



the
**MYSTERY OF THE
SHATTERED ICE**

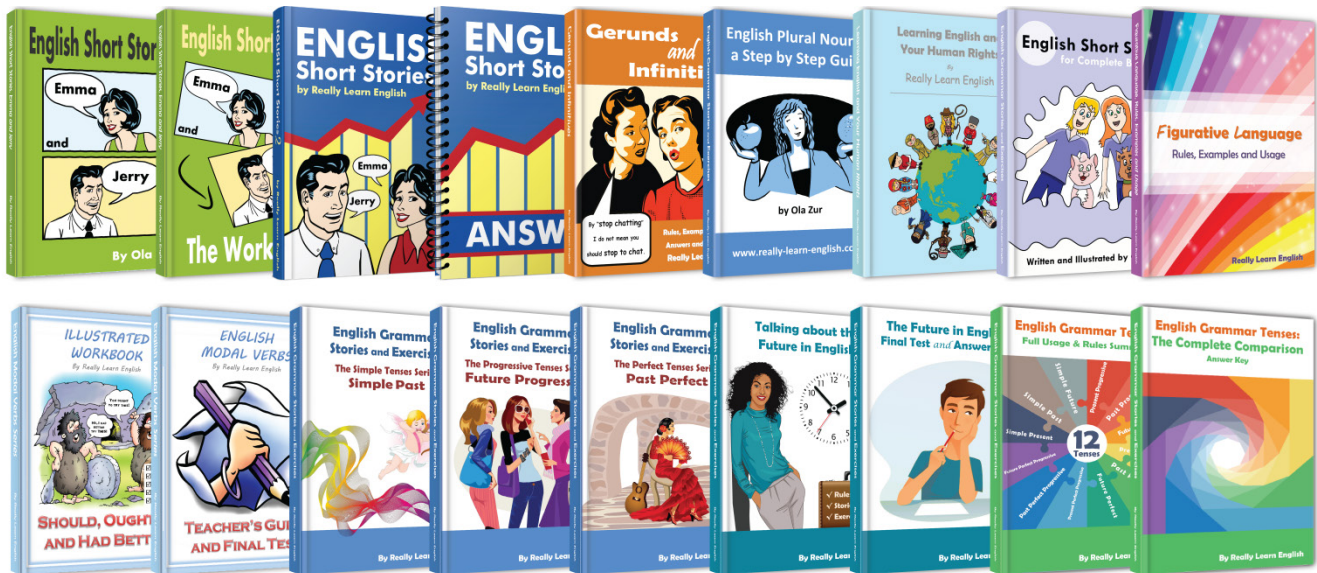


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Story Glossary

This story practices winter vocabulary. Therefore, all “winter words” are explained, as well as additional words students may find useful.

Bandits: thieves who usually steal from people travelling

Blizzard: a very large snowstorm that leaves a lot of snow on the ground

Boots: shoes that are usually stronger and offer more protection than regular shoes

Brisk: cold in a good way that gives you energy

Chilly: cold

Crack: make a sudden noise

Cruiser: a police car

Defroster: a device that blows hot air on something to remove ice from it

Diner: a restaurant that typically serves inexpensive food, like burgers and french fries

Drafty: full of moving cold air

Eggnog: a thick, sweet drink made with milk, sugar, and eggs, usually consumed around Christmas

Flurries: when a very small amount of snow falls from the sky

Fog: a group of a lot of tiny drops of water in the air or on a surface that makes it difficult to see

Frigid: extremely cold

Frost: a very thin layer of ice

Gingerbread man: a hard, spicy cookie shaped like a person

Hoodie: a sweatshirt with a hood attached to it

Ice: water that is frozen

Icicles: long, pointy pieces of ice that hang off of something

Jacket: a piece of clothing worn over your shirt, usually to keep you warm and dry

Mist: a group of very small drops of a liquid sprayed into the air that usually looks like a cloud

Nibbling: taking very small bites

Officer: a person who works as a member of the police

Overcast: when the sky is dark and grey because it is covered with clouds

Puff: a small burst of air or another gas

Set down: to place on something

Sledgehammers: very large hammers used to break things

Treasurer: a person who is in charge of the money for an organization

Slippery: easy to slide on

Slush: snow that has partially melted so it is a mix of ice and water

Snow: a type of weather where tiny pieces of ice fall from the sky

Snowflakes: the single pieces of ice that fall from the sky during snow

Snowshoe: a frame that is attached to a shoe to make it easier to walk on deep snow without sinking.

