The railway worker and the monkey

Do you have a pet? *(No, I don't. / Yes, I have...)*

Vocabulary

1. accident 2. railway 3. together 4. friendship 5. mistake 6. smart

True Story

In South Africa, in the late 1800s, there lived a man named James Wide. James worked at a _____ station but had lost his legs in an _____. One day, he met a _____ baboon named Jack at a market. He bought Jack to help him with his work.

James taught Jack how to push his wheelchair to the station. Soon, Jack learned to change the railway signals too. The signals told trains where to go. Jack was very good at this job. He never made a _____. People at the railway station were happy with Jack. They gave him a job and even paid him money.

Jack and James became a great team. They worked _____ for nine years. Jack helped James every day until he died. Their story shows a beautiful _____ and how smart animals can be.

Quiz

1. Where did James Wide work?
2. What job did Jack learn to do at the railway station?
3. How many years did Jack and James work together?

True or False

1. James Wide met Jack the baboon at a railway station. True | False
2. Jack made many mistakes while changing the railway signals. True | False
3. Jack and James worked together until Jack died. True | False

Conversation

A: Hey James, who is this monkey with you?
B: This is Jack, my helper at the railway station.
A: Oh, what does Jack help you with?
B: He pushes my wheelchair and changes the railway signals.
A: Really? That's amazing! How did you teach him?
B: With patience and time, he learned quickly. He's really smart!

Discussion

1. Can you think of any other stories where animals help people in special ways?
2. Monkeys are known to be intelligent animals. What other animals do you think are smart?
3. What kinds of jobs do you think animals can be trained to do?
4. What animal helper would you choose and what kind of help would you want from it?

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