

# CHAPTER 1

The first place I lived was a large, **pleasant** field with a river along one side. When I was very young, I stayed close to my mother, but when I grew old enough to eat grass, my mother went out to work, and I stayed in the field. There were six other young horses in the field, and we ran and played together. Our **master** was a good man. He **fed** us oats, corn and sometimes carrots or a piece of bread.

I was a handsome young horse, **pure** black with a white star on my **forehead** and one white foot. When I was four years old, my master decided to sell me. Squire Gordon came to look at me, and he carefully looked at my mouth and teeth, and felt my legs. ‘He’ll be a very good horse when you’ve **broken** him **in**,’ said Squire Gordon.

‘Yes, I’ll do it myself,’ said my master.

**pleasant** (adjective) good, nice, friendly

**master** (noun) someone who owns an animal

**feed** (verb) to give food

**pure** (adjective) complete

**forehead** (noun) the flat part of the face above the eyes

**break somebody/something in** (phrasal verb) to train



*When I was very young, I stayed close to my mother.*

Breaking in is when a master teaches a young horse to wear a **saddle** and reins and carry a person on his back. The horse also has to learn to behave well. He must stand **still** even if he is hungry, thirsty or **annoyed**. And he must pull a **cart** or carriage calmly and follow orders.

My master fitted me with horseshoes, and I learnt to pull his carriage with my mother. She also taught me well. ‘Always do your best,’ she said. ‘There are many masters in the world. Some are kind and some are **cruel**, but if you behave well, your master should be good to you.’

After my master finished breaking me in, Squire Gordon came to our field. I said goodbye to my mother and my master, and Squire Gordon took me to his home. He put me in a **stable** and soon the stable master, John, came to feed me oats. He was kind and gentle.

**saddle** (noun) a leather seat that is put on the back of a horse

**still** (adjective) not moving

**annoyed** (adjective) angry

**cart** (noun) a vehicle with two wheels used for carrying things

**cruel** (adjective) not kind or gentle, violent

**stable** (noun) a building where you keep horses



*He put me in a stable and soon the stable master, John, came to feed me oats.*

After the stable master left, I looked over the stable door, and my new neighbours introduced themselves.

‘Hello. My name is Merrylegs,’ said the first neighbour. ‘I’m very handsome. I’ve lived here for a long time, and the young ladies like riding on my back.’

‘Hello,’ said the second neighbour. She was a tall, brown horse, with a long neck. ‘My name’s Ginger. You’ve taken my stable.’

‘I’m sorry,’ I replied. ‘But I didn’t take anything. Squire Gordon put me here.’

In the afternoon, Ginger went out, and Merrylegs explained why she was annoyed. ‘Ginger’s first owner was not kind,’ he said. ‘Now she bites and kicks people, and she argues. She’s a bit difficult to like, but it’s because her master was cruel to her.’

The next day, John came to my stable and brushed my coat until it shone. Then he climbed on my back and took me for a ride in the country. We went along the road, past fields of sheep and pigs, and we even saw a train. When we returned, we saw Squire Gordon and his wife. We stopped, and Squire Gordon asked John about me. ‘How’s the new horse, John?’ he asked.

# GRAMMAR QUIZZES

## Quiz-1

**Add question tags to these questions.**

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1. 'She doesn't know the man, ..... she?' asked mum.
2. 'You will bring the tickets tomorrow, ..... you?' she said.
3. 'He lost his keys last week, ..... he?' asked dad.
4. 'They have caught the thief, ..... they?' said the policeman.
5. 'He can climb through the window, ..... he?' asked the man.
6. 'You haven't brought your purse, ..... you?' mum asked.
7. 'He looks smart in a suit, ..... he?' said the girl.
8. 'You don't eat meat, ..... you?' asked the waiter.
9. 'You can open the door now, ..... you?' said the passenger.
10. 'He should have worn his coat, ..... he?' said mum.
11. 'I can hear the music from here, ..... I?' I asked her.
12. 'She doesn't like him, ..... she?' said the girl.
13. 'I can't park in this road, ..... I?' said the man to his friend.
14. We won't see him for a year now, ..... we?
15. 'They couldn't get into the concert hall ..... they?' she asked.

## Quiz-2

**Complete the sentences with the past continuous tense of the verbs in brackets.**

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1. The children ..... fish in the pond when it rained. (catch)
2. He ..... all his money on the horse race. (lose)
3. She ..... bread for her daughter's lunch. (buy)
4. They ..... quietly in the busy library. (read)
5. She was very upset and she ..... . (cry)
6. The policeman ..... to the driver of the car. (speak)
7. I ..... the postcard on the coach. (write)
8. The girl ..... a pink dress in the shop. (choose)
9. I ..... to my friend's house when I saw her dog. (go)
10. Hansel ..... bread on the path in the woods. (drop)
11. I listened quietly. Nobody knew what I ..... (think)
12. We ..... our dinner when the alarm went off. (eat)
13. The rain ....., but we still went to the park. (fall)
14. She ..... at home when the doorbell rang. (work)
15. She phoned you when you ..... in the car. (drive)

## Quiz-2

Complete the sentences with the words below.

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**annoyed      cheerful      cruel      delighted      elegant**  
**exhausted      fashionable      gentle      miserable      painful**  
**pleasant      unkind      pure      still      reliable**

1. The vet gave the horse two tablets for its ..... leg.
2. My mum was ..... that we were going to visit her.
3. I held the horse ....., and my friend climbed on its back.
4. 'Long skirts are very ..... this winter', said the assistant.
5. We went for a ride on the horses through the ..... countryside.
6. He was very ..... because the bus was late again.
7. I'm not ..... to any animals. I never hurt anything.
8. She ran all the way to gran's house. She was ..... when she got there.
9. When it's raining and we stay inside, it makes me feel .....
10. The woman's dress was expensive and .....
11. The spring water was very cold, clean and .....
12. The ..... crowd shouted when their team scored a goal.
13. I drive my car every day to work. It is very .....
14. He ate all of her sweets, which was very ..... of him.
15. I asked him to be very ..... with the tiny baby.