

## MORE PRACTICE

- 1 *Read Part I of the story **The Ransom Of Red Chief** and answer the question: Was the kidnapped<sup>2</sup> boy unhappy?*

### The Ransom Of Red Chief

#### Part I

(after O. Henry)

Alabama [ˌæləˈbæmə], Bill Driscoll [ˈdrɪskəl],  
Western Illinois [ˌwɛstən ɪləˈnoɪz], Summit [ˈsʌmɪt]  
Ebenezer Dorset [ˌebəˈnɪzə ˈdɔːsɪt]

It looked like a good thing: but wait till I tell you. We were down South, in Alabama — Bill Driscoll and myself — when this kidnapping idea first came to mind.

There was a small town down there, called Summit. Bill and I had six hundred dollars, and we needed just two thousand dollars more to do some business in Western Illinois. We talked it over and decided that we could kidnap a child and get a big sum of money from the family. The love of children is very strong in parents, especially in small towns. We thought we could easily get two thousand dollars for the ransom. But wait till I tell you what happened.

We chose for our victim<sup>3</sup> the only child of an important man named Ebenezer Dorset. The father was a banker, well-known and with lots of money. The kid was a boy of ten, with freckles<sup>4</sup> on his face and bright-red

<sup>1</sup> **The Ransom** [ˈrænsəm] of **Red Chief** [tʃiːf] — Выкуп за вождя Краснокожих

<sup>2</sup> **to kidnap** [ˈkɪdnæp] — насильно или обманом похитить

<sup>3</sup> **victim** [ˈvɪktɪm] — жертва

<sup>4</sup> **freckle** [ˈfrekl] — веснушка



hair. One evening Bill and I drove in a buggy<sup>1</sup> past old Dorset's house. The kid was in the street, throwing stones at a kitten.

"Hey, little boy," said Bill, "would you like to have a bag of candy and a nice ride?"

The kid threw a stone and hit Bill right in the head.

"That will cost his father an extra<sup>2</sup> five hundred dollars," said Bill.

The boy put up a fight<sup>3</sup> like a small bear; but at last we got him down into the buggy and drove away.

We took him up to the cave in the mountains which we had found and prepared a day before as our hiding place. After dark I drove the buggy to the little village, three miles away, where we had taken it, and walked back to the mountains.

There was a fire burning near the cave. The boy was running around playing Indian. He had stuck two feathers in his hair and was calling himself "Red Chief, the Terror of the Mountains."

"He's all right now," said Bill, rolling up<sup>4</sup> his trousers and looking at some black and blue marks on his legs. "We're playing Indian. I'm Old Hank, Red Chief's prisoner<sup>5</sup>, and he's going to scalp<sup>6</sup> me early tomorrow morning. Gee, that kid can kick hard."

The kid was having the time of his life. He enjoyed the game and forgot that he was a prisoner himself. He called me Snake-eye and said that he would burn me in the morning.

<sup>1</sup> **buggy** ['bʌdʒɪ] — легкая двухместная коляска с откидным верхом

<sup>2</sup> **extra** ['ekstrə] — дополнительный

<sup>3</sup> **to put up a fight** [faɪt] — затеять драку

<sup>4</sup> **to roll** ['roul] **up** — завернуть, закатать

<sup>5</sup> **prisoner** ['prɪznə] — пленный

<sup>6</sup> **to scalp** [skælp] — скальпировать

Then we had supper; and he filled his mouth full of bacon and bread, and began to talk:

“I like this fine. I never camped out before; but I had a pet once, and I was nine last birthday. I have to go to school. Rats ate up sixteen of my aunt’s eggs. Are there any real Indians in these woods? I want some more bread. What makes your nose so red, Hank? We had five puppies. My father has lots of money. Are the stars hot? I don’t like girls. Why are oranges round? Have you got beds to sleep on in this cave? A parrot can talk, but a monkey or a fish can’t.”

Every few minutes he remembered that he was an Indian, and he picked up his toy-gun and went out of the cave to see whether there were any of the hated palefaces<sup>1</sup> somewhere around. Now and then he let out a war-cry<sup>2</sup> that made Bill shake. That boy had terrorized [ˈterəraɪzd] Bill from the start.

“Red Chief,” I said to the kid. “Would you like to go home?”

“What for?” he said. “I don’t have any fun at home. I hate to go to school. I like to camp out. You won’t take me back home again, Snake-eye, will you?”

