# Penguin Readers Rip Van Winkle Ebook

**penguin readers rip van winkle** is a phrase that often brings together two iconic elements of classic literature: the Penguin Readers series and Washington Irving?s timeless short story, "Rip Van Winkle." Whether you're a student, a teacher, or a literature enthusiast, understanding how Penguin Readers have adapted "Rip Van Winkle" for different levels of learners can enrich your appreciation of this literary masterpiece. In this article, we will explore the significance of Penguin Readers, delve into the story of "Rip Van Winkle," and examine how the adaptation makes this classic accessible to a broad audience.

## Understanding Penguin Readers

### What Are Penguin Readers?

Penguin Readers are a series of graded reading books published by Penguin Random House aimed at learners of English across various proficiency levels. Designed to make classic and contemporary literature accessible, these books are simplified versions of original texts, often accompanied by glossaries, comprehension questions, and activities that support language learning.

Key features of Penguin Readers include:

- Graded language complexity for different levels (from beginner to advanced)
- Authentic stories and adaptations of famous works
- Supplementary materials to aid comprehension
- Engaging formats, including audio versions and e-books

Benefits of using Penguin Readers:

- Improve language skills through exposure to authentic literature
- Gain cultural and literary knowledge in an accessible way
- Build confidence in reading in English
- Prepare for exams and academic pursuits involving literature

## Introduction to "Rip Van Winkle"

### Overview of Washington Irving?s Classic

"Rip Van Winkle" is a short story written by Washington Irving that was first published in 1819. Set in the Catskill Mountains of New York, it narrates the tale of Rip Van Winkle, a kind-hearted but lazy man who falls asleep in the mountains and wakes up 20 years later, discovering that the world has changed dramatically during his slumber.

Main themes include:

- The passage of time and change
- The American Revolution?s impact
- Tradition versus progress
- The nature of reality and fantasy

Plot summary:

Rip Van Winkle, a beloved but indolent man, escapes his nagging wife by wandering into the mountains. There, he encounters mysterious Dutch settlers who are playing ninepins. After drinking their strange liquor, Rip falls into a deep sleep. When he awakens, he finds that everything has changed: his wife has died, his children are grown, and the landscape is different. He eventually learns that he has been asleep for two decades, experiencing a surreal journey through time.

## Penguin Readers? Adaptation of "Rip Van Winkle"

### Why Adapt Classic Literature?

Adapting classics like "Rip Van Winkle" into Penguin Readers serves several educational purposes:

- Making complex language and themes accessible
- Introducing readers to significant cultural and literary works
- Encouraging a love for reading among language learners

How Penguin Readers adapt "Rip Van Winkle":

- Simplified vocabulary and grammar
- Shortened and clearer narrative structure
- Inclusion of illustrations to support understanding
- Glossaries of difficult words and phrases
- Comprehension questions to test understanding

Example of adaptation differences:

While the original story uses rich, descriptive language and historical context, the Penguin Readers version streamlines the narration, focusing on the core plot and themes without overwhelming detail. This ensures that learners can grasp the story's essence and cultural significance.

## Analyzing the Themes of "Rip Van Winkle"

### Change and Continuity

The story vividly explores how time transforms society and individuals. Rip?s long sleep symbolizes a gap between old traditions and modern progress, illustrating the tension between the past and the present.

Key points:

- Society has evolved during Rip?s absence
- Rip?s personal identity remains linked to the old world
- The story encourages reflection on societal change

### Reality versus Fantasy

The mystical elements?such as the strange liquor and the ghostly figures?blur the line between reality and fantasy, prompting readers to consider the nature of perception and memory.

### American Identity and History

Set against the backdrop of pre- and post-Revolutionary America, the story subtly comments on American independence and cultural shifts, making it a valuable piece for historical and cultural studies.

## Educational Value of Penguin Readers? "Rip Van Winkle"

### Language Development

The adapted version introduces learners to historical vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and narrative structures, helping improve their reading, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

### Cultural Awareness

Readers gain insights into early American history, folklore, and traditions through the story?s setting and characters.

### Critical Thinking and Discussion

Discussion questions and activities accompanying Penguin Readers encourage readers to analyze themes, character motivations, and the story?s relevance today.

