

Classic English Short Stories Intermediate Level Manual

Classic English Short Stories Intermediate Level

When exploring the rich world of English literature, especially for those at an intermediate level of language proficiency, reading classic English short stories offers a perfect balance of challenge and enjoyment. These stories not only enhance vocabulary and comprehension skills but also provide insights into the cultural and historical contexts of England. If you're looking to improve your English while experiencing timeless tales, this guide introduces some of the best classic English short stories suitable for intermediate learners.

Why Read Classic English Short Stories?

Reading classic English short stories provides numerous benefits for learners:

Language Development

- Exposure to diverse vocabulary and sentence structures
- Improved understanding of idioms and expressions
- Enhanced reading comprehension skills

Cultural Insight

- Insights into English history, society, and customs
- Appreciation of literary styles from different eras
- Understanding of moral and ethical themes prevalent in English literature

Enjoyment and Inspiration

- Timeless stories that remain relevant today
- Inspiration from masterful storytelling
- Motivation to continue learning through engaging content

Top Classic English Short Stories for Intermediate Learners

Below are some of the most recommended stories, each offering a unique glimpse into English storytelling tradition.

1. "The Open Window" by Saki (H.H. Munro)

Overview:

This clever and humorous story revolves around a young girl who spins an elaborate tale to a visitor, leading to an amusing misunderstanding. It showcases irony and wit, making it both entertaining and educational.

Why it's suitable:

- Uses simple yet expressive language
- Introduces irony as a literary device
- Short and engaging, ideal for intermediate readers

Themes:

- Deception and storytelling
- The unpredictability of human nature

2. "The Signalman" by Charles Dickens

Overview:

A chilling tale of a railway signalman haunted by supernatural occurrences, emphasizing themes of fate and communication.

Why it's suitable:

- Slightly mysterious tone encourages critical thinking
- Rich vocabulary related to Victorian England
- Short enough for focused reading sessions

Themes:

- Supernatural phenomena
- Isolation and communication

3. "The Nightingale and the Rose" by Oscar Wilde

Overview:

A poetic story about a nightingale who sacrifices her life to help a young lover find a red rose for his beloved. It explores themes of love and sacrifice.

Why it's suitable:

- Beautiful, poetic language appropriate for intermediate level
- Moral lessons embedded in the story
- Inspires reflective thinking

Themes:

- Sacrifice and love
- The nature of beauty and art

4. "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs

Overview:

A story about a mystical monkey's paw that grants wishes, but with tragic consequences. It's a classic tale of greed and fate.

Why it's suitable:

- Contains suspense that keeps readers engaged
- Introduces themes of consequences and superstition
- Vocabulary manageable for intermediate learners

Themes:

- The danger of interfering with fate

- The unforeseen consequences of wishes

5. "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" by Mark Twain

Overview:

A humorous story about a man who bets that his frog can jump higher than any other, leading to a hilarious finale.

Why it's suitable:

- Uses colloquial language, introducing regional dialects
- Humorous tone makes it enjoyable
- Good for learning idiomatic expressions

Themes:

- Deception and cleverness
- Humor in storytelling

Tips for Reading Classic Short Stories at an Intermediate Level

To maximize your learning experience, consider the following tips:

1. Read with a Dictionary

- Keep a dictionary or translation app handy
- Note down new words and try to use them later

2. Read Aloud

- Enhances pronunciation and intonation
- Helps with memory retention

3. Summarize the Stories

- Write short summaries to check understanding
- Discuss themes and moral lessons

4. Listen to Audio Versions

- Combine reading with listening for improved comprehension
- Many classic stories are available in audio format online

5. Discuss and Share

- Join reading groups or forums
- Share your thoughts and interpretations

Additional Resources for Intermediate Learners

To further your journey into classic English literature, explore these resources:

- **Online Libraries:** Websites like Project Gutenberg offer free access to a wide range of classic stories.
- **Story Anthologies:** Collections tailored for intermediate learners often include simplified versions of classic stories.
- **Language Learning Apps:** Apps like Duolingo or Babbel include stories and exercises based on classic literature.
- **Audio Books:** Platforms like Audible provide narrated versions to improve listening skills.

