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Basic English
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Lecture No. 63
Listening

Welcome to the class, we are going to work on Listening as a practice exercise for us in the class today. We are going to play you a very short clip a very short of a very short story, and then we will work on few exercises that will help us learn a lot more to build the fundamental base for learning English.

We are in the process of learning English, we more specifically, we are in the process of doing certain specific kinds of exercises at various different levels to give us more confidence and equip us with better situations to deal with in the process of learning, and these things are going to be very effective and influential in helping us be more confident.

Let us look at this part of the exercise on listening. For this purpose, we have picked up story the title of the story is as you can see, it is called Fritz, it is written by Satyajit Ray.

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Satyajit Ray

The short story 'Fritz' written by Satyajit Ray was published in his book 'Collected Short Stories'. He is the first Indian to receive an Honorary Oscars in the year 1992.



I am sure you have heard this name, it is a well-known name in India. Satyajit Ray is a filmmaker the as you know this story is written by Satyajit Ray. It was published in his book collected short stories, and he is the first Indian to receive an honorary Oscar in the year of 1992. In addition, you can read more about Satyajit Ray, it, there is a lot to read about him,

and there is a lot to learn from his life, a phenomenal filmmaker of his time and an inspirational filmmaker for the time to come.

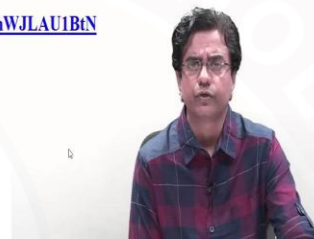
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Listen to the audio:

[Fritz by Satvajit Ray](#)

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We are going to look at the story itself it is a short story, and then we will work on the exercise part of it, and these exercises are important in taking us, in making us aware of what we are going to retain, what we must retain after listening, after listening to this story in particular and in general when we listen to something we can check how carefully we heard something how carefully we listen to something and what are the kinds of information that we can retain from a short piece of listening.

Remember, at times, you are going to listen to people for hours, and you will be expected to retain a lot more. Challenge yourself with these exercises to prepare for that purpose. Here is the short piece of the story.

Audio: Joyonto and Shankar are childhood friends. They are on a trip to Rajasthan. The choice of Bundi as the destination puzzles Shankar quite a bit. Joyonto visited the town 31 years ago with his parents and had then planned to visit it again.

The old memories of the place start coming back to him, he is suddenly reminded of a deodar tree, he also recalls the doll his uncle got for him from Switzerland, it was a 12-inch figure of an old man called Fritz. Joyonto had many toys, but Fritz was his favourite he used to spend

hours and hours talking to him; he even took it to Bundi with him. From here, the story goes into flashback mode; we get more details about the doll. A couple of stray dogs played a tug of war with Fritz one afternoon, and his face was ruined, Fritz stopped existing for Joyonto then on. Later he buried the doll beneath the deodar tree.

From here, the story switches back to the present. At night, Shankar is woken up by a slight noise he sees Joyonto sitting up on his bed looking anxious. Joyonto tells him that he felt something walk over his chest; they searched the room but find nothing. The next morning they embark on a sightseeing trip to the fort. On the way back, Joyonto seems slightly excited he believes that Fritz came into their room the previous night. Shankar thinks that Joyonto is delusional, he thinks that if Joyonto can be shown the remains of Fritz, his fears can be put to rest.

He tells Joyonto that they need to dig the place where Fritz is buried. Joyonto is reluctant at first. Shankar speaks to the gardener and offers to pay him 5 rupees if he agrees to dig at the spot. Dig here, are you sure? How much did you dig? At least 8 inches. The gardener starts to dig. If there is a hidden treasure under the ground, you had better be prepared to share it with me. What is that? All 3 of them gape at the ground in horror, their lies in front of them a perfect little human skeleton 12 inches long.”

So, you heard the story; this is the story you can guess the name from the title, it is called Fritz. You have heard the story, and now I am going to take you through some of the exercises that will help you recount this story and will challenge you to test yourself in how well you heard the story in the first time. Remember, when you hear the story when you hear an audio clip, you hear it first just one time, hear it as carefully as you can and then test yourself with these exercises.

As I said earlier, these exercises are designed to prepare you for testing your retention of information, and as you know these are short video, short clips you are expected to retain a lot more from much longer conversations or a clip or a program or any kind of situation where you need to retain information after listening. So, let us work on that part and see how you perform here.

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Activity- 1

Fill in the blanks with appropriate answers:

Jayanto and Shankar are childhood friends. They are on a trip to 1. ----- . The choice of 2. ----- as the destination puzzles Shankar 3. ----- a bit. Joyanto visited the town 4. ----- years ago with his parents and had then planned to visit it again. The old memories of the place start coming back to him. He is suddenly reminded of a 5. ----- tree. He also recalls the doll his uncle got for him from Switzerland. It was a 6. --- inch figure of an old man called 7. ----- . Joyanto had many toys but Fritz was his favourite. He used to spend hours and hours talking to him.

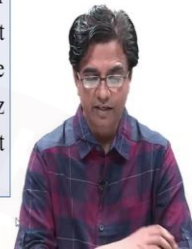


Now we want you to read this passage; it starts with the names Jayanto and Shankar are childhood friends, they are on a trip to.... you need to know the name of the place, the choice of that place as the destination puzzles Shankar and keep reading this thing try to fill in the information from your memory of the story that you have just heard before. Jayanto visited the town before, how many years ago with his parents and had then planned to visit it again. The old memories of the place start coming back to him.

