

# **The Fisherman and the Mermaid**

A short story in eight parts

by

Terry Bell

## ***WORKBOOK***

## CHAPTER 1      Some good news

### VOCABULARY 1

Match the words with their meanings:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Where the sea meets the land               | a. stream    |
| 2. Very happy                                 | b. prepare   |
| 3. Not salty, good to drink                   | c. midday    |
| 4. The middle of the day, 12 o'clock          | d. repair    |
| 5. Not rich, without much money               | e. seashore  |
| 6. A small river                              | f. delighted |
| 7. Make something good again when it's broken | g. healthy   |
| 8. Going to have a baby                       | h. poor      |
| 9. Not ill, not sick                          | i. fresh     |
| 10. To make something ready                   | j. pregnant  |

### VOCABULARY 2    Opposites

Write in the opposite of the **highlighted** words:

A **short** / \_\_\_\_\_ time ago, in a **large** / \_\_\_\_\_ village on the seashore, there lived a fisherman and his **ugly** / \_\_\_\_\_ wife. They lived in a small house made of wood. They were **rich** / \_\_\_\_\_ but **sad** / \_\_\_\_\_.

Every day the fisherman went out to catch fish in his small boat. He left very **late** / \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning, just **before** / \_\_\_\_\_ sunrise and came back every evening, just before sunset. Every day at midday he sailed to a small island called Duyong Island, where he cooked some of the fish he caught and drank some of the **salty** / \_\_\_\_\_ water from a stream on the island. In the afternoon he continued fishing.

His wife stayed at home and **broke** / \_\_\_\_\_ the fishing nets or made baskets from the pandan leaves which she collected from the beach around their house. In the evening, she prepared dinner. The fisherman always came back at the **different** / \_\_\_\_\_ time, just before it got **light** / \_\_\_\_\_.

### COMPREHENSION 1

**Four** of the following sentences are not true. Underline the word in each sentence which is not correct.

1. The fisherman and his wife had very little money.
2. They lived in a large, wooden house.
3. The fisherman usually cooked chicken for lunch.
4. The fisherman's wife usually stayed at home when he went fishing.
5. The fisherman and his wife had no children.
6. The wife found out she was going to have a baby.
7. She decided not to tell her husband about the baby.
8. The fisherman was unhappy that his wife was pregnant.

### COMPREHENSION 2      Short answers

1. What was the fisherman's house made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What did the fisherman eat for lunch every day?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Where did he find fresh water on the island?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What did the wife use to make baskets?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. How did the fisherman feel when his wife told him she was pregnant?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
6. What did the fisherman and his wife talk about that evening?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
7. How many children did the fisherman and his wife have?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Which word in the text means when the sun comes up in the morning?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## **GAPFILL 1 Irregular Verbs**

A long time ago, in a small village on the seashore, there lived a fisherman and his beautiful wife. They lived in a small house made of wood. They \_\_\_\_\_(be) poor but happy.

Every day the fisherman \_\_\_\_\_(go) out to catch fish in his small boat. He \_\_\_\_\_(leave) very early in the morning, just after sunrise and \_\_\_\_\_(come) back every evening, just before sunset. Every day at midday he sailed to a small island called Duyong Island, where he cooked some of the fish he \_\_\_\_\_(catch) and \_\_\_\_\_(drink) some of the fresh water from a stream on the island. In the afternoon he continued fishing.

His wife stayed at home and repaired the fishing nets or \_\_\_\_\_(make) baskets from the pandan leaves which she collected from the beach around their house. In the evening, she prepared dinner. The fisherman always \_\_\_\_\_(come) back at the same time, just before it \_\_\_\_\_(get) dark.

Then one day, the fisherman's wife \_\_\_\_\_(find) out she was pregnant. This was going to be their first child. She \_\_\_\_\_(be) very happy and decided to tell her husband as soon as he \_\_\_\_\_(come) home that evening. All that day she \_\_\_\_\_(think) about their child: would it be a boy or a girl? What should they call it? Would it be strong and healthy?

When her husband arrived home that evening, she \_\_\_\_\_(tell) him the news. He was delighted and they \_\_\_\_\_(spend) the evening talking about their first child.

## GAPFILL 2 Pronouns (it, he, his, she, they, their)

A long time ago, in a small village on the seashore, there lived a fisherman and \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful wife. \_\_\_\_\_ lived in a small house made of wood. \_\_\_\_\_ were poor but happy.

Every day the fisherman went out to catch fish in \_\_\_\_\_ small boat. \_\_\_\_\_ left very early in the morning, just after sunrise and came back every evening, just before sunset. Every day at midday \_\_\_\_\_ sailed to a small island called Duyong Island, where \_\_\_\_\_ cooked some of the fish \_\_\_\_\_ caught and drank some of the fresh water from a stream on the island. In the afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ continued fishing.

\_\_\_\_\_ wife stayed at home and repaired the fishing nets or made baskets from the pandan leaves which \_\_\_\_\_ collected from the beach around \_\_\_\_\_ house. In the evening, \_\_\_\_\_ prepared dinner. The fisherman always came back at the same time, just before \_\_\_\_\_ got dark.

Then one day, the fisherman's wife found out \_\_\_\_\_ was pregnant.

## WRITING

1. *Put the sentences into the correct order. Write the numbers in the boxes:*

- He was very happy to hear this
- Every day the fisherman went to the sea in his small boat.
- While he was fishing, his wife repaired the nets and made baskets.
- One day she found out she was going to have a baby.
- A fisherman and his wife lived in a small house by the sea
- That evening she told her husband about the baby.

