

The Apple Tree

Questions

1. What was weird about the apple tree?
 - a) It was Isaac Newton's apple tree.
 - b) It produced very small apples.
 - c) It produced a lot of apples.
2. What did the wooden sign say?
 - a) Please take all the apples.
 - b) Please help yourself to apples.
 - c) Please help us pick the apples.
3. Who were Adam and Eve?
 - a) Old neighbours who we knew well.
 - b) New neighbours who were strangers.
 - c) A couple from another neighbourhood.
4. Why did they knock on the door?
 - a) To say thank you.
 - b) To say hello.
 - c) To ask if there was a limit.
5. What did Poppy do when she saw Adam and Eve?
 - a) She jumped on them excitedly.
 - b) She barked angrily at them.
 - c) She sniffed their feet.

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6. What did Adam and Eve use to pick the apples?
 - a) Professional harvesting equipment.
 - b) Gardening tools from their shed.
 - c) Their hands and a ladder.

7. Why was Phillip mad about the situation?
 - a) He thought it was inconsiderate to grandma Joyce.
 - b) He thought they were being greedy and selfish.
 - c) He wanted to make an apple pie for Isabel.

8. What did Isabel suggest Phillip should do?
 - a) Ignore them and buy some apples later.
 - b) Approach them in a peaceful way.
 - c) Give Adam and Eve a piece of his mind.

9. What was Adam's excuse?
 - a) You shouldn't have put the sign there.
 - b) You said there was no limit.
 - c) You can't eat all the apples yourself.

10. What did Isabel do to stop them from escaping?
 - a) She grabbed him by the jacket and Poppy attacked him.
 - b) She punched him on the neck and grabbed his nether region.
 - c) She called the police and reported them.

Listening Practice

The Apple Tree

Fill in the gaps

1. It was that time of the year again and the daffodils were _____ .

- a) withering b) blooming c) popping

2. The apple tree had, once again produced _____ apples than the average orchard.

- a) far more b) well less c) quite fewer

3. Adam and Eve are the couple who bought Mrs Wilson's cottage after she passed _____ .

- a) out b) away c) off

4. When he opened the door, they were grinning at him from _____ .

- a) eye to eye b) mouth to mouth c) ear to ear

5. I realised that I should have paid more attention to Poppy's _____ .

- a) growling b) barking c) snouting

Listening Practice

The Apple Tree

Fill in the gaps

6. He was furious to find that they had almost _____ the tree of all apples.

- a) peeled b) stripped c) removed

7. It was so _____ of them to take 20 buckets of apples.

- a) greedy b) unselfish c) stingy

8. I'd been standing there for so long biting my _____.

- a) lips b) tongue c) mouth

9. Grandma Joyce was going to be _____ disappointed with the lack of pie.

- a) remarkably b) thoroughly c) utterly

10. The heavy green shiny apple hit Isabel on her forehead and knocked her _____.

- a) over b) out c) away

Listening Practice

The Apple Tree

Vocabulary

sprung - brotado (spring / sprang / sprung)

daffodils - narcisos

blooming - floreciendo

swan - cisne

to glance - contemplar

wooden sign - cartel / señal hecho de madera

to help yourself to something – sírvase usted mismo

orchard – un huerto de árboles frutales

to come up with sth – inventarse, elaborar

to deal with sth – hacer frente a algo

to go around – ser suficiente

weird - raro, extraño

concussion - conmoción cerebral

to drop - caerse, tirar

fake - falso

fully clothed - vestidos

to grin from ear to ear – sonreír de oreja a oreja

I can't help myself – no puedo evitarlo

to be a good judge of character – ser buen psicólogo

to do your duty – cumplir con tu obligación

to bark - ladrar

to judge - juzgar

to grab - coger, agarrar

cottage - casa de campo

Listening Practice

The Apple Tree

Vocabulary

to pass away - fallecer

to unload - descargar

harvesting tools – herramientas para cosechar

shed – cobertizo, caseta

cider brewery – fábrica de sidra

speechless - mudo, sin habla

seething - furioso, enfurecido

outraged - indignado

anger - ira, rabia

How dare they! - ¡Cómo se atreven!

