Can you read the story below? Use the IPA charts to help you.



ða no:θ wind ən ða svu

ðə nɔːθ wɪnd ən ðə sʌn ˈɑːgjuːd əˈbaʊt wɪtʃ əv ðəm wəz ˈstrɒŋgə. ʌˈneɪbl tuː əˈgriː, ðeɪ dəˈsaɪdɪd tə siː wɪtʃ wʌn əv ðəm kʊd meɪk ə ˈtrævələ teɪk ɪz kəʊt ɒf.

ðə nɔːθ wɪnd 'staːtɪd ðə 'kɒntest, 'sendɪŋ ə strɒŋ blæst əv kəuld eə tə bləu ðə mænz kəut ɒf ɪz bæk. ɪn'sted əv 'teɪkɪŋ ɒf ɪz kəut, ðə mæn ræpt ɪt ə'raund ɪz 'bɒdi 'iːvən 'taɪtə.

ðə sʌn lɑːft ət ɪz əˈpəunənts ˈfeɪljə. ðen iː ʃəud ɪz ˈpauə. hiː ˈbænɪʃt ðə ˈhevi klaudz frəm ðə skaɪ ən wɔːmd ðə hed əv ðə ˈtrævələ. ðə mæn ɪn ɪz ˈhevi kəut ˈstɑːtɪd tə ˈsʌfə frəm ðə hiːt. ət lɑːst, ʌnˈeɪbl tə teɪk ɪt ˈeni ˈlɒŋgə, ðə mæn rəˈmuːvd ɪz kəut ən sæt daun ˈʌndə səm triːz ɪn ðə ʃeɪd.

ðə 'mprəl əv ðə 'stoːri ız pə'sweiʒən ız 'betə ðən foːs.

'kwest∫ənz:

- 1 Andəlain öə mein verbz in öə stoiri ənd rait öəm bələu
- 2 wpt tens a ðei in?
- 3 hau 'meni wezz az ðeð tð prð 'nauns ðð pæst tens 'endinz ðbav?
- 4 wɒt ɪz ðə ruːl? (hintː lʊk ət ðə prəˈsiːdɪŋ saʊnd)

Answers

TRANSLATION:

The North Wind and the Sun ARGUED about which of them was stronger. Unable to agree, they DECIDED to see which one of them could make a traveller take his coat off.

The North Wind STARTED the contest, sending a strong blast of cold air to blow the man's coat off his back. Instead of taking off his coat, the man WRAPPED it around his body even tighter.

The Sun LAUGHED at his opponent's failure. Then he SHOWED his power. He BANISHED the heavy clouds from the sky and WARMED the head of the traveller. The man in his heavy coat STARTED to suffer from the heat. At last, unable to take it any longer, the man REMOVED his coat and sat down under some trees in the shade.

The moral of the story is: persuasion is better than force.

- 1 Underline the main verbs in the story and write them below (*see the above translation*)
- 2 What tense are they in? (simple past)
- 3 How many ways are there to pronounce the past tense endings above? (there are 3 ways: / d /, / t / and / td/
- 4 What is the rule?

See http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1413_gramchallenge26/