Conclusion

Reading classic English short stories at an intermediate level is an enriching way to improve language skills while immersing yourself in timeless tales. Stories like "The Open Window," "The Signalman," and "The Nightingale and the Rose" not only enhance vocabulary and comprehension but also deepen your understanding of English culture and literary traditions. Remember to read actively, take notes, and enjoy the stories' moral lessons and humor. With consistent practice and curiosity, you'll find yourself more confident in English and more appreciative of the rich literary heritage of England.

Start exploring these stories today and enjoy the journey through classic English literature!

Classic English short stories for intermediate readers offer a rich tapestry of themes, characters, and

stylistic nuances that can greatly enhance one's understanding of English literature. These stories, often written by renowned authors, serve as excellent stepping stones for learners aiming to deepen their grasp of language, storytelling techniques, and cultural context. This guide will explore some of the most beloved classic English short stories suitable for intermediate readers, providing insights into their themes, language features, and teaching points to help you appreciate and analyze these literary gems.

Why Read Classic English Short Stories?

Reading classic short stories from English literature offers numerous benefits:

- Language Development: Exposure to varied vocabulary, sentence structures, and idiomatic expressions.
- Cultural Insight: Understanding the social norms, values, and historical contexts of England.
- Literary Appreciation: Recognizing storytelling techniques, themes, and stylistic devices used by master writers.
- Analytical Skills: Developing the ability to interpret stories, identify themes, and appreciate symbolism.

For intermediate learners, these stories are manageable in length yet rich enough to challenge and improve language skills.

Key Features of Classic English Short Stories

Before diving into specific stories, it's helpful to understand some common features:

- Simple but Expressive Language

While some classics may use archaic words, many employ clear and descriptive language suitable for intermediate readers.

- Universal Themes

Themes such as love, morality, social class, human nature, and morality recur frequently, making stories relatable.

- Strong Characterization

Characters are often portrayed with distinct traits, making them memorable and easier to analyze.

- Moral or Lesson

Many stories conclude with a moral lesson or a surprising twist that prompts reflection.

Popular Classic English Short Stories for Intermediate Readers

Here, we highlight some timeless stories, offering a summary and analysis to deepen understanding.

The Open Window by Saki (H.H. Munro)

Summary:

This humorous story features a young woman named Vera who tells a tall tale to a nervous visitor, Mr. Nuttel, about her aunt's tragic loss. She claims that her aunt's husband and brothers, presumed dead in a hunting accident, will soon return through the open window. When they unexpectedly arrive, Mr. Nuttel is terrified, only to learn it was all a fabricated story.

Themes:

- Deception and storytelling
- The power of imagination
- Human psychology and nerves

Language Features:

- Use of irony and satire
- Descriptive language that builds suspense

Teaching Points:

- Recognize irony as a literary device
- Discuss the effects of storytelling on perception and behavior
- Explore character traits through dialogue and actions

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

Summary:

This heartfelt story depicts a young couple, Della and Jim, who sacrifice their most prized possessions. Della sells her hair to buy Jim a chain for his watch, while Jim sells his watch to buy combs for Della's hair. Their love and sacrifice highlight the true spirit of giving.

Themes:

- Selfless love
- Sacrifice and generosity
- The value of relationships over material possessions

Language Features:

- Simple, emotional narration
- Use of irony and symbolism

Teaching Points:

- Identify the theme of sacrifice
- Discuss irony as a twist ending
- Reflect on the meaning of true generosity

The Lottery by Shirley Jackson (though American, often included in classic collections)

Summary:

A small town conducts an annual lottery, which culminates in a shocking and brutal ritual. The story explores themes of tradition, conformity, and violence.

Themes:

- The dangers of blindly following tradition
- The capacity for cruelty in human nature
- Social conformity and peer pressure

Language Features:

- Plain, straightforward language that builds suspense
- Use of symbolism (the lottery itself)

Teaching Points:

- Analyze the story's critique of societal norms
- Discuss the use of symbolism and irony
- Explore the moral questions raised

The Signal-Man by Charles Dickens

Summary:

A railway signal-man experiences eerie visions and warnings about a tragic accident, which ultimately occurs. The story delves into themes of fate, communication, and the supernatural.