2. *Imagine you are the fisherman. Write a diary page about today. Write a few sentences to describe what you did. Describe what happened when you got home and describe how you felt when your wife told you she was going to have a baby.*

## CHAPTER 2     A Magic Fruit!

### VOCABULARY 1

*Match the words with their meanings:*

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Normally e.g. it happens most of the time | a. mermaid     |
| 2. (Almost) the same as (you)                | b. true, truly |
| 3. Better than normal                        | c. flesh       |
| 4. Half woman, half fish                     | d. like (you)  |
| 5. Tastes very good                          | e. special     |
| 6. Strong power to do unusual things         | f. wish        |
| 7. The part of the fruit that you eat        | g. delicious   |
| 8. Gives                                     | h. grants      |
| 9. A strong desire to do something           | i. magic       |
| 10. Really                                   | j. as usual    |

### VOCABULARY 2     Anagrams

*Find the words from the passage hidden in the anagrams below:*

- |                  |       |                            |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 1. HEN IS FARM   | _____ | Clue: he catches seafood   |
| 2. RANG ME THROD | _____ | Clue: your mother's mother |
| 3. HEY HALT      | _____ | Clue: not sick             |
| 4. CAP LIES      | _____ | Clue: not just normal      |
| 5. DISCO LIEU    | _____ | Clue: very tasty           |
| 6. NEVER HEW     | _____ | Clue: at any time          |
| 7. GAMIC         | _____ | Clue: special powers       |
| 8. HAS PREP      | _____ | Clue: maybe                |
| 9. HANS BUD      | _____ | Clue: .....and wife        |
| 10. DID CEDE     | _____ | Clue: chose what to do     |

## COMPREHENSION 1

What do we know about the mermaid fruit? Write **TRUE** or **FALSE**:

1. It grows in the grandmother's garden. \_\_\_\_\_
2. It grows in many different places. \_\_\_\_\_
3. It tastes very good. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Some people believe it is magic. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Everyone who eats the fruit can have one wish. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The grandmother ate the fruit when she was young. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The fisherman's wife wants to eat some. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The grandmother wants the fisherman's wife to eat the fruit. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION 2      Short answers:

1. Who did the wife visit that day?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What did they drink?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who told the grandmother about the mermaid fruit?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does 'buah duyong' mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Where does the mermaid fruit grow?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
6. How many wishes can the fruit give each day?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Who can find some fruit for the wife?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
8. What does the fisherman's wife want to wish for?  
\_\_\_\_\_.



## GAPFILL 1 Verbs

The next day the fisherman went out in his boat as usual. After he \_\_\_\_\_ (leave), his wife decided \_\_\_\_\_ (go) and visit her grandmother. She wanted \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) her grandmother what she should \_\_\_\_\_ (do) to make sure her baby would be healthy and strong.

Her grandmother made her a cup of strong coffee and they \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) down to talk about the baby.

‘When I was a young woman like you,’ said the grandmother, ‘my mother \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me about a special fruit which \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) on an island not far from here. The fruit is called ‘mermaid fruit’ and grows only on Duyong Island. People \_\_\_\_\_ (say) it is delicious. People also say that the flesh from this fruit is magic. Whenever someone \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) the flesh they can make a wish and the wish \_\_\_\_\_ (come) true. But according to the story, the fruit \_\_\_\_\_ (give) only one wish each day.’

‘Oh, really?’ \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) the young woman. ‘I would love \_\_\_\_\_ (find) this fruit and eat some. I would wish for a strong, healthy baby. Perhaps my husband can find some of this fruit. He \_\_\_\_\_ (sail) his boat near Duyong Island every day.’

‘Mmmmm,’ said the grandmother. ‘Perhaps he can. But \_\_\_\_\_ (be) careful. Not all magic is good magic.’ And with that, she took away the coffee cups and sent her grand-daughter home.

## GAPFILL 2

The next day the fisherman went out in his boat \_\_\_\_\_ usual. After he left, his wife decided to go and visit her grandmother. She wanted to ask her grandmother what she should do to make \_\_\_\_\_ her baby would be healthy and strong.

Her grandmother made her a cup \_\_\_\_\_ strong coffee and they sat down to talk \_\_\_\_\_ the baby.

‘When I was a young woman \_\_\_\_\_ you,’ said the grandmother, ‘my mother told me \_\_\_\_\_ a special fruit which grows on an island not far \_\_\_\_\_ here. The fruit is called ‘mermaid fruit’ and grows only \_\_\_\_\_ Duyong Island. People say it is delicious. People also say that the flesh from this fruit is magic. Whenever someone eats the flesh they can make a wish and the wish will come \_\_\_\_\_. But according to the story, the fruit gives only one wish \_\_\_\_\_ day.’

‘Oh, really?’ asked the young woman. ‘I would love to find this fruit and eat some. I would wish \_\_\_\_\_ a strong, healthy baby. Perhaps my husband can find some of this fruit. He sails his boat near Duyong Island \_\_\_\_\_ day.’

‘Mmmmm,’ said the grandmother. ‘Perhaps he can. But be careful. Not \_\_\_\_\_ magic is good magic.’ And with that, she took \_\_\_\_\_ the coffee cups and sent her grand-daughter home.



## CHAPTER 3     The Promise

### VOCABULARY 1

*Match the words with their meanings:*

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Went back                           | a. A couple   |
| 2. Gather together                     | b. Darling    |
| 3. Husband and wife; two people        | c. Promise    |
| 4. A place to buy and sell food        | d. Market     |
| 5. Arrived somewhere                   | e. Far        |
| 6. A long way to go                    | f. To collect |
| 7. A sea creature with large claws     | g. Returned   |
| 8. Someone you love very much          | h. Reached    |
| 9. Midday meal                         | i. Crab       |
| 10. Say you will do something for sure | j. Lunch      |

