

# Intervention 4: Infinitives, Gerunds, and Participles

## Information for teachers

- An **infinitive** is a verb form that is not inflected for person, number, or tense.
- Infinitives in English are often accompanied by *to*:
  - *I wanted **to swim***
- However, infinitives can also occur without *to*:
  - *I saw them **swim***
- Like a noun, the infinitive can function as the subject or object of a verb:
  - ***To err** is human*
- Another type of verbal noun is the **gerund**, which ends in *-ing*.
  - ***Swimming** is fun*
- Not all forms ending in *-ing* are gerunds. Some forms in *-ing* are **participles**.
- While gerunds are nouns, participles are adjectives:
  - *a **smiling** face*
- These distinctions are very confusing for most learners of English
- Some languages have none of these categories at all:
  - *~~I saw them swim~~ → I saw that they swam*
  - *~~a smiling face~~ → a face that smiles*
- Very few languages have the English distinctions between infinitives and gerunds
- Learners may also be confused by how a single *-ing* form can have multiple functions
- Children who speak some of the languages most commonly found in NI schools, such as Polish, Portuguese, Arabic, and Chinese, will benefit from this intervention
- However, this intervention is not just for specific languages
  - It may be of use to any Newcomer pupil
  - It can also help English-speaking pupils to understand English better

## How to use this resource

- This resource contains stories with deliberate mistakes in them
- Children can go through the stories looking for mistakes
- There are also questions for children to answer, based on the stories
- A teacher or assistant should be present to explain these tasks to children, make sure they understand the questions, and help with any areas where they may be struggling
- You can use the stories and questions included here as a template, and create your own resources based on other stories
- These resources are intended for children in Key Stage 2, but similar methods may be useful for older or younger children.

# Classroom Materials

## Story 1

### **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

Once upon a time there was a little girl who had golden yellow hair. Her name was Goldilocks. One day she decided to go for a walk in a forest. She saw lots of beautiful flowers grow and birds fly about.

‘It’s beautiful to walk in the forest,’ thought Goldilocks.

In the middle of the forest, she saw a little house.

She went into the house, where she saw a table with three bowls and three spoons on it. Goldilocks looked at the table. She saw that the bowls were full of porridge.

‘Is this porridge for my eating?’ Goldilocks wondered.

She ate a bowl of porridge and then decided to sitting down for a rest.

She thought, ‘This chair is too hard to sit in. That chair is just right.’

Goldilocks was still tired. She went upstairs and found a bedroom with three beds.

She thought, ‘I’d like sleep for a while. That bed is just right. I can to sleep there.’

She got into the bed that was just right and fell asleep.

While Goldilocks was sleeping, the three bears arrived: a big bear, a medium bear, and a little bear. It was their house.

‘Someone’s been eating our porridge!’ they said.

They went upstairs.

‘There’s someone to sleep in my bed!’ said the little bear.

Goldilocks woke up and heard the three bears growl at her. She was so frightened that she jumped out of the bed and ran all the way home.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did the bears start growling before or after Goldilocks woke up?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. Goldilocks loved to watch the \_\_\_\_\_ birds.
  - b. She was tired after \_\_\_\_\_ in the forest.
  - c. She was hungry and wanted something \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would Goldilocks have said?



A. 'That bowl of porridge is too hot for eating.'

B. 'That bowl of porridge is too hot to eat.'

ii. Which would Goldilocks have said?



A. 'Should I sleep in this bed?'

B. 'Should I to sleep in this bed?'

iii. When she got home, which would Goldilocks have said?

A. 'I wish I hadn't stopped resting in that house.'

B. 'I wish I hadn't stopped to rest in that house.'

5. If the bear had thought, '*Her sleeping in my bed bothers me,*' would this have been when Goldilocks was asleep or awake?

## Story 2

### Jack and the Beanstalk

Jack and his mother lived on a farm. They were very poor. To get some money, they decided on sell their cow.

Jack took the cow to market. On the way, he met a man who asked Jack sell him the cow. The man offered Jack five magic beans for the cow.

Jack gave the man the cow and went home with his magic beans. His mother was very angry at Jack to bring home nothing but beans. She threw the beans out of the window.

The next morning, when Jack got up, he found that the beans had grown into a huge beanstalk. The beanstalk reached all the way up to the sky.

After climbing up the beanstalk, Jack arrived at the house of a giant.

Jack heard the giant to shout.

Jack hid in the giant's house and watched him doing things. The giant had lots of treasures. He had a lot of money, a hen that laid golden eggs, and a magical harp.

When Jack saw the giant fell asleep, Jack took his treasures and climbed down the beanstalk with them. The giant woke up and chased Jack. Jack reached the ground and saw the giant climbing down the beanstalk. Jack got an axe and chopped the beanstalk down. The giant fell from the sky and was killed.