Themes:

- Fate and predestination
- Communication beyond the physical realm
- Human anxiety

Language Features:

- Gothic and atmospheric tone
- Use of foreshadowing and suspense

Teaching Points:

- Interpret the supernatural elements
- Examine Dickens' descriptive style
- Discuss how mood influences storytelling

How to Approach Reading Classic Short Stories at the Intermediate Level

Step 1: Preview the Story

- Read the title and author's name.
- Look at the opening paragraph for clues about the setting and characters.
- Note any unfamiliar words or phrases.

Step 2: Read Actively

- Highlight or underline key sentences.
- Summarize each paragraph in your own words.
- Ask questions about characters' motives and story outcomes.

Step 3: Use Context Clues

- Infer meanings of unfamiliar vocabulary from context.
- Use a dictionary if necessary but avoid over-relying on it.

Step 4: Analyze the Themes and Literary Devices

- Identify the main message or moral.
- Look for literary devices such as irony, symbolism, or foreshadowing.

Step 5: Reflect and Discuss

- Think about how the story relates to your own experiences or society.
- Discuss with peers or write a short response.

Tips for Intermediate Readers to Get the Most Out of Classic Stories

- Read Multiple Times: Re-reading helps grasp nuances and details.
- Summarize the Story: Practice recounting the story in your own words.
- Expand Vocabulary: Keep a vocabulary journal for new words.
- Watch Adaptations: Viewing film or theater adaptations can enhance understanding.
- Join Reading Groups: Discussing stories with others improves comprehension and critical thinking.

Final Thoughts

Classic English short stories for intermediate readers serve as an engaging way to improve language skills, understand cultural contexts, and appreciate literary artistry. By exploring stories like "The Open Window," "The Gift of the Magi," or Dickens' ghostly tales, learners can grow more confident in their reading and analytical abilities. Remember, the key is to read actively, reflect on themes, and enjoy the timeless storytelling that these classics offer. As you continue to explore more stories, you'll discover the enduring power of literature to entertain, teach, and inspire.

Question What are some popular classic English short stories suitable for intermediate learners? Some popular classic English short stories for intermediate learners include 'The Gift of the Magi' by O. Henry, 'The Open Window' by Saki, 'The Tell-Tale Heart' by Edgar Allan Poe, 'The Monkey's Paw' by W. W. Jacobs, 'The Happy Prince' by Oscar Wilde, and 'The Lottery' by Shirley Jackson. **Answer** How can reading classic short stories improve my English language skills? Reading classic short stories helps improve vocabulary, enhances understanding of grammar and sentence structure, exposes you to different writing styles, and develops your comprehension and critical thinking skills. What themes are commonly explored in classic English short stories at the intermediate level? Common themes include love and sacrifice, morality and justice, human nature, social class, irony, and the supernatural, providing meaningful content suitable for learners. Are there any online resources where I can find free classic English short stories for intermediate learners? Yes, websites like Project Gutenberg, American Literature, and Classic Reader offer a wide selection of free classic English short stories suitable for intermediate learners. How should I approach reading these stories to maximize understanding and learning? Read actively by noting unfamiliar words, summarize each story in your own words, discuss the stories with others or join reading groups, and revisit difficult parts to ensure comprehension. Can you recommend some exercises to practice after reading classic English short stories? Yes, you can practice by writing summaries, answering comprehension questions, analyzing story themes and characters, discussing moral lessons, and creating vocabulary lists from the stories.

Related keywords: English short stories, intermediate reading, classic literature, short story collection, beginner English stories, timeless stories, British literature, literary classics, simple English stories, intermediate language skills

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Learning French through stories is an effective and engaging way for beginners and intermediate

learners to improve their language skills. Short stories tailored for these levels provide contextual vocabulary, cultural insights, and practical language use, helping learners build confidence and fluency. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the importance of French stories for learners at different stages, recommend the best resources, and offer tips for maximizing your learning experience with beginner and intermediate short stories.

Why Use Short Stories to Learn French?

Short stories serve as an excellent tool for language acquisition due to their accessibility and engaging content. Here's why they are beneficial:

1. Contextual Learning

- Stories provide real-life context, making vocabulary and grammar easier to understand and remember.
- They introduce idiomatic expressions and cultural references that are common in daily conversations.

