



# The Emperor's New Clothes

Many years ago there was an Emperor who loved clothes. The Emperor treasured his clothes so much that he would get changed twelve times a day! **One day, when our story starts**, two swindlers arrived at the Emperor's palace. **Bowing low to the Emperor**, they said "We can make you the most beautiful clothes in the entire world." "Ah, this is what I have always dreamed of," he thought. So, he **commanded** the swindlers to weave him these beautiful clothes at once.

**For weeks and weeks** the swindlers worked on the clothes and wouldn't let anybody see what they were doing.

However, the Emperor soon grew impatient. **Angrily**, he burst into the swindlers' workroom. "Ah! Here they are, Your Majesty," said the first swindler. "Don't you agree that they are made of **the most delightful material, the most sparkling colours and the most fashionable design?**" **Confused**, the Emperor looked around. He couldn't see any clothes at all! Then, the swindlers explained that the clothes were so rare that only the cleverest people could see them. So, not wanting to appear stupid or ignorant, the Emperor cried, "Of course! They are magnificent. I will pay you with as much gold as you want, so long as they are ready by the royal parade."

When the day of the big parade arrived, the two swindlers pretended to help the Emperor dress into new clothes. The Emperor was very pleased to be wearing his lovely new suit, even if he couldn't see it himself. So, he **marched** out his palace, where crowds of people lined the street. By this time the word had got out that only clever people could see the new clothes. Therefore, not wanting to appear stupid or ignorant, they all commented on how **magnificent** he looked.

**Suddenly**, a little voice from the crowd shouted out, "But wait! He's totally and completely naked!" A hushed silence fell over the crowd and the parade **stopped...** Then, everyone burst out laughing!" "The little boy is right," they said. "The Emperor's not wearing any clothes at all!" The **Emperor blushed as red as a beetroot**. They were right! Embarrassed, he rushed back into the palace, thinking about how he should never have trusted those swindlers, who only wanted to flatter him and take his money.

**From that day on**, the Emperor decided not to worry too much about his clothes. After all, they had caused much more trouble than they were worth!