

Aesop's Fable of The Tortoise and the Hare

The Fable of the Tortoise and the Hare is one of Aesop's most famous stories. You may well already know how it goes. In this exercise, you are going to use that knowledge, along with your Latin and your thinking skills to read the story in four parts.

Each part is written twice, once in Latin, and once in English. But there is a catch! The English has lots of gaps. Your job is to use the Latin and the vocabulary notes to fill in those gaps. The boxes below the Latin will help you with almost all the words you need, but remember, the aim is to make the English make sense by using the right forms of the words! The Latin will give you all the clues you need, as long as you think carefully!

Part One:

Testudo est. Testudo tarda est, immo tardissima est. Lepus atque est. Lepus celer est, immo celerrimus est. Pedes leporis magni sunt, immo maximi sunt. Pedes testudinis parvi sunt, immo minimi sunt. Lepus, pedes testudinis conspiciens, ridere coepit. Dicit pedes testudinis ridiculos esse. Dicit atque testudinem tardissimam esse.

Vocabulary:

NOTE: The endings here are might be different because Latin is a language where the endings change!

est = is	tardus = slow	conspiciens = seeing
testudo = tortoise	atque = also	tardissima = very slow
lepus = hare	magnus = big	parvus = small
pes = foot	immo = indeed	ridere = to laugh
minimus = very small	celer = fast	ridiculus = silly
coepere = to start	maximus = very big	

There is a **tortoise**. The _____ is _____, indeed she is _____
 _____. There is _____ a _____. The hare _____
 _____. Indeed, the hare _____ _____. The
 hare's feet _____ big, indeed, they _____. The
 _____ feet _____, indeed, _____
 _____. The hare, seeing the tortoise's feet,
 _____ to _____. He says that the tortoise's _____ are
 _____. He also says that the _____ is very _____.

Part Two:

Hoc testudini non placet. Testudo leporem corrogat ut cursu contendat, dicens, 'Ego tē celerior sum.' Lepus, certus victoriae, ridet et consentit.

Vocabulary:

NOTE: Only new words are written below. For words already used, look at the vocabulary box above.

postridie = the next day
arbiter = judge
mox = soon
supervenire = to overtake
videns = seeing
putare = to think

convenire = meet
longus = long
currens = running
tandem = at last
adhuc = still

dormire = to sleep
vulpes = fox
longissimus = very long
nimum = a long way
lassus = tired

The _____ the _____ and _____ meet.

They chose the _____ as a _____. The fox _____ a long course, indeed, he chooses a _____. The tortoise and the hare agree and begin. _____ the hare, running _____ overtakes the _____ by a long way. But _____ the hare is _____. Not seeing the tortoise, and still _____ of _____, the hare thinks it is _____ to _____.

Part Four:

Testudo, interea, tardissime ambulat, sed haud desistit. Tandem leporem dormientem supervenit. Non multo post, lepus surgit et, testudinem supervenientem videns, currit. Sed sero est, et testudo ad finem prior pervenit. Sic testudo, quamquam tardissima, victor est.

Vocabulary:

NOTE: Only new words are written below. For words already used, look at the vocabulary box above.

interea = meanwhile
sed = but
dormiens = sleeping
videns = seeing
sero = too late
pervenire = to arrive
quamquam = even though

tardissime = very slowly
haud = not at all
non multo post = not long later
supveniens = overtaking
ad = to/at
sic = so

ambulare = to walk
desister = to stop
surgere = gets up
currere = run
prior = first/before
victor = winner

Meanwhile the _____ walks _____ but
_____ stop at all. At last he _____ the
_____ hare. Not _____, the hare _____
_____ and, seeing the tortoise _____ him, runs. But it is
_____, and the tortoise at the _____ first. So the
tortoise, even though _____, is _____
_____.

The Moral of the Story

All of Aesop's fables teach a particular moral: a way we should behave and the reason why we should behave that way. What do you think the fable of The Tortoise and the Hare is supposed to teach us. Write a sentence explaining what you think the moral of the story is, and two sentences explaining why.

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