2. Enhanced Reading Skills

- Regular reading improves comprehension, speed, and familiarity with sentence structures.
- Short stories are manageable and less intimidating for learners at the beginner and intermediate levels.

3. Vocabulary Expansion

- Stories incorporate thematic vocabulary, helping learners acquire words related to everyday life, emotions, travel, and more.
- Repetition of key words and phrases reinforces retention.

4. Cultural Insights

- Stories often reflect French culture, traditions, and societal norms, enriching learners' cultural knowledge.

5. Motivation and Engagement

- Captivating stories motivate learners to read more and stay consistent with their practice.

Choosing the Right Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediate Learners

Selecting suitable stories is crucial for effective learning. Here's how to choose appropriate materials:

For Beginners:

- Simplified Language: Stories written with basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures.
- Short Length: Stories that can be read in one sitting, typically 150-300 words.
- Clear Context: Stories centered around familiar themes like family, daily routines, food, or greetings.
- Visual Support: Stories with illustrations aid comprehension and engagement.

For Intermediate Learners:

- Moderate Vocabulary: Incorporate more diverse vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.
- Complex Sentences: Slightly more complex sentence structures to challenge comprehension.
- Cultural Elements: Stories that delve into French customs, history, or social issues.
- Extended Length: Stories that are 300-600 words, allowing for deeper exploration.

Top Resources for French Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediates

Access to quality stories is key. Here are some of the best resources categorized by level:

Online Platforms and Websites

- Le Petit Nicolas: Classic stories suitable for beginners, featuring humorous adventures of a young boy. Available in simplified versions.
- Duolingo Stories: Interactive short stories designed for language learners, with audio and comprehension questions.
- Readlang: Offers a library of French stories with translation features, ideal for intermediate learners.
- French Experiment: Provides free short stories and fairy tales with audio recordings.

Apps and Digital Tools

- LingQ: An app offering a vast collection of stories with audio, vocabulary lists, and translation support.
- Beelinguapp: Bilingual stories that display French and your native language side-by-side, perfect for beginners and intermediates.
- Yabla: Video stories with subtitles and comprehension exercises.

Books and Printed Collections

- "French Short Stories for Beginners" by Olly Richards: A collection designed specifically for beginners with vocabulary aids.
- "Short Stories in French for Beginners" by Olly Richards: Features engaging stories with glossary and comprehension questions.
- "French Short Stories for Intermediate Learners" by Frederic Bibard: Offers stories with richer vocabulary and cultural content.

Effective Strategies for Learning with Short Stories

Maximizing the benefits of short stories involves adopting specific learning strategies:

1. Active Reading

- Highlight new vocabulary and expressions.
- Take notes on sentence structures and idiomatic phrases.
- Summarize stories in your own words.

2. Listening Practice

- Listen to audio recordings while reading to improve pronunciation and listening skills.
- Repeat sentences aloud for pronunciation practice.

3. Vocabulary Building

- Create flashcards for new words.
- Practice using new vocabulary in your own sentences.

4. Cultural Exploration

- Research cultural references or customs mentioned in stories.
- Watch related videos or documentaries for broader context.

5. Consistent Practice

- Set daily or weekly reading goals.
- Read a variety of stories to expose yourself to different themes and vocabulary.

Sample Beginner and Intermediate Short Stories to Get Started

Here are some recommended stories to kick off your journey:

Beginner Level:

- "La Famille" ? A simple story about a family's daily routine.
- "Une Journée à l'École" ? Describes a typical day at school, introducing school-related vocabulary.
- "Le Marché" ? A story about shopping at a local market, useful for learning food and shopping vocabulary.

Intermediate Level:

- "Une Aventure à Paris" ? A story about a trip to Paris, including cultural landmarks and travel vocabulary.
- "Une Rencontre Surprise" ? Involves dialogues and more complex sentence structures, exploring themes of friendship and surprises.
- "Le Mystère du Château" ? A short mystery story that enhances vocabulary and comprehension.

Tips to Enhance Your Learning Experience

To make the most of your reading adventures, consider these tips:

- Set Clear Goals: Decide how many stories to read weekly.

