

Stage 1

# Dan's English Student

## Dan and the Missing Box



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## Stage 1

A short mystery story for Extensive Reading (Headwords: 400 | Word Count: Approx. 5,200 characters)

### Chapter 1: The New Flat

Dan is twenty-five. He is tall and handsome. He has dark hair and blue eyes. He is a writer. He writes stories for the internet in his small flat in London.

One sunny morning, Dan is happy. Today, he is moving to a new, nice flat in a quiet street.

He has many boxes: twenty big boxes of books, ten boxes of clothes, and five boxes of old paper. But there is one very special box. It is a small wooden box. It is old and heavy, and it has important things inside.

"Be careful with this box," Dan tells the man from the moving company. "It is my grandfather's box. It is important to me."

"Yes, sir," the man says. He is big and strong. His name is Tom.

Tom and his friends move all the boxes from Dan's old flat. Dan watches them carefully. He sees the small wooden box go into the big white van.

Soon, they are at the new flat. The men carry the boxes inside.

Dan looks at the boxes in the living room and the bedroom. "Thank you for your help," Dan says. He pays Tom and the other men. They say goodbye and leave in the big white van.

Dan starts to unpack. He opens the boxes. He puts his books on the shelves. He hangs his clothes in the cupboard.

Then, he looks for the special box. The small wooden box.

He looks behind the big sofa. No. He looks under the bed. No. He looks in the kitchen. No.

Dan stops. His heart is beating fast. The small wooden box is not there.

### Chapter 2: A Bad Feeling

Dan runs to the phone. He calls the moving company.

"Hello? I am Dan Brown. You moved my things today to 42 Green Street. My small wooden box is missing."

A woman answers. "A small wooden box, Mr. Brown? I must look at the list. Please wait a minute."

Dan waits. He looks out of the window at the quiet street. He is starting to feel bad.

"Mr. Brown," the woman says. "I am sorry. Your box is not on the list. But I will call Tom, the driver. He can look in the van."

Five minutes later, the woman calls back. "Mr. Brown, Tom says the van is empty. He is sorry. He thinks he put all the boxes in your flat."

"But I saw the box in the van!" Dan says. He is getting angry. "I told Tom to be careful! It is a special box from my grandfather. It has old, important letters and... and some old gold coins inside."

The woman is quiet. "Gold coins? Oh dear, Mr. Brown. You must call the police now. This is a big problem."

Dan puts the phone down. He is very **upset**. This box is a part of his family's story.

He decides not to call the police yet. He will look again.

### **Chapter 3: The Kind Neighbour**

Dan goes to his next-door neighbour. He needs a cup of coffee and some help.

A handsome young man opens the door. He has nice, fair hair.

"Hello," Dan says. "I am Dan. I live next door, at number 42."

"Hello, Dan. I am Mark. Come in! Do you want some coffee?"

Dan smiles. Mark is very kind.

They sit and drink coffee. Dan tells Mark about the missing box.

"It is a small, old wooden box. It has my grandfather's letters and... some gold coins," Dan says sadly.

Mark's face changes. "Gold coins! That is a lot of money, Dan! This is not a mistake. Someone wants the box. You must call the police now!"

"Maybe you are right," Dan says.

Mark stands up. "I must go out now, Dan. I am going to the library. But I can help you later. Good luck!"

Dan goes back to his flat. He is more **upset** now. Mark is right. It is a crime.

## Chapter 4: The Old Lady

Dan calls the police. A friendly policeman, Mr. Jones, comes to the flat.

"A missing box with gold coins, Mr. Brown. We will look for it," Mr. Jones says.

The next day, Dan is walking near his old flat. He sees an old woman, Mrs. Evans, watering her flowers. She was Dan's old neighbour.

"Hello, Mrs. Evans," Dan says.

"Dan! How is the new flat?"

"It is good, but I have a problem. My small wooden box is missing."

Mrs. Evans stops watering. "Your small box? I saw a small, brown box yesterday morning."

"Where, Mrs. Evans? Where?"

"It was in the big rubbish bin outside your old flat. I saw the big man from the moving company. Tom. He took the box from the bin. Then he looked around quickly. Then he put the box in his car and drove away."

Dan is shocked. "The moving man! He lied to the company! He took the box!"

"Yes," Mrs. Evans says. "He looked a little **upset** when he did it, too. Maybe the box was empty?"

Dan thanks Mrs. Evans and runs to the phone. He must call Mr. Jones.

## Chapter 5: The End of the Mystery

Dan calls Mr. Jones. "Mr. Jones, I know who took the box! Tom, the moving man! My old neighbour saw him take it from the rubbish bin."

Mr. Jones is quiet for a moment. "Tom? That is interesting. We found Tom this morning. He had the wooden box, but it was empty. Only the old letters were inside. No gold coins."

Dan is **upset**. "Empty! But why did he take it?"

"Tom says the box was open in the bin. He saw the letters and thought they were important to you. So he took the box to give you the letters back. He did not take the gold coins."

"So, where are the gold coins?"

Mr. Jones says, "Tom told us something important. When the box was in the bin, a young man was standing near it. A handsome man with fair hair. Tom saw him looking at the box."

Dan knows! "Mark! My new neighbour! He knew about the coins! He lied to me!"

Dan runs next door, but Mark's flat is empty.

Later that afternoon, Mr. Jones calls Dan again. "Mr. Brown, we have Mark. He was driving to the airport. The gold coins were in his suitcase. He saw the box when he was walking by, took the coins, and put the box in the bin. He is not a kind neighbour!"

Dan laughs. "Thank you, Mr. Jones. You are a great policeman!"

Dan gets his small wooden box, his grandfather's letters, and his gold coins back. He is very happy. The mystery is over.