

Easy English Stories – Episode 21: The Boy Who Doesn't Like School

Target Level: Move 2 and up

Grammar: Using the simple present tense and its negative form (e.g., *He doesn't go to school, He doesn't want to learn*); expressing daily habits and routines

Vocabulary: apartment, forest, count, pick, pencil, firefighter, police officer, write, teacher

Functions: Talking about daily activities, expressing likes and dislikes, describing problems, and stating simple facts about routines and abilities

INTRODUCTION

C.S.: One, two, three. Hello, boys and girls! This is Captain Story and here is my friend Echo.

Echo: Hello. Captain Story, are you alright?

C.S.: Not really. You see... the apartment next door, they have a son. And he doesn't like to go to school.

Echo: Really? Why not?

C.S.: He says, "I don't want to go to school! The children are mean! The school is bad!"

Echo: Poor boy... What does his mother do?

C.S.: She tries to help. She says, "Eat your breakfast! Brush your teeth! Take your bag! Go and have fun."

Echo: And his father?

C.S.: He tries to help, too. He says, "Put on your shoes! Take your coat! It's a beautiful day, go to school and have fun!"

Echo: And you, Captain Story?

C.S.: I think I will help him by telling a story about school today.

Echo: Very good. By the way, how old is the boy?

C.S.: Thirty-two years old.

Echo: WHAT?! Thirty-two years old?

C.S.: Yes, he is a second-grade teacher!

MAIN STORY: The Boy Who Doesn't Like School

C.S.: Robert is 7 years old. He lives in a small town near the mountains. He lives in a small house with a big apple tree in the yard.

Every night, his mother and father sit near his bed and talk about him.

His father says, "Maybe he will be a firefighter!"

His mother says, "That's good, but maybe he will be a police officer!"

His father says, "Why not a pilot?"

C.S.: But Robert closes his eyes and says nothing. He thinks about his dreams. His father and mother don't know about his dreams.

C.S.: A very big day arrives. The day when all kids go to school. Early in the morning, Dad comes into his room and gives him a beautiful book. Mom gives him a new pencil with an elephant-shaped eraser on top.

Dad points out the window and says, "Look, Robert, you see that building? That's the school. Just go straight, turn left at the first street, and pass the park. There you will see the school building."

C.S.: Robert looks at the book, he looks at the pencil. Then he says, "I don't want to go to school."

Echo: Oh, no.

C.S.: He stays at home. He doesn't go to school the next day. He doesn't go to school the next week. He doesn't go to school the next year!

Years pass. Now he is 14 years old. He still doesn't go to school.

One day, he walks into a forest. He walks and walks. It gets dark. "Time to go back now," Robert says. But which way?

He sees a sign. He looks at the words, but he can't read them.

Echo: That is a problem.

C.S.: He doesn't know the way home. He feels scared. His father finds him and brings him back.

C.S.: Years pass again. Now he is 18 years old.

He wants to write a letter to his uncle. His uncle has many beautiful horses. Robert wants a horse for his birthday. He sits with paper and a pencil.

He looks at the paper. He can't write.

Echo: Oh...

C.S.: More years pass. Now he is a big man.

C.S.: One day, his mother says, "Please bring me ten apples."

C.S.: He goes to the yard and picks apples. One... two... three... Then he stops.

Echo: Why does he stop?

C.S.: He can't count to ten.

Echo: That is a big problem.

C.S.: Yes. That night, he thinks about everything: the forest, the letter, and the apples.

C.S.: The next morning, he wakes up and says, "I'm going to school."

He goes straight, turns left at the first street, and passes the park. There he sees the school building. He goes inside the school. Next, he goes into a classroom.

The room is full of little kids. Robert goes up to the teacher. She is a nice lady with glasses. Robert says, "Excuse me, I want to start school."

The teacher looks at him. She smiles and says, "Welcome. Have a seat, please."

C.S.: He sits at a small desk. He learns to read. He learns to write, and he learns to count. And he is happy.

Echo: So maybe he can still be a firefighter... or a pilot!

C.S.: Maybe he can. It's never too late to learn.

Practice

C.S.: Please repeat after us.

C.S.: Robert stays home.

Echo: Robert stays home.

C.S.: He doesn't like to go to school.

Echo: He doesn't like to go to school.

C.S.: He doesn't want to learn.

Echo: He doesn't want to learn.

C.S.: He can't read or write.

Echo: He can't read or write.

C.S.: He doesn't know how to count.

Echo: He doesn't know how to count.

Q&A + Fun Fact

C.S.: I'm ready to answer your questions now.

Child 1: Captain Story, what do I need to go to high school?

C.S.: A ladder.

Child 2: Captain Story, why do I need to learn math?

C.S.: To count how many days and minutes and seconds are left until summer vacation.

Child 3: Captain Story, why is there always a pop quiz when you didn't study?

C.S.: Because they can smell fear. Studying scares the quizzes away

C.S.: Alright. Echo, do you have a fun fact for us?

Echo: Yes. Did you know scissors are over 3,000 years old? Kids in ancient Egypt used scissors, too!

C.S.: Really? That means somewhere in Egypt, a kid said, “I lost my scissors,” and his mom said, “They were brand new! I bought them in 1000 BC!”

Echo: Ha ha ha.

C.S.: OK, that’s it for today. See you next week, boys and girls.

Echo: Goodbye!

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