

# My First Race

1 My dad woke me and my twin brother up.

He **whispered**, "James and John, today is a sports day."

I knew today was the sports day of our church and I was going to be in a race. I did not want to get up. I was sleepy. My twin brother, John jumped  
5 out of bed. He got ready to go in a **hurry**. I slowly got ready. I wanted to sleep more.

My family and I went to Central Park. I found the kid's short **distance** race table. We got our race numbers there. I pinned the number on the back of  
10 my shirt. My number was 101 and my brother's was 100. I did not like the number. I wanted to go back to bed. It was time to line up at the start.

My brother asked, "Are you **nervous**?"

"About what?" I asked.

He said, "About losing."

15 It did not matter to me who won or lost. I was going to run very slowly, like a turtle. I did not want to race.

"Ready, set, go!"

The runners began running. I went slowly. The other kids passed me.



20 Jason **bumped into** me. He laughed at me and **stuck** his tongue **out**.  
This made me mad. I wanted to **catch** him. I started running fast. I forgot  
about going slowly like a turtle. Soon I was running like a rabbit.

I was passing Jason and other kids. There was no one ahead of me. My  
25 heart was **beating**. I ran to the finish line. It was like a dream.

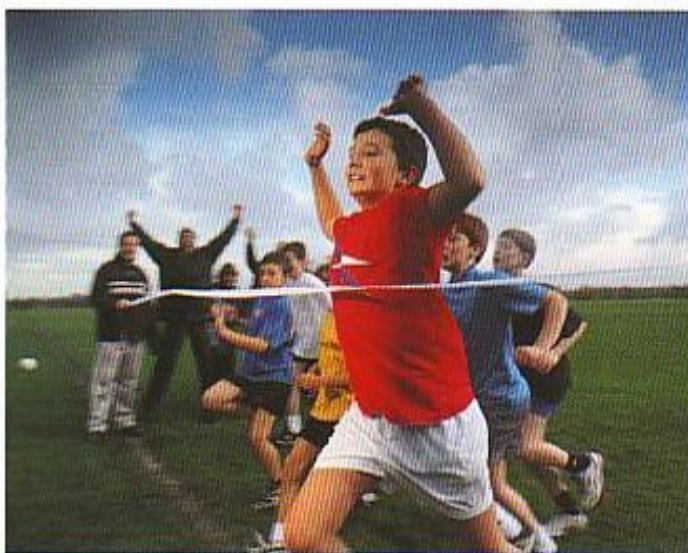
My dad and mom ran up to me  
in their excitement.

30 “James, you were so fast! You  
took only 13 seconds!”

I saw Jason. I smiled at him.  
He looked the other way.

35 “The winner of kid’s short  
distance race is James Brown.”

My name was **called**. I got a trophy. After that day I wanted to keep  
racing.



## Vocabulary Build Up

### A. Match the words to the correct definitions.

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1. whisper   | • | • to speak in a soft, low tone                                      |
| 2. hurry     | • | • to say something in a loud voice                                  |
| 3. distance  | • | • worried and anxious   |
| 4. nervous   | • | • to hit your body or car against something                         |
| 5. bump into | • | • the amount of space between two places                            |
| 6. stick out | • | • to pound; thump   |
| 7. catch     | • | • a condition of moving very quickly                                |
| 8. beat      | • | • to stop someone or something that is moving                       |
| 9. call      | • | • to make part of your body come forward from the rest of your body |

### B. Choose the best words to fill in the blanks.

- Gill is very \_\_\_\_\_ before taking a test. She has wet hands.  
(a) mad                      (b) nervous                      (c) sleepy                      (d) fast
- I \_\_\_\_\_ Amy. I said her, "I am sorry."  
(a) passed behind      (b) looked after      (c) got to                      (d) bumped into
- A policeman ran after the man. The policeman wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
(a) pass                      (b) catch                      (c) miss                      (d) lose
- Ben got up late. He ran to school in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) hurry                      (b) excitement                      (c) whisper                      (d) catch



**Comprehension Check Up****A. Check True or False.**

1. James got up very quickly. ☐ T ☐ F
2. The winner of the race got a medal. ☐ T ☐ F

**B. Choose the best answers.**

1. What did James think about racing in the morning?
- Ⓐ He did not care about racing.      Ⓑ He liked to jog.  
 Ⓒ He wanted to win.      Ⓓ He wanted to do better than Jason.
2. Why did James start to run fast?
- Ⓐ John was a fast runner.      Ⓑ James did not want to run like a turtle.  
 Ⓒ James's father shouted.      Ⓓ Jason made James mad.
3. What might James do after the race?
- Ⓐ He will get up late.      Ⓑ He will keep racing.  
 Ⓒ He will be a friend to Jason.      Ⓓ He will have a rabbit.
4. What is not true about the story?
- Ⓐ John and James are twin sisters.      Ⓑ James won the race.  
 Ⓒ James got a trophy.      Ⓓ Jason bumped into James.

**C. Write the best answers.**

1. What number did James get?

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2. What did James want to do when he saw Jason?

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## Reading Skill Up

### Understanding Feelings

A writer's feeling can change in a story. You can understand the story better by **understanding** his or her **feelings**.

Write the sentences that show the changes of James's feelings.

Sequence	Feeling	Supporting Sentences
In the morning	bored	
During the race	mad	
After the race	happy	

- He did not want to race.
- He wanted to catch Jason.
- He started running fast.
- Winning was like a dream.
- He wanted to keep racing.
- He was running like a rabbit.
- He slowly got up.
- It did not matter to him who won or lost.
- He did not like the number, 101.
- He smiled at Jason.
- He was sleepy.
- His heart was beating.



**Story Summary Up**

Complete the summary by filling in the blanks.

bumped keep mad racing run turtle

James did not want to \_\_\_\_\_. He ran slowly like a \_\_\_\_\_ at first. But Jason \_\_\_\_\_ into James and he made fun of James. That made James run fast because James was \_\_\_\_\_. Finally James won the race and he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Think and Act Out**

Write or say your own opinions.

- *John jumped out of bed. He got ready to go in a hurry.* What can you infer from the sentences?
- How long did it take you to finish a 100m race? How did you feel then?