- Use Bilingual Resources: Compare the French story with your native language to understand nuances.
- Join Reading Groups: Participate in forums or local clubs focused on French stories.
- Keep a Vocabulary Journal: Record new words and review them regularly.
- Practice Speaking: Retell stories aloud or discuss them with a language partner.

Conclusion

French stories for beginners and intermediate learners are invaluable tools that foster language development, cultural understanding, and motivation. By choosing appropriate stories, leveraging quality resources, and employing effective learning strategies, you can significantly enhance your French proficiency. Whether you're starting with simple tales or exploring more complex narratives, consistent practice with short stories will pave your way toward fluency and a deeper appreciation of French language and culture. Embark on your storytelling journey today and watch your skills grow with every story read!

French stories beginner and intermediate short stories are invaluable resources for language learners seeking to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, and cultural understanding. These stories serve as a bridge between basic vocabulary and more complex language structures, offering learners a chance to immerse themselves in authentic French narratives without feeling overwhelmed. Whether you are just starting out or looking to deepen your proficiency, curated collections of beginner and intermediate short stories provide an engaging and effective way to progress in your French language journey.

Introduction to French Short Stories for Learners

French short stories are specifically designed to cater to different proficiency levels, making them ideal tools for structured language acquisition. For beginners, stories typically feature simple vocabulary, repetitive sentence structures, and familiar themes that resonate with everyday life. Intermediate stories, on the other hand, introduce more complex grammar, varied vocabulary, and nuanced narratives, challenging learners to expand their skills.

Why Use Short Stories in Language Learning?

- Contextual Learning: Stories provide context, making new vocabulary and grammar easier to understand and remember.
- Cultural Exposure: They expose learners to French culture, idiomatic expressions, and storytelling traditions.
- Engagement: Narratives are more engaging than isolated vocabulary lists, increasing motivation.

- Reading Practice: Regular reading enhances comprehension, speed, and fluency.

Features of Beginner French Short Stories

Beginner stories focus on foundational language skills, making them accessible and encouraging. They often feature familiar themes such as family, school, daily routines, and simple adventures.

Characteristics

- Simple vocabulary and sentence structures
- Repetitive phrases to reinforce learning
- Short length, typically 100-300 words
- Clear illustrations accompanying texts
- Use of present tense predominantly

Popular Types of Beginner Stories

- Fables and Folktales: Short stories with moral lessons, like "Le Lièvre et la Tortue" (The Hare and the Tortoise).
- Everyday Situations: Dialogues at the market, school, or home.
- Simple Adventures: Stories about pets, friends, or family outings.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Easy to understand and follow
- Builds confidence for new learners
- Reinforces basic vocabulary and grammar

Cons:

- May lack variety in sentence structure
- Stories can become repetitive
- Limited exposure to advanced grammar

Features of Intermediate French Short Stories

Intermediate stories introduce learners to more complex language, richer vocabulary, and more diverse themes. They are designed to challenge learners without overwhelming them.

Characteristics

- Use of past, future, and conditional tenses
- Introduction of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms
- Longer narratives with more developed plots
- Inclusion of descriptive language and dialogue

Popular Types of Intermediate Stories

- Short detective stories or mysteries
- Cultural tales or legends from French regions
- Stories with moral dilemmas or social themes
- Historical anecdotes

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge
- Improve reading comprehension of complex texts
- Offer cultural insights and nuanced storytelling

Cons:

- Can be challenging for true beginners
- Might require supplementary grammar review
- Risk of frustration if stories are too difficult

Choosing the Right Stories for Your Level

Selecting appropriate stories is crucial for effective learning. Beginners should start with simple, predictable narratives, gradually progressing to more complex stories as their skills improve.

Tips for Beginners

- Look for stories with audio versions to improve listening skills.
- Choose stories with illustrations to aid comprehension.
- Focus on stories that use familiar vocabulary and structures.

Tips for Intermediate Learners

- Tackle stories that challenge your current vocabulary.
- Read stories with annotations or glossaries for unknown words.
- Practice summarizing stories to enhance understanding.