He is suddenly reminded of a something a particular kind of a tree; he also recalls the doll his uncle got for him from Switzerland; it was a kind of a doll you were expected to retain measurement of the doll here. It was an old man, and then you need to know the name, I think that is the easiest one. Joyanto had many toys, but Fritz was his favourite he used to spend hours and hours talking to him. You can guess some information from the passage itself, but when you read it carefully, you can supply the information from your memory.

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He even took it to Bundi with him. From here, the story goes into 8. ----- mode. We get more details about the doll. A couple of stray dogs played a tug-of-war with Fritz one afternoon and his face was 9. -----, Fritz stopped existing for Joyanto then on. Later, he buried the doll 10. ----- the deodar tree. From here, the story switches back to the present. At night, Shankar is woken up by a slight noise. He sees Joyanto sitting up on his bed looking 11. -----, Joyanto tells him that he felt something walking over his 12. -----, They search the room but find nothing. The next morning they 13. ----- on a sightseeing trip to the fort. On the way back, Joyanto seems slightly excited. He believes that Fritz came into their room the previous night. Shankar thinks that Joyanto is 14. -----.



He even took it to Bundi with him. From here, the story goes into some specific kind of mode; we get more details about the doll. A couple of his stray dogs played a tug of war with Fritz one afternoon, and his face was you need to supply the word here, Fritz stops existing for Joyanto, and on later he buried the doll where the name of the place. From here, the story switches back to the present. At night Shankar is woken up by a slight noise, he sees Joyanto sitting up on his bed looking in a very strange way, Joyanto tells him that he felt something walking over his part of his body.

They search the room but find nothing. The next morning they go on a trip, sightseeing trip to the fort on the way back Joyanto seems slightly excited he believed that Fritz came into their room the previous night, Shankar thinks that Joyanto is, apply the word here.

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Answers

Activity 1

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Rajasthan | 8. Flashback |
| 2. Bundi | 9. Ruined |
| 3. Quite | 10. Beneath |
| 4. 31 | 11. Anxious |
| 5. Deodar | 12. Chest |
| 6. 12 | 13. Embark |
| 7. Fritz | 14. Delusional |

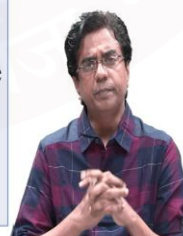


So, here are the words, so when you look Joyonto and Shankar are childhood friends, they are on a trip to Rajasthan. The choice of Bundi as the destination puzzles Shankar, so you read the story and find the find answers from your memory and that is how we have designed this exercise for you to complete for yourself and we have a short, we have answers listed here, but you can definitely find these answers by yourself.

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Activity-2

1. Replace the word 'puzzles' in the sentence, 'The choice of Bundi as a destination puzzles Shankar quite a bit.'
2. When are the words 'ago' and 'since' used in a regular sentence?
3. Deodar tree is used for making which products?
4. What is a 'tug of war'? Recall your childhood days where they used to conduct competitions on tug-of-war.
5. The meaning of 'stray' in 'stray dog' means what?




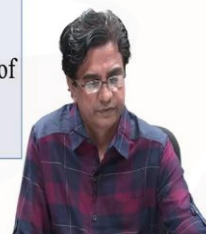
Then, we have another piece of work for you to do, what we want you to do here is replace the word puzzles in the sentence is 'The choice of Bundi as a destination puzzle Shankar quite a bit,' What could be the other word in place of the puzzle in this sentence that you can supply. When are the words 'ago' and 'since' used in a regular sentence, meaning try to make sentences which uses ago and since?

Which product or products are made of deodar tree? We will need you to read a little bit about deodar tree, have you heard of it? Work on it, please. What is a tug of war? It is a specific kind of game; you would get a sense of this game if you listen to this story carefully. Remember there is something that the dogs are doing in this story and they did something to Fritz, the doll.

How do we play tug of war think about it? In addition, can you narrate your experience of a competition that you may have participated in your school or at someplace? The meaning of a 'stray' in the 'stray dog' is what? That is what does the word 'stray' mean in 'stray dog' find it out for yourself.

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6. Replace the word 'embark' with a simpler word.
 7. 'All three of them GAPE at the ground in horror.' Replace the word 'gape' with a four-letter word.
 8. Note down all the words from the story which is made by combining two or more words.
 9. What is the genre of the story?
 10. Which two words in the story describe Joyonto's state of mind?



Replace the word 'embark' with a simpler word, replace the word 'GAPE' with a four-letter word with another word in that. Note down all the words from the story, which is made by combining two or more words. And what is the genre of the story? Which two words in the story describe Joyonto's state of mind? Again we are giving you some answers. So, when you if, you try replacing the word puzzle, the one word that you can find another one but one word to replace this is 'confused'.

So, when you try replacing this word, choice of Bundi as a destination puzzles Shankar quite a bit you can say the choice of Bundi as a destination confused Shankar quite a bit, that is he was perplexed, confused as to why Bundi out of so many places in Rajasthan and likewise. When you work on these ten questions, and when you work on these two activities, you will challenge yourself enough to retention after listening.

This retention of information and reproducing the information again is one of the most significant tasks out of listening and a continuous working continuously working on this part will not only help you retain more information but also will give sufficient input for your subconscious brain to process this for and that will show up as a result for yielding better language with more confidence, please work on it, thank you.