“Not now,” I said. “We’ll stay here in the cave for a while.”

“All right!” said he. “That’ll be fine. I never had such fun in all my life.”

We went to bed about eleven o’clock. We lay on the ground and put Red Chief between us. We weren’t afraid he would run away. He kept us awake for three hours jumping up, giving war-cries, taking his gun every time there was a noise anywhere in the woods, which was made, as he said, by his enemies, the hated palefaces. I fell asleep at last and dreamed that a terrible Indian with red hair had kidnapped me and tied to a tree.

<sup>1</sup> **hated** [ˈheɪtɪd] **palefaces** — ненавистные бледнолицые

<sup>2</sup> **war** [wɔː]-**cry** — воинственный клич

Just as the sun was rising, I heard some terrible cries from Bill. I jumped up to see what the matter was. Red Chief was sitting on Bill's chest, with one hand in Bill's hair and with a long knife in his other hand. He was trying to take Bill's scalp, as he had promised him the evening before.

I got the knife away from the kid and made him lie down again. But, from that moment, Bill's spirit was broken<sup>1</sup>. He never closed an eye again in sleep as long as that boy was with us.

"What are you getting up so early for?" Bill asked me the next morning.

"Why?" I said. "I got a little pain in my shoulder."

"You are a liar<sup>2</sup>," Bill said. "You're afraid. He was going to burn you at sunrise, and you're afraid that he'll do it. And he will do it, too, if he can make a fire. Isn't it terrible, Sam? Do you think anybody will pay out money to get back a little devil like that back home?"

"Sure," I said. "He's just the kind of kid that parents love — a real boy."

## Do You Understand The Story?

2 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 The two men decided to kidnap the only child of an important man because:
- they were sure they would have an exciting adventure.
  - they wanted to get a big sum of money from the boy's family.
  - they were cruel men and wanted to make the boy's family suffer.

<sup>1</sup> **Bill's spirit was broken** — дух Билла был сломлен

<sup>2</sup> **liar** ['laɪə] — лжец

- 2 The men took the boy up to :
- the cave in the mountains which was their hiding place.
  - the little village, three miles away from their hiding place.
  - Western Illinois where they were going to do some business.
- 3 The boy was calling himself:
- Old Hank.
  - Snake-eye.
  - Red Chief, the Terror of the mountains.
- 4 Bill's spirit was broken because:
- the kid did not let him sleep at nights.
  - he was afraid the kid would really take his scalp.
  - the kid terrorized him from the start.

3 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Whom did the two kidnappers choose for their victim?
- 2 Where did they hide the boy?
- 3 Did the boy enjoy himself in the mountain cave?
- 4 What did the boy call himself and the two men who had kidnapped him?
- 5 Did the boy wish to return home?
- 6 How did the boy terrorize the kidnappers?
- 7 What made Bill feel frightened?

### How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 84—85)

### What Do You Think?

- 4 *Think and say:*
- why the men were sure that it would be easy to get a lot of money for the kidnapped boy;
  - why the boy did not want to come back home;
  - why Bill began to hate the boy.
- 5 The kid was having the time of his life. *What do you think it was that made him feel so happy and excited?*



## How Good Is Your English?



6 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 The terrorists thought of a plan to .....  
the son of a well-known man.
- 2 You must be strong in body and .....
- 3 When we heard the boy shouting , we went to  
see what was the .....
- 4 There was a ..... noise when the  
tree fell down.
- 5 In very old times people lived in .....
- 6 The minute the child's head touched the pillow he fell  
.....

spirit
caves
terrible
matter
kidnap
asleep

7 Find the words which are close in meaning.

to decide	to hit
<u>to talk</u>	to struggle
to get	to make up one's mind
to fight	much
afraid	to receive
a lot of	to speak
to kick	<u>frightened</u>

8 Use the correct preposition.

with
between
to
at
in
about
near

- 1 A lot of different ideas come ..... mind  
when I begin to think about my future.
- 2 It happened ..... five and six o'clock in  
the morning.
- 3 Someone threw a stone ..... the car.
- 4 Bob was talking ..... a friend .....  
his trip to another city.
- 5 Don't sit too ..... to the TV-set.
- 6 If you camp out, you sleep outdoors  
..... a tent.

