

When a businessman met a fisherman

An American businessman was on holiday in a fishing village in the south of Mexico. One morning he met a young fisherman with a small boat full of lovely, yellowfin tuna fish. 'What beautiful tuna!' the American exclaimed.



1 'How long did it (1) _____ to catch them?' the American asked.

'Oh, about two hours,' said the fisherman.

'Why didn't you fish for longer and catch more?'

The Mexican replied, 'I (2) _____ want to fish for longer. With this I have enough fish for my family.'

'But what do you do with the rest of your day?'

The fisherman smiled, 'I (3) _____ a long lunch, play with my children, watch football, and take a siesta with my wife. (4) _____ in the evenings I walk to the village to see my friends, play the guitar, and sing some songs.'

2 The American couldn't understand, 'Look, I am a very successful businessman. I (5) _____ to Harvard University and I studied business. I (6) _____ help you. Fish for four hours every day and sell the extra fish you catch. Then, you can buy a bigger boat, catch more and (7) _____ more money. Then buy a second boat, a third, and so on, until you have a big fleet of fishing boats. You can export the fish and leave this village and (8) _____ to Mexico City, or LA or New York, and start a fishing business.'

The fisherman smiled, 'But how long will all this take?'



3 The businessman thought about it for a bit, ‘Probably **(9)** _____ 15–20 years,’ he said.

‘And then what, señor?’ asked the fisherman.

‘Why, that’s the best part!’ laughed the businessman.

‘You can sell your business and become very **(10)** _____, a millionaire.’

‘A millionaire? Really? But what do I do with all the money?’ asked the young fisherman.

4 The businessman **(11)** _____ not understand this young man, ‘Well, you can **(12)** _____ work and move to a lovely, old fishing village where you can have long lunches, play with your grandchildren, watch football, take a siesta with your wife, and walk to the village in the evenings where you can play the guitar and sing with your friends all you want.’

The fisherman’s children came running to meet him.

‘Papa, papa, **(13)** _____ you catch many fish?’

‘I caught enough for us today and tomorrow, and also some for this gentleman,’ said their father.

He **(14)** _____ the businessman some fish, thanked him for his advice and went home with his family.



Author Unknown