### VOCABULARY 2     Anagrams

*Find the words from the passage hidden in the anagrams below:*

- |              |       |                             |
|--------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1. lop cue   | _____ | Clue: Two people            |
| 2. grin lad  | _____ | Clue: Someone you love      |
| 3. ripe som  | _____ | Clue: 'I'll do it, I _____' |
| 4. met ark   | _____ | Clue: Where you buy food.   |
| 5. cot cell  | _____ | Clue: Get together          |
| 6. truer end | _____ | Clue: Came back             |
| 7. he raced  | _____ | Clue: Arrived               |
| 8. barc      | _____ | Clue: A sea creature        |
| 9. hunc      | _____ | Clue: Midday meal           |
| 10. raf      | _____ | Clue: Not near              |

## COMPREHENSION 1      True / False?

1. The fisherman and his wife sold all their fish at the market. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The wife thinks the fruit would be good for their child. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The fisherman didn't really want to find any fruit for her. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The fisherman always ate breakfast on Duyong Island. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The wife told the fisherman about her visit to her grandmother. \_\_\_\_\_
6. She didn't tell him about the magic wish. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The fisherman was interested to hear about the magic fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The fisherman quickly forgot about the fruit. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION 2

Answer these questions in **FULL** sentences, not just short answers:

1. Where did the fisherman and his wife take the fish?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What did they do with the fish they didn't sell?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What did the wife ask the fisherman to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What did the fisherman promise to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. How did the fisherman feel about the magic fruit?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## GAPFILL 1 Verbs

When the fisherman returned home that evening, his wife ran down to the beach to meet him. She helped him \_\_\_\_\_ (pull) the boat onto the sand and she collected the nets which she would \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) the next day. Then the fisherman and his wife carried the fish to the market where they \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) as much as they could. They gave some of their fish to a poor old couple who lived in the village, and the rest they \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) for the birds and crabs to finish.

When they reached their small house, she said to him:

'Husband, I would really like to eat mermaid fruit. I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) there are some delicious fruits on Duyong Island, not far from where you go \_\_\_\_\_ (fish). The fruit is very good for our child. Could you find some for me?'

'Of course, my darling wife,' said the fisherman. 'I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) some for you when I go fishing tomorrow. I always sail to Duyong Island \_\_\_\_\_ (have) my lunch. I will find some mermaid fruit for you then, I promise.'

That evening she told the fisherman about her visit to her grandmother. She told him how delicious the mermaid fruit \_\_\_\_\_ (be), and she told him about the magic wish. He was very excited, too, and in his head he \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about what he would wish for.

## GAPFILL 2 Prepositions

When the fisherman returned home that evening, his wife ran down to the beach to meet him. She helped him to pull the boat \_\_\_\_\_ the sand and she collected the nets which she would repair the next day. Then the fisherman and his wife carried the fish \_\_\_\_\_ the market where they sold as much as they could. They gave some of their fish to a poor old couple who lived in the village, and the rest they left \_\_\_\_\_ the birds and crabs to finish.

When they reached their small house, she said to him:

'Husband, I would really like to eat mermaid fruit. I've heard there are some delicious fruits \_\_\_\_\_ Duyong Island, not far \_\_\_\_\_ where you go to fish. The fruit is very good \_\_\_\_\_ our child. Could you find some for me?'

'Of course, my darling wife,' said the fisherman. 'I will find some for you when I go fishing tomorrow. I always sail to Duyong Island to have my lunch. I will find some mermaid fruit \_\_\_\_\_ you then, I promise.'

That evening she told the fisherman \_\_\_\_\_ her visit to her grandmother. She told him how delicious the mermaid fruit was, and she told him about the magic wish. He was very excited, too, and \_\_\_\_\_ his head he was thinking about what he would wish \_\_\_\_\_.

## WRITING

*What do you think the fisherman was thinking about that night? What do you think he would wish for? If you could have a wish, what would you wish for?*

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## Chapter 4      A Good Day's Fishing!

### VOCABULARY 1

Match the words with their meanings:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Got something ready                  | a. reminded    |
| 2. Helped someone to remember something | b. filled      |
| 3. Certainly, sure                      | c. shore       |
| 4. Became full                          | d. prepared    |
| 5. Having a lot of work to do           | e. busy        |
| 6. Nearly                               | f. set sail    |
| 7. Started the journey in the boat      | g. almost      |
| 8. Far down, opposite of 'high'         | h. low         |
| 9. Without danger                       | i. of course   |
| 10. Edge of the sea, beach              | j. (in) safety |

Now use some of the words above to replace the **highlighted** words in these sentences:

1. I'm glad you \_\_\_\_\_ **told** me to send that letter or I would have forgotten.
2. 'Do you think it will rain today?'  
\_\_\_\_\_ '**Sure**, it always rains during this month.'
3. When I arrived home, dinner was already \_\_\_\_\_ **cooked**.
4. It was raining very heavily but we reached home \_\_\_\_\_ **without any danger**.
5. The water level in the river was so \_\_\_\_\_ **far down** that the boat couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ **start the journey**.
6. 'Have you finished writing your book yet?'  
'\_\_\_\_\_ **Nearly**, but I'm \_\_\_\_\_ **working hard** trying to find a good ending.'



## VOCABULARY 2    Opposites

Write in the opposites of the **highlighted** words to give the original meaning of the passage:

The next day the fisherman and his wife got up \_\_\_\_\_ / **late** and prepared the boat for the day's fishing. Just \_\_\_\_\_ / **after** the fisherman left the house, his wife reminded him:

'Husband, don't \_\_\_\_\_ / **remember** to bring me some mermaid fruit when you come back today.'

'Of course I \_\_\_\_\_ / **will** forget,' said the fisherman and he climbed \_\_\_\_\_ / **out of** his boat and sailed out to sea.

That day was a very \_\_\_\_\_ / **bad** day for the fisherman. Every time he threw his net into the sea, it soon filled up with fish. After only a \_\_\_\_\_ / **lot of** hours his boat was \_\_\_\_\_ / **empty** of fish. He was so busy catching fish that he forgot to sail to Duyong Island for his lunch, and he forgot about his promise to \_\_\_\_\_ / **lose** some mermaid fruit for his wife. It was only when he was pulling in his net for the \_\_\_\_\_ / **first** time that day that he remembered his promise.

