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# The Shield and the Spear



**Characters** Ben Wong and people in the market

**Setting** In the market

Once upon a time, there was a **weapon** maker called Ben Wong. In March, he made some spears and carried them to the market. He put up an advertisement on the wall. ‘Look!’ said Ben, holding up his spear. ‘My spear can **pierce** through anything!’

## The World’s SHARPEST Spear!

Nothing can stop it!

I used the best iron in the world to make the head.

I used the hardest wood to make the body.



On SALE! Buy one get one free! Only today!

He sold many spears that day. One month later, he made some **shields**. He took them to the market.

‘Have a look at these shields! I made these shields with the thickest wood. They are stronger than other shields!’ Ben told the crowd in the market. ‘Nothing can pierce through my shields!’

‘If we use your spear against your shield, can it pierce through your shield?’ a lady asked. Ben did not have an answer. All the people laughed.

**weapon:**  
something people use for fighting, e.g. knife or gun

pierce



shield



## Understanding the Fable

Answer the following questions.

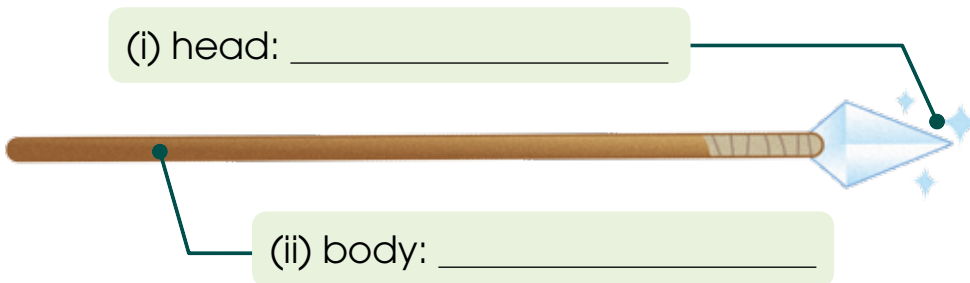
1. Ben does **NOT** make \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. spears
- B. swords
- C. chairs
- D. shields



Ben is a weapon maker.  
What is a weapon?

2. What did Ben use to make his spear? Label the picture.



3. Put the following events in the correct order.

1. Ben sold shields in the market.
2. People laughed at Ben.
3. Ben put up an advertisement.
4. Ben made some spears.

- A. 1 → 3 → 4 → 2
- B. 3 → 4 → 2 → 1
- C. 4 → 1 → 3 → 2
- D. 4 → 3 → 1 → 2

4. Find a word in the story that is similar in meaning to 'a group of people'.
- A. pierce
  - B. maker
  - C. advertisement
  - D. crowd
5. When did Ben take the shields to the market?  
He took the shields to the market in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The lady at the market is writing a complaint letter. Finish the letter with only **ONE** word for each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ben said his spear is the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ spear in the world. So I bought one last month. Now he said his shield is the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ shield in the world. I think he lied to me!



## Values and Attitudes

7. What can you learn from the story?
- A. Weapons cannot make you stronger.
  - B. Be careful about what you say.
  - C. Listen to your father and mother.
  - D. Learn to use a spear and shield.
8. Can Ben's spear pierce through his shield? What is wrong with what Ben said?
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 1 The Big Pear or the Small Pear

biggest	(adj.)	最大的	proud	(adj.)	自豪的
during	(prep.)	在……期間	respectful	(adj.)	尊敬的
grandson	(n.)	孫兒	share with	(ph.)	與……分享
guess what?	(ph.)	你猜猜看？	Taiwan	(n.)	台灣
however	(adv.)	但是	turn	(v.)	轉為
just	(adv.)	剛剛	while	(conj.)	當
pear	(n.)	梨子	youngest	(adj.)	最年輕的

### The Moral Lesson

We should respect other people.

Ken is polite and respects his brothers. He lets his older brothers play with his toy car. He helps his younger brother do his homework. His parents and brothers love him very much.

## Chapter 2 The Monkey and Her Glasses

clearly	(adv.)	清晰地	personal care	(n.)	個人護理
directory	(n.)	指南	shopkeeper	(n.)	店務員
fashion	(n.)	時裝	shopping mall	(n.)	購物商場
glasses	(n.)	眼鏡	sit around	(ph.)	閒坐
hurt	(v.)	弄傷	store	(n.)	店鋪
lick	(v.)	舔	throw	(v.)	扔
magazine	(n.)	雜誌	useless	(adj.)	無用的

### The Moral Lesson

We should ask for help when we need it.

Betty is in a book shop. She wants to get a book from a bookshelf. However, she is not tall enough to reach the book. So, she asks the shopkeeper to get the book for her.