Windchill: how cold the wind makes the temperature feel

The Mystery of the Shattered Ice, Part 1

This story practices winter vocabulary – “winter words” are **bold**.



Chief Roger McCollum sits in his police cruiser, feeling the **heater** warm his numb fingers. His gaze moves slowly from the frost forming on his windshield to his rearview mirror, revealing three young children sitting in the backseat.

"Please don't take us to jail," one of them says between giggles.

"I don't know," Roger replies. "How do I know you're not the bandits I'm looking for?"

This is Roger's favorite part of the job. The town of Northbury, Pennsylvania is so small it hardly ever has any crime. Roger gets to spend most of his time playing cops and robbers with the local kids, trying to slip in lessons about being good citizens when he can.

Suddenly a voice cracks over his radio. "Roger, the mayor is looking for you and she sounds angry."

Roger sighs as he gets out of the car and opens the back door. "You're lucky the mayor saved you this time." The kids smile and hug him as they jump out and run to play in the **snow** as **flurries** fall around them.

* * *

A few minutes later, Roger stands in front of Charlotte LeBlanc, the mayor of Northbury. "The ice is gone. Completely gone," she says. She is about a foot shorter than Roger, but her nervous energy makes him feel small. Roger follows her as she paces around the room, rubbing her hands together to warm them in the **chilly** air.

"What do you mean?" Roger asks. The roads were **slippery** from all the ice on his drive over.

"The ice for the competition. Someone smashed it to bits."

The Northbury Winter Festival starts tomorrow. The main attraction is always the ice sculpting competition. It draws hundreds of tourists each year.

"How is that even possible?" Roger says.

"That's your job to figure out. The ice was delivered yesterday and we kept it in the park, like we always do, but this morning it was smashed. This is even worse than the year we had a **blizzard** during the festival!"

* * *

Roger bends over and picks up a handful of ice. Charlotte was right. Where there should be six perfect blocks of ice, there are now six piles of ice chunks. Roger breathes in the **frigid** air and breathes out a **puff** of white **mist**.

"Who would do this?" he thinks. A few years ago, Roger suggested storing the ice somewhere more secure, but Charlotte laughed at him, reminding him the park is in the middle of the town. Everyone is always watching it.

Around him, the park looks like the perfect winter scene. A blanket of snow covers the ground, like thick frosting. Tiny **icicles** hang from tree branches and sparkle in the sun. Normally, the sky is **overcast** during the festival, but the weather reports say tomorrow is going to be nice and sunny.

Roger, remembering what the mayor said about everyone watching the ice, walks across the street to the diner...

The Mystery of the Shattered Ice, Part 2



Roger, remembering what the mayor said about everyone watching the ice, walks across the street to the diner. Normally, Roger would take his cap off in a building, but the diner is so **drafty** he decides to leave it on. He walks up to the counter and waves at Jess, the owner.

"What can I get you today, officer?" Jess asks.

"Information," Roger replies. "Did you see anything last night?"

Jess shakes his head. "You mean the ice? No. I locked up around nine and everything was fine then."

Roger asks a few other people, but none of them know anything. The **windchill** was below zero last night, so everyone just stayed inside and warmed themselves by their fireplaces.

Roger notices a group of six teenagers staring at him suspiciously. He walks over to their table and smiles. He recognizes a few of them from his games when they were little.

"Enjoying your break from school?" he asks. They all nod, but don't say anything. "You wouldn't happen to know anything about the ice, would you?"

"No sir," a boy wearing a **hoodie** with "Northbury High School" written on it replies.

"You know this is very serious, right? The competition is incredibly important to this town."

"I know, sir. We all love it just as much as everyone else. Maybe it was someone from Riverview."

Riverview is a nearby town that has a much smaller winter festival each year. They're always trying to steal people away from Northbury's festival. Riverview's main attraction is a **snowshoe** race that nobody ever attends. Roger thinks the theory actually makes a lot of sense, but then he notices one of the girls.

A short, redheaded girl named Emma. She's wearing an oversized sweater and nibbling on a **gingerbread man**. He used to play with her and her brother all the time. Normally, she's friendly and chatty, but now she won't even look at Roger. "She knows something," Roger thinks.



"Well, I have to get back to my investigation. If any of you hear anything, let me know." He takes a business card out of his wallet and sets it down on the table, right in front of Emma. "Just call or email me. I even text."