9 Write the missing forms of the verbs.

to drive	drove	driven
to throw		
to cost		
to fall		
to break		
to pay		

10 Report the following statements and questions.

- 1 "That kid can kick hard," Bill said.  
.....
- 2 "I hate to go to school," the boy said.  
.....
- 3 "We'll stay here in the cave for a while," Sam said.  
.....
- 4 "I never had such fun in all my life," the boy said.  
.....
- 5 "Do you think anybody will pay out money to get back this kid?" Bill asked Sam.  
.....
- 6 "Why are getting up so early?" Bill asked.  
.....



- 11 *Read Part II of the story **The Ransom Of Red Chief** and answer the question: Did the men get much money for the kidnapped boy?*

### **The Ransom Of Red Chief**

#### Part II

(after O. Henry)

Later that day I went down into the town, but everything was quiet and there was no excitement over the fact that the boy was missing<sup>1</sup>. When I got back to the cave, Bill and the kid were quarrelling. The kid had put a hot potato down Bill's back, then stepped on it. Bill struck<sup>2</sup> the kid, and the kid hit Bill in the head with a stone. I caught the kid and began to shake him.

"If you don't behave," I said, "I'll take you home. Now, are you going to be good, or not?"

"I was only funning,<sup>3</sup>" he said, "I didn't mean to hurt Old Hank. But what did he hit me for? I'll behave, Snake-eye, if you don't send me home."

The next day I went down to the town again to send the ransom letter<sup>4</sup> to the kid's father. Bill and I agreed that perhaps two thousand dollars was too much, so we asked for only fifteen hundred. I sent the letter and explained that we had kidnapped the boy and that we had hidden him in a place where no one could find him. I wrote that the boy was all right and that we would bring him home when Mr Dorset left the money in a certain place, which I described carefully. I signed the letter

*Two Desperate Men*<sup>5</sup>.

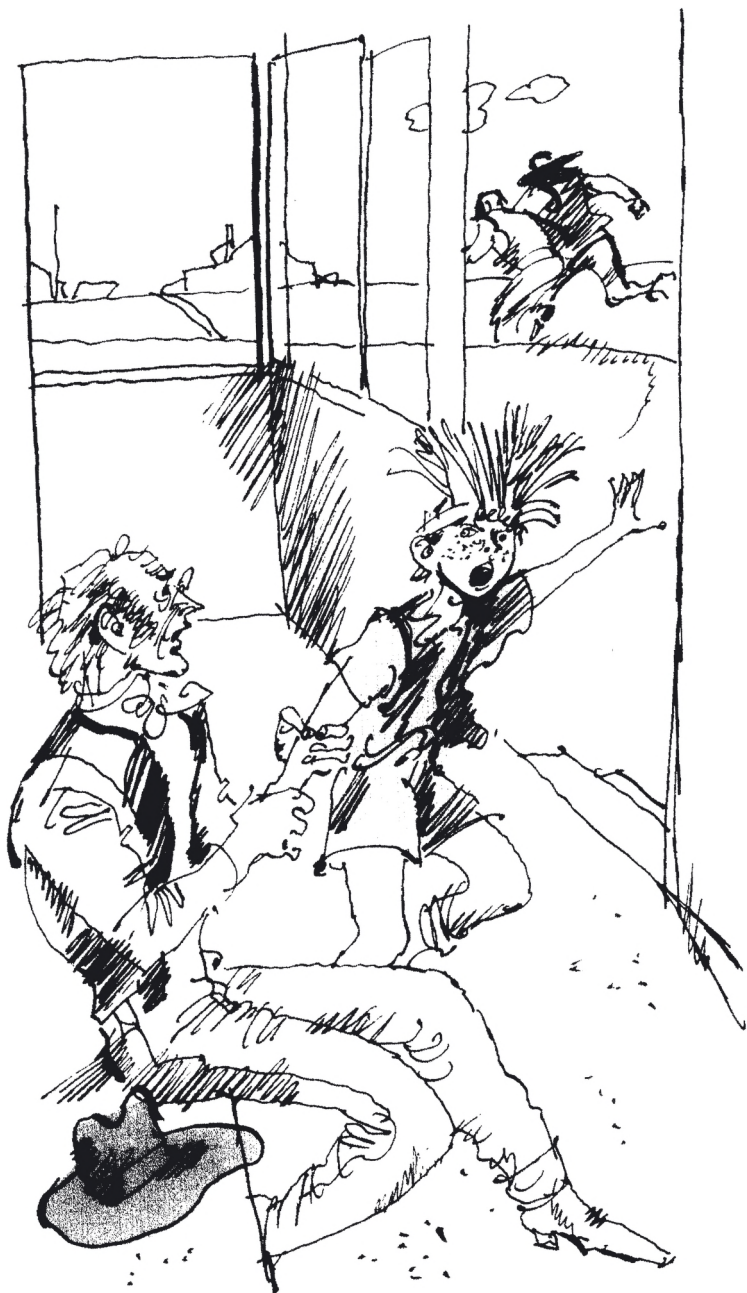
<sup>1</sup> **the boy was missing** — мальчик пропал

