

The Blue Bag

AN AMERICAN FAMILY | LESSON 8.5

English Fluency Fast

It is Saturday morning. There is a clock on the kitchen wall. It is nine o'clock, and the Murphy family is at home.

Ben has a blue bag on his chair. There is a book in the bag. There is a camera next to the book.

Maya: "Is that your school bag, Ben?"

Ben: "Yes, it is, but there is no homework in it today. There is something for our cousin."

The book has pictures of animals. There is a small bear on the first page. There is a big elephant on the next page.

Maya: "Is the book for the baby?"

Ben: "Yes, it is. Our cousin has a bed, a blanket, and a lot of clothes. Now he has a book, too."

Elena is next to Ben. There is a photo on her phone. Her sister is in the photo with her husband and their baby.

Elena: "My sister and her family are our guests this evening. We have dinner together at six."

Ben: "Is our cousin here for one day?"

Elena: "He is here for a week. His mother and father are on vacation."

There is a calendar next to the clock. One week has seven days. Saturday and Sunday are the weekend. There are twelve months in a year. This month has a red circle around today's date.

Maya: "Our weekend is full. There is a family day at our school, and there is a family dinner here."

David: "We have time for both. The school is near our apartment."

Elena: "Where is the book now, Ben?"

Ben: "It is in my blue bag with the camera."

Maya: "Why is the camera in the bag?"

Ben: "I want a photo of everyone for the last page. The book has a place for our family."

The last page is empty. There is no photo on it yet.

Ben: "The book is not ready without that photo."

David: "Then that is an important bag."

There is bread on the table. There is butter on the bread, and there is cheese on a plate.

Ben: "Can I have a sandwich for breakfast?"

Elena: "You can have bread and cheese. There is fruit, too."

Maya has an apple. Ben has a banana.

Maya: "Do you want my apple, too?"

Ben: "No, I have enough fruit. I need water. I am thirsty."

There is a bottle of water next to an empty glass. Now there is water in the glass. The glass is full.

Ben: "My glass is full, but my stomach is empty. I am hungry, too."

Maya: "There is more water in the bottle. Your sandwich is on that plate."

David: "Your breakfast is right in front of you."

David has a cup of coffee. There are two small dishes next to his cup.

David: "Is this sugar for my coffee?"

Elena: "No, that dish has salt in it. The sugar is in the other dish."

David: "I want sweet coffee. I do not want coffee with salt."

Maya has a spoon for her yogurt. There is a fork and a knife next to her plate.

Maya: "We have four plates. Our guests need plates, too."

Elena: "There are more plates on the shelf. We have enough forks and knives, too."

The refrigerator is open. There is chicken on one shelf and fish on another shelf. There is a tomato next to a bowl of salad.

Ben: "Is that chicken for lunch?"

Elena: "The chicken is for dinner. We have lunch at the school today."

There is a potato next to the refrigerator. There are more vegetables in a bag.

David: "Is this potato for dinner, too?"

Elena: "Yes, it is. We have meat, vegetables, and rice. My sister has a dessert for us."

Ben: "Is there soup?"

Elena: "There is vegetable soup in the refrigerator. Do you want soup now?"

Ben: "No, my sandwich is enough."

The refrigerator is cold. The oven is hot. There is warm bread on the table.

David: "We have food for tonight. We have our camera. Are we ready?"

Maya: "Ben has one shoe on. We are almost ready."

Ben's other shoe is under his bed. His sock is on the carpet next to it.

Ben: "Why is my sock here?"

Max is on the carpet, too. There is a sock next to his nose.

Maya: "There is your answer."

Ben: "That is my sock, Max. Your bed is over there."

Ben has his shoe and his sock now. His shirt is clean, but there is a dirty mark on his pants.

Maya: "There is something on your leg."

Ben: "It is on my pants. My leg is clean."

There is a mirror on the bedroom wall. Ben's face is in the mirror. His hair is over one eye.

