



The Magpie’s Nest

Of all the birds in the air, the magpie builds the best nest so all the birds came to Magpie and asked her to teach them how to build nests. Magpie got them all together and began to show them how to do it. First, she took some mud and patted it into the shape of a pancake. “Ah ha!” said Thrush, and away she flew. Thrush still builds her nest out of mud.

Then Magpie arranged some twigs around in the mud. “Well of course,” said Owl, and away she flew. Owls have never made better nests than that. Magpie turned the edges of the pancake up into a bowl shape, and put more twigs around the outside. “What a good idea!” said Sparrow, and Sparrow makes messy nests to this day. Each bird took away some knowledge of how to build nests, but none of them waited to the end.

Finally, only silly Turtle-dove was left, and she hadn’t been paying any attention all along. She had just been sitting there saying her silly cry. “Take two, take two-o-o-o.” Magpie was adding the last twig to her lovely nest. “Take two, take two-o-o” cried Turtle-dove. Magpie looked at Turtle-dove. “One’s enough,” she said. But the Turtle-dove kept on saying, “Take two, take two-o-o.” Then Magpie got angry. “One’s enough, I tell you.” Still Turtle-dove repeated, “Take two, take two-o-o.”

At last, Magpie got even angrier. No one but silly Turtle-dove was left to see her lovely nest that she had worked so long to build. She flew away to find some worms, and refused to show the birds how to build a nest again. And that is why different birds build their nests differently.

I. State whether the following sentences are True or False.

1. Magpie builds the very best nest. _____
2. Turtle dove helped magpie build its nest. _____
3. All the birds waited for the magpie to finish its nest. _____

II. Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

1. Sparrow makes _____ nests to this day.
2. Magpie turned the _____ of the pancake into a bowl.
3. Each bird took away some _____ of how to build nests.
4. First, she took some _____ and _____ it into the shape of a pancake.

III. Why did all the birds ask the magpie to teach them to build a nest?

IV. Write a word from the passage for the given meanings.

1. a slender woody shoot growing from a branch - _____
2. indicate or show that one is not willing to do - _____
3. put things in a neat or required order - _____

V. Pick out Simple Past Tense of the following verbs from the passage.

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| 1. fly - _____ | 3. make - _____ |
| 2. take - _____ | 4. begin - _____ |