## COMPREHENSION 1    True /False

Decide which of the following sentences are **True** and which are **False**.

1.     The couple prepared the boat for the day's fishing. \_\_\_\_\_
2.     His wife told him not to forget to find the mermaid fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
3.     The fisherman caught few fish that day. \_\_\_\_\_
4.     He didn't eat lunch that day. \_\_\_\_\_
5.     He sailed to Duyong Island as usual that day. \_\_\_\_\_
6.     He went home early because he caught so many fish. \_\_\_\_\_
7.     The journey home was quite easy. \_\_\_\_\_
8.     He arrived home just after sunset. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION 2

1. When did the wife remind the fisherman about his promise?
  - a. When they woke up
  - b. Just before they went out of the house
  - c. When they reached the seashore
  
2. Why did the fisherman forget to eat at midday?
  - a. He was trying hard to catch some fish.
  - b. He wasn't very hungry.
  - c. He was catching a lot of fish.
  
3. When did he remember his promise?
  - a. When he was almost finished fishing.
  - b. When he arrived home.
  - c. When his wife asked him about it.
  
4. What did he decide to do?
  - a. Find some mermaid fruit the next day.
  - b. Go to Duyong Island on his way home.
  - c. Take the fish home and then look for some fruit.
  
5. Why did the fisherman find it difficult to reach the shore?
  - a. It was almost dark.
  - b. His boat was heavy with fish.
  - c. He forgot his promise to his wife.

## GAPFILL 1 Verbs

The next day the fisherman and his wife \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up early and prepared the boat for the day's fishing. Just before the fisherman \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the house, his wife reminded him:

'Husband, don't forget \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) me some mermaid fruit when you come back today.'

'Of course, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not forget),' said the fisherman, and he climbed into his boat and sailed out to sea.

That day \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very good for the fisherman. Every time he \_\_\_\_\_ (throw) his net into the sea, it soon filled up with fish. After only a few hours his boat was full of fish. He was so busy \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) fish that he \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to sail to Duyong Island for his lunch and he forgot about his promise \_\_\_\_\_ (find) some mermaid fruit for his wife. It was only when he was pulling in his net for the last time that day that he remembered his promise.

'Oh dear!' he \_\_\_\_\_ (say) to himself. 'I almost forgot my promise to my wife. But what shall I do? It's almost dark and I must return home with all this fish. Never mind about the mermaid fruit. I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) some tomorrow.'

So he \_\_\_\_\_ (set) sail and returned to the seashore. It \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) easy because the boat was full of fish. The boat was so heavy that it \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) low in the water but the fisherman reached the safety of the shore just before it \_\_\_\_\_ (get) dark.

## **GAPFILL 2 Prepositions**

The next day the fisherman and his wife got \_\_\_\_\_ early and prepared the boat \_\_\_\_\_ the day's fishing. Just before the fisherman left the house, his wife reminded him:

'Husband, don't forget to bring me some mermaid fruit when you come back today.'

'Of course, I won't forget,' said the fisherman, and he climbed \_\_\_\_\_ his boat and sailed \_\_\_\_\_ to sea.

That day was very good for the fisherman. Every time he threw his net \_\_\_\_\_ the sea, it soon filled up with fish. \_\_\_\_\_ only a few hours his boat was full of fish. He was so busy catching fish that he forgot to sail to Duyong Island \_\_\_\_\_ his lunch and he forgot \_\_\_\_\_ his promise to find some mermaid fruit for his wife. It was only when he was pulling \_\_\_\_\_ his net for the last time that day that he remembered his promise.

'Oh dear!' he said \_\_\_\_\_ himself. 'I almost forgot my promise \_\_\_\_\_ my wife. But what shall I do? It's almost dark and I must return home \_\_\_\_\_ all this fish. Never mind \_\_\_\_\_ the mermaid fruit. I will find some tomorrow.'

So he set sail and returned to the seashore. It wasn't easy because the boat was full \_\_\_\_\_ fish. The boat was so heavy that it sat low \_\_\_\_\_ the water but the fisherman reached the safety of the shore just before it got dark.



## Chapter 5      A Broken Promise!

### VOCABULARY 1

*Match the words with their meanings:*

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. A little bit unhappy about something          | a. calm          |
| 2. Said you're sorry (you did something wrong!)  | b. angry         |
| 3. Flat, no waves (in the sea), also not angry   | c. mirror        |
| 4. When you look into this, you can see yourself | d. disappointed  |
| 5. Place   | e. empty         |
| 6. Nothing inside                                | f. spot          |
| 7. Ask yourself                                  | g. apologised    |
| 8. Lucky, luckily                                | h. fortunate(ly) |
| 9. Now, without waiting                          | i. wonder        |
| 10. Very annoyed                                 | j. immediately   |

*Now use some of the words above to complete this passage:*

I said I would meet my friend outside the cinema because we wanted to see a movie together. I was a little bit \_\_\_\_\_ when she didn't arrive on time. 'I \_\_\_\_\_ where she can be,' I thought. I waited and waited on the same \_\_\_\_\_ for more than an hour! When she finally arrived I was really \_\_\_\_\_ with her and wouldn't speak to her. She \_\_\_\_\_ to me and asked me to \_\_\_\_\_ down. We went into the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ and found our seats. \_\_\_\_\_, the movie hadn't started yet so we were able to watch the film even though we were so late.