Jack and his mother now had plenty of money living on. They lived happily ever after.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did the giant start to climb the beanstalk before or after Jack reached the ground?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. Jack agreed \_\_\_\_\_ the cow to the man.
  - b. Jack was tired from \_\_\_\_\_ up the beanstalk.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ down the beanstalk, Jack escaped.

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would Jack have said?



- A. 'I can hear someone make a noise.'
- B. 'I can hear someone making a noise.'

ii. Which would Jack have said?



- A. 'This is the hen laying golden eggs.'
- B. 'This is the hen that lays golden eggs.'

iii. Which would Jack have said?

- A. 'I killed him climbing down the beanstalk.'
- B. 'I killed his climbing down the beanstalk.'

5. If Jack told his mother, '*The hen has stopped to lay golden eggs,*' was this a good thing or a bad thing?

## Story 3

### **Sleeping Beauty**

Once upon a time there was a princess. When she was a baby, the king and queen invited everyone coming to her christening. There was a wicked fairy that they decided not invite, but she came to the christening anyway.

The wicked fairy was angry not to be invited. She put a curse on the princess, saying that she was pricking her finger on a spindle. When that happened, she would die.

There was also a good fairy at the christening. She made it so that when the princess pricked her finger, she wouldn't die; the spell would just make her to fall asleep.

One day, when she was sixteen, the princess saw an old woman making thread with a spinning wheel. The princess said that she would like making thread too. When she sat at the wheel, she pricked her finger on the spindle and fell asleep.

Everyone else in the castle fell asleep too. The king and queen fell asleep. All the soldiers and servants fell asleep. An enormous hedge of brambles grew up around the castle.

A hundred years later, a prince was riding by. He had heard about the princess to sleep in the castle. He saw the hedge of brambles and hacked his way through with his sword.

Inside the hedge, he found the castle with everyone asleep in it. He went into the castle and saw the princess. He kissed her and she woke up.

Everyone else in the castle woke up too. The prince and princess walked into the throne room. They saw the king and queen standing up, welcoming them.

The prince and the princess were married, and lived happily ever after.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did the king and queen get up before or after the prince walked into the throne room?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. The king and queen didn't ask the wicked fairy \_\_\_\_\_ to the christening.
  - b. The good fairy saved the princess from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The king and queen saw each other \_\_\_\_\_ asleep.



4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would the queen have said?



A. 'She's stopped crying.'

B. 'She's stopped to cry.'

ii. Which would the princess have said?



A. 'I've never seen anyone do that.'

B. 'I've never seen anyone to do that'

iii. Which would the prince have said?

A. 'This is the castle of the sleeping beauty!'

B. 'This is the castle of the beauty that sleeps!'

5. If the prince had said, '*I saw the brambles grow around the castle,*' would this have been true or false?

## Story 4

### **King Midas**

King Midas was a king in Ancient Greece.

One day he helped one of the Greek gods, who rewarded him by give him a wish.

King Midas wished for everything he touched turn to gold.

To see if his wish had been granted, King Midas picked a twig off an apple tree. He saw the twig to turn to gold.

King Midas picked up a stone. The stone turned to gold.

Then King Midas picked an apple from the tree. The apple turned to gold.

King Midas was very happy. 'I like turn things to gold!' he thought.

After coming home, King Midas touched the palace wall and even the wall turned to gold.

But there was a problem. Sitting down to dinner, King Midas found that all his food turned to gold. He picked up some bread, and the bread turned to gold. He tried that he bit into some meat, and it turned to gold in his mouth. He wasn't able eat anything.

King Midas was very hungry. He knew that he might starve because of his wish.

Then King Midas's son came in. King Midas patted him on the head. His son turned into a golden statue.

King Midas begged the god to undo his wish. He was told bathe in the river.

King Midas jumped into the river. It was very cold. When he got out, though, he was back to normal. He could touch things without turning them to gold.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Did King Midas's food turn to gold before he took his place, while he was taking his place, or after he had taken his place at the table?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ things to gold pleased King Midas.
  - b. He didn't mean \_\_\_\_\_ his son to gold.
  - c. He got cold \_\_\_\_\_ into the river.



4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would King Midas have said?



- A. 'This ought turn to gold.'
- B. 'This ought to turn to gold.'

ii. Which would King Midas have said?



- A. 'I made an apple turn to gold!'
- B. 'I made an apple to turn to gold!'

iii. Which would King Midas have said?

- A. 'I saw my son turning to gold!'
- B. 'I saw my son turn to gold!'

5. If King Midas thought, '*How can I keep from turning more things to gold?*' was this before or after dinner?