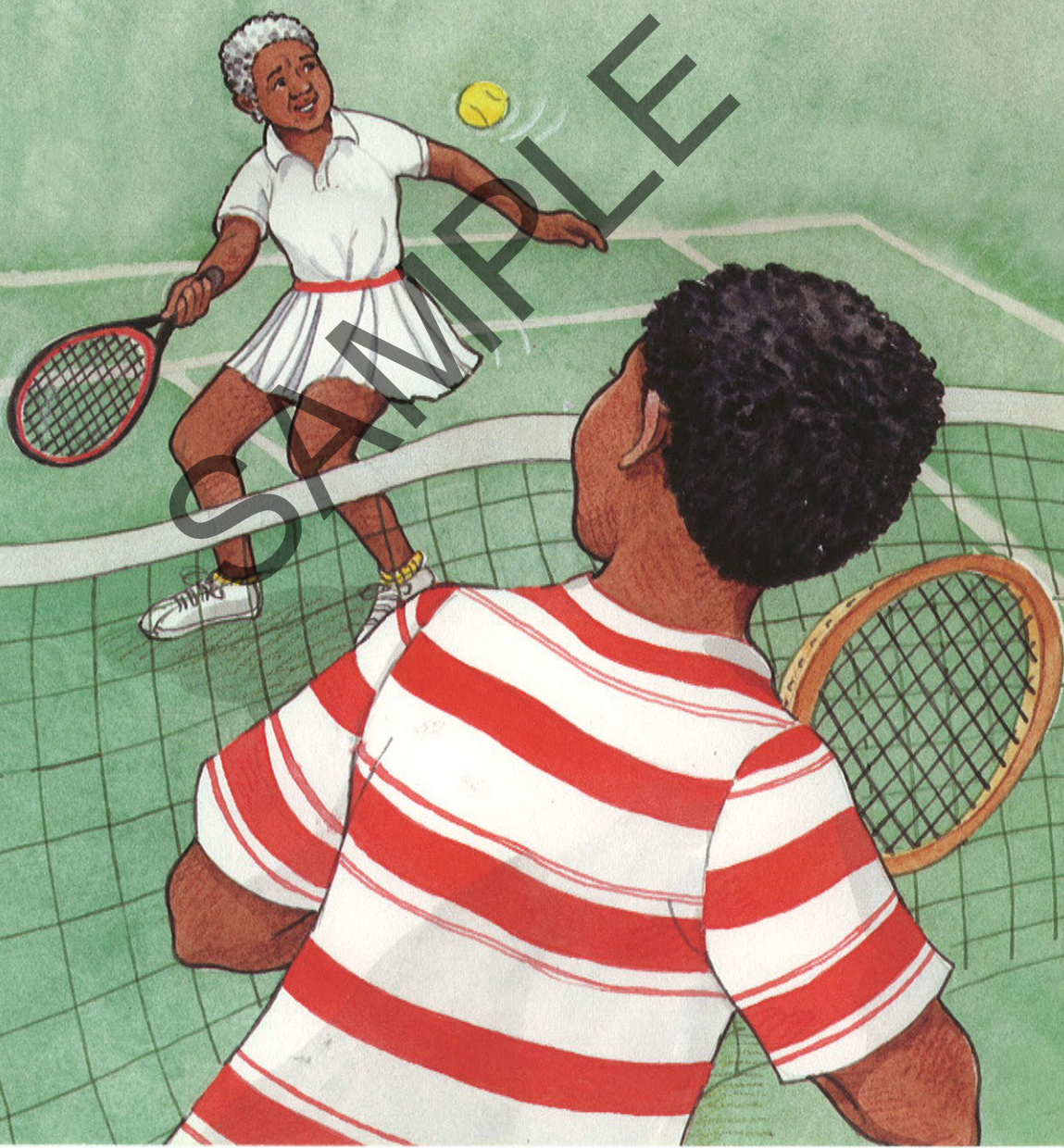
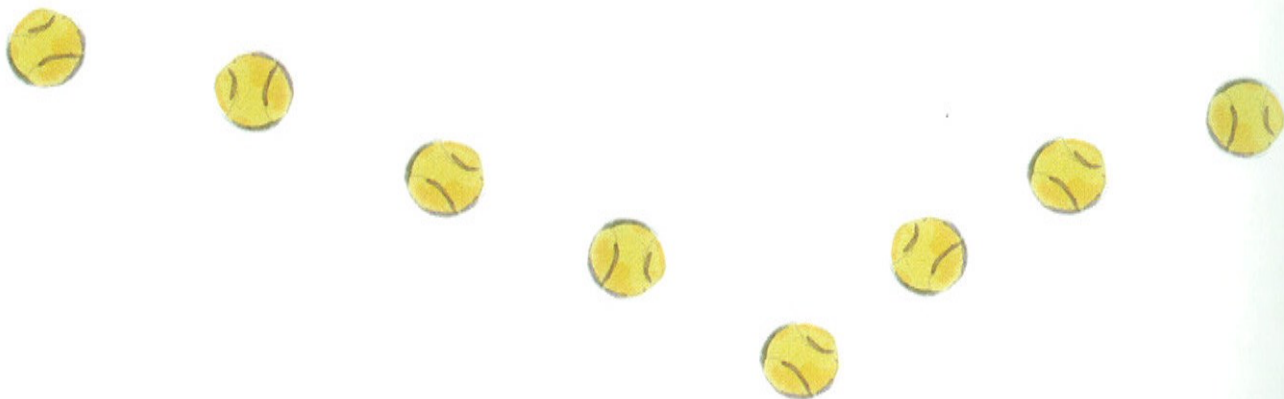