## VOCABULARY 2 Anagrams

Find the hidden words from the text in the anagrams below and then match them with their meanings:

EXCEL TIDY	_____	with great emotion
TIRED NEFF	_____	not the same
NOT FORGET	_____	couldn't remember
MOTOR ROW	_____	the next day
DAME RIM	_____	half woman, half fish
MILE RET OK	_____	one thousand metres
TABS FREAK	_____	first meal of the day
MEDIAL YET MI	_____	don't wait!
NING EVE	_____	late afternoon
A DIED PIN POST	_____	not very happy

## COMPREHENSION 1 True / False

1. When he arrived home his wife was cooking dinner in the kitchen. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The first thing she spoke about was the mermaid fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She was unhappy when he said he didn't bring any fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
4. She apologized to him for being angry. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The fisherman gave two reasons why he didn't bring any fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The fisherman caught a lot of fish the next morning. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The second spot where he fished was better than the first. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The fisherman didn't remember his promise to his wife  
until he arrived home in the evening. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION 2      Short answers

1. How did the wife feel when she found out her husband did not bring mermaid fruit that day? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which word describes the sea the next day? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what way was the fisherman not so lucky in his usual place the next day? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long did he spend in the usual place? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How far did he sail to the new fishing place? \_\_\_\_\_

## GAPFILL 1    Verbs

When he arrived home that evening, his wife \_\_\_\_\_ (run) to the beach to meet him.

'Have you brought me some mermaid fruit?' she asked excitedly. She was very disappointed when he \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) her that he \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any with him.

'But you promised me you would find some!' she \_\_\_\_\_ (say).

'I'm sorry!' he said 'but my boat was full of fish and it was getting dark so I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) to come home immediately. I promise I will bring you some tomorrow.'

The next day, early in the morning, the fisherman \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up early, \_\_\_\_\_ (have) some breakfast and \_\_\_\_\_ (go) down to the sea.

Once again his wife reminded him about the promise to bring some mermaid fruit from Duyong Island.

'Of course, I won't forget this time,' he promised, and \_\_\_\_\_ (set) sail in his boat.

The sea \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very calm, almost like a mirror, as he reached the place where he \_\_\_\_\_ (throw) his net into the sea. But today he was not so lucky. Each time he pulled in his net, it was almost empty.

'Oh dear,' he \_\_\_\_\_ (think), 'I wonder where all the fish have gone today.' He \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a long time in his usual place but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not catch) many fish. After a few hours he decided to try a different place, about five kilometers away. When he threw his net into the sea it wasn't long before it filled up. This happened a few times and by early evening he \_\_\_\_\_ (have) enough fish so he decided to return to the shore.



## GAPFILL 2

When he arrived \_\_\_\_\_ that evening, his wife ran to the beach to meet him. 'Have you brought me some mermaid fruit?' she \_\_\_\_\_ excitedly. She was very \_\_\_\_\_ when he told her that he did not have any with him. 'But you promised me you would find some!' she said. 'I'm \_\_\_\_\_!' he said 'but my boat was full of \_\_\_\_\_ and it was getting dark so I had to come home immediately. I promise I will bring you some \_\_\_\_\_.'

The next \_\_\_\_\_ the fisherman got up early, had some breakfast and went down to the sea. Once again his wife reminded him about the \_\_\_\_\_ to bring some mermaid fruit from Duyong Island. 'Of \_\_\_\_\_ I won't forget this time,' he promised, and set sail in his \_\_\_\_\_.

The sea was very \_\_\_\_\_, almost like a mirror, as he reached the place where he threw his \_\_\_\_\_ into the sea. But today he was not so \_\_\_\_\_. Each time he pulled in his net, it was \_\_\_\_\_ empty. 'Oh dear,' he thought, 'I wonder where all the \_\_\_\_\_ have gone today.'

## WRITING

*Write a few sentences about why the fisherman forgot his promise to his wife in this part of the story.*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

## Chapter 6      A Sleepless Night!

### VOCABULARY 1

*Match the words with their meanings:*

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Water from your eyes when you feel sad      | a.     in her head |
| 2. Water moving quite quickly in large amounts | b.     ashamed     |
| 3. Part of your face, just under your eyes     | c.     cheeks      |
| 4. On her mind                                 | d.     furious     |
| 5. Feeling bad about something you've done     | e.     streaming   |
| 6. All   | f.     plan        |
| 7. Very angry                                  | g.     tears       |
| 8. Decide to do something and how to do it     | h.     whole       |

*Now use some of the words above to complete this passage:*

When the boy's parents found out he had stolen the money, he felt very \_\_\_\_\_ because he loved his parents very much and didn't want to hurt them. His \_\_\_\_\_ turned dark red in colour. His father was really \_\_\_\_\_ with his son and wouldn't speak to him. His mother spent the \_\_\_\_\_ day crying. You could see the \_\_\_\_\_ streaming down her face.

## VOCABULARY 2    Opposites

Write the opposites of the **highlighted** words to give the meaning of the original passage.

When he arrived home his wife helped him pull the boat \_\_\_\_\_ / **into** the water, collected the nets and took the fish to market to \_\_\_\_\_ / **buy**. When they sold all the fish and went back home, she \_\_\_\_\_ / **answered** him excitedly:

'Well, my \_\_\_\_\_ / **wife**, have you brought me mermaid fruit? Where is it? I can't see any.'

She was very \_\_\_\_\_ / **happy** when he told her that he didn't have any mermaid fruit.

'Don't you \_\_\_\_\_ / **hate** me anymore? Why do you \_\_\_\_\_ / **never** break your promises?' she asked \_\_\_\_\_ / **calmly** and immediately \_\_\_\_\_ / **stopped** crying, tears streaming \_\_\_\_\_ / **up** her cheeks.

## COMPREHENSION 1    Short answers

1. 'Well, my husband, have you brought me mermaid fruit?' Which word in the passage describes **how** she said this? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did they sell the fish? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did she feel when he told her he didn't have any fruit for her?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which word in the passage describes how he felt about forgetting his promise? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which word in the passage describes how the wife felt that night?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION 2

1. ***'Don't you love me anymore?'*** Why did the wife ask this?
  - a. Because he had brought back a lot of delicious fish.
  - b. Because he had forgotten his promise to her again.
  - c. Because he didn't want to find mermaid fruit for her.
  
