The Bedtime Story

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Once upon a time, there lived a turtle. And this turtle really wanted to win a race. One day the turtle decided to go out for a walk, pondering his dream of winning a race, when he saw a bird. This particular bird was flying fast. The turtle called to the bird to please come. So the bird came, because the turtle asked so nicely.

The turtle asked, “How do you go so fast?”

The bird responded, “By flying. I guess by flapping my feathery wings I just go... fast.”

The turtle asked, “Can you teach me, how to fly fast?”

The bird was more than happy to help, so the bird walked with him to the edge of a small cliff, gave him two leaves (one for each front foot), and told him to run while moving the leaves up and down then jump when he reach the edge. So the turtle ran, flapped and jumped. SPLAT! The turtle’s shell cracked on the ground. The turtle went to the doctor and the doctor said, “How did this happen?”

“Well, the bird was trying to teach me how to fly fast. So we went to the edge of the small cliff, and he told me to run, flap, and jump. So I did. And next thing I knew, I was on the ground... not flying.”

The doctor then told the turtle “Don’t do that again.” And slapped a bandage on the crack and sent him off.
The next day, the turtle went out walking, pondering about his dream of winning a race, when he saw a snake. This particular snake was slipping and sliding fast. The turtle called to the snake to please come. So the bird came, because the turtle asked so generously.

The turtle asked, “How do you go so fast?”

The snake replied, “By slipping and sliding. I just slip and slide, side to side and I just go... fast.”

The turtle questioned, “Can you teach me, how to slip and slide fast?”

The snake was thrilled to be able to help. So the snake brought him to the pond. They both noticed that the snake’s skin was slimy and wet. They decided to splash some water from the pond onto the dirt so that the turtle can slip and slide smoothly. Then, the snake told the turtle to just twist your body side to side. The turtle did just that. He slipped and slid right into a large rock in the pond. SPLAT! Now the turtle has an even bigger crack on his shell. He went to the doctor and the doctor asked, “How did this happen?”

The turtle replied, “Well, the snake taught me how to slip and slide but I slipped and slid right into a rock in the pond.”

The doctor said, “Don’t do that again,” and slapped bandage on the crack.

The next day, the turtle was out walking again, pondering about his dream of winning a race, when he saw a rabbit. This particular rabbit was hopping fast. The turtle called to the rabbit to please come. So the rabbit came, because he asked oh-so politely.
The turtle then asked, “How do you go so fast?”

The rabbit responded saying, “By hopping. By bending my knees and jumping up and down. I simply end up going... fast.”

“Can you teach me, how to hop fast?” The turtle asked.

The rabbit was very generous to help the turtle. And the rabbit tried to get the turtle to hop on the ground but it didn’t work. The turtle needed a bouncing head start. So the turtle went up to the top of a large rock. The rabbit told him to jump off the rock, having his legs catch his fall and stretch his legs in and out. So the turtle did just that. He jumped off the rock, ready to catch his fall and start bouncing, when SPLAT! The turtle didn’t catch his landing and didn’t start bouncing, but he did hit the ground, hard. Now the turtle has and even bigger crack on his shell. The turtle went to the doctor and the doctor said, “How did this happen?”

“I got onto a large rock, like the rabbit told me, and I jumped off (ready to bounce when I hit the ground) but instead of bouncing, I cracked my shell.”

The doctor thought and thought and finally asked, “What are you trying to do?”

“I Really Wanted To Win A Race! But To Win A Race I Need To Go Fast. I Can’t Go Fast I’m A Turtle And I Tried To Learn How To Go Fast By Flying Slipping And Sliding And Hopping. But Nothing Seems To Work. My Dreams Are Over!” The turtle said in one breathe.

“Wait a minute!” said the doctor, “I might have a perfect solution!” The doctor left, and returned with a rectangular device with wheels. He placed the turtle on it and tested it. It worked perfectly!
They went to the race track, the doctor put the turtle in line with all the other animals, and got read, set, GO! They were off! The turtle rolled by all of the other racers except for three. He was in fourth place. The third place runner was right in front of him, they were coming up to a ramp where the turtle could fly over him. The turtle grabbed leaves as he whooshed by the edge of the race track. He flapped his leaves as he went up the ramp and over the racer!

He was now in third place; the second place runner was right in front of him. But whenever the turtle went left, he went left, and when the turtle went right, he went right. The turtle remembered to just slip and slide right past him! Now he was in second place, the first place racer was right in front of him. So the turtle bounced and bounced and bounced. The rubber from the wheels helped him bounce right over the racer and right over the finish line!

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!! The turtle won! Yay!!!! The turtle thanked the bird, snake, bunny and the doctor for all their help to get him to achieve his dream of winning a race.