Roger leaves the diner and sits in his car, brushing the **snowflakes** from his jacket as he sits down. He turns up the **defroster** and waits for the **fog** to clear from the windows as he tries to decide what to do next.

Suddenly, his cell phone buzzes. He unlocks it and sees he has a text message from a number he doesn't recognize. It says...

The Mystery of the Shattered Ice, Part 3

Suddenly, his cell phone buzzes. He unlocks it and sees he has a text message from a number he doesn't recognize. It says, "I saw this last night. Please don't tell anyone I told you. My parents can't know I was out." Several pictures are attached to it. Roger can't believe what he sees. They are dark and kind of blurry, but they definitely show Charlotte and her assistant attacking the ice with sledgehammers.



He looks up to see Emma wave and smile at him through the window. He smiles back, torn between being thankful for her help and shocked by Charlotte.

* * *

Roger walks straight to Charlotte's office, shaking the **slush** off his **boots**, and slams down prints of the pictures on her desk. Charlotte looks at the pictures, then back at him.

"How did you—" she starts.

"It's like you said, people in this town watch the ice."

"But you're barely even a real cop. All you do is play with kids all day," she says angrily. Roger laughs. "Look, I did it for the town. You can't tell anyone, all right?"

"You did it for the town?" Roger asks in disbelief.

"Do you know how much free publicity we'll get from this story? Everybody will report on it. Everyone will hear about us. It's the best ad campaign ever!"

"We don't need other people's pity," Roger says. "You're under arrest for destruction of city property."

Charlotte tries to argue, but Roger just handcuffs her and leads her to his car. He takes her to the station and locks her in a cell, then leaves to find and arrest her assistant.

* * *

The next day at the festival, Roger listens as everyone gossips about Charlotte between sips from steaming cups of hot chocolate. Roger tries to ignore them. He just wants to enjoy the nice, **brisk** weather and maybe get a glass of **eggnog**. Jess walks up to him, holding a clipboard. He hands it to Roger and says, "It's a petition to get Charlotte fired."

"That's a cause I can support," Roger says, removing his glove so he can sign his name on the sheet. He's relieved that the rest of the town is as upset about it as him. "Who's going to replace her?"

"We don't know yet. The treasurer will take over until we have an election. Some of us were thinking maybe you'd run."

A child screams behind them. Roger spins around just in time to see him throw a snowball at his nearby friend. "Hey," Roger shouts, "I'm going to have to take you two down to the station." The kids burst out in laughter. "Thanks, but I think I'll stick to this job," he says, smiling widely.

The End

Vocabulary Questions, Part 1

Winter Words (answer at least 5 questions correctly):

A) What does "ice" mean?

1. A sweet substance that is spread on cookies and cakes
2. Fancy jewelry
3. Water that is frozen
4. A very cold liquid

B) What does "snow" mean?

1. A type of weather where tiny pieces of frozen water fall from the sky
2. A type of weather that is sunny and warm
3. A type of weather where it is very windy and cold
4. A type of weather is that is cold and dry

C) What does "flurries" mean?

1. When a person moves quickly
2. When a very small amount of snow falls from the sky
3. When the weather is calm just before a blizzard
4. When snow melts before it lands on the ground

D) What does "chilly" mean?

1. A kind of spicy soup made with meat and beans
2. A type of ice cream
3. Slowly warming up
4. Cold

E) What does "slippery" mean?

1. Easy to slide on
2. Wet from bad weather
3. Covered in ice
4. Completely dry

F) What does "blizzard" mean?

1. When it doesn't rain for a long time
2. A very large snowstorm that leaves a lot of snow on the ground
3. A storm that includes big, dangerous gusts of wind
4. When the weather doesn't change for weeks

G) What does "frigid" mean?

1. Extremely hot
2. Kind of hot
3. Kind of cold
4. Extremely cold

H) What does "puff" mean?

1. A small burst of air or another gas
2. A pastry filled with cream
3. A fuzzy ball of fabric or yarn
4. An untrue story

I) What does "mist" mean?

1. Forget about plans
2. A group of very small drops of a liquid sprayed into the air that usually looks like a cloud
3. A solid stream of water that freezes due to the cold weather
4. Ice that is beginning to melt into liquid water

J) What does "icicles" mean?

1. Sugary treats made from flavored ice
2. Long, pointy pieces of ice that hang off of something
3. Broken pieces of ice with sharp edges
4. A large, flat piece of ice you can skate on

Move on to the next exercise (Vocabulary Questions Part 2) if you have 5 correct answers.

