

The tortoise and the hare



The hare was very proud of how fast he could run. He boasted of his speed to all of the other animals. "I can't be beaten," he grinned. "I challenge any of you to beat me in a race."

The animals all whispered but nobody came forward. Then, a quiet voice said, "I will race against you."

The animals looked down and were surprised to find that it was the tortoise who had spoken. The hare burst out laughing but accepted the challenge.

The course was set and the race began. Within seconds, the hare was well in front, speeding away over the hills. The tortoise didn't mind. She simply plodded onwards in her usual slow and steady pace.

After a while, the hare began to grow weary. He looked behind him – there was no sign of the tortoise.

"It will take that tortoise forever to catch up," he said. "I've got time for a nap!"

As the hare slept, the tortoise kept plodding along, moving forward slowly but steadily.

When the hare awoke, there was still no sign of the tortoise. He set off again, running like the wind, and at last he spied the finish line.

As he grew closer he realised, to his horror, that the tortoise was almost there. She must have passed him as he slept! The hare ran with all his might but it was no use. The tortoise plodded across the finish line first.

The tortoise shook the panting hare's paw with a smile.

"You travel at a frantic pace," she said. "But, slow and steady wins the race."

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