2. ***'But look at all the beautiful, delicious fish I have caught for you, my love!'*** What was the fisherman thinking when he said this?
  - a. He thought his wife would be happy to have the fish.
  - b. He thought his wife wanted him to catch as many fish as many.
  - c. He thought his wife wouldn't be interested in the fish.
  
3. How did the fisherman feel because he had forgotten the mermaid fruit?
  - a. ashamed
  - b. angry
  - c. not interested
  
4. Why couldn't the fisherman sleep well that night?
  - a. He wasn't tired.
  - b. He was planning what to do the next day.
  - c. He felt ashamed because he had broken his promise.
  
5. Why couldn't the fisherman's wife sleep that night?
  - a. She wasn't sleepy.
  - b. She was ashamed about the broken promise.
  - c. She was deciding what to do the next day.

## GAPFILL 1 Verbs

When he arrived home his wife helped him \_\_\_\_\_ (pull) the boat out of the water, collected the nets and \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the fish to market to sell. When they \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) all the fish and went back home, she asked him excitedly:

'Well, my husband, \_\_\_\_\_ (you bring) me mermaid fruit? Where is it? I can't \_\_\_\_\_ (see) any.'

She was very disappointed when he \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) her that he didn't have any mermaid fruit.

'Don't you love me anymore? Why do you always break your promises?' she asked angrily and immediately started \_\_\_\_\_ (cry), tears streaming down her face.

'But look at all the beautiful, delicious fish I \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) for you, my love!' said the fisherman, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (know) that she was not so interested in the fish. He knew that the only thing on her mind \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the mermaid fruit.

The fisherman \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) sorry for her and was a little ashamed that he \_\_\_\_\_ (not keep) his promise. He \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about this all night and couldn't sleep.

'I must keep my promise tomorrow,' he said to himself. 'I \_\_\_\_\_ (not forget) again!'

His wife \_\_\_\_\_ (cannot) sleep either.

## GAPFILL 2 Prepositions

When he arrived home his wife helped him pull the boat \_\_\_\_\_ of the water, collected the nets and took the fish \_\_\_\_\_ market to sell. When they sold all the fish and went \_\_\_\_\_ home, she asked him excitedly:

'Well, my husband, have you brought me mermaid fruit? Where is it? I can't see any.'

She was very disappointed when he told her that he didn't have any mermaid fruit \_\_\_\_\_ him.

'Don't you love me anymore? Why do you always break your promises?' she asked angrily and immediately started crying, tears streaming \_\_\_\_\_ her face.

'But look \_\_\_\_\_ all the beautiful, delicious fish I have caught for you, my love!' said the fisherman, but he knew that she was not so interested \_\_\_\_\_ the fish. He knew that the only thing \_\_\_\_\_ her mind was the mermaid fruit.

The fisherman felt sorry \_\_\_\_\_ her and was a little ashamed that he didn't keep his promise. He thought \_\_\_\_\_ this all night and couldn't sleep.

'I must keep my promise tomorrow,' he said \_\_\_\_\_ himself. 'I will not forget again!'

His wife couldn't sleep either. She was angry that her husband couldn't remember to bring some mermaid fruit. All night long she couldn't sleep but \_\_\_\_\_ her mind she was making a plan \_\_\_\_\_ the next day.

'I'll make sure he doesn't forget tomorrow,' she thought \_\_\_\_\_ herself. 'Tomorrow I will eat mermaid fruit and make my wish \_\_\_\_\_ last!'

## WRITING

*Write a few sentences about this part of the story. Describe how the fisherman and his wife felt: use these words:*

<b><i>disappointed / sorry / angry / furious / ashamed / sad</i></b>
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## Chapter 7 The Mermaid Fruit

### VOCABULARY 1

*Match the words with their meanings:*

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. How you feel when something happens but you don't expect it | a. cried            |
| 2. Waiting for something to happen                             | b. worry            |
| 3. Not safe, harmful perhaps                                   | c. surprised        |
| 4. Think about bad things that might happen                    | d. change your mind |
| 5. Make sure everything is good                                | e. take care (of)   |
| 6. Make a different decision                                   | f. expecting        |
| 7. Leave, start the journey                                    | g. dangerous        |
| 8. Shouted   | h. set off          |

*Now use some of the words above to complete this passage. You need to change the form of some of the words:*

I said I would meet my friends at the park for a game of football. I \_\_\_\_\_ from home just after breakfast. I was \_\_\_\_\_ just a few people to come for the game but when I got there I was \_\_\_\_\_ to see a big crowd of people there. They were all standing in a circle on the football field. The first person I recognized was my friend Steve. When he saw me he \_\_\_\_\_ 'Hey, Alan, come over here. Take a look at this!' When I got there, I saw that all the people were looking at a long snake. 'Don't \_\_\_\_\_,' said Steve, 'it's not \_\_\_\_\_. It can't harm you. But we've \_\_\_\_\_ about the football game; we've decided not to play here after all!' 'OK,' I said, still watching the snake. 'I'll go home and finish my Maths homework then. \_\_\_\_\_ of yourself. See you at school tomorrow.'