Ken's Coach

by Mike Neigoff



- 1 Ken looked all around the tennis court in the park. He hoped that none of his friends were near. He didn't want them to see him playing tennis with his grandmother, because he was sure they'd laugh.
- 2 "Let's volley," she said. "Just keep in mind what I told you. Keep your eye on the ball, then get set before you swing."
- 3 "Yes, Gran'," Ken said. He liked his grandmother. She had given him his tennis racket and was teaching him how to play. They had started by hitting a tennis ball against a brick wall. Now Ken was ready for a game.
- 4 His grandmother served the ball. Ken made himself forget everything else and watched the ball. It came fast, but he was ready when it bounced. He swung his racket and hit the ball! It flew back over the net.
- 5 "Good!" his grandmother called. She hit the ball back over the net to Ken. *That was a good volley*, he thought. Ken missed the ball, and it flew past him.
- 6 "That's fifteen points for me," his grandmother said. "Your score is 'love.' In tennis that means you have no points yet. You're doing well, though. Let's keep playing."
- 7 His grandmother moved fast on the tennis court. She knew a lot about tennis, because she had been playing for years. She was really good at it, and that made Ken want to be good at it too.
- 8 When the game was over, Ken walked to the side of the court. Pete, Sue, and Big Bill were standing there waiting for him. They had seen him playing tennis with his grandmother! Would they laugh?
- 9 "We saw you playing just now," Big Bill said. "Who is that you were playing with?"
- 10 For a moment, Ken didn't know what to say. Then he decided he didn't care what they thought. He liked his grandmother, and he liked playing tennis with her.
- 11 "She's my grandmother," Ken said. "She's teaching me how to play tennis."
- 12 "Honest?" Pete said. "She's great!"
- 13 "I wish I had my own coach," Sue said.
- 14 "You're lucky," Big Bill said. "Do you think she'd play with us sometime?"
- 15 Ken knew he should never have given a thought to what his friends might think. He knew he was lucky, and so did they. After all, who else had a grandmother and a tennis coach all in one!



COMPREHENSION

Write the letter of the best answer.