to gaze - contemplar, mirar fijamente

to run out of steam – perder fuerza / el entusiasmo

to bite your tongue – callarse, morderse la lengua

fist - puño

cheeky – descarado

to give sb a piece of your mind – cantar las cuarenta a alguien

possessed – poseído

to fling sth open – abrir algo de golpe (fling / flung / flung)

laden – cargado

to mean business – hablar en serio

selfish - egoísta

buckets - cubo

pickup truck - camioneta

Listening Practice

The Apple Tree

Vocabulary

to stick - pegar

branches - ramas

to shriek – chillar

family gathering- reunion familiar

scones - bollos, panecillos

utterly disappointed - totalmente decepcionado

greedy - codicioso, glotón

to rush - corrió, apresurarse

to appear out of the blue - aparecer de la nada, inesperadamente

nether regions - zonas bajas

beeping their horn - tocando el claxon

to toss - arrojar, lanzar

to scream at the top of your lungs - gritar muy fuerte

to lick - lamer

bump - chichón

to snuff it (slang)- palmarla, morir

to fly into a rage – montar en cólera

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Answers

Questions

- 1.c) It produced a lot of apples.
- 2.b) Please help yourself to apples..
- 3.b) New neighbours who were strangers.
- 4.c) To ask if there was a limit.
- 5.b) She barked angrily at them.
- 6.a) Professional harvesting equipment.
- 7.b) He thought they were being greedy and selfish.
- 8.c) Give Adam and Eve a piece of his mind.
- 9.b) You said there was no limit.
- 10.a) She grabbed him by the jacket and Poppy attacked him.

Gaps

- 1.b) blooming
- 2.a) far more
- 3.b) away
- 4.c) ear to ear
- 5.b) barking
- 6.b) stripped
- 7.a) greedy
- 8.b) tongue
- 9.c) utterly
- 10.a) over

Transcript

It was that time of year again.

Spring had **sprung** in Cambridge. The **daffodils** were **blooming**, tourists were enjoying cruising along the river Cam and feeding the **swans** with cheese and onion crisps. Bike riders were going around with baskets packed full of sandwiches and homemade lemonade heading to the parks...The vibes were just wonderful!

I was in our kitchen, listening to piano music and **glancing** at the clear blue sky, which as you may know is pretty uncommon in Britain. I'd just finished my third cup of tea that day and I popped outside to place a **wooden sign** up by the apple tree which read: "Please **Help Yourself** to Apples".

There was something **weird** about our apple tree. It had, once again produced far more apples than the average orchard and way more than Isabel and I could eat on our own. In fact, if Isaac Newton had been sitting underneath our apple tree, he wouldn't have had the chance to come up with his theory of gravity. He'd have been too busy dealing with **concussion** due to an avalanche of fruit **dropping** on his head.

Most years that I had put the sign outside, our neighbours had all helped themselves and we still had plenty of apples left to go around the rest of the street. This year, we had a new couple in the neighbourhood. Let's give them some **fake** names for the purpose of this story. Something apple-based perhaps. How about Adam and Eve? That should work!

So, just after I'd put the sign up, I heard a knock on the door and guess who it was?! I opened the door, to see Adam and Eve standing on the doorstep (thankfully **fully clothed**) **grinning at me from ear to ear**.

"Morning!" said Adam. "We noticed your sign and were wondering if there's any limit on the number of apples we can pick."

"Um, no," I replied. "No, not really. Please help yourself."

“Oh, lovely, that’s very kind of you.” said Eve. “We do love our apples, don’t we, Adam?”

“We certainly do!” said Adam. “Eve’s usually good at resisting most temptations, but when it comes to apples, she just **can’t help herself.**”

It was at this point that Poppy, our 2-kilo tiny dog who couldn’t scare a mouse, appeared behind me and started **barking** furiously at our new neighbours. How embarrassing I thought to myself, but later on I realised that I probably should have paid more attention to Poppy’s opinion of the two. She’s clearly a much better **judge** of character than I am.

I said goodbye, feeling I’d done my duty as a good neighbour, closed the door, and headed to the fridge to **grab** some eggs and mushrooms for our Sunday brunch. I was telling the still-barking Poppy to quieten down when Isabel appeared from the other room.

“Who was at the door?” she asked.

“Adam and Eve,” I replied.

“Oh, right. Who are they?”

“They are the couple who bought Mrs Wilson’s **cottage** after she **passed away.**”

“Oh, yes I saw them **unloading** some very unstylish furniture last week.” she said.

