

Rip Van Winkle

Many years ago, at the **foothills** of the Kaatskill (Kat-skill) mountains, was a little village. In the village lived a simple, good-natured **fellow** named Rip Van Winkle. He was a kind neighbour, ready to help anyone.

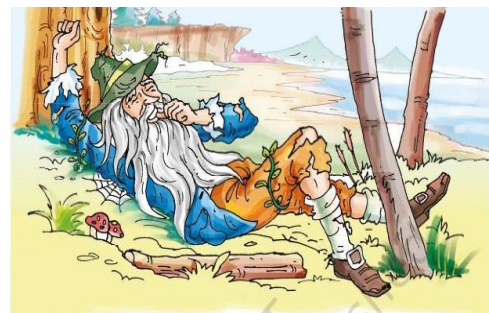
Everyone in the village liked him. The children of the village **shouted** with **joy** whenever they saw him because he played with them, he taught them to fly kites and shoot **marbles**, and told them long stories. The only problem with Rip was that he was very lazy. He did no work on his own farm and just **idled away** his time. His **fences** were **falling to pieces**. His cow was going **astray**. **Weeds** grew on his farm. Rip's **constant companion** was his dog, named Wolf. To avoid work, he would walk away into the forest with his dog. One day, Rip just walked **on and on** and reached the highest part of the mountains.

It was late in the afternoon when he reached there. Tired after his long **climb**, he **lay down** and began daydreaming. It was soon evening and he realised it would be night by the time he reached his village.

Suddenly, he heard a voice **calling out**, “Rip Van Winkle, Rip Van Winkle!” He **looked around** and saw a short, old man, with **thick** hair and a **grizzled** beard walking towards him with a **barrel**. He made signs to help him carry the barrel.

Rip **hurried** to help the **stranger** who caught his hand tightly. Together they reached a place where there were some more odd looking men, playing ninepins. They were all dressed the same way and all of them had beards of various shapes and colours.

Even though they were playing a game, their faces were serious and there was silence! The only sound was the noise of the balls, which **echoed** in the mountains like **thunder**. As Rip and his companion reached them, they stopped playing and stared at Rip with a fixed **gaze**. Rip was really **frightened**. His companion emptied the contents of the barrel into glasses and made Rip drink it. Rip obeyed as he was **trembling** with fear. Since he was thirsty he drank a few more glasses and slowly fell into a deep sleep. On



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waking up, he found that he was at the place where he had first met the old man. He **rubbed** his eyes — it was a bright sunny morning. “Surely, I have not slept here all night,” thought Rip. He looked around for Wolf, but he was nowhere. Rip **whistled** for him. “Wolf! Wolf!” he then shouted. No dog was to be seen. “Where has this dog gone?” he **muttered** to himself. He began to **descend** the mountain to go back to his village.



As he neared the village, he met a number of people but he didn't know any of them. The villagers also stared at him equally surprised. “Who is this man?” said one. “I've never seen him before,” said another, “look at his long white beard and his wrinkled face.” On hearing this, Rip **stroked** his chin and, to his **astonishment**, he found his beard had grown a foot long, and it was all white! An old woman **walked up** to him and looked at his face **for a moment**. Then she **exclaimed** — “It is Rip Van Winkle! Welcome home again, old neighbour! Where have you been these twenty long years?”

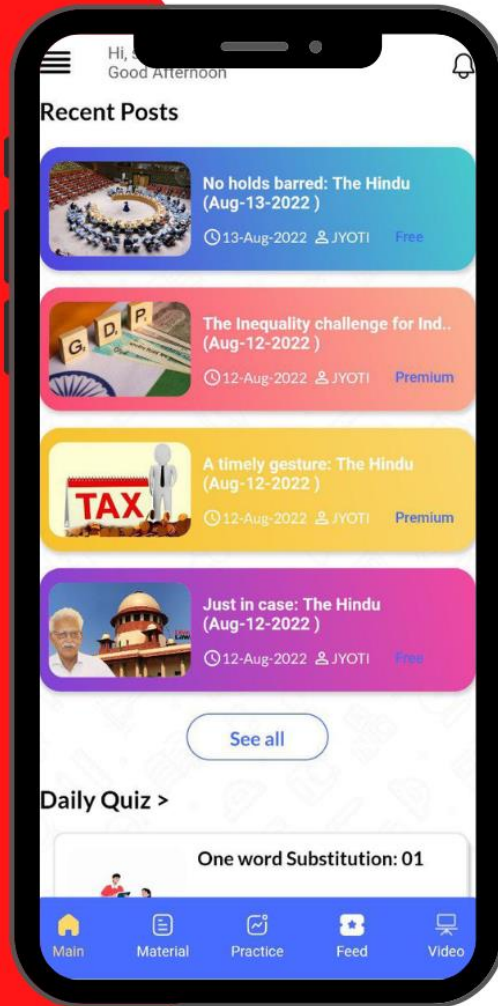
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Vocabulary