If not, you can continue:

K) What does "overcast" mean?

1. When the news reports on the same story many times
2. When the weather is warm and calm
3. When many people gossip about something
4. When the sky is dark and grey because it is covered with clouds

L) What does "drafty" mean?

1. Large and empty
2. Full of moving cold air
3. Small and crowded
4. Too hot to handle

M) What does "windchill" mean?

1. How cold the wind makes the temperature feel
2. How strong the wind is blowing
3. When the wind blows from a cold place to a warmer place
4. When the wind blows snow around

N) What does "hoodie" mean?

1. A teenager who gets into trouble
2. A thick, heavy coat
3. A sweatshirt with a hood attached to it
4. A person who likes to hide their face

O) What does "gingerbread man" mean?

1. A popular cartoon character
2. A hard, spicy cookie shaped like a person
3. A mean name for a cop
4. A soft, flakey pastry made mostly in winter

P) What does "snowflakes" mean?

1. Piles of snow on the side of the road
2. Single pieces of frozen water that falls from the sky during snow
3. Snow that is soft and fluffy
4. Sculptures made out of snow

Q) What does "jacket" mean?

1. Waterproof pants worn on top of your regular pants
2. Long underwear that cover your legs to keep you warm
3. A piece of clothing worn over your shirt, usually to keep you warm and dry
4. An extra layer of clothing worn under your shirt to keep you warm

R) What does "defroster" mean?

1. A device that removes decorations from cookies
2. A device that blows snow away from sidewalks
3. A device that has a sharp edge to scrape ice off windows
4. A device that blows hot air on something to remove ice from it

S) What does "fog" mean?

1. A group of a lot of tiny drops of water in the air or on a surface that makes it difficult to see
2. A small, green animal that jumps a lot
3. A sky that is completely blue and has no clouds in it
4. A confusing story with a lot of complicated details

T) What does "slush" mean?

1. Snow that is between the clouds and the ground
2. Snow that has just fallen
3. Snow that is hard and solid
4. Snow that has partially melted so it is a mix of ice and water

U) What does "boots" mean?

1. Shoes that don't cover your toes
2. Shoes that are usually stronger and offer more protection than regular shoes
3. Shoes that don't have laces, so you won't trip in the snow
4. Shoes are used for running long distances

V) What does "brisk" mean?

1. So cold you can't even go outside
2. Cold enough that you only need a very light jacket
3. Cold in a good way that gives you energy
4. Suddenly warm after a long period of cold

W) What does "eggnog" mean?

1. A type of Christmas cake that is shaped like a log
2. A traditional Christmas breakfast that includes several different styles of egg
3. A thick, sweet drink made with milk, sugar, and eggs, usually consumed around Christmas
4. A Christmas cookie that is the color of an egg yolk

X) What does "frost" mean?

1. A very thin layer of ice
2. A thick layer of snow
3. A partially frozen puddle
4. A very small piece of ice

Vocabulary Questions, Part 2

Non-Winter Words (answer at least 5 questions correctly):

A) What does “cruiser” mean?

1. A car that is close to the ground
2. A bicycle with big tires and a bright paint job
3. A person who drives slowly
4. A police car

B) What does “bandits” mean?

1. Murderers who usually attack people in their sleep
2. Con artists who prey on old people
3. Thieves who usually steal from people travelling
4. Mayors who attack their own towns

C) What does “cracks” mean?

1. Breaks
2. Falls down
3. Makes a sudden noise
4. Yawns loudly

D) What does “diner” mean?

1. A restaurant that typically serves inexpensive food, like burgers and french fries
2. The last meal of the day
3. A very expensive and fancy restaurant
4. A large feast to celebrate winter

E) What does “officer” mean?

1. Slang for “friend”
2. A rude word for someone you don’t like
3. A person who works as a member of the police
4. A person who visits restaurants a lot

F) What does “nibbling” mean?

1. Eating quickly
2. Taking very small bites
3. Looking at, but not eating
4. Biting slowly

G) What does “sets down” mean?

1. To step off of something
2. To walk away from something
3. To place on something
4. To threaten with something

H) What does “sledgehammers” mean?

1. Very large hammers used to break things
2. Tools for removing nails from wooden boards
3. Axes used to help people climb ice
4. Hammers used to hang pictures

I) What does “treasurer” mean?

1. A person who draws treasure maps
2. A person who knows the town’s history
3. A person who organizes festivals
4. A person who is charge of the money for an organization

Grammar Questions

A) The kids smile _____ they jump out.