Recommended Resources for French Short Stories

Several platforms and publications cater specifically to French learners, offering collections suitable for beginner and intermediate levels.

Online Platforms

- Duolingo Stories: Interactive stories with comprehension questions.
- Le Petit Nicolas: Classic stories adapted for learners.
- LingQ: Offers stories with audio and vocabulary tools.
- French Short Stories for Beginners (website): Curated stories with translations.

Books and E-books

- Short Stories in French for Beginners by Olly Richards
- French Short Stories for Intermediate Learners by Frederic Bibard
- Read and Listen French Stories series

Mobile Apps

- Beelinguapp: Bilingual stories with audio support.
- Duolingo: Incorporates stories into lessons.
- LingQ: Extensive library of stories with vocabulary tools.

Strategies for Maximizing Learning from Short Stories

To get the most out of your reading experience, consider implementing these strategies:

- Active Reading: Highlight new words, note grammar points, and predict story outcomes.
- Listening Practice: Listen to audio versions simultaneously to improve pronunciation and listening skills.
- Vocabulary Building: Create flashcards for new words encountered.
- Story Summaries: Write summaries in French to reinforce comprehension.
- Discussion and Sharing: Join language exchange groups to discuss stories and practice speaking.

Conclusion

French stories beginner and intermediate short stories are powerful tools that facilitate language acquisition through engaging narratives tailored to different proficiency levels. Beginner stories lay a solid foundation, focusing on basic vocabulary and simple structures, while intermediate stories challenge learners to expand their skills and deepen their understanding of French language and culture. By choosing appropriate stories and employing effective strategies, learners can enjoy a more immersive, enriching, and motivating language learning experience.

Embracing these stories not only improves reading skills but also fosters a genuine appreciation for French storytelling traditions and cultural nuances. Whether you are just starting or looking to elevate your proficiency, integrating French short stories into your study routine is a step toward fluency that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Question What are some popular French short stories for beginners to improve their language skills? Popular French short stories for beginners include 'Le Petit Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 'Les Aventures de Tintin' by Hergé, and simple fables like 'La Cigale et la Fourmi'. These stories use basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures ideal for learners. **How can intermediate French learners benefit from reading short stories?** Intermediate learners can expand their vocabulary, improve comprehension skills, and gain exposure to varied sentence structures by reading short stories. Stories with richer language and more complex plots help develop a deeper understanding of French idioms and cultural nuances. **Are there recommended online resources or books for French stories suitable for both beginner and intermediate levels?** Yes, resources like 'Le Petit Nicolas' series, 'French Short Stories for Beginners' by Olly Richards, and websites like LingQ and Duolingo offer curated stories tailored to different proficiency levels. These provide audio, translations, and vocabulary support. **What are some tips for effectively learning French through short stories?** Start with stories suited to your level, read actively by highlighting new vocabulary, and try summarizing the story in your own words. Listening to audio versions while reading can also enhance pronunciation and comprehension. **How do short stories help in understanding French culture for learners?** Short stories often incorporate cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and social norms, providing insights into French traditions, humor, and daily life, which enriches cultural understanding alongside language learning. **Can beginner and intermediate French learners use the same stories, or should they choose different ones?** While some stories can be enjoyed at multiple

levels, beginners should start with simpler texts focusing on basic vocabulary, whereas intermediate learners can tackle more complex stories with richer language and themes for greater challenge. Are there any specific themes in French short stories that are particularly engaging for learners? Common engaging themes include friendship, adventure, humor, and moral lessons. Stories centered around everyday life and traditional tales also resonate well with learners, making language acquisition more relatable. What techniques can help intermediate learners understand more complex French short stories? Techniques include annotating the text, researching unfamiliar vocabulary, reading with audio support, and discussing stories with language partners or tutors to clarify nuances and deepen comprehension. How often should I read French short stories to see noticeable improvement in my language skills? Consistent practice of at least 3-4 times a week, reading for 20-30 minutes each session, can lead to steady progress. Gradually increasing the difficulty and complexity of stories will enhance vocabulary and comprehension over time.

Related keywords: French stories, beginner French stories, intermediate French stories, French short stories, French reading practice, learn French stories, French storytelling, easy French stories, French language stories, beginner French reading

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