

# CHAPTER 1

Many years ago, an **emperor** lived in a beautiful **palace**, in a big city. He was a nice man, and he liked being emperor because he liked being **famous**. But being an emperor is a very important job, and it is hard work. The emperor didn't like hard work and he was often bored.

'Politics is boring,' he said.

'My **ministers** are boring,' he said.

'Meetings are boring,' he said.

The emperor liked beautiful clothes, and he was happy because he had a lot of money and he bought a lot of new clothes.

One of the ministers asked the emperor, 'What do you like doing, sir?'

'I like buying new clothes,' said the emperor.

'Yes, but do you like any other things?' asked the minister.

The emperor thought. 'Yes,' he said. 'I like playing chess. But only when I win. Yes, I like winning!'

The emperor always won, because he was the emperor, and the ministers liked their jobs. They didn't win. When a minister needed the emperor for a meeting, he looked first in the palace.

'Where is the emperor?' asked one minister.

**emperor** (noun) a man who rules an empire

**palace** (noun) the home of a king or queen

**famous** (adjective) very well-known

**minister** (noun) an official who is the head of a government department



*The emperor liked beautiful clothes.*

‘I don’t know,’ answered a second.

‘Is he playing chess?’ asked the first minister.

‘No,’ said the second minister.

‘Then I think he’s buying new clothes,’ answered the first minister.

The emperor didn’t buy houses. He didn’t buy **pets**. He didn’t help the poor or build hospitals. He won at chess and he bought clothes.

One day, the Prime Minister came to the emperor and said, ‘Sir, there are two men at the palace. They want to have a meeting with you.’

‘A meeting?’ said the emperor. ‘I don’t like meetings. They’re boring!’

‘But these men make clothes,’ said the minister. ‘They want to talk to you about making some new clothes.’

‘Really?’ said the emperor. ‘Why didn’t you say that? Send them to me now. I’m waiting.’

The Prime Minister left the room, and the emperor looked in the mirror. He wore his best black and silver clothes.

‘Very good,’ he thought.

The Prime Minister came back with two men. One was short and fat. The other was tall. They both wore good clothes.

**pet** (noun) an animal that you keep at home for pleasure



*The Prime Minister came back with two men.*

‘Who are you?’ asked the emperor.

‘My name is Victor, sir,’ said the short man. He had black trousers, a red jacket and a red hat. ‘I make beautiful clothes.’

‘My name is Viggo, sir,’ said the tall man. His trousers were dark blue. His jacket was light blue, and he wore a yellow hat. ‘We make the best clothes for kings and emperors. We would like to make you some clothes, sir.’

‘But I have many clothes,’ said the emperor. ‘And many people make my clothes. Why do I need your clothes?’

‘Our clothes are better than all the others,’ said Victor. ‘Our clothes are **invisible**.’

‘Invisible!’ said the emperor.

‘Yes,’ said Viggo. ‘Only **clever** people and hard-working people can see our clothes. For all other people, our clothes are invisible.’

‘Really?’ said the emperor. ‘These clothes can help me. With these clothes, I will know which ministers are clever and hard-working, and which are not.’

‘That’s right!’ said Viggo. ‘And they’re the most beautiful clothes you can buy.’

‘Do it!’ said the emperor. ‘Make me some invisible clothes. Prime Minister! Give these men a room and money for material. Then come and play chess with me.’

**invisible** (adjective) something you cannot see

**clever** (adjective) able to learn and understand things quickly





*'Prime Minister! Give these men a room and money for material.'*

## Quiz 2

Choose the correct answer.

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<b>clever</b>	<b>expensive</b>	<b>famous</b>	<b>worried</b>
<b>real</b>	<b>information</b>	<b>busy</b>	<b>favourite</b>
<b>party</b>	<b>important</b>		

1. He is in four films, and now he is ..... all over the world.
2. The diamond ring is far too ..... for me. I can't buy it.
3. Are you ..... about your exam tomorrow, Jack?
4. I can't talk right now. I will call you when I am not too .....
5. The ..... boy got full marks on the maths test.
6. My ..... colour is purple.
7. The fur on my coat is not ..... animal fur.
8. She wore her shiny, new shoes to the .....
9. This book has some useful ..... about travel in Indonesia.
10. I have a very ..... meeting tomorrow. I have to prepare for it.