

## 1. The Lion's Share

A long time ago, the Lion, the Fox, the Tiger, and the Wolf in a forest had a meeting and agreed to go hunting together. Besides, the four animals would share with each other whatever one of them found.

One day the Wolf ran down a deer. He immediately called the other three partners to divide the delicious prey.

The Lion, the Fox, and the Tiger came very fast. However, the Lion quickly placed himself at the head of the big feast to carve the deer without being asked. Then, he began to count the guests with a great show of fairness.

"One," the Lion said, counting on his claws, "that is myself, the Lion. Two, that's the Wolf; three, is the Tiger, and the Fox makes four." He then very carefully divided the deer into four equal parts.

"I am King Lion," he said, when he had finished dividing the prey, "So, of course, I get the first part." "This next part falls to me because I am the strongest. The third part is also mine because I am the bravest of us."

He then stared at the others very savagely. "If anyone of you touch the part left," he growled, stretching his claws, "I am afraid an accident will happen."

Now people learning English use the Lion's Share to mean the biggest portion since the Lion in the story takes more than all the other animals do. The story teaches people always to choose partners carefully as well.

## 2. The Lazy Boy Turned into a Monkey

Once upon a time, there was a lazy boy from the Saisiyat tribe. He was always sleeping. One day, his angry mother spanked him with a stick. To everybody's surprise, the stick turned into a tail the minute it touched the boy, and the boy turned into a monkey.

The poor monkey-turned boy cried loudly, and then a dove came to comfort him. After listening to the boy's story, the dove said that she used to be a human girl. She always played in the forest but one day she got lost. Suddenly, her arms were transformed into wings, and she became a dove. The dove-turned girl wanted to fly home so that she would seek a god for help.

The monkey decided to go with her. Finally, they found the god they had been looking for. The two animals shared the stories of their trials with the god.

The god gave the dove a good sense of direction so she could find her way home, and immediately the dove flew straight home. Then, the god gave the monkey the ability to climb trees. The monkey was happy because he could climb trees and pick bananas to eat. "Laziness turned you into a monkey," the god said, "so you have to pay the price for your special ability. You will be chased every time you steal a banana." After that, the monkey would always steal bananas from trees, and people would still chase him away.

### 3. Lady Mouse Got Married

Once upon a time, there was a mouse village. The mayor had a lovely daughter, and every young mouse wanted to marry her. The Daddy Mouse thought to himself, “I am the head of the 12 animal signs. I have to find an excellent husband for my daughter.” Daddy Mouse went to see the famous matchmaker. The matchmaker gave him a list of good mice, but Daddy Mouse didn’t want his daughter to marry a mouse. He decided to find the strongest man in the world.

Daddy Mouse saw the shiny sun on the way. He believed the sun must be the greatest candidate, so he asked the sun to marry his daughter. However, the sun said, “Sometimes a cloud blocks my light. The cloud is greater than I.”

When Daddy Mouse talked to the cloud, the cloud answered, “The wind always blows me away. I think the wind is the greatest.” Daddy Mouse then spoke to the wind. The wind said, “No matter how hard I blow, I cannot pass my wind to the other side of the mountain. The mountain is by far the greatest.”

Then, the mountain said to him, “I am here forever, while a mouse can run to different places. In my opinion, mice are the most amazing animals!”

Daddy Mouse finally went back home and married his daughter to the strongest mouse in the village. The wedding was on the third day of the Chinese New Year, and it was huge and joyful.