- Foothill** (noun) – A low hill at the foot of higher hills or mountains. तलहटी/
निचली पहाड़ी
- Fellow** (adjective) – mate, dude, buddy, companion, comrade साथी
- Shout** (verb) – Utter in a loud voice; talk in a loud voice चिल्लाना
- Joy** (noun) – happiness, delight, ecstasy, pleasure, bliss आनंद/ खुशी
- Shoot** (verb) – hit, fire off मारना
- Marble** (noun) – a small ball of glass that is used in various games लड़कों के खेलने की गोली
- Idle away** (phrasal verb) – to spend a period of time relaxing and doing very little समय बर्बाद करना
- Fence** (noun) – a structure of wood or wire forming a wall around a house or a piece of land, often to keep people or animals from coming in or going out बाड़, घेरा
- Fall to pieces** (phrasal verb) – to break apart into smaller parts: disintegrate टुकड़ों में गिरना
- Astray** (adverb) – away from the correct path or direction भटकना
- Weed** (noun) – wild plant that grows in an unwanted place खरपतवार
- Constant** (adjective) – persistent, steady, perpetual, consistent निरंतर/स्थिर
- Companion** (noun) – buddy, friend, comrade, mate, fellow साथी
- On and on** (phrase) – Continuously and perpetually, without stopping. लगातार
- Climb** (noun) – the act of climbing something; rise, mount चढ़ाई
- Lie down** (phrasal verb) – a short rest in which one lies down on a bed लेटना
- Call out** (phrasal verb) – to say something in a loud voice: बुलाना
- Look around** (phrasal verb) – to go through a place in order to see what is there चारों ओर देखना
- Thick** (adjective) – refers to the density of hair घने
- Grizzled** (adjective) – (of hair) having dark and white hairs mixed. भूरी (दाढ़ी)
- Barrel** (noun) – a cylindrical container bulging out in the middle, traditionally made of wooden staves with metal hoops round them. पीपा, बैरल

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22. **Hurry** (verb) – rush, hasten, speed, dash
जल्दबाजी करना
23. **Stranger** (noun) – outsider, newcomer, unknown, foreigner अजनबी
24. **Echo** (verb) – resound, resonate, reverberate, ricochet, repeat गूँजना
25. **Thunder** (noun) – roar, boom, rumble, bellow, resound गड़गड़ाहट
26. **Gaze** (noun) – stare, fixed look, intent look, gape टकटकी/ स्थिर नज़र
27. **Frightened** (adjective) – scared, afraid, terrified, fearful, worried भयभीत/ डरा हुआ
28. **Tremble** (verb) – shake, quiver, shiver, shudder, quake कांपना
29. **Rub** (verb) – Move over something with pressure मलना/ मसलना
30. **Whistle** (verb) – Make whistling sounds; hiss, sing, flute सीटी बजाना
31. **Mutter** (verb) – Talk indistinctly; usually in a low voice बड़बड़ाना
32. **Descend** (verb) – go down, come down नीचे उतरना
33. **Stroke** (verb) – caress, touch, fondle, blow, apoplexy सहलाना
34. **Astonishment** (noun) – surprise, amazement, wonder, bewilderment आश्चर्य
35. **Walk up to** (phrasal verb) – To come up to someone on foot
36. **For a Moment** (phrase) – A short time, a little bit एक पल के लिए
37. **Exclaim** (verb) – To speak suddenly or sharply, as from surprise कुछ कहना, चिल्लाना



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