



Level 1

The Shoemaker and the Elves



OXFORD



The Shoemaker and the Elves

Retold by Sue Arengo
Illustrated by Omar Aranda



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Who's this? It's
the shoemaker.
The old shoemaker.





And here's his shop. The
old shoe shop.

It isn't a very good shop. It
doesn't make much money.





‘One last pair of shoes,’ says the old shoemaker. ‘That’s all I can make.’

‘It’s late,’ says his wife. ‘Make them in the morning.’

In the morning they come down.
There's something on the table!
It's the shoes!
'Look!' cries the shoemaker. 'Magic!'



He puts the shoes in the window.
A lady sees them.



‘Ah, Shoemaker,’ says the lady.
‘What beautiful shoes! I must buy
them. Here are three gold coins.’

'Three gold coins!' says the shoemaker. 'I can make more shoes now. Two more pairs.'

He goes out and he buys some more leather.

'I have some money,' he says. 'Look! Three gold coins!'

Look! Three gold coins!



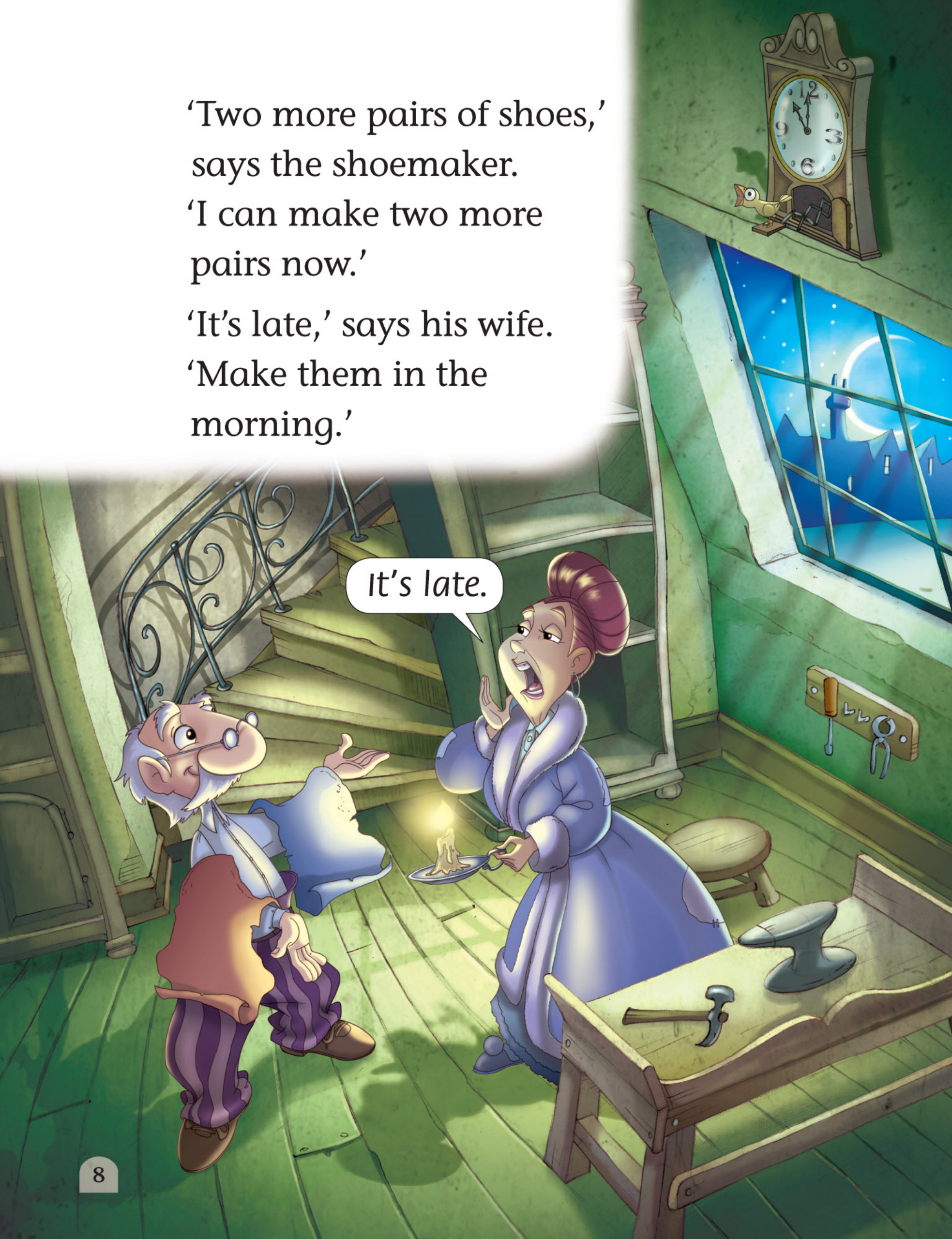
‘Two more pairs of shoes,’
says the shoemaker.

