

Pre-Intermediate 3
Unit 6 Reading
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Sudden Fear

David was blind. He had been handicapped ever since he could recall, but now all that was to be changed. He would be able to see. The doctor and the nurse stood by him; he could see them for the first time.

handicapped = disabled
ever since = since the time
can ⇒ could
recall = remember

all that was to be changed = all that was
going to change
will ⇒ would
by = near

He lay in his bed staring at the ceiling, not daring to move because he was afraid that he might lose this wonderful new thing — this gift of sight. The doctor was speaking to the nurse, and David heard him say what a brave boy he had been, more courageous than anyone could have expected. His heart filled with pride as he heard the doctor's words.

lie → lay, lain
lie = be located
stare = gaze
afraid = scared
the gift of sight = the God-given ability to see
gift = blessing
courage (n.) = bravery
courageous (adj.) = brave
His heart filled with pride = He felt proud
as = when, while



ceiling ⇒ inside the building
roof ⇒ outside, on the top of the building

The operation designed to give him his sight had been a very painful one, but David had not shown any fear either before the operation or while the doctor was doing it. Also, he had not been frightened by the world of sight that had opened out to him. He realized that he was not afraid because the nurse had been very kind and described what everything would be like.

the operation designed = the operation
which was designed
frighten = scare
be frightened = be scared
description (n.) = depiction

afraid = scared
sight = the ability to see
realize = understand
describe (v.) = depict

"I think he will be all right now," he heard the doctor say. "I'll come and see him again tomorrow. Meanwhile, put him out in the sunshine for a while; it will entertain him and do him good."

The nurse put him in a wheelchair, well-wrapped up, and wheeled him outside into the garden.

all right = ok, fine
meanwhile = during this time
for a while = for a short time
entertain = amuse

well-wrapped up = covered completely with warm clothes or a blanket
wheel = push

For a time, he sat there looking at nothing in particular. Suddenly his heart seemed to stop beating with terror, and he sat, too frightened to move; then he rose up from his chair, his hands outstretched in defense, and his eyes fixed on something huge and black in front of him that danced at his feet. He cried out at the horror of it and fell down. The nurse ran out to him.

nothing in particular = nothing special
terror = fear
rise up → rose up, risen up

outstretched = extended
huge = very big, immense
cry out = shout, yell

When the doctor called the next morning, she said, "So you see doctor, though David was not frightened of anything he saw after the operation, there was still something that scared him a lot, and that was his own shadow! You know, I had forgotten to describe shadows to him."

though = although
still = yet
forget ⇔ forgot, forgotten

The Difference between Shade and Shadow

shade → for fixed things

- *I sat in the shade of the tree.*
- *Mr. Rafael parked his car in the shade of a wall.*

shadow → for moving things

- *Sally saw her dad's shadow on the floor.*
- *The hunter saw the shadow of a big lion on the ground from his ambush.*



Full Text:

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He lay in his bed staring at the ceiling, not daring to move because he was afraid that he might lose this wonderful new thing — this gift of sight. The doctor was speaking to the nurse, and David heard him say what a brave boy he had been, more courageous than anyone could have expected. His heart filled with pride as he heard the doctor's words.

The operation designed to give him his sight had been a very painful one, but David had not shown any fear either before the operation or while the doctor was doing it. Also, he had not been frightened by the world of sight that had opened out to him. He realized that he was not afraid because the nurse had been very kind and described what everything would be like.

"I think he will be all right now," he heard the doctor say. "I'll come and see him again tomorrow. Meanwhile, put him out in the sunshine for a while; it will entertain him and do him good."

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Sample Summary:

The text is a short story titled "Sudden Fear". It tells the story of David, a boy who was born blind and undergoes a surgery to restore his sight. He is very brave and curious about the new world he can see, and he is praised by the doctor and the nurse for his courage. The nurse takes him outside to the garden, where he can enjoy the sunshine and the colors. However, he is suddenly terrified by something he sees on the ground: his own shadow. He does not know what it is, and he thinks it is a monster that wants to attack him. He screams and falls down, and the nurse realizes that she had forgotten to explain shadows to him. The story ends with the irony of David being scared by his own shadow, after being fearless of everything else.

Source:

[Pre-Intermediate 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://Pre-Intermediate 3 (anglophone.ir))