Maya: "Your hair is in your eye, too."

Ben: "I need my hat. I want my whole face in our family photo."

His hat is on a low shelf. A thick dictionary and a thin notebook are on the shelf, too. The dictionary has hundreds of pages. The notebook has only a few pages.

The shelf is next to his desk. There is paper on the desk and a pencil under the paper.

Maya: "Is your homework ready for your class?"

Ben: "My homework is in that notebook. My pencil is here. I have everything for school on Monday."

Maya: "There is no exam today. We only need the camera."

Ben has his hat now. There is a blue jacket on his arm.

In the bathroom, David has a wet hand and a dry towel. The soap is next to the sink. A big towel is next to the shower.

David: "There is soap on my hand. I need water first. Then I need the towel."

There is a small plastic boat in the bath. It is not in a river or a lake. It is in the empty bath.

Ben: "Max has my sock, and there is a boat in our bathroom. Our apartment is interesting today."

Now everyone is next to the front door.

Their neighbor is there, too. Her name is Mrs. Lee. Her home is next to their home. She has a blue bag on her shoulder.

Mrs. Lee: "Are you ready for the family day?"

Elena: "Yes, we are. Is your bag for the school?"

Mrs. Lee: "It is for the clothes table. There is a coat in it."

Ben has his own blue bag. There is a small white square on its pocket. Mrs. Lee's bag has no white square.

Maya: "We have two blue bags. Your bag has a white square, Ben."

Ben: "And my bag has our cousin's book."

The school is on the next street. The park is behind the school. There is a wide road next to the park.

David: "There is a bus on that road. My bus is at the station today."

David is a bus driver. Today he is with his family. He is not at work.

Ben: "Who is the driver of that bus?"

David: "That is my friend. He has a full bus today."

There is a passenger next to the bus window. She has a ticket in her hand and a bag on her lap.

There is a bicycle next to the school gate. There is a small car behind a big truck.

Maya: "That truck has food for the school. There are boxes of fruit in it."

The school is a tall building. There are large windows in its walls. There is a bird on the roof.

In the yard, a teacher has a table and a list of names. Her name is Ms. Green. Maya is a student in her class.

Ms. Green: "Your family is here, Maya. Is everyone ready for a busy day?"

Maya: "We are ready. Ben has our camera."

There is a map on the table. There is information about the family day next to the map.

Ms. Green: "The food is in the garden. The books are in the library. The clothes are in the room next to the office."

Ben: "Is there a store in the school today?"

Ms. Green: "There are small tables with things for sale. The money is for new library books."

David: "That is a good reason for a family day."

Next to the school on the map, there is a bank. Across the street, there is a restaurant. There is a hospital at the end of the road.

Ben: "Your work is on the map, Mom."

Elena: "Yes, the hospital is there. My office is near the hospital's front door."

There is a little house on the map, too.

Maya: "Is that our home?"

Ben: "No, we have an apartment. That house has its own garden and yard."

Ms. Green: "That is my house. The school is my neighbor."

The clothes room has a long table. There is a red dress on the table, and there is a blue skirt next to it. There are shirts, pants, and hats at the other end.

Mrs. Lee has her coat in her hand now. Her bag is empty.

Mrs. Lee: "This coat is old, but it is clean. It is good for cold weather."

Maya: "It is thick and warm. This jacket is thin and light."

Ben has his own jacket over his arm. His blue bag is heavy.

Ben: "I need a place for my bag."

Elena: "There is room under that chair. We are all in this room."

Now Ben's bag is under the chair. The white square is next to the chair's front leg. Mrs. Lee's empty bag is beside the chair.

A woman has a red dress in her hand. There is a little girl next to her.

Girl: "Is that dress for me?"

Woman: "No, it is for an adult. You need a small dress."

The girl has a small yellow dress now. There is a price on it.

Girl: "Is it expensive?"

Woman: "It is two dollars. That is a low price."

There is a price on the coat, too. The coat is ten dollars. The thin jacket is five dollars.

