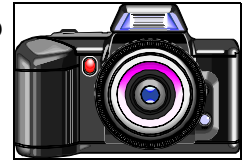


The Man

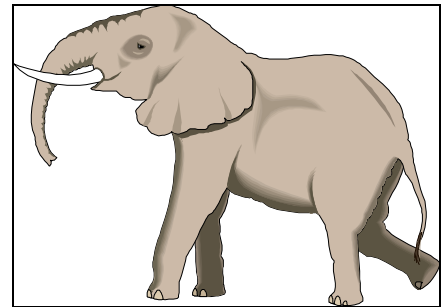


The man looked with disbelief as he came out of the shop into the main shopping centre. Walking out of Dixons having just bought the most expensive digital camera in the shop he had not expected to see the sight that met his eyes. Directly opposite Dixons was the ornamental fountain opened only a week before by the Mayor. Standing right in the middle of it was a real larger than life elephant. It was busy squirting water all over itself. It had a pleased expression in its face which is only seen on an animal which is somewhere, doing something it shouldn't, and getting away with it. The man suddenly realised his



mouth was gaping wide when a toddler passed in a pushchair and made a silly noise and pointed at him. He slammed his mouth shut quickly resulting in him biting his tongue. The pain was quickly forgotten as the man noticed the elephant had now turned its attention to the passing shoppers. Taking a carefully measured amount of water into its trunk the animal looked around seemingly looking for a shopper who would give him most entertainment. He selected a very well dressed lady. She had loads of make-up on. It was caked on so much that she looked as wrinkly as the elephant. She had a very expensive suite on and was draped with jewellery and accessories that shouted I am rich. Her nose was stuck in the air and she seemed to be the only person in the shopping centre who had not noticed the elephant. She was clearly full of her own self importance. The elephant seemed to go in to slow motion. He looked, aimed, and like an explosive rocket letting out hundreds of sparklers the water left its trunk and hurtled towards the lady. It was a brilliant aim. There was no part of the lady not completely drenched.

The man was in the process of trying to work out whether he should run to her aid or burst out laughing when he made a terrible discovery. His brand new digital camera was no longer in a carrier bag being held tightly by his hand. It was gone. Someone had stolen it.



Now answer these questions

1. Where is the setting of this story?
2. What had the man just done before he walked out of the shop?
3. How do we know that the man was surprised by what he saw?
4. Describe what the man saw as he came out of the shop and how he felt about it.
5. What accident did the man have and why?
6. What does 'draped with jewellery' mean?
7. What does 'caked on' mean?
8. What do we mean when we say that someone is full of their own importance?
9. Can you think of some better titles for this story? Write at least two down.

Now you can do one of two things.

- You can either carry on the story from the point of view of the lady
or
- You can carry the story on from the point of view of the man and what he does about his stolen camera.