



# How the Elephant Got Its Trunk

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From a Story by Rudyard Kipling

**NARRATOR 1:**

Long, l-o-o-o-ng ago, elephants did not have trunks. They had lumpy black noses instead.

**NARRATOR 2:**

At that time, a very little elephant lived with his family in Africa. The little elephant asked questions about *everything*.

**NARRATOR 3:**

He asked Aunt Ostrich why her tail feathers grew the way they did.

**AUNT OSTRICH:**

Oh, Little Elephant! Go on your way!

**NARRATOR 1:**

He asked Uncle Giraffe why he had spots.

**UNCLE GIRAFFE:**

What a silly question, young man.

**NARRATOR 2:**

One morning, the little elephant asked...

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

What does the crocodile eat for dinner?

**BIRD:**

You ask too many questions! Go to the river and find out for yourself.

**NARRATOR 1:**

Little Elephant had never seen a crocodile before, but off he went to find one.

**NARRATOR 2:**

Just as Little Elephant got to the river -- THUNK! -- he tripped over a log.

**NARRATOR 3:**

At least, that's what he *thought* he tripped over.

**NARRATOR 4:**

But the log turned out to be wily crocodile himself. Crocodile showed Little Elephant his large toothy mouth.

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Excuse me. Have you seen a crocodile around here?

**CROCODILE:**

I *am* a crocodile. What do you want?

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Really? I've been looking for you!! Will you PUH-LEEZZ answer my question: What do you eat for dinner?

**CROCODILE:**

Come here, little one. I'll whisper the answer in your ear.

**NARRATOR 1:**

Little Elephant got down on his knees, put his head near Crocodile's large toothy mouth, and...

**NARRATOR 2:**

CHOMP! Crocodile grabbed Little Elephant by his lumpy black nose.

**CROCODILE:**

I think I'll eat a little elephant for dinner today!

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Ow! Let go! That hurts!

**NARRATOR 3:**

A slithering snake heard Little Elephant holler. He stopped to see what was the matter.

**SNAKE:**

Well, Little Elephant, I s-s-see you've gotten yourself into a mes-s-s. Pull back! Pull back hard or Crocodile will drag you into the river and eat you!

**NARRATOR 4:**

Hearing that, Little Elephant pulled back as hard as he could. He pulled so hard that his nose began to stretch. The harder he pulled, the longer his nose became.

**NARRATOR 1:**

Suddenly, Little Elephant began slipping into the water. Snake quickly wrapped his body around Little Elephant and began to pull back too.

**SNAKE:**

Pull, Little Elephant. Pull!

**NARRATOR 2:**

Crocodile pulled hard on Little Elephant's nose. Little Elephant and Snake pulled back. Together, Snake and Little Elephant were stronger than Crocodile. Finally, Crocodile let go.

**NARRATOR 3:**

Little Elephant was saved from Crocodile. But his nose! His nose was now five feet long!

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Thank you, Snake. You saved my life! Now, I will sit here for a while and wait for my nose to shrink.

**NARRATOR 4:**

But Little Elephant's nose didn't shrink. Crocodile had pulled it into a long trunk! At first, Little Elephant was sad. But soon he discovered many ways to use his new nose.

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Wow! That fly on my shoulder flew away when I hit it with my trunk.

**SNAKE:**

You could not have done *that* with a short nose.

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Look! I can eat this big bunch of grass without bending down.

**FROG:**

You could not have done *that* with a short nose.

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

Hey! Watch me scoop up this cool mud and plop it on my head.

**HIPPO:**

You could not have done *that* with a short nose.

**NARRATOR 1:**

Little Elephant knew the animals were right. So he went home happily swinging his new trunk. When he got there, his family was waiting.

**FATHER, MOTHER, AND SISTER ELEPHANT:**

*Where* did you get that long nose?

**NARRATOR 2:**

...his family asked.

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

I got it from Crocodile. He gave it to me to keep.

**MOTHER ELEPHANT:**

I'm not sure I like it.

**FATHER ELEPHANT:**

You don't look like yourself, son.

**SISTER ELEPHANT:**

You look really weird!

**LITTLE ELEPHANT:**

My new trunk might look strange,  
But please do not be fooled.  
From picking fruit  
To keeping cool,  
My trunk's a *very* useful tool!

**NARRATOR 3:**

When they saw how useful Little Elephant's trunk was, all the elephants wanted one. One-by-one, they went to the river to get a new nose from Crocodile.

**NARRATOR 4:**

And that's why today, *all* elephants have trunks instead of lumpy black noses.

