

# ONE NIGHT IN THE PARK

Linda, Nina, Sav, and the Bradley twins considered themselves to be great adventurers. Their problem was that none of them ( \* 1 ) were allowed out of their homes unsupervised ( V1 ) after 8 o'clock at night. This meant that on the night a great comet was scheduled to pass over their city, this group of friends would not be allowed to watch it alone together in the park. But on that night no curfew ( V2 ) would stop them.

Dean and Darcy Bradley told their parents they would be staying at Sav's house that night. Sav said he would be staying with the Bradleys. Nina and Linda also played the same trick on Nina's mother and Linda's parents. When they all met in the park that night they made a pile that included a large-sized green tent, two bunches of bananas, a camera, and Linda's father's telescope. "My father will kill me, if he finds out I took it," said Linda, looking at the telescope. The group decided to set the tent up later. At the moment they were all too excited to try the telescope ( \* 2 ) . Actually, they were so excited that the Bradley twins got into a pushing fight that resulted in Dean lying on the ground, the telescope pointing towards the city, and Darcy staring at something across the park.

"A thief," he whispered.

"What?" asked his friends.

“I see a thief – look.”

All five of them took a turn looking through the telescope at the building across the park where a person dressed entirely in black was climbing as carefully as a cat into a second story window. He had climbed up a flight of stairs that were supposed to ( \* 3 ) be used only in the case of a fire.

“What should we do?” asked Nina.

“C’mon, – grab the things and follow me,” said Sav.

It was a smart idea. They ate all the bananas while they crossed to the other side of the park. The Bradley twins opened the tent and Nina warmed up the flash on her camera. When they reached the fire escape, Sav placed about a dozen banana peels on the stairs just below the open window where the thief had entered the apartment. Then they waited.

When the thief finally came out of the window, Nina flashed her camera and the masked burglar was blinded for a second or two. He panicked, slipped on the banana peels and somersaulted through the air into the open tent. “Caught you!” Sav yelled and they all zipped up the tent and sat on it, except for Dean who went to call the police.

Of course all five of them got in trouble and were each grounded ( V3 ) for over a week, but they were also heroes and their five smiling faces were on the front page of the newspaper the following morning.

## TEXT NOTES

### (\*1)none of them

“none”は代名詞で、“of”と名詞が後に続いて、none of + 名詞の形で、「誰も、どれも、何も～でない」という否定を表します。None of + 名詞で名詞句(一つの名詞のかたまり)を作ります。例えば、

- None of my friends came to the party. (私の友人は誰も、パーティに来なかった。)

の場合、“None of my friends”がこの文の主語になっています。本文では、“none of them were allowed”(彼らの誰も許されていなかった)で、“none of them”が主語となっています。

### (\*2)they were all too excited to try the telescope.

“too～to…”「あまりにも～で…できない」で、to 不定詞 (to+動詞の原形) を含む慣用表現だと習った記憶のある方もいらっしゃるでしょう。

もともと“too”は、「あまりにも、非常に」という意味で、形容詞や副詞を強める語で、否定的な意味合いで使われます。“too～to…”は、「…するには～すぎる」ということです。本文では、

- They were all too excited to try the telescope.

(みんな望遠鏡を覗き込むには興奮しすぎている)→(興奮しすぎて望遠鏡を覗くことができない[覗いている状態ではない。])ということが表せます。

### (\*3)be supposed to + 動詞の原形

“suppose”は「(～ではないかと)思う、推定する」。これが、“be 動詞 + 過去分詞”で受動態になり、to + 動詞の原形を続けることで、「～と思われている、当然～するはずになっている」といった意味を表せます。

例えば、次のように言えます。

- I am supposed to meet her tomorrow. (私は明日彼女に会うことになっている。)
- She is supposed to be the best doctor in the village.  
(彼女はその村一番の名医とされている。)

be 動詞を過去形にすると、「～するはずだったのにしなかった」となります。

- You were supposed to pick up Chris.  
(あなたがクリスを迎えに行くはずだったのに、行かなかった。)

のように、後悔や非難の気持ちを表すときに使えます。



## VOCABULARY

### (V1)unsupervised

“un-”は反対語を作る接頭辞です。“supervise”には「～を監督する、指導する」という意味があります。この“supervise”に反対語を作る“un-”がついて、形容詞になった形の、“unsupervised”は「管理されていない、監視されていない」という形容詞になります。“supervise”の派生語、“supervisor”は、「監督、スーパーバイザー、上司」を表します。

### (V2)curfew

“curfew”は、「門限、夜間の外出禁止令」を表します。

- ・ make a curfew(門限を決める)
- ・ get back by curfew(門限までに帰る→門限を守る)
- ・ break curfew(門限を破る)のように使えます。

### (V3)grounded

“ground”は、「グラウンド、校庭」の意味ではよく知られています。もともと「地面、地盤」といった意味があり、そこから「根拠、原因」なども表します。この“ground”は動詞では、「地上にとどまらせる、(子どもなどに)外出を禁じる」の意味があります。どちらにしても地面から離れない、ある場所にとどまる、という共通の感じがしますね。親が、子どもが悪いことをしたとき、罰として遊びに行くのを禁止するとき、

- ・ You are grounded. (おまえは外出禁止だ！)

と言えます。飛行機が離陸できず地上にとどまっている様子を“ground”を使って、

- ・ All flights were grounded because of the heavy snow.

(大雪のためにすべての飛行機が離陸できなかった。)

のようと言えます。