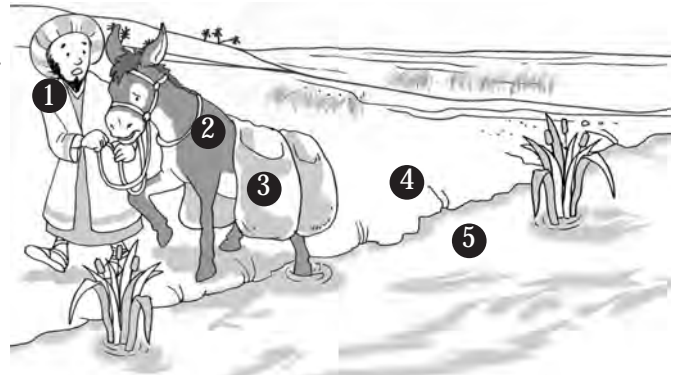
13 A merchant and his donkey

“There are three characteristics of a hypocrite: When he talks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted with something, he acts dishonestly.” (Muttafaq ‘alaih)

Getting ready

A. Match the words (a - e) with the picture (1 - 5).

- a) bag of salt
- b) donkey
- c) merchant
- d) river
- e) river bank



B. You will find these verbs in the story. What does each verb mean? Look it up in your dictionary.

- 1. loaded
- 2. wanted
- 3. walked
- 4. became
- 5. reached
- 6. slipped
- 7. fell into
- 8. returned
- 9. wasted
- 10. realised
- 11. re-loaded
- 12. started

C. How do you pronounce each word in A & B? Listen to your teacher. Then repeat after him/her.

D. Read the stories (1 - 4). Fill in the gaps with the most correct verbs: realised, slipped, re-loaded, walked. Then match them with pictures a - d.

1. One morning a merchant and his donkey _____ along together to the market. He wanted to sell some bags of salt.
2. When they reached a river on the road, the donkey suddenly _____ and fell into the river. The bags of salt became lighter. The merchant returned home to load his donkey with more bags of salt.
3. As they reached the slippery riverbank, again the donkey fell into the river and wasted all the bags of salt on its back. The merchant quickly _____ the donkey's trick.
4. He went home again but _____ his donkey with bags of sponges. The donkey and the merchant started walking to the market again.

(Adapted from www.ezsofttech.com)



E. Answer the following questions.

1. Where did the merchant want to go and what for?
2. What happened when they reached a river?
3. How many times did the donkey slip and fall into the river?
4. What did the merchant put into the bags instead of salt?
5. Who do you think was cleverer: the merchant or the donkey?
6. What's the moral of the story?

F. SPEAKING. Pairwork. How do you think the story ends? Use the verbs in part B to help you.

