

The Elves and the Shoemaker



A shoemaker was poor.
He did not have much
fabric left to make shoes.

He put his last bit on the
table. He woke up and
found a pair of new shoes.

A man loved the shoes.
He gave the shoemaker
extra money for them.

The shoemaker got
more fabric. He left
it on the table.

There were two pairs of new shoes on
the table the next day.

The shoemaker soon became rich.

The shoemaker and his wife hid in the shop.

They wanted to see who was helping them.

Two elves crept in. They had old clothes.

The wife made some new little clothes.
She left them on the table.

The elves saw the clothes. They danced and sang with joy.



Questions

1. Who made the new shoes? Tick one.

- ☐ the shoemaker
- ☐ the elves
- ☐ the wife

2. Who did the shoemaker live with? Tick one.

- ☐ his mum
- ☐ his wife
- ☐ his children

3. How many elves were there? Tick one.

- ☐ three
- ☐ four
- ☐ two

4. What did the wife make for the elves? Tick one.

- ☐ toys
- ☐ clothes
- ☐ food

5. What did the elves do at the end? Tick one.

- ☐ stitch
- ☐ wake up
- ☐ dance

Answers

1. Who made the new shoes? Tick one.

- ☐ the shoemaker
- ☒ **the elves**
- ☐ the wife

2. Who did the shoemaker live with? Tick one.

- ☐ his mum
- ☒ **his wife**
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5. What did the elves do at the end? Tick one.

- ☐ stitch
- ☐ wake up
- ☒ **dance**

The Elves and the Shoemaker



There was once a very poor shoemaker who lived with his wife. The shoemaker was running out of leather to make shoes. He cut out his last piece to use the next day.

The shoemaker woke up in the morning and found a beautiful pair of shoes on his table. One shopper loved them so much that he paid extra money for them!

The shoemaker used the money to buy some more leather. He put out the leather ready for the next day. There were two beautiful pairs of shoes waiting on the table the next morning. This kept happening and the shoemaker became a very rich man.

The shoemaker and his wife hid in the corner of the shop to find out who was helping them. They waited until it was dark.

They saw two small elves creep into the shop and start working. The poor elves were wearing old clothes!

The shoemaker's wife made them some new little clothes the next day. She left them on the table.

The elves crept into the shop that night and saw the clothes. They were so happy that they danced and sang out of the shop.

The shoemaker and his wife never saw the elves again. They both lived happily ever after.



Questions

1. What did the shoemaker use to make his shoes? Tick one.

- ☐ cotton
☐ leather
☐ plastic

2. Number the events from 1-3 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ The shoemaker's wife left some new little clothes on the table.
☐ The shoemaker found two pairs of new shoes on the table.
☐ The shoemaker found a pair of shoes on the table.

3. How did the elves feel when they saw their new clothes? Tick one.

- ☐ scared
☐ happy
☐ confused

4. Fill in the missing word.

This kept happening and the shoemaker became a
very _____ man.

5. Find and copy one word which showed that the elves were quiet when they came into the shop.

Answers

1. What did the shoemaker use to make his shoes? Tick one.

- ☐ cotton
- ☒ **leather**
- ☐ plastic

2. Number the events from 1-3 to show the order that they happened in.

- 3** The shoemaker's wife left some new little clothes on the table.
- 2** The shoemaker found two pairs of new shoes on the table.
- 1** The shoemaker found a pair of shoes on the table.

3. How did the elves feel when they saw their new clothes? Tick one.

- ☐ scared
- ☒ **happy**
- ☐ confused

4. Fill in the missing word.

This kept happening and the shoemaker became a very **rich** man.

5. Find and copy one word which showed that the elves were quiet when they came into the shop.

Accept any of the following: creep; crept.

The Elves and the Shoemaker



Once upon a time, there lived a very poor shoemaker and his wife. The shoemaker worked hard but he still did not make enough money to provide for them both. The shoemaker was running out of leather so he cut out his last piece to work on the next day. The shoemaker awoke in the morning and was amazed to find a beautiful pair of shoes on his table!

The shoes were so beautiful that a customer paid twice as much as the shoemaker had asked for them! The shoemaker used the money to buy enough leather to make two pairs of shoes. He laid out the leather to work on the next day. He was amazed to find two beautiful pairs of shoes standing on his table the next morning! This kept happening and the shoemaker soon became a very rich man. He was very thankful and keen to know who had been helping him.

The shoemaker and his wife decided to hide in the corner of the shop to find out who had been making them rich. They waited until nightfall.

They were very surprised to see two small elves creep quietly into the shop and stitch the shoes together carefully. The poor little elves were wearing old clothes! So, the shoemaker's wife made them two little shirts, two tiny pairs of trousers and some socks. The elves crept into the shop the next night



and saw the clothes laid out for them. They were so overjoyed that they danced and sang with delight! They carried on dancing out of the door and across the village.



The shoemaker and his wife never saw the elves again. They lived happy lives and they were forever grateful to the elves for showing them how to make beautiful shoes.

Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in the story. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ The shoemaker found a beautiful pair of shoes on his table.
- ☐ The elves danced out of the door and across the village.
- ☐ The shoemaker and his wife decided to hide in the corner of the shop.
- ☒ 1 The shoemaker was running out of leather.

2. What did the shoemaker buy with the customer's money? Tick one.

- ☐ shoes
- ☐ leather
- ☐ clothes

3. What time of day did the elves come into the shop?

4. Fill in the missing word.

He was very thankful and _____ to know who had been helping him.

5. Find and copy one phrase that shows that the elves did not want to make a noise when they came into the shop at night.

Explain why the shoemaker became rich.

Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in the story. The first one has been done for you.

2

 The shoemaker found a beautiful pair of shoes on his table.

4

 The elves danced out of the door and across the village.

3

 The shoemaker and his wife decided to hide in the corner of the shop.

1

 The shoemaker was running out of leather.

2. What did the shoemaker buy with the customer's money? Tick one.

☐ shoes

☒ **leather**

☐ clothes

3. What time of day did the elves come into the shop?
The elves came at nightfall (night).

4. Fill in the missing word.

He was very thankful and **keen** to know who had been helping him.

5. Find and copy one phrase that shows that the elves did not want to make a noise when they came into the shop at night.
creep quietly

6. Explain why the shoemaker became rich.
Pupils' own responses, such as: The shoemaker became rich because the elves made such beautiful shoes with his leather. People paid extra money for the shoes so he could make and sell even more.