## VOCABULARY 2 Anagrams

Find the hidden words from the passage in the anagrams below and then match them with their meanings:

- |                 |       |                           |
|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1. THE VERY GIN | _____ | Clue: all                 |
| 2. GOT THERE    | _____ | Clue: you with me         |
| 3. IS SPURRED   | _____ | Clue: didn't expect it    |
| 4. SEADOG RUN   | _____ | Clue: not safe            |
| 5. WELL FOOD    | _____ | Clue: came after          |
| 6. SCAN HERB    | _____ | Clue: arms of a tree      |
| 7. NIGH NAG     | _____ | Clue: dropping down       |
| 8. SAD LIN      | _____ | Clue: surrounded by water |
| 9. ARD SWOT     | _____ | Clue: in the direction    |
| 10. EMIT SUN    | _____ | Clue: lots of 60 seconds  |

## COMPREHENSION 1 True / False

1. The next day the couple got the boat ready together. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The fisherman asked his wife to come fishing with him that day. \_\_\_\_\_
3. When they arrived at the usual spot the fisherman wanted to start fishing. \_\_\_\_\_
4. His wife wanted to go fishing at a different spot. \_\_\_\_\_
5. When they reached Duyong Island they saw the mermaid fruit tree immediately. \_\_\_\_\_
6. There was a lot of fruit on the tree. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The fisherman and his wife had never seen the mermaid fruit tree before. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The fisherman found two fruits on the ground for himself and his wife. \_\_\_\_\_



## COMPREHENSION 2      MCQs

1. Why didn't the fisherman want his wife to go with him in the boat?
  - a. He thought it might harm the baby.
  - b. He knew there was a lot of hard work for him to do that day.
  - c. He felt surprised by her decision.
  
2. How did he feel about his wife coming fishing with him?
  - a. He was quite happy because they could catch more fish.
  - b. He didn't feel good about it and told her not to come.
  - c. He didn't like the idea but knew she had decided to come.
  
3. How long did the couple spend fishing that day?
  - a. The whole morning.
  - b. Just part of the morning.
  - c. They didn't spend any time fishing.
  
4. What was the wife's plan for that day?
  - a. To catch fish first and then look for the fruit.
  - b. To sail to Duyong Island to have lunch.
  - c. To find mermaid fruit and make a wish.
  
5. How did they know the fruit on the tree was mermaid fruit?
  - a. It was hanging from the branches.
  - b. They had never seen fruit like this before.
  - c. It tasted delicious.

## **GAPFILL 1            Mixed Verbs**

The next morning the fisherman got ready as usual and his wife helped him \_\_\_\_\_ (put) everything on the boat. Then she said:

‘Husband, every day you \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to bring me mermaid fruit from Duyong Island so today I am going with you in the boat and we will find mermaid fruit together, you and I.’

The fisherman was very surprised at this and said to her:

‘But you \_\_\_\_\_ (expect) a baby! It is hard work on the boat. Perhaps it is not good for our baby! It may be dangerous.’

‘\_\_\_\_\_ (not worry) about me!’ she said, ‘and don’t worry about my baby. I will take care of everything as soon as we \_\_\_\_\_ (find) some mermaid fruit.’

The fisherman wasn’t happy but he \_\_\_\_\_ (know) his wife would not change her mind. They \_\_\_\_\_ (set) off and sailed towards Duyong Island. When they reached the usual place on the sea, the fisherman wanted \_\_\_\_\_ (throw) his net into the sea to catch some fish but his wife said:

‘No! Today there will be no fishing. We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Duyong Island immediately and find some mermaid fruit. You will not forget your promise today!’

The fisherman knew she \_\_\_\_\_ (not change) her mind so he sailed to Duyong Island. When they reached the island, he jumped out of the boat into the water and pulled the boat onto the sand. Then they followed a small stream for a few minutes until they \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a large tree with lots of fruit \_\_\_\_\_ (hang) from its branches.

‘I \_\_\_\_\_ (not know) this tree,’ said the fisherman. ‘I \_\_\_\_\_ (never see) fruit like this in all my life.’

‘This must be the mermaid fruit!’ \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) the wife excitedly. ‘Climb up and get me some fruit!’

## GAPFILL 2      Prepositions

The next morning the fisherman got ready as usual and his wife helped him put everything on the boat. Then she said:

'Husband, every day you forget to bring me mermaid fruit \_\_\_\_\_ Duyong Island so today I am going \_\_\_\_\_ you in the boat and we will find mermaid fruit together, you and I.'

The fisherman was very surprised \_\_\_\_\_ this and said to her:

'But you are expecting a baby! It is hard work \_\_\_\_\_ the boat. Perhaps it is not good \_\_\_\_\_ our baby! It may be dangerous.'

'Don't worry \_\_\_\_\_ me!' she said, 'and don't worry \_\_\_\_\_ my baby. I will take care \_\_\_\_\_ everything as soon as we find some mermaid fruit.'

The fisherman wasn't happy but he knew his wife would not change her mind. They set \_\_\_\_\_ and sailed towards Duyong Island. When they reached the usual place on the sea, the fisherman wanted to throw his net \_\_\_\_\_ the sea to catch some fish but his wife said:

'No! Today there will be no fishing. We will go to Duyong Island immediately and find some mermaid fruit. You will not forget your promise today!'

The fisherman knew she wouldn't change her mind so he sailed \_\_\_\_\_ Duyong Island. When they reached the island, he jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the boat into the water and pulled the boat \_\_\_\_\_ the sand. Then they followed a small stream \_\_\_\_\_ a few minutes until they saw a large tree with lots of fruit hanging \_\_\_\_\_ its branches.

## WRITING

*Write a few sentences about what happened in this part of the story.*

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## Chapter 8      The Mermaid

### VOCABULARY 1

Match the words with their meanings:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Not different at all                  | a. scales           |
| 2. Not clear about something             | b. exactly the same |
| 3. Put two or more things together       | c. appeared         |
| 4. Part of the body where your food goes | d. closely          |
| 5. (look) carefully, near                | e. join             |
| 6. The 'skin' of the fish                | f. rock             |
| 7. Fell (down)                           | g. confused         |
| 8. Could be seen                         | h. stomach          |
| 9. A large stone                         | i. slipped          |
| 10. Not near, far away                   | j. in the distance  |

*Now use some of the words to complete these sentences:*

1. When they saw the path split into five different ways, they felt \_\_\_\_\_ and didn't know which way to go.
2. I ate something bad yesterday and now my \_\_\_\_\_ hurts.
3. We couldn't see anything and then suddenly, \_\_\_\_\_, the figure of a woman \_\_\_\_\_. We couldn't see who it was but when we looked \_\_\_\_\_, we could see it was my sister.
4. The boy broke his leg when he \_\_\_\_\_ on the banana skin.
5. 'This holiday is boring!' complained the boy. 'Every day is \_\_\_\_\_; nothing different ever happens!'
6. They had to \_\_\_\_\_ hands to help each other cross the river.

