

ARTISTS

Three artists were boasting about their work, each trying to be better than the other.

"Some time ago," said the first, "I painted a piece of wood in imitation of marble. I did it so well that when it was thrown into the water it sank immediately to the bottom."

"Why, that's nothing," said the second, "last winter I painted a picture of a snowy landscape, and yesterday when I hung a thermometer next to it, it at once fell from twenty degrees above to twenty degrees below zero."

"Not worth speaking of!" said the third. "That picture I painted of the famous millionaire was so lifelike that it had to be shaved regularly twice a week."

boast: to show off
each: every
paint: make a picture
imitation: fake
marble: a stone

bottom: lowermost
why: astonishment
landscape: countryside
at once: immediately
above: over

below: under
worth: to cost
lifelike: similar to life
shave: cut the beard
twice: 2x

A LESSON FOR THE TEACHER

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. "If I stand on my head," he told his class, "the blood runs down into my head, doesn't it?"

"Yes, sir," the class replied. "Then," said the teacher, "why doesn't the blood run into my feet when I stand on my feet?" "Please, sir, it's because your feet aren't empty."

reply: answer

empty: with no content



WHY SHOULD HE?

It was a very hot day, and the captain had been lecturing his men on their duties as soldiers. When he had finished, he wanted to see how much they remembered of what he had said, so he asked one of them, "Private Smith, tell me now, why should a soldier be ready to die for his country?"

Private Smith, who had been more than half asleep during the lecture, scratched his head for some time, not knowing what to reply.

Then at last a happy smile crossed his face, and he answered, "You're quite right, captain, why should he?"

captain: officer's rank
lecture: to read

duty: what we have to do
private: soldier's rank

die: to lose one's life
quite right: ok

Make the sentences negative:

The artists were boasting. ... *The artists weren't boasting*.....

I painted a picture.

The picture was very lifelike.

The teacher was giving a lesson.

I stand on my head.

It's my duty.

Why should he answer?

It was a very hot day.