

Lesson 5

Rip Van Winkle



Once upon a time at the foothills of New York's Catskill Mountains there was a beautiful village. There lived a kind Dutch villager named Rip Van Winkle. He was loved by all in his village specially the children whom he told stories and gave toys. He was very kind and gentle. But he was a lazy man. He was so lazy that he liked to sleep the whole day.

Rip Van Winkle was a henpecked husband. His problem was that he did not like to work either in his house or on his farm. He did not really take care of his family. So his wife Dame

Van Winkle constantly nagged him about his laziness. In order to escape his wife's constant harrassment, one autumn day Rip decided to leave his home.

Rip Van Winkle ran up a mountain with his favourite companion, his dog named Wolf and his gun. He reached the top, crossed a stream and went to a spot where nobody had ever been. He sat down there panting. Suddenly he heard someone calling his name. He thought, "Strange ! Nobody ever comes here and surely no one is here whom I know." When he turned to see who was calling, he saw a funny looking man carrying a big barrel. The man said to him, "Please help me carry this barrel to my friends a little down the stream."

Rip Van Winkle decided to help the man. So he and the funny looking man walked down the stream to a cave in the mountain. There Rip Van Winkle saw many other funny looking men and all of them were playing the game of ninepins. As soon as the barrel was placed on the ground, the men took some mugs, dipped them into the barrel and drank some liquid from the barrel.

Rip Van Winkle also dipped a mug in the barrel and drank like the funny looking men. It tasted good. So he drank many mugs. After drinking he went to sleep. When he woke up, he saw that all the funny looking men were gone. He searched for his dog Wolf but did not find it. He could not believe that he had slept the whole day and

the whole night. He then picked up his gun and went back to his village. When he entered the village he saw new faces. He knew all the villagers so well but lo ! They were all unfamiliar faces to him. All of them looked at him and rubbed their chins. Seeing them doing that, Rip also did the same. Then he found that his beard had grown a foot long overnight and it was all white.

An old woman came near him and recognised him. She shouted with joy, "Oh! It's Rip Van Winkle. Where were you? We haven't seen you for twenty years." Then Rip Van Winkle realised that he had been sleeping for twenty long years.

(Adapted from the short story Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving)

New Words

Dutch foothills henpecked nagged stream barrel cave
 mountain dipped rubbed chin beard overnight recognised
 realised gentle escape harrassment panting unfamiliar funny

For the teacher only

The students are expected to learn the different uses of the verbs like am, is, are, was, were, has and have both as auxiliary verbs and main verbs.

Comprehension :

- Answer the following questions in complete sentences.
 - Why did the children love Rip Van Winkle?
 - What was the name of his wife?
 - What was the funny looking man carrying?
 - What was the name of Rip's dog?
 - What was the name of the game that the funny looking men were playing?
 - Who recognised Rip?
 - For how many years had Rip Van Winkle been sleeping?
- Write whether the following statements are true or false.
 - Rip Van Winkle was a very hard working man.
 - The funny looking men drank milk from the barrel.
 - Rip decided to help the funny looking man.

- d) When Rip woke up, he found Wolf nearby him.
 - e) Rip's beard had grown a foot long overnight.
 - f) Rip recognised everybody in the village.
3. Find out four words from the lesson related to nature.

Grammar and usage:

A.

Uses of the different forms of the
verb "be"
am, is, are, was, were

"be" verb as a **main verb**

Examples:

- a) I **am** a girl.
- b) He **is** a boy.
- c) You **are** a student.
- d) They **are** players.
- e) We **are** teachers.
- f) My grandmother **was** a singer.
- g) She **was** a brilliant girl.
- h) The girls **were** dancers.
- i) The women **were** very clever.
- j) The flowers **were** very beautiful.

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"be" verb as an **auxiliary verb**

In Present Continuous Tense we use the forms of the "be" verb
am, is, are as **auxiliary verbs**.

Now look at the following table:

	Singular	Plural
First person :	I am playing	We are playing
Second person :	You are playing	You are playing
Third person :	He is playing Mallika is playing	They are playing

Activity 1

Match the three parts and rewrite the sentences. Use words from A and C only once.

A	B	C
Arjun		a hockey player.
They	am	a good swimmer.
Rizwan	are	an engineer.
You	is	very good girls.
We	was	a famous athlete.
I	were	journalists.
Christina		a good wrestler.

Activity 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct present continuous tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

- The child (cry) because it is hungry.
- Look! She (draw) a beautiful picture.
- The boys (run) in the field now.
- My mother is busy now because she (knit) a sweater for me.
- At this moment I (write) a letter to my friend.
- The boy (sleep); don't disturb him.
- You can't meet him now because he (study).
- The workers are busy because they (dig) the well.

B.

Uses of "has" and "have"
as main verbs

Examples:

- He **has** a pet dog.
- They **have** a red car.
- Birina **has** a beautiful frock.
- I **have** a brother.

- e) You **have** a sister.
- f) We **have** a beautiful building.
- g) The cat **has** a broken leg.
- h) This tree **has** many branches.
- i) The boys **have** a volleyball.
- j) The girls **have** three violins.

Activity 3

Fill in the blanks with **has** or **have**.

- a) My mother the novel named “David Copperfield” by Charles Dickens.
- b) Jutika a costly watch.
- c) His brothers several interesting story books.
- d) The babies colourful sweaters.
- e) They a nice collection of short stories.
- f) Mr. Naren Kalita a motorcycle.
- g) The child a lovely doll.
- h) Her parents an old car.
- i) These children five balls.
- j) The boy a bicycle.

Writing Activity:

Biographical sketch

In the following box you will see some information about Kailash Satyarthi. Use the information and write a few sentences about him.

- * was born on 11 January 1954 in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
- * an Indian Children’s Rights activist
- * founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- * acted to protect the rights of more than 83000 children from 144 countries
- * awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize along with Malala Yousafzai

Build Up Your Vocabulary

Complete the following by choosing words from the box

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cunning gentle black cool light brave green busy slow clever
cold dumb faithful hot hard proud loud silent
red white warm sweet innocent

a) as.....as wool

c) as as honey

e) as as grass

g) as as a cucumber

i) as as a lion

k) as as a lamb

m) as as ice

o) as as a dog

q) as.....as a stone

s) as.....as thunder

u) as.....as blood

w) as as snow



b) as as a snail

d) as as a bee

f) as as a feather

h) as as coal

j) as as a fox

l) as as a crow

n) as as a statue

p) as as a dove

r) as as fire

t) as as a peacock

v) as as a grave