I suddenly heard quite a commotion going on in the garden. I looked out to see Adam and Eve, with what I could only assume were a variety of professional apple **harvesting tools**. I mean, these weren’t the kind of things you just have lying around in your **shed**, these were more like tools you would invest in if you were starting your own **cider brewery**. I simply stood there at the window, open mouthed, **speechless, seething, so outraged** by the diabolical liberty they were taking that I found it impossible to put my **anger** into words. “**How dare they** come over here and -- ”

“They can’t just – “

“I mean, who do they think they -- ”

It was at that point that I realised Isabel had joined me at the window.

“Talking to yourself again?” she said.

“No!” I shouted. “I’m desperately trying to control my fury. Just look at what they’re doing!”

Isabel joined me in **gazing** out of the window. I’d been standing there for so long -- biting my tongue, my **fists** curled up tight -- I couldn’t believe that Adam and Eve had almost stripped the entire tree of apples with their ingenious devices.

“Oh, now, that’s a bit **cheeky**,” said Isabel. “You should go out there and give them a **piece of your mind**.”

“Yes!” I shouted, suddenly inspired by Isabel’s more pragmatic nature. “In fact, that’s exactly what I’m going to do right now!”

Like a man possessed, I flung open the door, and marched over to the heavily equipped Adam and Eve, who were still grinning from ear to ear, but also now heavily laden with apples. Our apples. The neighbourhood’s apples.

“Hello, Phillip,” they said, almost in unison. “Thanks again for the apples.”

“Yes, well, I’d like to have a quick word with you about the apples,” I said, crossing my arms to show them **I meant business**. “I don’t mean to sound rude, but I truly believe what you’re doing is pretty **selfish**, don’t you think?”

“But ... you did put a sign up saying Help Yourself and when Eve asked if there was a limit, you clearly said: “No, there isn’t.” said Adam.

“Fair enough. But I didn’t think you would be taking home 20 kilos of my apples!” As I was finishing my sentence, Eve started to load the **buckets** of apples in the back of their **pickup truck**.

“Oh I’m ever so sorry for the misunderstanding, but you should have been more specific” said Adam as he started to slowly walk away from me.

I heard the engine of the car turn on and saw Eve waving at Adam from the driver’s seat. “I wish I could **stick** the apples back on the **branches**, Mr Bartlett, but I’m afraid I can’t.” said Adam.

“Wait, I really need some of those apples for our **family gathering** tomorrow. I promised grandma Joyce I would be baking apple pie and **scones** for our afternoon tea. She’s going to be **utterly disappointed!**”- I said.

At this point Isabel came out of the house with an angry look on her face and muttering “Those **greedy** neighbours are going to hear me...”

She **rushed** to the car and **grabbed** Adam by the collar of his jacket.

“Do as Phillip said and give some of those apples back for grandma’s pie.” - said Isabel. As she was finishing her sentence, Poppy suddenly appeared **out of the blue** jumped up and bit Adam in his **nether regions** . He let out a terrible scream that was so loud that it was probably heard all over the county of Cambridgeshire.

Eve took a huge green apple and threw it at Poppy so that she would release Adam from his misery. The heavy green shiny apple hit Isabel on her forehead and knocked her over. The couple then jumped back in their pick-up and drove away laughing and **beeping their horn**.

I ran after them and **tossed** an apple at them as hard as I could. It hit the back window and then dropped into the back with the rest of the apples. “APPPLE THIEVES!!!!” I **screamed at the top of my lungs**. Some of the neighbours came out of their houses to see what was happening.

I rushed back to the house to help Isabel still trying to contain my rage. Poppy was doing her part by **licking** Isabel’s face all over. Thank goodness Isabel landed on the soft grass and her only injury was a tiny **bump** on her forehead. And thank goodness the apple didn’t hit Poppy or she probably would have **snuffed it**.

We went back inside and I turned the kettle on in order to make Isabel a nice warm cup of tea. “Don’t worry, I’ll pop to the grocer’s later and buy some apples for granny’s pie. I’ll deal with the apple criminals as well.” - I said.

“Please, don’t Phillip. It’s not worth it. Let’s just pretend this never happened.” - Isabel said.

We managed to calm down after a couple more cups of tea , although we were going to need quite some time before we could even hear the word “Apple” again without flying into a rage. Regardless of what their effect on doctors might be, an apple a day certainly does not keep the neighbours away.