<sup>2</sup> **to strike (struck)** — ударить

<sup>3</sup> **I was only funning** — Я только пошутил

<sup>4</sup> **ransom letter** — письмо с требованием выкупа

<sup>5</sup> **Two Desperate** ['despəɪt] **Men** — два доведенных до отчаяния человека



When I got back to the cave, I saw nobody in it. In half an hour, Bill appeared. "The kid's gone," said Bill, "gone home. I showed him the road to the town. I'm sorry that we lose the ransom money but I can't stand<sup>1</sup> any more. All morning I had to play with him as a horse. He rode on my back all through the woods while we killed hated palefaces. My legs are black and blue from the kicks he gave me."

"Bill," I said, "is there any head trouble in your family?"

"No," said Bill. "Why?"

"Then turn around and have a look behind you."

The kid had come out of the woods quietly behind Bill, and was standing there, happy and smiling. Bill turned round, saw the kid, and sat down on the ground and began to pluck<sup>2</sup> nervously at grass and little sticks. For an hour I was afraid of his mind. I tried to quiet him down and told him it was only a question of another day or two and we should get the money.

"You should ask for only a thousand dollars," Bill said. "They'll never pay fifteen hundred for that little devil."

The next day I went to town again, and there in the indicated place<sup>3</sup> found the answer to our ransom letter. I opened it and read it. It was from the boy's father. It said:

*Two desperate men.*

*Gentlemen: I received your letter today by post and think that the ransom which you ask is too high, and make you another offer which I believe you will accept. You bring Johnny home and pay me two hundred and fifty dollars, and I agree to take him off your hands. You had better*

<sup>1</sup> **to stand** — зд. вытерпеть, выдержать

<sup>2</sup> **to pluck** [plʌk] **at** ... — дергать, хватать(ся) за

<sup>3</sup> **indicated** [ˈɪndɪkeɪtɪd] **place** — указанное место

*come at night for the neighbours believe he is lost<sup>1</sup>, and I can't be responsible<sup>2</sup> for what they will do to anybody who will bring him back.*

*Ebenezer Dorset.*

When Bill saw the letter he really looked a desperate man. "Sam," said he, "what's two hundred and fifty dollars, after all? We've got the money. One more night with this kid, and I'll go mad<sup>3</sup>."

"Tell you the truth, Bill," said I, "this boy has somewhat got on my nerves<sup>4</sup> too. We'll take him home, pay the ransom and go away."

We took him home that night. We had to tell him that his father had bought him a real gun, and we were to hunt bears the next day.

It was just twelve o'clock when we knocked at Ebenezer's door. The boy's father met us and we gave him the money. When the kid found out we were going to leave him at home, he gave a terrible cry and began to kick and bite.

"How long can you hold him?" asked Bill.

"I'm not as strong as I used to be," said old Dorset, "but I think I can promise you ten minutes."

"Enough," said Bill. "In ten minutes I shall cross the Central, Southern and Middle Western States and be in Canada."

And, as dark as it was, and as fat as Bill was, and as good a runner as I am, he was a good mile and a half out of Summit before I could catch up with<sup>5</sup> him.

<sup>1</sup> **he is lost** — он потерялся

<sup>2</sup> **be responsible** [rɪs'pɒnsəbl] — быть ответственным

<sup>3</sup> **to go mad** — сойти с ума

<sup>4</sup> **to get on someone's nerves** [nɜ:vz] — действовать кому-либо на нервы

<sup>5</sup> **to catch up with somebody** — догнать кого-либо

## Do You Understand The Story?

**12** *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 Bill and Sam decided that the ransom of two thousand dollars was too much because:
  - they did not believe the boy's father was so rich.
  - they did not think the boy's father would pay out money for a little devil like his son.
  - they were afraid they would get nothing at all.
  
