

# *The Indian Elephant bears All*

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*Here's an Indian version of The Bull bears All. For the young ones,  
or as a reader for grades two and three.*

One day an elephant was walking beside the Ganges. He met a rhino with only one horn.

"Good day, big elephant," said the rhino, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the rhino jumped up on the elephant's broad back.  
By and by they met a gayal.

"Good day, big elephant," said the gayal, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the gayal jumped up on the rhino's back.  
By and by they met a blackbuck.

"Good day, big elephant," said the blackbuck, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the blackbuck jumped up on the gayal's back.  
By and by they met a tiger.

"Good day, big elephant," said the tiger, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the tiger jumped up on the blackbuck's back.  
By and by they met an anteater.

"Good day, big elephant," said the anteater, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the anteater jumped up on the tiger's back.  
By and by they met a red panda.

"Good day, big elephant," said the red panda, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the red panda jumped up on the anteater's back.  
By and by they met a flying fox.

"Good day, big elephant," said the flying fox, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the flying fox flew onto the red panda's back.  
By and by they met a cobra.

"Good day, big elephant," said the cobra, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the cobra slithered onto the flying fox's back.

By and by they met a mongoose.

"Good day, big elephant," said the mongoose, "how broad your back!"

"Jump up," said the elephant, and the mongoose leaped up on the cobra's back.

By and by they met a peacock.

"Good day, big elephant," said the peacock, "how broad your back!"

"Fly up," said the elephant, and the peacock flew up onto the elephant's broad back, the rhino's back, the gayal's back, the blackbuck's back, the tiger's back, the anteater's back, the red panda's back, the flying fox's back, the cobra's back, and last of all on the mongoose's back.

The peacock was high above the ground. (The peacock was high—so high!) He looked all around and opened his tail. He thought himself very fine and beautiful.

"I'm the finest of birdies, and you're the little nerdies!" rasped the peacock in his best singing voice, and pecked the mongoose on the head to show who's boss.

"Leap!" said the mongoose and nipped the cobra.

"Hiss!" said the cobra and bit the flying fox.

"Flap!" said the flying fox and fell down dead on the red panda.

"Twitter!" said the red panda and bit the anteater.

"Lick!" said the anteater and slobbered on the tiger.

"Growl!" said the tiger and clawed the blackbuck.

"Bell!" said the blackbuck and kicked the gayal.

"Moo!" said the gayal and charged the rhino.

"Snort!" said the rhino and butted the elephant.

"Well," said the elephant, "if that's how you thank me, then off you go!" and he walked into the forest and the tree branches knocked them off one by one and never did he let them ride on his back again.