## Using Penguin Readers for Learning

### Tips for Teachers and Learners

- Start with a level-appropriate adaptation to build confidence
- Use the accompanying audio to develop listening skills
- Engage with the comprehension questions to reinforce understanding
- Encourage discussions on the themes and cultural elements
- Compare the adaptation with the original story for deeper insight

### Additional Resources

- Audio versions of Penguin Readers
- Online quizzes and exercises
- Teacher?s guides and lesson plans
- Supplementary historical and cultural materials

## Conclusion: The Enduring Charm of "Rip Van Winkle"

The story of "Rip Van Winkle" remains a timeless exploration of change, memory, and identity. Penguin Readers? adaptation ensures that this classic continues to inspire and educate new generations of learners worldwide. Whether you are studying English, exploring American literature, or simply enjoy timeless stories, engaging with "Rip Van Winkle" through Penguin?s graded versions offers a rewarding and accessible literary experience.

In summary:

- Penguin Readers make classic stories like "Rip Van Winkle" accessible to learners at all levels.
- The adaptation preserves the core themes while simplifying language.
- Engaging with these versions enhances language skills, cultural understanding, and literary

appreciation.

- Exploring "Rip Van Winkle" through Penguin Readers is an excellent way to connect with American folklore and history in an educational and enjoyable manner.

Start your journey into the world of Washington Irving and the enchanted mountains of New York today with Penguin Readers? "Rip Van Winkle" and discover why this tale continues to captivate audiences around the world.

Penguin Readers Rip Van Winkle: A Deep Dive into the Classic Tale and Its Adaptations

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The story of Rip Van Winkle has captivated readers for centuries, embodying themes of time, change, and the American identity. Its adaptation into the Penguin Readers series demonstrates the enduring appeal of Washington Irving?s classic tale, bringing it to new generations of language learners and literary enthusiasts alike. This article explores the origins of Rip Van Winkle, its significance within American literature, and how Penguin Readers have reimagined and simplified the story for diverse audiences worldwide.

Origins and Literary Significance of Rip Van Winkle

The Creation of the Tale

Rip Van Winkle was written by Washington Irving, an American author renowned for his pioneering work in short stories and his contributions to American cultural identity. Published in 1819 as part of his collection The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent., the story draws inspiration from European folklore, especially German legends about mystical mountains and enchanted beings.

In the narrative, Rip Van Winkle is a easy-going, kind-hearted man who prefers leisure over responsibility. During a trip into the Catskill Mountains, he encounters mysterious figures, drinks their strange liquor, and falls into a long, enchanted sleep. When he awakens, he finds that he has missed the American Revolution and that the world around him has changed dramatically.

Literary Themes and Cultural Impact

Rip Van Winkle is more than just a fanciful story; it serves as a reflection on the passage of time and the transformation of American society. Key themes include:

- Change and Continuity: The story contrasts the old colonial America with the post-Revolutionary period, emphasizing societal shifts.

- Escape and Leisure: Rip?s desire for a simple, peaceful life highlights the tension between individual happiness and societal responsibilities.
- Mystery and the Supernatural: The enchanted sleep introduces elements of folklore and mysticism, adding depth to the narrative.

Irving?s work helped establish a distinctly American voice in literature, and Rip Van Winkle remains a cornerstone of American storytelling.

Penguin Readers and Their Role in Literature Accessibility

What Are Penguin Readers?

Penguin Readers are a series of graded readers designed to make classic and contemporary literature accessible to language learners, students, and casual readers. These books simplify complex texts while maintaining the core themes and narrative structure, making literature more approachable.

The Significance of Graded Readings

- Language Level Adaptation: Each book is tailored to specific English proficiency levels, from beginner to advanced.
- Cultural Context: They often include background information, glossary terms, and comprehension exercises.
- Educational Value: Designed for classroom use, they promote reading fluency and cultural understanding.

By adapting stories like Rip Van Winkle, Penguin Readers enable readers worldwide to explore American literature without language barriers.

The Penguin Readers Version of Rip Van Winkle

Simplification and Adaptation

The Penguin Readers edition of Rip Van Winkle distills Washington Irving?s original story into a version suitable for intermediate learners. This involves:

- Simplified Language: Complex vocabulary and sentence structures are replaced with more accessible words.
- Condensed Plot: Subplots and minor characters are often omitted to focus on core narrative

elements.
- Visual Aids: Illustrations and timelines help readers grasp the story?s context and sequence.

