

Lesson 5

READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

The Contest Junkie

Bessie was a contest junkie. She used her scissors and clipped out every entry form. She had won a few small prizes over the years, but she had spent more on stamps than her prizes were worth.

On Thursday, a letter arrived. It said, “We are happy to inform you that you are a semifinalist in our Super Puzzle Contest. Unfortunately, there is a tie. Other semifinalists responded with identical entries. To determine the Grand Prize Winner, we will sponsor another contest. To continue to the next level in this contest, you must send a cashier’s check to cover the fifty dollar entry fee.”

Bessie was elated. She sent the check on Friday. A new puzzle arrived by return mail. Bessie worked for three days to achieve a solution, which she sent in.

Two weeks later, Bessie was relieved to get another letter. It said, “You are now a finalist in our Super Puzzle Contest! Unfortunately, there is a tie. We will randomly select a winner from our list of finalists. Return this letter with one hundred dollars so that we may include your name on this list.”

Not only was this a nuisance, Bessie thought it was unjust. She had already sent fifty dollars. But since she might be the Grand Prize winner, Bessie sent in another check. She never heard from the company again.