‘I can make two more
pairs now.’

‘It’s late,’ says his wife.

‘Make them in the
morning.’

It’s late.





In the morning they come down. There's something on the table! Two pairs of shoes. 'Look!' cries the shoemaker. 'More magic!'

He puts the shoes in the window.
A man sees them.

‘Ah, Shoemaker,’ says the man.
‘What beautiful shoes! I must buy
them. Here are six gold coins.’





‘Six gold coins!’ says the shoemaker. ‘I can make more shoes now. Three more pairs.’ He goes out and he buys some more leather. ‘Look!’ he says. ‘I have some money. Six gold coins!’



I can make three pairs of shoes.

An illustration of a shoemaker, an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a light blue shirt and a purple striped apron. He is holding up three large pieces of shoe leather: a green one, a pink one, and a brown one. He is looking at his wife with a confident expression. His wife, a woman with red hair styled in a bun, wearing a blue long-sleeved dress, stands next to him with her hand to her mouth in a surprised or shocked expression. In the background, there is a window with a green curtain and a shelf with two black boots.

‘I can make three pairs of shoes,’
says the shoemaker.

‘It’s late,’ says his wife. ‘Make
them in the morning.’

In the morning they come down.
There’s something on the table!
Three pairs of shoes.

‘Look!’ cries
the shoemaker.
‘Magic again.’





What beautiful shoes!

A family sees the shoes.

‘What beautiful shoes!’ they say.

‘We must buy them. Here are nine gold coins.’

‘Nine gold coins!’ says the shoemaker.

‘But ... who is making all these shoes?’

That night the shoemaker hides. He
and his wife hide. And they wait.
At midnight they see two little elves!



The little elves run in. They jump onto the table.

‘Here’s the leather!’ they say. ‘Let’s work! Let’s make some beautiful shoes!’

All night they work. They work and work and work. The shoemaker and his wife watch.



Now we know.



In the morning the elves run away.
But there's something on the table.
Four beautiful pairs of shoes!

'Now we know,' says the shoemaker.
'We know who helps us.'

'Yes,' says his wife. 'Two little elves.
But what can we do for them?'

‘I know,’ says the shoemaker. ‘Let’s make some clothes for them.’

‘Oh yes!’ says his wife. ‘Yes!’



Night comes. They leave the clothes on the table. Then they hide.

At midnight the little elves run in.

‘What’s this?’ they say. ‘Something for us? For us? Oh yes! It’s something for us!’

They put on the new clothes and they dance. Dance, dance, dance!



‘Now it’s time for us to go. Because they know! Because they know!’ say the elves. ‘Goodbye, Shoemaker!’



The elves never come back. But now the shoemaker makes good shoes. He works hard.

Now his shop is a good shop. And he is happy.



Exercises

1 Write the words.

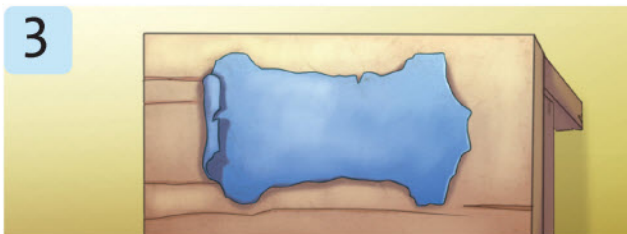
two pair pairs four some ~~one~~



_____ one _____ shoe



a _____ of shoes



_____ leather



_____ gold coins



two _____ of shoes



_____ little elves

2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 The shoemaker's shop doesn't make much money / leather.
- 2 The lady buys the shoes because they are old / beautiful.
- 3 The shoemaker buys shoes / leather with the gold coins.
- 4 The elves work at night / in the morning.
- 5 The shoemaker and his wife make shoes / clothes for the elves.

