

Факультет иностранных языков
Специальность «Перевод и переводоведение»
Английский язык
Вступительный экзамен

Текст для аудирования

БИЛЕТ № 10

One day Nasreddin went to visit King Tamerlane, who took him to see his horses and donkeys, of which he was very proud. Nasreddin naturally wanted to please the King, so he praised each of the animals greatly.

At last they came to a beautiful cream-colored donkey which Tamerlane had bought the week before.

‘What a wonderfully clever animal it looks!’ cried Nasreddin. ‘I am sure it could learn to read, Your Majesty!’

As soon as he had said this, he regretted his words, but it was too late to take them back any more.

Tamerlane looked at Nasreddin. ‘Well, well,’ he said after a few moments, ‘so you believe that you could teach my donkey to read, do you? Well, you have one month to do so.’

Nasreddin knew what the king would do to him if he did not succeed in teaching the donkey to read. He took the animal’s rope and led it to his own house, feeling very unhappy indeed.

Exactly a month later, he went to see the King again with the donkey and a very big book. He put the book in front of the donkey, and the animal began to turn the pages eagerly with its tongue. When it reached the middle of the book, it stopped and began to bray loud and long.

Tamerlane roared with laughter and then said to Nasreddin, ‘How did you teach it to do this trick?’

Nasreddin took a deep breath of relief and then said, ‘Well, Your Majesty, I first put some hay between the first and the second pages, so that the donkey had to turn the first page with his tongue to get the hay. Then the next day, I put the hay between the second and the third pages, so that he had to turn two pages to get the hay, and so on. Today he brayed because he was angry and disappointed when he did not find any hay in the book at all.’