David: "The coat is not cheap for everyone. Five dollars is enough for this jacket."

Mrs. Lee: "The cost of this skirt is one dollar. It is cheap, but there is a small mark on it."

There is a box for money on the table. There are dollar bills and coins in it.

Ben has a coin in his hand.

Ben: "I have one cent. Is it enough for that book?"

Maya: "The book is fifty cents. You need more money."

David: "I have cash. There is a dollar in my pocket."

Mrs. Lee: "We have a card reader, too. Cash or a card is fine."

David: "The cost of the book is fifty cents. Here is one dollar. The other fifty cents is for the library."

Ben has a little book about a bear now. The bear has a red hat.

Ben: "Our cousin has two books now."

Elena has a message on her phone.

Elena: "My sister is at the hotel. Her family is ready for lunch with us."

Ben is next to the chair again. There is a blue bag in his hand. The little bear book is inside it now.

The white square is not on this bag.

The garden has tables under a big tree. There is green grass around the tree. A small plant has one red flower. A leaf is on the table next to Ben's plate.

Ben: "Is this leaf part of my salad?"

Maya: "No, it is from the tree. Your salad is in that dish."

There is chicken and rice on one table. There is soup on another table. A cook is next to a big pot.

Cook: "The soup is hot. The bread is warm. Do you want some soup?"

David: "Yes, I want a bowl, please."

The cook has a spoon for the soup. Maya has a fork for her salad. There is a knife next to the bread.

There is a young couple near the garden gate. The woman has a baby in her arms.

Elena: "My sister is here. That is her husband beside her."

Ben: "And that is our cousin."

The baby has a little hat on his head. His mouth is open. One small tooth is in his mouth.

Maya: "He has a tooth now."

Elena: "He is almost a year old."

Elena's sister is Nora. Her husband is Luis. Their son's name is Leo.

Nora: "Our little boy is hungry."

Luis: "His father is hungry, too."

Ben: "Is Leo your only child?"

Nora: "Yes, he is our only child."

Maya: "Our mother and father have a son and a daughter. Ben is their son, and I am their daughter."

Ben: "Maya is my sister. I am her brother. Leo is our cousin."

Luis: "And all of you are our relatives. We have a whole table of relatives today."

Elena is next to her sister. David is next to his wife. Luis has a chair beside Nora.

David: "There is a place for every parent and every child."

Ben: "There is a place for our cousin's book, too. I have it here."

The bag is open. Ben has a little book about a bear in his hand.

Maya: "Where is your big book? Where is the camera?"

The little bear book is on the table now. The blue bag is empty. There is no camera. There is no big book.

Ben: "This is not my bag."

Ben's hand is inside the bag. There is nothing in it.

Ben: "My bag has a pocket with a white square. This bag has no white square."

Maya: "This is Mrs. Lee's bag. Her coat is on the clothes table. This is her empty bag."

Ben: "Then where is my bag?"

Elena: "It is probably by the chair. We can ask Mrs. Lee."

Ben's sandwich is still on his plate. He is not hungry now.

Nora: "Are you sick, Ben?"

Ben: "No, I am not sick. I am afraid. The camera is not here anymore."

David: "We have a problem, but we have a plan. The bag has your name inside it."

Ben: "The camera is expensive. My book is only paper, but it is important to me."

Maya: "I know the book is important. That is the reason for our search."

Nora: "The book is important to us, too."

Maya has her phone in her hand. There is a photo of the clothes room on its screen.

Maya: "Here is a photo from this morning. Your bag is under the chair. There is the white square."

Ben: "There is Mrs. Lee's bag next to it. There are two bags in the picture."

Maya: "That is a fact. There are two bags by the chair. One is here now. The photo is clear about that fact."

Elena: "And we need the other one."

Nora and Luis are with Leo at the table. The Murphy family is at the clothes room again.

The chair is empty. There is no bag under it.