1. while
2. at
3. as
4. if

B) Charlotte sounds _____ than usual.

1. angrily
2. angriest
3. angry
4. angrier

C) The ice _____ delivered yesterday

1. was
2. were
3. had
4. been

D) His theory actually _____ a lot of sense.

1. has
2. makes
3. does
4. is

E) There are piles of ice where there _____ be blocks.

1. should
2. ought
3. have
4. will have

F) Roger wants to _____ a glass of eggnog.

1. got
2. gotten
3. gets
4. get

Comprehension Questions

1. In the story, why does Roger play with the kids instead of catching criminals?

2. What does Charlotte say to convince Roger that the ice is safe in the park?

3. How does Roger find out that Charlotte smashed the ice?

4. Why did Charlotte destroy all of the ice?

5. What does Roger do when he finds out that Charlotte is responsible for the broken ice?

6. Why does Roger say he does not want to be mayor?

Essay Questions

1. In your opinion, does Charlotte's reason for why she smashed the ice justify her actions? Why or why not?

2. Imagine you are Roger. How do you respond when Charlotte says you aren't a real cop? Why do you say that?

Sentence Jumbles

In the following sentences, the words in bold are in the wrong place. Rewrite the sentences so they are correct.

1. Roger **with** to spend of his time **most** cops and robbers **gets** the local **playing** kids.

2. Where there should **are** six **piles** blocks of ice, there **be** now six **perfect** of ice chunks.

3. He **through** up **smile** see Emma wave and **looks** at him **to** the window.

4. Charlotte **leads** to **handcuffs**, but Roger just **argue** her and **tries** her to his car.

5. Roger listens **from** everyone gossips **between** Charlotte **as** sips **about** steaming cups of hot chocolate.

6. He's **it** that the **relieved** of the town is as upset about **him** as **rest**.

Role Play

Work with a partner (if possible). Take turns performing these tasks.

Scenario 1

The town is holding the election soon and everyone wants Roger to run for mayor. but Roger wants to keep is current job. A reporter is now about to interview Roger.

Partner A: Pretend you are the news reporter and ask Roger questions. You are trying to understand the real reasons behind Roger's decision.

Partner B: Pretend you are Roger. Try to explain why you don't want to be mayor, and what you think will be best for the town.



Scenario 2

Emma and a friend are sitting in the diner. Emma's friend get mad at her for telling Roger the truth. They are afraid they will get in trouble now because their parents will know they sneaked out at night.

Partner A: Pretend you are Emma's friend. Tell her what concerns you and why.

Partner B: Pretend you are Emma. Explain your friend why you think you did the right thing.



Answer Key

Vocabulary Questions, Part 1

Winter Words:

A) What does "ice" mean?

- Water that is frozen

B) What does "snow" mean?

- A type of weather where tiny pieces of frozen water fall from the sky

C) What does "flurries" mean?

- When a very small amount of snow falls from the sky

D) What does "chilly" mean?

- Cold

E) What does "slippery" mean?

- Easy to slide on

F) What does "blizzard" mean?

- A very large snowstorm that leaves a lot of snow on the ground

G) What does "frigid" mean?

- Extremely cold

H) What does "puff" mean?

- A small burst of air or another gas

I) What does "mist" mean?

- A group of very small drops of a liquid sprayed into the air that usually looks like a cloud

J) What does "icicles" mean?

- Long, pointy pieces of ice that hang off of something

K) What does "overcast" mean?

- When the sky is dark and grey because it is covered with clouds

L) What does "drafty" mean?

- Full of moving cold air

M) What does "windchill" mean?

- How cold the wind makes the temperature feel

N) What does "hoodie" mean?

- A sweatshirt with a hood attached to it

O) What does "gingerbread man" mean?

- A hard, spicy cookie shaped like a person

P) What does "snowflakes" mean?

- Single pieces of frozen water that falls from the sky during snow

Q) What does "jacket" mean?

- A piece of clothing worn over your shirt, usually to keep you warm and dry

R) What does "defroster" mean?

- A device that blows hot air on something to remove ice from it

S) What does "fog" mean?

- A group of a lot of tiny drops of water in the air or on a surface that makes it difficult to see

T) What does "slush" mean?

- Snow that has partially melted so it is a mix of ice and water

U) What does "boots" mean?

- Shoes that are usually stronger and offer more protection than regular shoes

V) What does "brisk" mean?

