

The following is a sample story from 'Tell Us Some More'.

## Edinburgh Time

*Here is an old story which was sometimes told to visitors, by the people who lived in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh folk, sometimes have the gift of laughing at themselves. There is a beautiful street in Edinburgh, called Princess Street. It is lined with shops on one side of the street, and on the other side, there are civic gardens, monuments, and the Art gallery. In the gardens there is a magnificent large tower clock. Visitors come from all over the world to see the flower clock. The Edinburgh castle overlooks both Princess Street and the gardens. At one o'clock each day, the soldiers in the castle, fire off a gun, which makes a very loud bang.*

A little boy named Hamish asked the Captain of the Guard, at the castle, how the Gunners knew the exact time to fire off the gun. The Captain said, that he always chose a soldier, who was a very good runner, to put on his running shorts and jersey, wearing a wristwatch. The soldier had to run down from the castle to a shop in Princess Street. This particular shop sold beautiful jewellery, alongside clocks, and watches. In the window of this shop, there was another large clock, which always told the exact time, to the correct second. It was said, that the clock had never lost a moment in one hundred years.

The soldier would arrive at the shop and look at the clock in the window, and then, he would adjust his watch. Next, the soldier would run along Princess street, making his way back to the castle. When the Gunners assembled, on the wall of the castle, he would take out his watch, and exactly at one o'clock, he would raise his hand, and the Gunners fired the castle gun. Everyone in Edinburgh, on hearing the sound of the gun, would check their clocks, and watches. The Park-keeper would also adjust the flower clock, by the sound of the gun.

Little Hamish took a walk along Princess Street, because he wanted to see the shop, with the clock, which told the perfect time. Sure enough, there it was! Hamish stared at the clock. He was thinking all the time. Then little Hamish went inside the shop, and he asked the shopkeeper, 'How do you know that the clock in your shop window, keeps perfect time?' The shopkeeper, looked at little Hamish hardly believing his ears, that anyone could doubt the clock, which had told the exact time for one hundred years.

'Laddie,' he said, 'I wait until I hear the castle gun firing at one o'clock everyday, and then I adjust my clock in the shop window.' Hamish, smiled at the shop-keeper, and politely said, 'Thank You.' Hamish was a thinker! He thought to himself, the Edinburgh people are taking the correct time from each other, and they do not know it. If the castle gun is slow or fast, then the shop clock will be wrong. On the other hand, if the clock in the shop is slow or fast, then they will fire off the castle gun at the wrong time. That means that everyone in Edinburgh is likely to have the wrong time anyway.

Hamish said that Edinburgh was a lovely city, but some things were difficult to understand. He went off back home to Aberdeen, where they always tell the time by the radio (Greenwich Time). This is a funny story, which Edinburgh people tell against themselves. Did you see what the story meant? We watch each other, and so often, we copy each other.

*Have you ever watched someone in your class yawn? Do not say a word, but watch how many others in the class, also begin to yawn. Often, they do not know that they are unconsciously copying other people. Young people like to wear the same kind of trainers as everyone else wears in the school. We adopt the habits we see in others, therefore, we must be on our guard, because what others do may not always be good manners. What others do may not always be honest. What others do may not be what we want to do.*

*As we grow older in the school, we have to try to set a good example, in sport, in learning, and in good behaviour to the younger members of the school. Many people set us a good example. These are the people we ought to follow, if we want to be a success in life. Jesus is the best example that we could ever have. He did no evil. He was never unkind. If everyone in my school were just like me. What kind of a school, would my school be?*




### **Prayer**

Father, God, teach us to follow  
the example of the Lord Jesus.  
Keep us honest and kind.  
Make us to be "good-sports",  
and hard workers at our school studies.  
Teach us that the world is watching us. Amen.

### **Hymn:**

**I am planting my feet in the footsteps. (C&P.2. 103)**

### **Teacher's Note**

-  Edinburgh People can laugh at themselves. Is this difficult for some children?
-  We fix many of our habits, by imitating others.
-  To set a good example requires, strong will and inward strength of character.