

Three Sentence Stories*

The animal keeper sees a dentist and asks for help with his dentures. The dentist helps. As you can see, the animal keeper has a new life!

Marley is an animal keeper. She rescues koalas and helps dentists with their dentures. Marley is very important.

John saw Marley on a walk. Marley talked about a rescue koala. John thought her story was very interesting.

Marley the keeper rescues Triumph the koala. She does everything to help him. She gives Triumph a better life.

John loved Marley. Marley walked away. Without her John thought: there's nothing to lose.

I have a problem with my dentures. I like rules. The dentist is a koala. I don't like koala dentists, so I have a problem!

John the dentist tried to rescue a koala in a forest fire. He ran after it as quickly as he could.

My problem is with John, my dentist. He cries like a koala. And then he walks away!

Marley loved her prosthetic foot. She could climb and run with it. But the problem was that she was very, very slow.

My dentures almost walked away. Triumph the koala tried to use the dentures to improve his talking. I cried, "No!" and rescued the dentures without a problem.

A koala ran away. It cried. An animal keeper rescued him.

I almost didn't see the big koala. She ran away when I talked. Who will rescue her little koalas without her here?

* These stories, some slightly edited, were created during a 2022 FUB workshop led by Bea Spindler and Natasha Janzen Ulbricht. A link to gestures paired with the words in these stories can be found in the English and beyond (E&b) book by Ludwig & Sambanis (2021). *Forest fire, after, quickly* and *will* are also easily paired with gestures, but these are not included in the E&b resources. These simple stories are an entertaining and creative starting point for using gestures to cue speaking and acting with diverse groups of learners.