Key Features of the Penguin Edition

- Introduction and Background: Provides historical and cultural context about early America and Irving?s life.
- Glossary: Defines challenging words and phrases to aid comprehension.
- Comprehension Questions: Encourage critical thinking and retention of the story.
- Audio Support: Often available via accompanying CDs or digital platforms, enhancing listening skills.

Impact on Learners

The Penguin adaptation not only makes the story accessible but also invites readers to reflect on themes of change, identity, and history, fostering both linguistic and cultural literacy.

Thematic Analysis and Modern Relevance

Exploring Timeless Themes

Despite being set in a specific historical context, Rip Van Winkle resonates with contemporary audiences because of its universal themes:

- The Passage of Time: In an era of rapid technological and societal change, the story reminds us of the human experience of aging and transition.
- Resistance to Change: Rip?s reluctance to accept new realities prompts reflection on how individuals adapt to societal shifts.
- Nostalgia and Memory: The narrative evokes longing for simpler times, a sentiment still prevalent today.

Lessons for Modern Readers

- Appreciation of Heritage: Recognizing the importance of history and tradition.
- Embracing Change: Understanding that transformation is inevitable and often beneficial.
- Value of Leisure and Reflection: Balancing responsibilities with personal well-being.

Adaptations Beyond Penguin Readers

The Broader Spectrum of Rip Van Winkle Interpretations

Beyond Penguin?s simplified editions, the story has inspired various adaptations:

- Theatrical Plays and Operas: Numerous stage productions interpret Irving?s tale, emphasizing its dramatic and fantastical elements.
- Film and Television: Visual adaptations explore the story?s themes through modern storytelling techniques.
- Educational Resources: Lesson plans and study guides use the story to teach American history, folklore, and literary analysis.

Cultural Influence and Legacy

Rip Van Winkle has become a symbol of American folklore, inspiring:

- Popular references in literature and media.
- Artistic representations in paintings and sculptures.
- Discussions on the nature of time, change, and identity.

Challenges and Criticisms

Simplification Versus Depth

While Penguin Readers effectively introduce the story to new audiences, some critics argue that simplification can omit nuanced themes or cultural references. Balancing accessibility with literary integrity remains an ongoing challenge for adaptation publishers.

Cultural Specificity

The story?s American historical context may pose comprehension barriers for international readers unfamiliar with early U.S. history. Supplementary materials are often necessary to bridge these gaps.

Conclusion: The Enduring Appeal of Rip Van Winkle

Rip Van Winkle continues to enchant readers because of its timeless themes and vivid storytelling. Penguin Readers? adaptation plays a vital role in democratizing access to this classic, allowing learners worldwide to appreciate Irving?s masterwork. Whether as a tool for language learning or as a nostalgic reflection on societal change, Rip Van Winkle remains a testament to the power of

storytelling to transcend time and culture.

As we look to the future, the story?s themes will undoubtedly continue to resonate, inspiring new adaptations, discussions, and explorations into the nature of time, change, and human resilience.

QuestionAnswer What is the main story of 'Rip Van Winkle' in Penguin Readers? The story follows Rip Van Winkle, a man who falls asleep in the mountains and wakes up years later, discovering that his village has changed and that he has missed significant events, reflecting themes of change and nostalgia. How does 'Rip Van Winkle' explore themes of time and change? The story illustrates how time passes unexpectedly and how societal and personal changes can occur over years, emphasizing the contrast between tradition and progress. What level of English learners is 'Rip Van Winkle' in Penguin Readers suitable for? It is typically designed for intermediate to advanced learners, with simplified language and vocabulary to aid comprehension while engaging with classic literature. Are there adaptations or extra materials included in 'Penguin Readers Rip Van Winkle'? Yes, Penguin Readers often include comprehension questions, vocabulary exercises, and sometimes audio recordings to enhance understanding of the story. Why is 'Rip Van Winkle' considered an important American literary work? It is a classic story by Washington Irving that captures early American life, folklore, and identity, making it a significant work in American literature and cultural history.