Mrs. Lee: "Is that my bag in your hand, Ben?"

Ben: "Yes, it is. My bag is not here."

Mrs. Lee: "There is a blue bag in the school office. The manager has it."

Ben: "Is there a white square on it?"

Mrs. Lee: "I do not know. The office is beside the library."

Maya: "Then the office is the next place on our map."

There is a computer on the office desk. A keyboard is in front of the screen. A mouse is beside the keyboard.

The manager has a blue bag next to her chair.

Manager: "Is this your bag?"

Ben: "No, my bag is small. That bag is big and wide."

There is a passport on the desk. There is a name and a photo in the passport.

Manager: "This bag is for a visitor. His passport is here, too."

A man is at the office door.

Visitor: "That is my bag. I need that passport for my flight tomorrow. My plane is at the airport at eight."

Manager: "Here is your passport. Is your hotel near the school?"

Visitor: "Yes, the address is on this card. It is the hotel's street and number."

David: "That hotel is next to the train station."

The visitor has his bag and passport now. Ben has only the empty bag.

Ben: "Everyone has a bag except me."

Maya: "Your bag is here somewhere."

There is a new email on the computer screen. The manager has a message from the library teacher.

Manager: "There is another blue bag at the library desk. There is a camera in it. That is the message in this email."

Ben: "My camera is in my bag. That is probably my bag."

Outside the window, the sky is dark. A big cloud is over the school.

The morning is sunny in Maya's photo. There is sun on the clothes table. Now there is no sun on the table. There are clouds above the roof.

David: "The weather is different now. There is a storm near the city."

There is wind in the tree. Leaves are in the air. There is rain on the window.

Elena: "Lunch in the garden is not possible now. The tables are wet."

There is water on the grass. The garden chairs are wet, too. The floor inside the school is dry.

Maya: "There is room for everyone inside. Lunch inside is possible. That is one problem with a solution."

Ben: "And there is a bag in the library. That is a solution for me."

The library is at the other end of the hall. Ben is next to his mother.

Ben: "There is something hard in my shoe."

Elena: "Is there pain in your foot?"

Ben: "Yes, there is a little pain."

There is a chair beside the nurse's room. Now Ben is on the chair. His shoe is on the floor.

There is a small stone in his shoe.

Maya: "There is the problem."

Ben: "I need a bag, and I have a stone. This is a bad afternoon."

Maya: "The afternoon is not over yet. There is still time for something good."

The school nurse is at the door. Her name is Jo.

Jo: "Is your foot all right?"

Ben: "There is a red mark on my skin. The stone is out of my shoe now."

Jo: "Your mother is here. There is a chair in my room."

There is a picture of the human body on the wall. There is a head at the top. There is a heart inside the chest.

Ben has a hand over his heart.

Ben: "I am worried about my book."

Elena: "We are here together. Your book is probably with your camera."

Maya is beside a picture of a face. There is one ear on each side. The nose is between the eyes. Below the nose is the mouth.

Maya: "Your cousin's elephant has a long nose, Ben. Is there a big smile on its face, too?"

Ben: "It has a big mouth. It has a little bird on its head."

Elena: "Then it is a happy elephant."

Ben has his shoe on again. There is no stone in it now.

Ben: "My foot is all right now."

Jo: "Do you need some water?"

Ben: "Yes, I am thirsty again."

There is a poster above the sink. It has a picture of a doctor and a nurse at a hospital. There is a heart between them and the word health below it.

Elena: "Good food, water, and sleep are important for our health. You have water now. We have food with the family next."

Ben: "I need my book first."

The library is full of people. There are parents and students near the door. There is a teacher behind the desk.

Ben: "Is my blue bag here? There is a camera and a big book in it."

Teacher: "There are several bags here. Is your name on your bag?"

Ben: "My name is Ben Murphy. It is inside the pocket."

Teacher: "I have a list here. Your name is on the list."

Maya: "Our problem has a solution."

The teacher has a key in her hand. There is a door behind her desk.

