

The Tortoise and the Hare

Once, there was a strong, young hare who bragged about how fast he could run.

Tired of hearing him boast, the wise tortoise challenged the hare to a race. The hare agreed at once, thinking that he would beat the tortoise easily.

All of the animals gathered at the finish line to watch the race.

As soon as the race started, the hare dashed ahead. He ran down the road but within minutes, decided to pause for a rest.

“How do you expect to win this race when you are walking along at such a slow pace?” he said smugly to the tortoise.



The hare stretched himself out next to a tree and fell asleep thinking, “There is plenty of time to relax. That tortoise will never beat me!”

The tortoise walked slowly past the hare. He walked and walked. He persevered until he got to the end of the race.

The animals cheered as they saw the tortoise reach the finish line. “Tortoise, you are the winner!” they shouted. The hare heard the cheering and woke with a start.



He zoomed as fast as a rocket towards the finishing line, but it was far too late. The tortoise had already crossed the line.

“It’s not fair!” complained the hare. “I was asleep, we have to do the race again!”

But this time no-one listened to the hare. After that, the hare always reminded himself, “Don’t show-off about your speedy pace. Slow and steady won the race!”

Keep trying, even when things seem hard.

Questions

1. The story says that the hare 'bragged' about how fast he was. What is another word that means the same as 'bragged'? Tick one.

- ☐ talked
- ☐ boasted
- ☐ shouted

2. Why did the tortoise want to race the hare? Tick one.

- ☐ because he was tired of listening to him boast
- ☐ because he knew that he was a faster runner than the hare
- ☐ because tortoises love racing

3. Why did the hare stop for a rest?

4. The moral of the story is to 'keep trying, even when things seem hard.' What else can we learn from the story?

5. Do you think that the hare has learnt his lesson by the end of the story? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. The story says that the hare 'bragged' about how fast he was. What is another word that means the same as 'bragged'? Tick one.

- ☐ talked
- ☒ **boasted**
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2. Why did the tortoise want to race the hare? Tick one.

- ☒ **because he was tired of listening to him boast**
- ☐ because he knew that he was a faster runner than the hare
- ☐ because tortoises love racing

3. Why did the hare stop for a rest?

Varied answers, e.g. 'The hare stopped because he thought the tortoise wasn't fast enough to win the race and he had time to rest.'

4. The moral of the story is to 'keep trying, even when things seem hard.' What else can we learn from the story?

Varied answers, e.g. 'We shouldn't show-off just because we are good at something.'

5. Do you think that the hare has learnt his lesson by the end of the story? Explain your answer.

Children's own response.