**Related keywords:** Penguin Readers, Rip Van Winkle, classic literature, Washington Irving, short stories, American literature, adapted books, leveled reading, children's books, literary classics

## Rip Van Winkle Multiple Choice Questions

**Rip Van Winkle Multiple Choice Questions** are an essential resource for students, educators, and literature enthusiasts seeking to deepen their understanding of Washington Irving's classic short story. This article provides comprehensive insights into key themes, characters, and plot points through a carefully curated set of multiple-choice questions designed to test knowledge and promote critical thinking. Whether you're preparing for an exam, participating in a literature quiz, or simply wish to enhance your comprehension of "Rip Van Winkle," this guide offers valuable material to support your learning journey.

## Introduction to "Rip Van Winkle"

Washington Irving's "Rip Van Winkle," first published in 1819 as part of his collection The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent., is a beloved American short story that explores themes of change, tradition, and the passage of time. Set in the Catskill Mountains before and after the American

Revolution, the story follows Rip Van Winkle, a kind-hearted but somewhat lazy man who falls into a mysterious slumber and wakes up years later to find his world transformed.

## Why Use Multiple Choice Questions for Literature Study?

Multiple choice questions (MCQs) are a popular pedagogical tool because they:

- Assess comprehension efficiently
- Encourage recall of specific details
- Promote critical analysis of themes and characters
- Prepare students for standardized tests and quizzes

For "Rip Van Winkle," well-designed MCQs can help readers grasp the story?s nuances, symbolism, and historical context. This article includes a variety of questions covering plot details, character analysis, themes, and vocabulary.

## Sample Multiple Choice Questions on "Rip Van Winkle"

Below are some example questions to illustrate the types of MCQs that can be used for study or assessment purposes.

### 1. What is the primary setting of "Rip Van Winkle"?

- The Appalachian Mountains
- The Catskill Mountains
- The Adirondack Mountains
- The Rocky Mountains

**Answer:** b. The Catskill Mountains

### 2. What is Rip Van Winkle known for?

- His intelligence and wit
- His laziness and kindness
- His ambition and leadership
- His wealth and influence

**Answer:** b. His laziness and kindness

### 3. What causes Rip Van Winkle to fall into a mysterious sleep?

- He drinks enchanted liquor offered by mysterious figures
- He is cursed by a witch
- He is exhausted from hiking
- He falls asleep after a long day of work

**Answer:** a. He drinks enchanted liquor offered by mysterious figures

### 4. How long does Rip Van Winkle sleep?

- 20 years
- 10 years
- 30 years
- 40 years

**Answer:** a. 20 years

### 5. What significant historical event has occurred during Rip's sleep?

- The American Revolution
- The signing of the Declaration of Independence
- The Civil War
- The Louisiana Purchase

**Answer:** a. The American Revolution

## In-Depth Analysis of Key Themes and Characters Through MCQs

Developing a deeper understanding of "Rip Van Winkle" involves exploring its themes and characters. Multiple choice questions can facilitate this by prompting critical thinking.

### The Theme of Change and the Passage of Time

Many questions focus on how the story portrays change, both personal and societal.

- How does Rip's long sleep symbolize the passage of time?

- What differences does Rip observe upon returning to his village?
- How does the story reflect American independence and transformation?

### Character Analysis

Questions about Rip Van Winkle and other characters help understand their motivations and symbolism.

- What are Rip's main personality traits?
- How is Dame Van Winkle portrayed?
- What do the mysterious figures in the mountains represent?

## Creating Your Own Multiple Choice Questions for "Rip Van Winkle"

To enhance learning, consider developing your own MCQs based on the story. Here are some tips:

- **Focus on key details:** What happens in the story, who are the characters?
- **Test thematic understanding:** Questions about the story's message, symbolism, and historical context
- **Include challenging options:** Distractors that are plausible but incorrect to encourage critical thinking

Sample question to create:

- Which element of the story symbolizes tradition and continuity?
- The mountain scenery
- Rip's dog Wolf
- The clock in the village
- The enchanted liquor

Answer: The mountain scenery

## Additional Resources for Studying "Rip Van Winkle"

To supplement your learning, explore the following:

- Full text of "Rip Van Winkle"

- Study guides and summaries from educational websites
- Video analyses and literary critique videos
- Discussion forums and book clubs focusing on Irving's works

## Conclusion

**Rip Van Winkle multiple choice questions** serve as an effective tool for engaging with one of America's most enduring stories. By carefully analyzing plot details, characters, themes, and symbolism through targeted MCQs, readers can enhance their comprehension and appreciation of Washington Irving?s work. Whether used for classroom assessments, self-study, or literary exploration, these questions foster critical thinking and a deeper connection to the narrative.

