

READING SUCCESS

Second Edition

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Pieter Koster

with MP3 CD

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A Lazy Man



John was lazy. He didn't want to work. He preferred to stay at home and watch television.

One day, John's wife went to the supermarket. She saw a "help wanted" sign in the supermarket window. The supermarket needed someone to put things on the shelves. She spoke to the manager. She told him that her husband didn't have a job, but he was very strong. She told him that John would come to talk to him about the job.

When she got home, she told her husband about the job. John was watching television while she was talking to him. His wife was angry. She turned off the television. She ordered him to go to the supermarket to **apply** for the job. John didn't want his wife to be angry, so he went.

On the way to the supermarket, John thought what would happen if the manager offered him a job. He wouldn't be able to stay home and watch television. He would have to go to the supermarket every day and put things on the shelves.

Then he had an idea. He decided to tell the manager that he had a **sore** shoulder so that he could not **raise** his arm above his head. He was sure the manager wouldn't give him the job.

When he arrived at the supermarket, he told the manager that he needed a job.

"Are you strong?" the manager asked.

John explained that he couldn't raise his arm above his head. John told him that he had an **accident** at home while **digging** in the garden.

"How high can you raise your arm?" the manager asked.

John lifted his arm a little. "Only this high," he said.

"And how high could you raise it before the accident?" asked the manager.

"This high," said John. And he lifted his arm above his head.



¹² **apply** to make a request for something

¹⁹ **sore** painful

¹⁹ **raise** to lift up

²⁵ **accident** an unexpected event, often causing injury

²⁶ **dig** to make a hole in the ground using a spade or shovel

Vocabulary Review

■ Match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. accident • | • a. to command |
| 2. sore • | • b. an event when a person gets hurt |
| 3. order • | • c. painful |

Reading Comprehension

■ Choose the best answer.

- What is funny about this story?
 - The manager hires John.
 - John's wife gets a job.
 - John is too busy.
 - John is caught lying.
- How did John feel about getting a job?
 - It would be interesting.
 - It would take up his free time.
 - It would make him happy.
 - It would hurt his arm.
- John said he hurt his arm _____.
 - cooking dinner
 - mowing the yard
 - picking fruit
 - working outside
- John said he could not "lift" his arm. It means he could not _____ it.
 - bend
 - move
 - raise
 - turn

Summary

■ Fill in each blank with the correct word.

apply lazy manager raise shoulder

John didn't have a job because he was **1** _____ and didn't want to work. His wife made him **2** _____ for a job at the supermarket. John didn't want to work, so he acted like he had a sore **3** _____. He said he couldn't raise his arm. The **4** _____ was too clever. He asked John how high he could **5** _____ his arm before it was sore, so John showed him.

My New Baby Brother



From my diary

Today Mom came home from the hospital and brought my new baby brother with her. He was born last week and is very tiny. Mom let me hold him for a minute. He yawned, opened his eyes, and looked at me. I told him my name and welcomed him to the family, but he couldn't understand that yet. Mom and Dad laughed.

I must be careful when I hold my brother. It must be very easy to hurt new babies because they are so small and **helpless**. We have to do everything for them. They can't even use the bathroom. They just do it in their diapers and then Mom or Dad has to change the **diaper**. It smells awful! I wonder where it all comes from because they don't actually eat. They just drink milk. It's very embarrassing to see my brother drinking Mom's milk.

Dad is very happy that Mom and the new baby are home. So am I because Dad can't cook very well! I had to do a lot of things myself, like **making my own bed**. Dad says that Mom is very tired and will be very busy with the baby, so I will have to keep doing those things anyway.

The baby's name is Thomas. I thought he would cry a lot, but most of the time he just sleeps. I go to look at him now and then, but he doesn't do very much. Mom's always telling me to be quiet and not to wake him.

Thomas got lots and lots of toys when people visited him and my mom in the hospital. But he can't play with them yet. He can't even **sit up**.

I hope he grows up quickly so that I can play with him.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds **299 words**



⁸ **helpless** unable to do anything oneself

¹¹ **diaper** cloth or paper underwear worn by a baby

¹⁶ **make one's bed** to put sheets on a bed, making it ready for use

²⁵ **sit up** to move from lying down to an upright position

Vocabulary Review

Choose the correct word to put in the blank.

1. Ouch! A _____ piece of dirt went into my eye!
a. tiny b. helpless c. new d. careful
2. The cat opened its eyes, stretched, and _____.
a. held b. welcomed c. visited d. yawned
3. I smell something bad. Is the baby's _____ dirty?
a. diaper b. bathroom c. milk d. toy

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What surprises the boy about Thomas?
a. Thomas sleeps very little. b. Thomas is quiet.
c. Thomas is helpless. d. Thomas drinks milk.
2. Where does Thomas get his milk?
a. From a bottle b. From his mother's chest
c. From the refrigerator d. From his brother
3. Why is the boy happy Thomas and his mother are home?
a. He likes to play with Thomas. b. He missed his mother.
c. He wants to stop cleaning. d. He wants to eat good food.
4. If you do something "now and then," you _____ do this.
a. always b. never c. sometimes d. often

Summary

Fill in each blank with the correct word.

baby

brother

hospital

quickly

watching

The boy's mother came home from the 1 _____ with a new baby. He was very happy to have a new 2 _____, whose name is Thomas. He thinks that the 3 _____ can't do anything yet and spends a lot of time sleeping. He gets bored 4 _____ Thomas. He wants Thomas to grow up 5 _____ so that he can play with him.