- 2 The boy's father:
  - agreed to pay the ransom money for his boy.
  - asked the kidnappers to bring Johnny home and pay him two hundred and fifty dollars.
  - asked the kidnappers to give him time to think.
  
- 3 The boy agreed to go home because:
  - he missed his father.
  - he was tired of living in the cave.
  - he believed his father had bought him a real gun to hunt bears with.

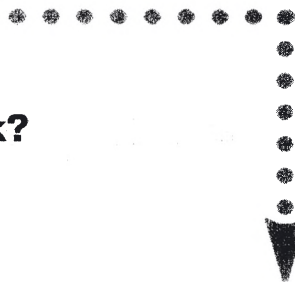
**13** *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Was there much excitement in the town over the fact that the boy was missing?
- 2 Why did Bill and the boy quarrel?
- 3 What did the kidnappers write in their ransom letter? How did they sign it?

- 4 What did Bill try to do in order to get rid of the boy?  
What came out of it?
- 5 Did Ebenezer Dorset agree to pay the sum of money  
that the kidnappers wanted to get?
- 6 What offer did the boy's father make?
- 7 How did the kidnappers return the boy to his father?

### How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 92—93)



### What Do You Think?

- 14** *Think and say:*
- why Sam was afraid for Bill's mind;
  - why the kidnappers really looked desperate men  
when they read Mr Dorset's letter;
  - why the boy got on Sam's nerves;
  - why the men wanted to get two thousand dollars at  
first, but then asked for less and less money;
  - why the kidnappers agreed to pay Ebenezer Dorset  
for his son;
  - why Mr Dorset wanted the kidnappers to bring his  
son home at night.
- 15** *Say what you think of the boy.*
- 16** *Do you think this story taught the kidnappers a  
lesson? What lesson was it?*



## How Good Is Your English?



17 *Use the proper word from the box.*

- 1 "Do you think Mary is upset?" —  
".....".
- 2 They are having a lot of ..... with  
their new car. There is always something  
wrong with it.
- 3 Our next- door ..... are very  
friendly people.
- 4 The repairs will cost a lot of .....
- 5 He is really very rude — I ..... he never  
even says "Good morning!"
- 6 The situation was ..... — the men were in  
real danger.

trouble
perhaps
neighbours
mean
money
desperate

18 *Use the correct preposition.*

- |        |
|--------|
| in     |
| of     |
| around |
| by     |
| behind |
| for    |
- 1 ..... half an hour the boys were already at  
home.
  - 2 "Turn ..... and have a look ..... you,"  
Sam said.
  - 3 Don't be afraid ..... the dog — he is quite  
harmless.
  - 4 If you send the book ..... post, it will get  
there on Friday.
  - 5 Some people find it difficult to ask  
.....help.

19 *How did they do it? Use the proper word.*

- 1 Mr. Dorset was to leave the money in a certain place  
which Sam described .....
- 2 The kid came out of the woods ..... behind  
Bill and smiled .....
- 3 When Bill saw the boy, he sat down on the  
ground and began to pluck  
..... at grass and little sticks.

carefully
nervously
quietly
happily

**20** *Report the following statements and questions.*

1 “If you don’t behave,” Sam said to the boy, “I’ll take you home.”  
.....

2 “ I didn’t mean to hurt Old Hunk,” the boy said.  
.....

3 “The kid has gone home,” Bill said.  
.....

4 “Bill, is there any head trouble in your family?” Sam asked.  
.....

5 “How long can you hold him?” Bill asked the boy’s father.  
.....

6 “In ten minutes I shall be in Canada,” said Bill.  
.....

**21** *Past Indefinite? Past Perfect? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).*

1 Bill and the kid were quarrelling because the boy (put, had put) a hot potato down Bill’s back.

2 Sam sent a letter to Johnny’s father and explained that they (kidnapped, had kidnapped) the boy and that they (hid, had hidden) him in a secret place.

3 The kid’s father (received, had received) Sam’s letter by post.

4 When the kid understood that he had to stay at home, he (gave, had given) a terrible cry.

5 Sam got back to the cave but he (saw, had seen) nobody in it.

6 The boy believed that his father (bought, had bought) him a real gun.