

# *How the Bear Lost its Tail*

Long ago , Bear had a long black tail . He was very proud of his shiny tail and he used to wave it around so that the other animals could admire it .

One day , fox saw Bear waving his tail around and he decided to play a trick on him .

It was winter. The wind was blowing hard , snow was falling and ice covered the lake . Fox walked on to a frozen lake and made a hole in the ice . Soon , Bear walked past and he saw Fox sitting on the ice . While Bear was watching , Fox put his tail in the hole and pulled out a huge fish

" Greetings, " said Bear , looking at the fat fish next to Fox . " What are you doing ? "

" I'm fishing " answered Fox . "This is the best way to fish . Would you like to try ? "

"Oh , yes , " said Bear .



Fox deliberately took Bear to a place which didn't have any fish . He cut a new hole in the ice and said , " Now , turn you back to the hole and place your tail inside it . Soon a fish will come and you can pull him out "

" But how will I know if a fish has grabbed my tail if my back is turned?" asked Bear

" I will hide and watch . When I see a fish pull your tail , I'll shout and you must quickly pull your tail out of the water . But do not move until I tell you .

Bear nodded , " I will do exactly as you say . " He sat down next to the hole and placed his long , beautiful black tail in the ice water .

While Bear was patiently waiting , Fox crept quietly back to his own house and curled up in his warm bed .

The next morning Fox went back to the lake . When he arrived , Bear was still waiting for Fox to tell him to pull his tail out of the lake . Fox crept very close to Bear's ear , took a deep breath, and shouted : ' Now , Bear ! "

Quickly , Bear jumped up and pulled his long tail out of the hole . In the night , the hole had frozen around his tail and when he pulled , his tail broke off ! Bear turned around to look at the fish he had caught and instead saw his long , lovely tail caught in the ice .

So it that all around the world today , Bears have short tails and hate foxes .

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## The New Vocabulary



**Proud :** feeling deep pleasure or satisfaction

**Wave :** a disturbance on the surface of a liquid body, as the sea or a lake .

**Trick :** a cunning or skillful act or scheme intended to deceive or outwit someone.

**Lake :** a large body of water surrounded by land

**Nodded :** lower and raise head slightly .

**Crept :** move slowly and carefully

**Deep :** extending far down from the top or surface .