Teacher: "Your bag is in a dry place. The bags from the clothes room are here now. They need a place out of the rain."

The teacher is in the small room behind the desk now. Ben and Maya are next to a table of books.

There is a big map above the table. The United States is on the map. Canada is above it.

Ben: "Our cousin's home is in Canada."

Maya: "Canada is a big country. Our city is Columbus. Their town is near a lake."

There are photos next to the map. A plane is at an airport in one photo. There is a long train in another photo.

Ben: "Is that a book about travel?"

Maya: "Yes, it is. There is a trip by train on this page and a flight on the next page."

There is a photo of a beach beside the travel book. There is blue sea in front of a hotel. There is a mountain behind the hotel. There is white snow on the mountain.

Ben: "There is snow on the mountain, but there is sun on the beach."

David: "That is a different kind of vacation. Our family has rain today."

Maya: "We have a lake near our city. We have a river, too. We can have a good weekend here."

There is a small boy beside the table. His name is Sam. His sister, Ana, is next to him. Sam is five years old. Ana is six. Ana's name and age are on her school card.

Sam has a picture book. There is a bear with a red hat on its cover.

Ben: "I have that book, too. It is for our baby cousin."

Ana: "Is your cousin here?"

Ben: "He is with his mother and father. He is almost one year old."

Sam: "Is the bear book for your cousin?"

Ben: "Yes, it is. There is a bear in my big book, too."

The teacher is at the desk again. There is a box in her hands.

There is a blue bag in the box. There is a pocket on the bag. There is a small white square on the pocket.

Ben: "That is my bag."

Teacher: "There is a name inside the pocket. What is your last name?"

Ben: "My last name is Murphy. There is a family photo on the camera, too. My mother has a red shirt in the photo."

The teacher has the name in front of her. Ben has his mother beside him. Elena has a red shirt on.

Teacher: "This is your bag, Ben Murphy. Everything in it is dry."

The camera is in the bag. The big book is under the camera.

Ben: "My book is dry. It is all here."

Elena: "Are you happy now?"

Ben: "I am very happy. I am not angry with Mrs. Lee. It is my mistake. Her bag is almost the same color."

Elena: "Mrs. Lee is not angry with you, either. She only wants her own bag."

Teacher: "There is a police officer at the front door. He has Mrs. Lee's message about your bag."

David: "We can talk to the officer. He needs that information."

There is a photo of the blue bag on Maya's phone. The white square is clear in the photo.

Maya: "This little square is important."

Ben has the book on the desk now. There is a cat under a chair on one page. A small bird is on the chair. The cat's eye is on the bird.

Maya: "That cat wants the bird."

Ben: "The bird has a plan. There is a tall tree on the next page. The bird is in the tree, and the cat is on the ground."

On another page, there is a farmer with a horse, a cow, a pig, and a sheep. The farmer's hat is on the pig's head.

David: "The farmer has a problem, too."

Ben: "His hat is in the wrong place."

There is a lion behind the farmer's house. The lion has a soft blanket and a cup of milk.

Maya: "Is that a real lion in the farmer's yard?"

Ben: "It is a lion in my story. It is tired. It only wants a quiet place."

The elephant is on the next page. A little bird is on its head.

Elena: "The bird has a good place now."

Ben: "Every animal has a place. The bear has a bed. The elephant has a friend."

Maya: "And there is one empty page."

Ben: "That page is for us."

The police officer is near the front door. Ben has the blue bag against his chest.

Ben: "My bag is here now. The book and the camera are inside it."

Officer: "That is good news. Mrs. Lee is by the clothes table."

Mrs. Lee has her plain blue bag again. Ben has his bag with the white square.

Mrs. Lee: "Are we all ready now?"

Ben: "My bag is ready. My book needs one more thing."

The rain is still on the windows. There is no one at the tables in the garden.

Nora and Luis are inside with Leo. The baby has a soft blanket around his body. His little hand is around his father's finger.