Remember, creating and practicing your own MCQs can greatly improve retention and understanding. Dive into the story, challenge yourself with questions, and enjoy uncovering the timeless themes woven into "Rip Van Winkle."

Rip Van Winkle Multiple Choice Questions: An Investigative Analysis for Educational Review

Introduction

The story of Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving has persisted as a cornerstone of American literature, captivating readers with its enchanting narrative about a man who falls asleep for twenty years. As educators and literary critics seek to assess comprehension and analytical skills surrounding this classic tale, multiple choice questions (MCQs) have become a prevalent assessment tool. This investigative article delves into the origins, construction, pedagogical significance, and best practices related to Rip Van Winkle multiple choice questions, providing a comprehensive overview suitable for educators, curriculum developers, and literary scholars.

The Origins and Evolution of Multiple Choice Questions in Literature Education

Historical Context of MCQs

Multiple choice questions originated in the early 20th century as a means to efficiently evaluate large groups of students. Their adoption in literature classes, including stories such as Rip Van Winkle, was driven by the need for standardized assessments that could reliably measure comprehension and interpretative skills.

Transition to Literary Texts

Initially used in scientific and technical fields, MCQs gradually expanded into humanities. In literature, they serve to test understanding of plot, characters, themes, and literary devices. For Rip

Van Winkle, MCQs are particularly effective in assessing knowledge of key plot points, symbolism, and historical context.

Constructing Effective Multiple Choice Questions for "Rip Van Winkle"

Core Principles

Creating high-quality MCQs involves adherence to several principles:

- Clarity: Questions should be unambiguous, precise, and free of complex language that might confuse students.
- Relevance: Items must directly assess knowledge or interpretation related to the story.
- Balance: A mix of factual and interpretive questions ensures comprehensive evaluation.
- Distractors: Plausible incorrect options should be crafted to challenge students without being misleading.

Types of Questions

- Factual Recall: Testing knowledge of specific details (e.g., character names, plot points).
- Interpretative: Assessing understanding of themes, symbolism, or author intent.
- Analytical: Evaluating the ability to infer or analyze literary devices or moral lessons.

Sample Construction

- Factual: "Where does Rip Van Winkle go to escape his wife?s nagging?"

a) The local tavern

b) The mountains

c) His barn

d) The woods beneath the hills

- Interpretative: "What does Rip Van Winkle?s long sleep symbolize?"

a) Escape from reality

b) The passage of time and change

c) The triumph of nature

d) Ignorance of history

- Analytical: "How does Washington Irving use the setting of the Catskill Mountains to enhance the story?"

a) To evoke a sense of mystery and timelessness

b) To highlight the urbanization of America

c) To emphasize the importance of agriculture

d) To demonstrate the dangers of mountain life

Pedagogical Significance of Multiple Choice Questions on "Rip Van Winkle"

Assessing Comprehension and Recall

MCQs allow educators to quickly gauge students' retention of basic facts: characters, plot sequence, and historical context. For Rip Van Winkle, such questions might focus on key events like Rip?s departure, his long sleep, and his return.

Promoting Critical Thinking

Well-crafted MCQs challenge students to interpret themes, symbols, and the story?s moral lessons. For example, questions about the symbolism of Rip?s sleep or the political commentary embedded in the narrative encourage higher-order thinking.

Providing Diagnostic Insights

Analysis of student responses to MCQs can reveal common misconceptions, such as confusing the story?s setting with other American colonial stories or misunderstanding the story?s allegorical nature.

Best Practices in Developing Multiple Choice Questions for "Rip Van Winkle"

Avoiding Common Pitfalls

- Avoiding Tricky Questions: Questions should not be designed to trick students but to evaluate genuine understanding.
- Ensuring Distractors Are Plausible: Incorrect options should be believable enough to challenge students but clearly distinguishable from correct answers upon reflection.
- Balancing Difficulty Levels: A mix of easy, moderate, and challenging questions ensures assessment fairness.