- Cold in a good way that gives you energy

W) What does "eggnog" mean?

- A thick, sweet drink made with milk, sugar, and eggs, usually consumed around Christmas

X) What does "frost" mean?

- A very thin layer of ice

Vocabulary Questions, Part 2

Non-Winter Words:

A) What does "cruiser" mean?

- A police car

B) What does "bandits" mean?

- Thieves who usually steal from people travelling

C) What does "cracks" mean?

- Makes a sudden noise

D) What does “diner” mean?

- A restaurant that typically serves inexpensive food, like burgers and french fries

E) What does “officer” mean?

- A person who works as a member of the police

F) What does “nibbling” mean?

- Taking very small bites

G) What does “sets down” mean?

- To place on something

H) What does “sledgehammers” mean?

- Very large hammers used to break things

I) What does “treasurer” mean?

- A person who is charge of the money for an organization

Grammar Questions

A) The kids smile _____ they jump out.

- as

B) Charlotte sounds _____ than usual.

- angrier

C) The ice _____ delivered yesterday

- was

D) His theory actually _____ a lot of sense.

- makes

E) There are piles of ice where there _____ be blocks.

- should

F) Roger wants to _____ a glass of eggnog.

- get

Comprehension Questions

Compare your answers to the story.

Essay Questions

Answers may vary.

Sentence Jumbles

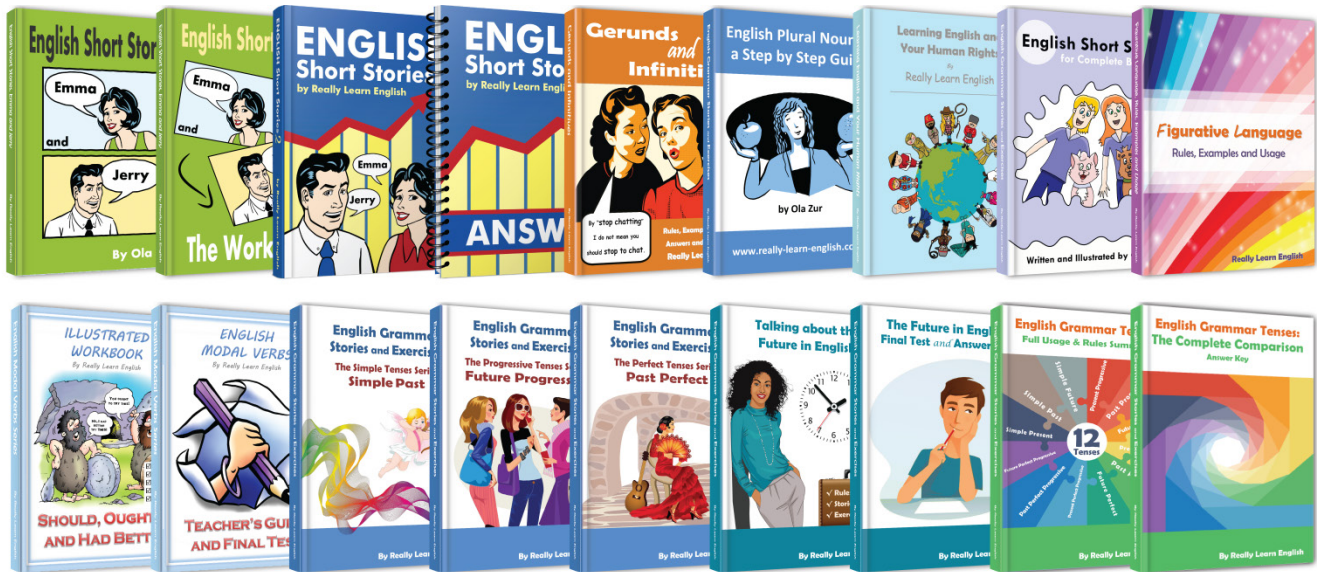
1. Roger **gets** to spend **most** of his time **playing** cops and robbers **with** the local kids.
2. Where there should **be** six **perfect** blocks of ice, there **are** now six **piles** of ice chunks.
3. He **looks** up **to** see Emma wave and **smile** at him **through** the window.
4. Charlotte **tries** to **argue**, but Roger just **handcuffs** her and **leads** her to his car.
5. Roger listens **as** everyone gossips **about** Charlotte **between** sips **from** steaming cups of hot chocolate.
6. He's **relieved** that the **rest** of the town is as upset about **it** as **him**.

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