- 1 What were Ken's feelings about his grandmother?
 - a He liked her.
 - b He thought she was strange and funny.
 - c He was afraid of her.
- 2 Why didn't Ken want his friends to see him playing tennis with his grandmother?
 - a He thought they would want to play too.
 - b He thought they would laugh at him.
 - c He thought they would take his tennis racket for a joke.
- 3 Ken's friends did watch him play. How did they really feel about Ken's grandmother?
 - a They admired her.
 - b They thought she was funny.
 - c They did not like her.
- 4 How have Ken's feelings changed by the end of the story?
 - a He never wants to play tennis again.
 - b He now feels that he is lucky to have such a grandmother.
 - c He is very angry with his friends.
- 5 When Ken's grandmother started teaching him how to play tennis, what was the first thing they did?
 - a They tossed tennis balls up in the air.
 - b They hit tennis balls against a brick wall.
 - c They played a game against each other.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

VOCABULARY

A You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word.

- 1 game in which a ball is hit back and forth over a net (1)
- 2 hit a ball back and forth (2)
- 3 wooden or metal object used to hit a ball (3)
- 4 put into play (4)
- 5 made up one's mind (10)

B One good way to learn words is to use them.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the best word to fill the blank. Write the word.

- 6 Susan was ____ her brother how to play the piano. (3)
- 7 Our house is made of wood and _____. (3)
- 8 At the end of the game the team with the most ____ wins. (6)
- 9 Basketball and tennis are both played on a _____. (7)
- 10 The ____ of the team chose the starting players. (13)

WORD STUDY

C doesn't = does not

Doesn't means "does not." This shorter way of writing *does not* is called a contraction. Read each sentence and the contractions that follow it. Choose the right contraction for the words in **bold type**. Write the contraction.

- 11 **I have** never walked this far before. (I've, I'm)
12 **He is** not coming with us now. (He'd, He's)
13 I **do not** know much about mathematics. (don't, didn't)
14 **That is** the person I told you about. (They're, That's)
15 **I will** do my homework before dinner. (I've, I'll)
16 I **cannot** come to the phone now. (can't, couldn't)
17 **He will** have to walk home from school. (He'd, He'll)
18 **That is not** the book I told you to get. (didn't, isn't)

D Read each group of three words. Then write the word that comes first in alphabetical order.

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| 19 ice | joint | fair |
| 20 farmer | egg | goat |
| 21 should | could | would |
| 22 shut | quit | trip |
| 23 apple | banana | cat |
| 24 ball | picnic | table |
| 25 lost | jewel | hat |
| 26 cable | air | zoo |

E One word in each row doesn't belong with the others. Look at this example: *apples, oranges, beans*. Apples and oranges are fruit. Beans are vegetables. *Beans* is the word that doesn't belong. Write the word that doesn't belong in each row.

- | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| 27 beans | peas | fish |
| 28 table | chair | dress |
| 29 lions | tigers | tables |
| 30 tin | steel | paper |
| 31 soup | apples | pears |
| 32 oak | pine | worm |
| 33 eagle | cobra | robin |

Comprehension

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 a* | 4 b* |
| 2 b* | 5 b* |
| 3 a* | |

If you missed any of the answers marked with a star (*), go to **Skill Builders Card** 179. Then come back to the Lime level.

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| A | 1 tennis | 4 served |
| | 2 volley | 5 decided |
| | 3 racket | |
| B | 6 teaching | 9 court |
| | 7 brick | 10 coach |
| | 8 points | |

Word Study

- | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| C | 11 I've | 15 I'll |
| | 12 He's | 16 can't |
| | 13 don't | 17 He'll |
| | 14 That's | 18 isn't |

If you missed three or more answers in Part C, go to **Skill Builders Cards** 35–36. Then come back to the Lime level.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| D | 19 fair | 23 apple |
| | 20 egg | 24 ball |
| | 21 could | 25 hat |
| | 22 quit | 26 air |

If you missed three or more answers in Part D, go to **Skill Builders Card** 137. Then come back to the Lime level.

- | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| E | 27 fish | 31 soup |
| | 28 dress | 32 worm |
| | 29 tables | 33 cobra |
| | 30 paper | |

If you missed two or more answers in Part E, go to **Skill Builders Card** 187. Then come back to the Lime level.