

The Well  
by Clare Harris

Chapter One

<b>Author:</b> Adrian Tennant
<b>Level:</b> Starter
<b>Age:</b> Teenagers / adults
<b>Time needed:</b> 30-40 minutes (approx)
<b>Preparation:</b> Photocopy of the worksheet for each student.

Lead-in (optional)

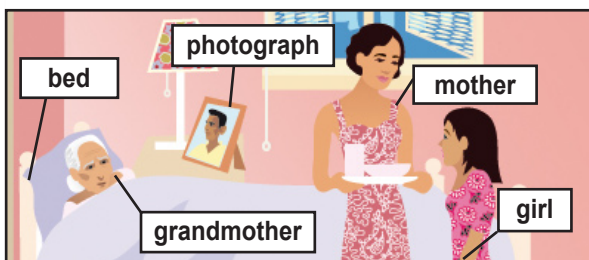
- Show the students the cover of the book and tell them they will listen to the story called *The Well*. Use the picture on the front cover to elicit (and explain) the meaning of the words *well* and *bucket*.
- Ask students what you usually find in a well or put in a bucket and try to elicit *water*.
- Finally, ask students where else you can get water and try to elicit *tap*. Alternatively use a picture to elicit the word.

Before listening

- Put students in pairs and ask them to look at the picture.
- Ask them to work together and label the picture with the words in the box.
- Display the picture and check the answers together.

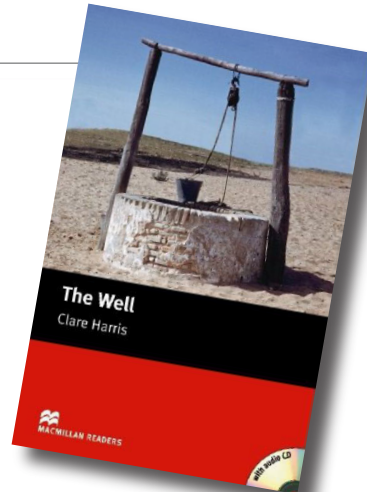
**Optional extra:** Check the pronunciation of each of the words with your students.

**Answer key:**



While listening: Exercise 1

- Ask students to read the nine words.
- Explain that you will play the first chapter of the story. They should listen and tick the words they hear. If they don't hear the word, they should leave the box empty.
- Play the recording once.
- Put students in pairs and have them check together.
- Play the recording again if you think it's necessary.
- Check the answers as a class.



**Answer key:**

*grandmother, brother, water, husband, sick, bucket*

While listening: Exercise 2

- Ask students to look at the speech bubbles. Can they remember who said each sentence?
- Play the recording and ask students to match the sentences to the correct person.
- Put students in pairs and get them to check together.
- Play the recording again if you think it's necessary.
- Check the answers as a class.

**Answer key:**

*Grandmother: 'Please go to the well.'*

*Mother: 'There is no well here, Ma.' and 'Grandmother is sick.'*

*Lia doesn't say anything.*

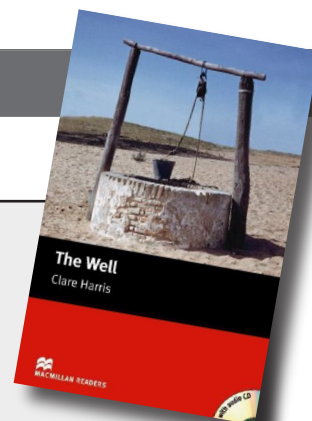
Follow-up: Talk about the story

- Put students in small groups.
- Ask them to look at the two questions and discuss what they think.
- Monitor and help where necessary.
- Ask a few students to say what they think.

**Note:**

- There are no right or wrong answers here. Students are predicting / guessing. They will find out the answer to the first question later in the story.
- At this level students might find it difficult to discuss using only English. Encourage them to use as much English as possible, but if a lively discussion begins in the students' mother tongue, you might want to let it run for a few minutes and then ask them to try and report back their ideas in English.

Transcript



Chapter One

It is summer. The air is hot. It is hot inside Lia's house.

Lia lives with her mother, her father and her brother, Jay.  
Her grandmother lives with them too.

Lia's grandmother is old and sick. She lies in her bed all day. The old woman is sad. Her husband is dead. She often talks to his photograph.

Grandmother: 'Yes, husband? Oh, it's in the well. It's in a bucket of water. Thank you.'

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Lia and her mother are in Grandmother's room. Lia's mother brings some food and water.

'Please, go to the well,' says Grandmother. 'Bring me some water in the bucket.'

'There is no well here, Ma,' says Lia's mother. 'You live in the town now. We have good water. It comes from the tap.'

Lia's mother speaks quietly to her daughter.

'Grandmother is sick,' she says. 'She is not thinking clearly.'

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Chapter One

LISTENING SKILLS WORKSHEET

Worksheet

Before listening

Label the picture with the words in the box. bed grandmother girl mother photograph



Exercise 1

Listen and tick  the words you hear.

- |             |                          |         |                          |        |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> | water   | <input type="checkbox"/> | sick   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| brother     | <input type="checkbox"/> | husband | <input type="checkbox"/> | city   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| eat         | <input type="checkbox"/> | young   | <input type="checkbox"/> | bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Exercise 2

Match the words with the people.



Talk about the story

What do you think?

- What's in the well?
- How old is Lia?