

# The Hare and the Tortoise

One day, a hare was making fun of a tortoise for moving so slowly.

“Look at me!” bragged the hare. “Look how much faster I can run than him!”

Then, the hare sprinted across the field at full speed. All the animals around were amazed and agreed that he was very quick. The tortoise didn’t say anything at all. The hare then ran back just as quickly.

“Look,” he said proudly. “I’m not even out of breath.”

The hare challenged the other animals in the forest to race, but nobody wanted to. They were tired of his arrogance but they knew that they could not beat him.

“None of you?” the hare sneered. “You’re all too scared of me!”

Still, none of the animals said anything. Then, the tortoise spoke up.

‘I will,’ he said. ‘I don’t mind.’

All of the other animals looked at him in shock. The hare simply laughed. He didn’t think that there was any point in racing the slowest of them all, but he agreed because he thought it would be amusing.

‘Okay then, Tortoise. You seriously think you’re faster than me?’ asked the hare. ‘Let’s race and I’ll show you that you’re wrong.’

They decided on a starting point and the fox told them when to start.



‘Ready, steady, go!’ shouted the fox.

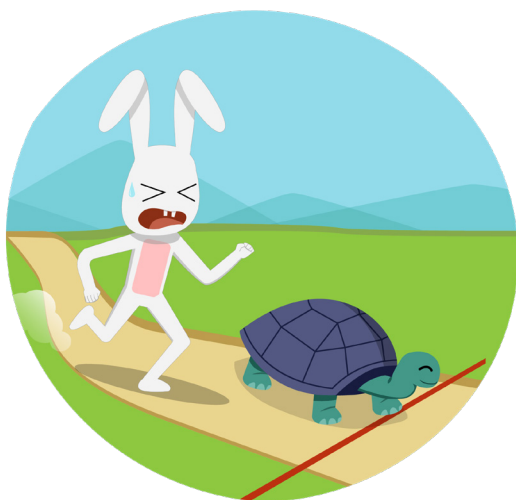
As soon as it began, the hare sprinted out of sight. He didn’t just want to win, he wanted to embarrass the tortoise. On the other hand, the tortoise wasn’t even running. He was moving at the same slow speed at which he always walked.

Knowing how far ahead he was, the hare stopped to take a nap until the tortoise came closer.

The tortoise moved across the field, slowly but steadily. The hare continued to sleep. The tortoise kept going.

Eventually, the tortoise came within a metre of the finishing line. Upon hearing the excited cheers of the other animals, the hare suddenly woke up. He jumped up. Realising his mistake, the hare tried to sprint after the tortoise at full speed. It was too late. The tortoise had reached the finishing point.

The tortoise had beaten the hare fair and square.



# Questions

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- 1 Which word has the same meaning as 'bragged'?

☐ said  
☐ boasted  
☐ promised  
☐ yelled

- 2 Why did the other animals not want to race?

☐ They knew that they would lose.  
☐ They were tired of the hare's arrogance.  
☐ They didn't want to embarrass the hare.  
☐ They could not bear to be around the hare.

- 3 Why did the tortoise want to race the hare?

☐ because he loves to run  
☐ because he was tired of listening to him boast  
☐ because he wanted to be friends with the hare  
☐ because he knew that he could run faster than the hare

- 4 Which word could replace 'amusing' without changing the meaning of the sentence below?

He didn't think that there was any point in racing the slowest of them all, but he agreed because he thought it would be **amusing**.

☐ funny  
☐ challenging  
☐ easy  
☐ boasted

- 5 Who told the hare and the tortoise when to start?
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- 6 Which fact about the tortoise is true?

☐ The tortoise walked at his normal pace.  
☐ The tortoise stayed on the starting line.  
☐ The tortoise sprinted off the start line.  
☐ The tortoise disappeared out of sight.

7 Why did the hare stop for a rest?

- ☐ He wanted to give the tortoise a chance.
- ☐ He needed to tie his shoe lace.
- ☐ He was feeling sleepy.
- ☐ He thought that he had plenty of time to rest and still win the race.

8 Why were the other animals cheering excitedly?

- ☐ The animals wanted to wake up the hare.
- ☐ The hare and the tortoise were neck and neck.
- ☐ The animals were pleased that the hare was winning the race.
- ☐ The animals were pleased to see that the tortoise was beating the hare.

9 Which word describes how the hare must have felt at the end of the race?

- ☐ embarrassed
- ☐ pleased
- ☐ fortunate
- ☐ proud

10 The story of the hare and the tortoise is a fable. Fables are stories which teach a moral lesson.

- ☐ If you go at the pace of the slowest person, you will always succeed.
- ☐ If you believe that you are truly the best person, then you will always be the most successful.
- ☐ You can be more successful by doing things slowly and steadily than by acting quickly and carelessly.
- ☐ Whoever they are, whatever size they are, we should help each other, and these kind deeds are always rewarded.

Score:

# Answers

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- 1 Which word has the same meaning as 'bragged'? ☒ boasted
- 2 Why did the other animals not want to race? ☒ They knew that they would lose.
- 3 Why did the tortoise want to race the hare? ☒ because he was tired of listening to him
- 4 Which word could replace 'amusing' without changing the meaning of the sentence below?  
  
He didn't think that there was any point in racing the slowest of them all, but he agreed because he thought it would be **amusing**.  
  
☒ funny
- 5 Who told the hare and the tortoise when to start?  
  
The fox
- 6 Which fact about the tortoise is true? ☒ The tortoise walked at his normal pace.
- 7 Why did the hare stop for a rest? ☒ He thought that he had plenty of time to rest and still win the race.
- 8 Why were the other animals cheering excitedly? ☒ The animals were pleased to see that the tortoise was beating the hare.
- 9 Which word describes how the hare must have felt at the end of the race? ☒ embarrassed
- 10 What do you think the moral of this story is? ☒ You can be more successful by doing things slowly and steadily than by acting quickly and carelessly.