

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

Practice Makes Perfect

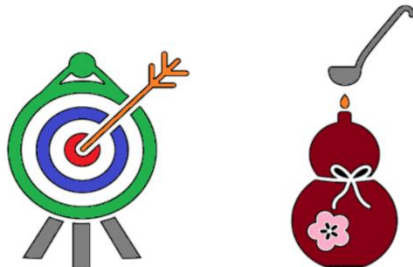
1. In the Northern Song Dynasty*, a young man called Chen Yaozi was one of the best archers in his village. All the villagers cheered and praised him for his remarkable archery skills. He was very proud of himself.

2. One day, when Chen Yaozi was shooting arrows in his garden, an old pitchman passed by. He put down the oil he was carrying and looked closely at Chen Yaozi. Seeing that Chen Yaozi hit the target eight or nine times out of ten arrows, the old pitchman just nodded slightly without giving him praises.

3. Chen Yaozi was disappointed that the old pitchman did not praise him. He asked the old pitchman, "Do you know archery as well? Aren't my skills brilliant?" The old pitchman replied, "This is nothing, only skilful technique." Chen's face got red. He shouted, "How dare you comment on my archery?" The old pitchman responded calmly, "I know this just based on my experience in pouring oil."

4. The old pitchman then took out a bottle gourd from his basket and placed it on the ground. He covered the opening of the gourd with a coin which had a small square hole in the centre. He scooped a spoonful of oil with a ladle, and slowly poured the oil into the gourd through the small square hole in the coin. Not even a single drop of oil was found on the surface of the coin. Chen Yaozi was amazed to see how skilful the old pitchman was.

5. The old pitchman said, "This is nothing. I have just been pouring oil for a long time. Practice makes perfect." Chen Yaozi was embarrassed and apologised to the old pitchman. "From then on, I must practise very hard to further improve my archery skills with modesty," said Chen Yaozi.



*The Northern Song Dynasty refers to a dynasty in ancient Chinese history that ruled from 960 AD to 1127 AD.