Nora: "Is everything all right?"

Ben: "Everything is here. We need a family photo now."

Luis: "There is a good place by this wall."

There is a plant beside the wall. A red flower is above Leo's head.

Maya: "The flower is like a hat on his head."

David: "Then we need another place."

There is a wide space near the library door. The ceiling is high. The floor is dry. There is a bench against the wall.

Elena: "Our parents are not here, but both their daughters are here. My sister and I are together."

Nora: "And our husbands are here. Our family is in one place."

Ben: "There is a place for everyone on that bench."

Maya: "Who is behind the camera?"

Ben: "That is a problem. There is a place for me in the photo, too."

Ms. Green is beside them.

Ms. Green: "I can help with the photo. Your whole family can be in it."

Now the camera is in Ms. Green's hands. Everyone is on the bench. Leo is in his mother's arms.

The family photo is on the camera screen. Ben is in the photo this time.

Maya: "Your book needs that picture."

Ms. Green: "There is a printer in the office. We can have the photo on paper."

In the office, the computer screen has the family photo on it. There is a printer next to the computer. Now the photo is on a piece of paper.

There is a radio on the shelf. There is quiet music in the room. There is a television above the shelf with a weather map on its screen.

David: "That storm is over the next town now. Our sky is light again. The sky is not dark anymore."

The manager has information about the road on her computer. The internet is slow, but the message is clear.

Manager: "The road by the park is open. There is no water on it now."

Elena: "We have a choice. We can have dessert here, or we can have it at home."

Ben: "I have an idea. Our cousin can have his book at our table. We have a place for him there."

Maya: "I like that idea. My choice is dessert at home with everyone."

Nora: "That is a good plan."

It is evening now. The school day is over. The family is at the apartment together.

There is a small bed for Leo in the bedroom. There is a towel beside the bed, and a clean blanket is on it.

Nora has a little coat for Leo. His coat is on a chair. His small shoes are under it.

Leo has a round face and short, soft hair. There is a little milk on his neck.

Luis: "Our son has milk on his face again."

Nora: "There is milk on his ear, too. I need that towel."

Leo is clean again. His mother has one arm behind his back. His father has a spoon and a bowl of food.

David: "There is dinner for everyone."

There is chicken in one dish and fish in another. There is rice, a potato for each adult, and a big bowl of salad. There are slices of tomato in the salad.

Ben has a full plate. His glass has water in it.

Maya: "Are you hungry again?"

Ben: "I am hungry, and I am tired. I am also very happy."

There is a dessert in the refrigerator. It has fruit on top. There is a banana next to it and an apple behind it.

Nora: "There is dessert after dinner. It is for everyone."

Ben: "The dessert can wait. The book is ready now."

The family photo is on the last page. There is a line under it in Ben's handwriting.

Ben: "This is our family. There is a place for you here."

The book is on Nora's lap. Leo has his hand on the picture of the bear. His finger is on the bear's hat.

Maya: "He likes the bear."

Ben: "There is a horse, a cow, a pig, and a sheep on this page."

David: "And there is a farmer without his hat."

The next page has the lion and its blanket. Then there is the elephant with the bird on its head.

Nora: "Every animal has a place in your book."

Ben: "Our family has a place, too. It is on the last page."

Max is beside Ben's chair. His head is on Ben's foot.

Maya: "Max is not in today's photo."

Ben: "That is another problem."

David: "Do you have a solution?"

Ben has a pencil and a small piece of paper. Now there is a little picture of Max on the paper.

The picture is on the last page beside the family photo. Max has his own place.

Ben: "Now everyone is here."

It is night outside the window. The sky is dark, but the apartment is warm and light.

There is a name card on Ben's blue bag now. The card has two words on it: Ben Murphy.

The bag is empty. The camera is on the shelf. The book is with Leo.

Maya: "Are you sad about your empty bag?"

Ben: "No, I am not sad. Everything is in the right place."