

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Once upon a time, there lived a very poor shoemaker and his wife.

“This is all the leather I have left,” said the shoemaker sadly. “I can make just one pair of shoes.”



1. Was the shoemaker married?

☐

Yes

☐

No

2. How do you know?

That night, the shoemaker cut the leather.
“I’ll make these shoes in the morning,” he said.
So he cut the leather and went to bed.

3. When did the shoemaker cut the leather?

☐

That night.

☐

That morning.

☐

At lunchtime.

☐

That afternoon.

4. What did the shoemaker do after he had cut the leather?

The next morning, the shoemaker came downstairs.
To his amazement, the leather had been made
into a pair of beautiful shoes.
The shoemaker called his wife.
“Did you make these shoes?”
“No,” said his wife, “I did not make those shoes!”

5. What had the leather been made into?

☐

A handbag.

☐

A hat.

☐

A coat.

☐

A pair of beautiful shoes.

6. How did the shoemaker feel when he saw the shoes?

At that moment, a rich lady came into the shop.
She picked up the shoes.
“These are the most beautiful shoes I have ever seen,” she said.
She gave the shoemaker three gold coins.

7. What kind of lady came into the shop?

☐

A beautiful lady.

☐

A poor lady.

☐

A rich lady.

☐

A proud lady.

8. How many coins did the rich lady give the shoemaker?

With the money, the shoemaker bought enough
leather to make two pairs of shoes.
That night, he cut the leather and left it on the table.
Then he went to bed.

9. What did the shoemaker buy with the money?

☐

More leather.

☐

A new hammer.

☐

A pair of scissors.

☐

A dress for his wife.

10. How many pairs of shoes did the shoemaker plan to make.

The next morning, the shoemaker came downstairs. To his
amazement, the leather had been made into two pairs of beautiful
shoes. The shoemaker called his wife.

“Did you make these shoes?”

“No,” said his wife, “I did not make those shoes!”

11. How many pairs of shoes did the shoemaker find?

☐

One

☐

Two

☐

Three

☐

four

At that moment, a rich man came into the shop.

He looked at the shoes.

“These are the most fabulous shoes I have ever seen,” said the man. “I must have them.

I will pay you six gold coins.”

12. The rich man thought the shoes were...?

☐

colourful.

☐

beautiful.

☐

amazing.

☐

fabulous.

13. Did the rich man buy the shoes?

☐

Yes

☐

No

The next morning, the shoemaker came downstairs.

To his amazement, the leather had been made into three pairs of beautiful shoes.

The shoemaker called his wife.

“We must find out who is making these beautiful shoes for us,” said the shoemaker.

14. What did the shoe maker want to find out?

The next night, the shoemaker worked very hard. He cut the leather for four pairs of shoes. But this time, the shoemaker and his wife hid in the shop.

15. What did the shoemaker do after he had cut the leather?

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He went to bed.

☐

He had his supper.

☐

He hid in the shop.

☐

He watched television.

16. Why did the shoemaker and his wife hide in the shop?

The shoemaker and his wife waited and waited. Then, suddenly, two little elves appeared in the shop dressed only in rags. They climbed up onto the table and set to work.

Those little elves stitched and sewed and hammered all night long. By morning, they had made four pairs of beautiful shoes.

Then, in a flash they were gone!

17. Who was making the shoes?

18. What were the elves wearing?

☐

Elf suits.

☐

Track suits.

☐

Rags.

☐

Pyjamas

The shoemaker said to his wife,
“The elves have helped us, but how can we
help them?”

“I know what we can do!” replied his wife.
“We will make the elves some smart new clothes!”

19. Why did the shoemaker and his wife want to help the elves?

☐

because they were
kind.

☐

because the elves
were poor.

☐

because the elves
had helped them.

☐

because they felt
sorry for them.

20. What did the shoemaker’s wife think they should do to help the elves?

The shoemaker and his wife set to work and before long, they had made two pairs of little red shoes, two little red jackets, two pairs of trousers and two little red hats. That night, they left the little outfits in the shop and hid again.

21. What colour clothes did the shoemaker and his wife make for the elves?

☐

Blue

☐

Red

☐

Green

☐

Purple

22. Where did the shoemaker and his wife leave the elves little outfits?

They waited and waited and waited. Then, suddenly, the two little elves appeared again. When they climbed up onto the table and saw the clothes they were overjoyed!

They put them on at once.

21. How did the elves feel when they saw the clothes?

☐

Surprised

☐

Overjoyed

☐

Confused

☐

Worried

Now, from that day to this, those two little elves have helped the shoemaker and his wife to make beautiful shoes. In return, the shoemaker and his wife have made beautiful clothes for the little elves.

And the shoemaker and his wife, and the two little elves all lived happily ever after.

21. What lessons can you learn from this story?

Draw your favourite part of the story.