

English FAL

## The Policeman and the strange boots

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One day, a colony watchman was making his rounds. Suddenly, he noticed something brown and shiny under a tree. Moving closer, he saw that it was a pair of boots, quite new. “Now, who could have left these here? What a waist of perfect shoes,” the watchman thought. But there was nobody around to ask!

It was afternoon and everyone was indoors. So, the watchman took the pair of boots to the nearest police station. “You may leave them here!” said Mr. Smith, the policeman, pointing to the floor. He was busy writing reports and did not look at the boots carefully.

After some time, Mr. Smith put his pen down and decided to have his lunch. He had taken off his boots, because it was very hot that day. As he bent down to wear his boots, he found two pairs lying side to side. “Oh, which one is mine? They both look alike!” Mr. Smith thought. It did not matter which pair the policeman put on, because they were of the same size. He put his feet into the boots and left.

From that moment on, strange things began to happen to him. As Mr. Smith opened his lunch box, he gazed out of the window and sighed, “Ah! How lucky those birds are, flying wherever they please! How I wish, I were a little sparrow!” As soon as he said these words, the policeman found himself changing into a bird – a sparrow! “Oh, I must be dreaming!” he thought.

He flew out of the window on the grass next to a hospital and began to look for worms – quite a different lunch from his lunch. But the very next moment, a naughty boy tried to catch him in his cap and he held him tightly! “You naughty, irresponsible boy! Let me go! You will be in

big dangir, for I am a policeman,” shouted Mr. Smith. But because he was now a bird, the only sound the boy heard was, “Tweet, tweet!”

The policeman thought how bad he wanted to be human again and said the words: “I wish I could be human again!” and immediately he became Mr. Smith again. The first thing he did was to quickly take off the wrong boots, locked them in a cupboard (because they were quite dangerous) and wear his old boots again!

Adapted from: <https://www.bedtimeshortstories.com/the-policeman-and-the-strange-boots>

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