3 What do they say? Write the words.

1



Three gold !

2



I can make two more
now.

3



Make them in the .

4



Let's !

4 Answer the questions. Write Yes or No.

- 1 Are the shoes beautiful? Yes.
- 2 Are the shoes in the shop window?
- 3 Does a man see the shoes?
- 4 Does the lady buy them?
- 5 Does she buy them for two gold coins?



Picture Dictionary

buy



dance



clothes



elf



elves



coins



family



come back



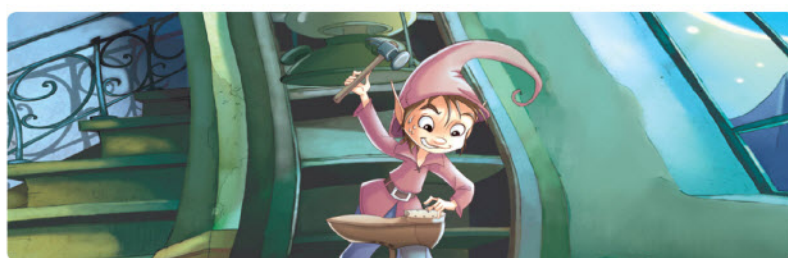
gold *a gold coin*



come down



hard *He works hard.*



hide



midnight



jump



pair *a pair of shoes*



lady



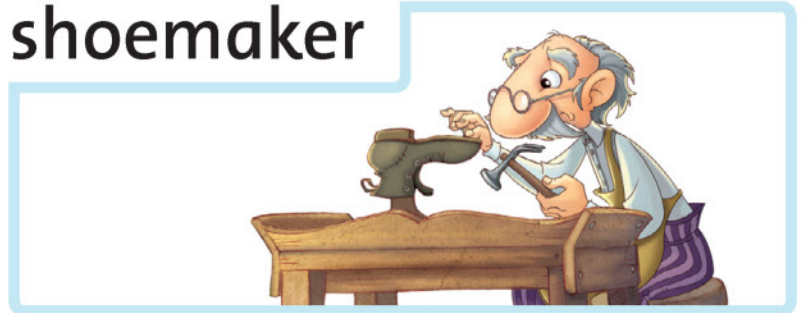
run away



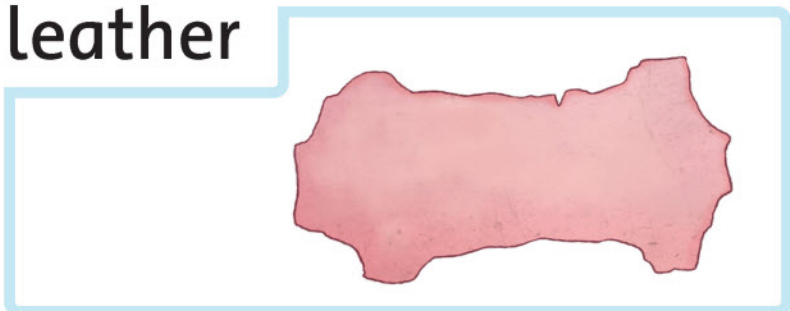
late *It's late.*



shoemaker



leather



watch



magic *magic shoes*



wife



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Level 1: 100 headwords

- The Enormous Turnip
- The Little Red Hen
- Lownu Mends the Sky
- The Magic Cooking Pot
- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

Level 2: 150 headwords

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- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

Level 3: 200 headwords

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- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood

Level 4: 300 headwords

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- The Goose Girl
- Sleeping Beauty
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Level 1

The Shoemaker and the Elves

Read the famous tale of the old shoemaker.
How do the elves help him?


A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Sue Arengo
Illustrated by Omar Aranda


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 **Level 3: 200 headwords**

 **Level 4: 300 headwords**

 **Level 5: 400 headwords**

Word count for this story: 527

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