

2. Birbal the Wise

One day, a rich merchant came to Birbal. He said to Birbal, "I have seven servants (નોકરો) in my house. One of them has stolen my bag of precious (કિંમતી) pearls (મોતી). Please find out the thief."



So Birbal went to the rich man's house. He called all the seven servants in a room. He gave a stick to each of them. Then he said, "These are magic sticks. Just now all these sticks are equal in length (લંબાઈ). Keep them with you and return tomorrow. If you are the thief, your stick will grow an inch longer (વધારે લાંબુ) by tomorrow."

The servant who had stolen the bag of pearls was scared (ડરેલો). He thought, "If I cut a piece of one inch from my stick, I won't be caught." So he cut the stick and made it shorter (વધારે ટૂંકું) by one inch.

The next day Birbal collected the sticks from the servants. He found that one servant's stick was short by an inch. Birbal pointed his finger (આંગળી ચીંધી) at him and said, "Here is the thief (ચોર)." The servant confessed (કબૂલ્યું) his crime (ગુનો). He returned the bag of pearls. He was sent to the jail.



PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks:

1. The sticks had real magic in them. True or False ? _____
2. The real thief cut the stick by an inch to _____ .
(save himself, save birbal, save the merchant)
3. _____ was sent to the jail.
4. _____ caught the thief with his wisdom.

Answer the questions:

1. Why did the merchant go to Birbal ?

2. Who was the real thief ?

3. What happened to the thief at last ?

Match 'A' with 'B':

Word 'A'	Similar Word 'B'	Answers
(1) merchant	(a) valuable	1.
(2) thief	(b) trader	2.
(3) precious	(c) wealthy	3.
(4) jail	(d) robber	4.
(5) rich	(e) prison	5.