Incorporating Bloom?s Taxonomy

Questions should span cognitive levels:

- Remembering: Recall of facts (e.g., character names, plot points).
- Understanding: Explaining themes or symbolism.
- Applying: Using knowledge to interpret new scenarios.
- Analyzing: Breaking down literary elements.
- Evaluating: Judging the effectiveness of Irving?s storytelling.
- Creating: Designing new interpretations or comparisons.

Sample Question Set

| Question | Options | Correct Answer | Cognitive Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| What is Rip Van Winkle doing when he first encounters the strange men? | a) Hunting \| b) Drinking with friends \| c) Wandering in the mountains \| d) Fishing | c) Wandering in the mountains | Remembering |
| What theme is most prominent in "Rip Van Winkle"? | a) The inevitability of change \| b) The importance of wealth \| c) The dangers of adventure \| d) The value of solitude | a) The inevitability of change | Understanding |
| How does Irving?s use of supernatural elements influence the story?s message? | a) It emphasizes the conflict between science and tradition \| b) It showcases the power of myth and legend \| c) It underscores the theme of timelessness and transformation \| d) It serves as comic relief | c) It underscores the theme of timelessness and transformation | Analyzing |

Evaluating Effectiveness of Multiple Choice Questions

Validity and Reliability

- Valid questions accurately measure the intended knowledge or skills.
- Reliability ensures consistent results across different administrations.

Feedback and Revision

- Analyzing student responses can identify problematic questions.
- Revisions should improve clarity and alignment with learning objectives.

Integrating Multiple Choice Questions into Broader Assessment Strategies

While MCQs are valuable, they should complement other assessment forms:

- Short Answer and Essay Questions: For deeper analysis of themes and literary devices.
- Discussion Prompts: To foster interpretive dialogue.
- Projects and Presentations: For creative engagement with the story.

Conclusion

Rip Van Winkle multiple choice questions serve as a vital pedagogical tool to assess diverse cognitive skills?from recall to analysis?surrounding Irving?s timeless tale. When thoughtfully constructed, these questions not only evaluate comprehension but also encourage critical engagement with the story?s themes, symbolism, and historical context. For educators aiming to enhance literary understanding, mastery of MCQ design principles is essential, ensuring assessments are fair, challenging, and enriching.

In future developments, integrating technology?such as adaptive testing and multimedia-based questions?could further refine the efficacy of MCQs in literature education. As Rip Van Winkle continues to inspire learners, so too must our methods of assessment evolve to deepen appreciation and understanding of this American classic.

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QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of 'Rip Van Winkle'? The main theme is the contrast

between change and tradition, exploring how time and societal shifts affect individuals and communities. Who is the author of 'Rip Van Winkle'? Washington Irving is the author of 'Rip Van Winkle'. What happens to Rip Van Winkle during his long sleep? He sleeps for twenty years and wakes up to a changed world, discovering that many of his friends are gone or aged, and society has transformed. Which genre best describes 'Rip Van Winkle'? It is primarily a short story classified as American folklore and fantasy. What historical event is referenced indirectly in 'Rip Van Winkle'? The story is set around the time of the American Revolutionary War, reflecting the period's societal changes. How does Rip Van Winkle's character change after his long sleep? He becomes more respected and appreciated by the community, and he gains a new perspective on life and change. What is the significance of the mysterious figures Rip encounters in the mountains? They are often interpreted as supernatural or mystical beings who influence his long sleep and the story's fantasy elements. Which aspect of American culture does 'Rip Van Winkle' highlight? It highlights themes of American independence, tradition, and the passage of time. What lesson can be learned from Rip Van Winkle's story? The story suggests that change is inevitable, and adaptability is important in life. How has 'Rip Van Winkle' remained relevant in modern times? Its themes of change, nostalgia, and the passage of time continue to resonate, making it a timeless piece of American literature.

**Related keywords:** Rip Van Winkle, Washington Irving, short story, American literature, folklore, reading comprehension, literary analysis, narrative, themes, setting

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