## VOCABULARY 2 Anagrams

- |                |       |                                |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 1. FARM SHINE  | _____ | Clue: someone who catches fish |
| 2. OIL IS CUED | _____ | Clue: tastes really good       |
| 3. OF DUNCES   | _____ | Clue: not knowing what to do   |
| 4. CELASS      | _____ | Clue: they cover a fish        |
| 5. A PAPER     | _____ | Clue: come into view           |
| 6. DEAR THUG   | _____ | Clue: female child             |
| 7. MASTER      | _____ | Clue: small river              |
| 8. SELL COY    | _____ | Clue: near                     |
| 9. MOTH SAC    | _____ | Clue: part of the body         |
| 10. SENT ACID  | _____ | Clue: far away, not near       |

## COMPREHENSION 1 True / False

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. When the fisherman had finished eating the fruit, he made his wish.                              | _____ |
| 2. The wife wished for a strong, healthy mermaid.   | _____ |
| 2. The fisherman made his wish at the same time as his wife made her wish.                          | _____ |
| 3. When she finished eating, the wife felt the fruit moving around in her stomach.                  | _____ |
| 4. When the baby was born, the couple saw immediately that there was something different about her. | _____ |
| 7. The baby's legs were covered in scales.  | _____ |
| 5. The wife threw the baby into the water when she saw the baby's tail.                             | _____ |
| 8. From the story we're not sure whether the fisherman saw his daughter again or not.               | _____ |

## COMPREHENSION 2      MCQs

1. Why was the fisherman surprised when he bit into the fruit?
  - a. It tasted better than he thought it would.
  - b. He got his wish immediately.
  - c. He thought it must be magic.
  
2. What happened as soon as the wife had eaten the fruit?
  - a. She felt the baby coming.
  - b. She got her wish.
  - c. She felt sick.
  
3. When the couple made their wish the tree was confused because
  - a. It didn't understand what they wanted.
  - b. They both wished for the same thing.
  - c. This was the first time it had had two wishes on one day.
  
4. How could you describe the baby girl?
  - a. strong, healthy and normal
  - b. beautiful and healthy but not normal
  - c. not beautiful and not normal
  
5. What happened when the baby fell into the stream?
  - a. Her parents couldn't see her for a few minutes.
  - b. Her parents jumped into the water to help her.
  - c. Her parents never saw her again.

## GAPFILL 1 Mixed Verbs

When the fisherman \_\_\_\_\_(bite) into the fruit he was surprised how delicious the flesh tasted.

'This really must be magic fruit,' he \_\_\_\_\_ (think) to himself, and he started to make his wish.

'I want \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) a big fish, the biggest fish in the world. Fish...fish...fish!'

At exactly the same time, of course, the fisherman's wife \_\_\_\_\_ (make) her wish.

'I want a strong, healthy baby. Baby...baby...baby!'

The mermaid fruit was a little confused by this. This was the first time that people \_\_\_\_\_ (make) two wishes on one day and it \_\_\_\_\_ (not know) what to do. In the end, it decided \_\_\_\_\_ (join) their wishes together.

As soon as the wife \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) her fruit she began to feel something moving inside her stomach.

'Husband,' she cried, 'help me! Our baby \_\_\_\_\_ (come)!'

After a few minutes a strong, healthy little girl was born. She was really beautiful! But there was something about her, something different. When the fisherman and his wife looked closely at their beautiful little daughter, they \_\_\_\_\_ (see) that in place of strong, healthy legs, she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a strong, healthy tail, very much like the tail of a fish. The tail moved from one side to the other. What's more, the tail was covered in scales, just like a fish. So, you see, in a way they both got what they \_\_\_\_\_ (wish) for!

As the baby girl moved about, she \_\_\_\_\_ (slip) from her mother's arms and \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) into the fresh water of the stream. Her parents \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) out in fear as their daughter fell into the water. But after a few minutes she appeared again. She \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) in the stream, just like a fish!

## **GAPFILL 2            Prepositions**

When the fisherman bit \_\_\_\_\_ the fruit he was surprised how delicious the flesh tasted.

'This really must be magic fruit,' he thought \_\_\_\_\_ himself, and he started to make his wish.

'I want to catch a big fish, the biggest fish \_\_\_\_\_ the world. Fish...fish...fish!' \_\_\_\_\_ exactly the same time, of course, the fisherman's wife made her wish.

'I want a strong, healthy baby. Baby...baby...baby!'

The mermaid fruit was a little confused \_\_\_\_\_ this. This was the first time that people had made two wishes \_\_\_\_\_ one day and it didn't know what to do. \_\_\_\_\_ the end, it decided to join their wishes together.

As soon as the wife had eaten her fruit she began to feel something moving \_\_\_\_\_ her stomach.

'Husband,' she cried, 'help me! Our baby is coming!'

\_\_\_\_\_ a few minutes a strong, healthy little girl was born. She was really beautiful! But there was something \_\_\_\_\_ her, something different. When the fisherman and his wife looked closely \_\_\_\_\_ their beautiful little daughter, they saw that \_\_\_\_\_ place of strong, healthy legs, she had a strong, healthy tail, very much like the tail of a fish. The tail moved \_\_\_\_\_ one side to the other. What's more, the tail was covered \_\_\_\_\_ scales, just like a fish. So, you see, in a way they both got what they wished \_\_\_\_\_!



