**The Blind Men and the Elephant A00114**

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| **Section** | **Pages** |
| **Description** | **1** |
| **Student “Fill in” document** | **2-3** |
| **Document with missing words filled-in** | **4-5** |
| **Vocabulary** (“Flash-Sheet” style- Print double sided) | **6-7** |

**Usage suggestions:** Depending on class level, the vocabulary document can be used to introduce some of the words used in the story before listening to the story itself.

**Web Content:** There are two accompanying “slide shows” available. These present the vocabulary words, and the story itself. Each slideshow has been adapted from a PowerPoint presentation to be viewable using web browser software. There are versions for both “Flash” and HTML5. Test each to see what which one works on your computer.

* Option 1: Story using “Flash”- displayed within a customized “player”. (autoplay)
* Option 2: Story using “Flash” –full window with no specialized player. (autoplay)
* Option 3: Story using HTML5 (No specialized player- autoplay)
* Option 4: Vocabulary (manual navigation- no audio) “Flash” in a customized player.
* Option 5: Vocabulary (manual navigation- no audio) “Flash” full window - no player.
* Option 6: Vocabulary (manual navigation- no audio) HTML5 (No specialized player)

**Source file information:** Pages 1-5 are contained in aMicrosoft Word format file. Pages 6-7 were created using LibreOffice and the source file is in “odg” (Open Document Graphic) format. The “source” for the web content was built using PowerPoint. All files including PowerPoint source (pptx) and a PowerPoint “show” (ppsx) will be downloaded if you select the “Full Package”. Be aware that due to the variety of documents involved, this will be a large download. (Special video bonus! With “full package”, a WMV video file is included.)

**Credits and copyright information:**Create Content

The story is adapted from 50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin. It is in the Public Domain and no longer protected by copyright.

Create ContentThe accompanyying audio recording is from Librivox. (www.librivox.org) Story is read by “Clarica”. This content is also in the Public Domain per Librivox policy. Minor edits were made to the recording so that it would correspond with the adapted version of the story.

Flash-Sheet Vocabulary materials and browser-playable story and vocabulary, were created by Peter Schmitt using materials from the following sources:

* Story- Public domain as listed above.
* Audio track for story- from Librivox as listed above.
* Images are a combination of public domain images, images released under creative commons, and images provided within an older version of PowerPoint used under the terms of Microsoft’s Office license terms. Because of those license terms, although the work as a whole can be used, copied and reproduced, derivative works cannot be created without that creator also having the appropriate Microsoft Office license.

**THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT**

There were once six **blind** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who stood by the **roadside** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day, and begged from the people who passed. They had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heard of elephants, but they had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seen one. For, being blind, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ could they?

It so happened one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that an elephant was driven down the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where they stood. When they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ told that the **great** **beast** was before them, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the driver to let him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that they might see him.

Of course they could not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him with their eyes. But they thought that by touching him they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ learn just what kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he was.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one happened to put his hand on the elephant's side. "Well, well!" he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, "Now I know all about this beast. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is exactly like a **wall**."

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ felt only of the elephant's **tusk**. "My brother," he said, "You are mistaken. He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at all like a wall. He is round and smooth and sharp. He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like a **spear** than anything else."

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happened to take hold of the elephant's **trunk**. "Both of you are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," he said. "Anybody who knows anything \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see that this elephant is like a snake."

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The fourth reached out his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and grasped one of the elephant's legs. "Oh, how blind you are!" he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. "It is very plain to me that he is round and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like a tree."

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was a very tall man, and he chanced to take hold of the elephant's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. "The blindest man ought to know that this beast is not like any of the things that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ name," he said. "He is exactly like a **huge** **fan**."

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was very blind indeed, and it was some time before he could find the elephant at all. At last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seized the animal's tail. "O foolish fellows!" he cried. "You surely have lost your senses. This \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is not like a wall, or a spear, or a snake, or a tree. Neither is he like a fan. But any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a particle of sense can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that he is exactly like a **rope**."

Then the elephant moved on, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blind men sat by the roadside all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and **quarreled** about him. Each believed that he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ just how the animal looked; and each called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hard names because they did not **agree** with him. People sometimes act foolishly. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary:**

Create Content**Great**: Big / Large  
**Huge**: Very big / Very Large  
**to quarrel**: (verb) to argue, to fight (past = quarreled)  
**Beast:** Animal or Monster

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**(Adapted from 50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin. This work is in the Public Domain.)**

**THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT (from 50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin)**

There were once six **blind** \_\_\_\_men\_\_ who stood by the **roadside** \_\_every\_\_\_ day, and begged from the people who passed. They had \_\_\_often\_\_ heard of elephants, but they had \_\_\_never\_\_ seen one. For, being blind, \_\_how\_\_\_ could they?

It so happened one \_\_\_\_morning\_\_\_\_ that an elephant was driven down the \_\_\_road\_\_ where they stood. When they \_\_\_were\_\_ told that the **great** **beast** was before them, they \_\_\_asked\_\_ the driver to let him \_\_\_stop\_\_\_ so that they might see him.

Of course they could not \_\_\_see\_\_ him with their eyes. But they thought that by touching him they \_\_\_could\_\_\_ learn just what kind of \_\_\_\_animal\_\_\_\_ he was.

The \_\_\_\_first\_\_ one happened to put his hand on the elephant's side. "Well, well!" he \_\_\_said\_\_\_\_, "Now I know all about this beast. He\_\_\_\_\_\_ is exactly like a **wall**."

The \_\_\_second\_\_\_\_ felt only of the elephant's **tusk**. "My brother," he said, "You are mistaken. He is \_\_\_not\_ at all like a wall. He is round and smooth and sharp. He is \_\_\_more\_\_ like a **spear** than anything else."

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The \_\_\_third\_\_ happened to take hold of the elephant's **trunk**. "Both of you are \_\_\_wrong," he said. "Anybody who knows anything \_\_\_can\_\_ see that this elephant is like a snake."

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The fourth reached out his \_\_\_arms\_\_, and grasped one of the elephant's legs. "Oh, how blind you are!" he \_\_\_said\_\_. "It is very plain to me that he is round and \_\_\_tall\_\_ like a tree."

The \_\_\_fifth\_\_ was a very tall man, and he chanced to take hold of the elephant's \_\_\_ear\_\_. "The blindest man ought to know that this beast is not like any of the things that \_\_\_you\_\_ name," he said. "He is exactly like a **huge** **fan**."

The \_\_\_sixth\_\_ was very blind indeed, and it was some time before he could find the elephant at all. At last \_\_\_he\_ seized the animal's tail. "O foolish fellows!" he cried. "You surely have lost your senses. This \_\_elephant\_\_ is not like a wall, or a spear, or a snake, or a tree. Neither is he like a fan. But any \_\_\_man\_\_ with a particle of sense can \_\_\_see\_ that he is exactly like a **rope**."

Then the elephant moved on, and the \_\_\_six\_\_ blind men sat by the roadside all \_\_\_day\_, and **quarreled** about him. Each believed that he \_\_\_knew\_\_ just how the animal looked; and each called the \_\_others\_ hard names because they did not **agree** with him. People sometimes act foolishly.   
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