

TELLING STORIES IN THE RIGHT ORDER

- 1 *Read Part I of the story **Alone And Far From Land** and answer the question: What dangerous situation did the boy find himself in?*

Alone And Far From Land

Part I

The British ship was far off in the open sea. No one saw the boy fall overboard¹ a little after 7 o'clock in the morning. A big wave had washed him overboard and down into the sea beside the ship. The boy fought his way up to the surface² of the water and saw the sky overhead and the ship quite near him. For a moment he had a feeling of hope. He thought that some sailor on the ship had seen him and they would pick him up quickly. But the ship was going on; it had not slowed down.

The boy kicked about with his arms and legs to keep his head above the water, but he felt helpless and afraid.

Suddenly he remembered something the Captain ['kæptɪn] had said one day, "If you find yourself in real trouble, keep your head. Make yourself think clearly. If you let yourself feel afraid, if you lose your head you'll be lost³. So keep your head and think!"

The boy controlled [kən'trould] the movements of his hands and feet. He said to himself, "I didn't know I could swim, but I'm swimming!" He did his best to kick off his heavy trousers and shoes. At last they came off, but it had not been easy. He realized⁴ then that he was swimming as he had seen dogs swim in the lake near his home on the farm.

¹ **to fall overboard** ['ouvəbɔ:d] — упасть за борт

² **surface** ['sɜ:fɪs] — поверхность

³ **you'll be lost** — вы погибните

⁴ **to realize** ['rɪəlaɪz] — понять, осознать



But the ship was farther¹ and farther away. Now he could hardly see it even when he was up on a high wave. Soon there was nothing but the water and the sky. A wave rose suddenly against his face. It filled his nose and mouth. Salt burned his eyes.

The sailors were at breakfast when they missed² the boy. "Where is he?" one asked.

Another said, "I haven't seen him at all this morning. I'd better go and look for him." He looked in every part of the ship. He asked every man he saw. Each time he asked, his voice became louder.

"You'd better tell the Captain," someone said.

The Captain was talking to an officer. The ship was moving fast. The Captain turned to the sailor as he heard the man's shouts: "Sir! The boy! We can't find him! We've looked everywhere. He's fallen overboard. He's lost!" And the sailor waved a hand out over the sea.

One of the officers remembered that he had ordered³

¹ **farther** ['fɑ:tðə] — дальше

² **to miss** — зд. обнаружить отсутствие

³ **to order** ['ɔ:də] — приказывать

the boy to do some work on the deck. At what time? It was perhaps 7:10.

The Captain looked at his watch. It was 8:21 now. An hour and 11 minutes had passed. The ship had travelled 18 miles since they had seen the boy last. The Captain gave his orders. "We must go back 20 miles from here," he said. "One hour and 20 minutes. Watch the time!"

The boy was moving his hands and his feet but slowly now. He was losing his strength¹ and wanted to cry. But he did not cry, because he remembered how the Captain had looked on the deck one day when he was talking to the men, "Life on the sea is hard. Troubles come suddenly. You must be ready. You must use your head. Remember, when trouble comes, you must keep your head and think clearly. If you do, you will probably stay alive."

It was easy for the Captain to say that, the boy thought. The Captain had never fallen overboard. Or had he? He had been at sea a long time.

The boy tried to think of himself as the Captain, and he began to say the things the Captain had said. He told himself these things again and again, as if he was speaking to some men in the water around him. Then the waves washed over him, and he felt helpless and frightened.

Do You Understand The Story?

2 *Number the facts below in the order in which they come in the text. You may look back at the story.*

- The sailors missed the boy.
- The ship kept going away.
- No one saw the boy fall overboard.
- The Captain gave orders to go back.
- The boy remembered the Captain's words.

¹ **strength** [streŋθ] — сила

3 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 The boy had a feeling of hope because:
 - he knew he could swim well.
 - he was sure that the sailors had seen him fall overboard.
 - he thought that the sailors would pick him up in the ship's boat.
- 2 The sailors were sure that:
 - the boy was somewhere on the ship.
 - the boy had played a trick on them.
 - the boy had fallen overboard.
- 3 The boy did not cry because:
 - he was not afraid of anything.
 - he saw the ship coming back for him.
 - he remembered what the Captain had said.

4 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 What happened to the boy?
- 2 What feeling did the boy have when he came to the surface of the water and saw the sky?
- 3 Did the boy feel helpless and frightened? When?
- 4 What helped the boy to control his movements?
- 5 What did he soon realize?
- 6 When did the sailors miss the boy?
- 7 What order did the Captain give?

5 *Describe the situation in which the boy found himself.*

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 58—59)



What Do You Think?

6 *Try and explain:*

- why the boy did not cry though he was frightened;
- why the boy thought about the Captain's words all the time.





How Good Is Your English?

7 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 People alwaysfor something better.
- 2 Parents often have with their naughty children.
- 3 Something fell but nobody knew what it was.
- 4 There was a heavy frost last night and the ground is still
- 5 We are surprised that such a big boy is in many situations.
- 6 The child was when he saw a big dog.

trouble
frightened
overboard
hard
helpless
hope

8 Find the words which are opposite in meaning.

to find	to forget
high	to lose
to remember	down
up	far
near	real
make-believe	easy
difficult	low
dangerous	safe

9 Use the correct preposition.

at
off
for
of
in

- 1 It is very hard to keep your head and think clearly when you arereal trouble.
- 2 Don't let yourself be afraidanything.
- 3 The boy did his best to kick his heavy clothes and shoes.
- 4 The sailors lookedthe missing boy everywhere.
- 5 The sailors were breakfast when they discovered that the boy was not on the ship.

10 a) Write the missing forms of the verbs.

to fall	fell	fallen
to fight		
to feel		
to miss		
to fill		
to pass		

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

- 1 Nobody knew that a big wave (washed, had washed) the boy overboard.
- 2 The boy understood that the sailors (did not see, had not seen) him fall overboard.
- 3 One of the officers remembered that he (ordered, had ordered) the boy to do some work on the deck.
- 4 The boy knew that the Captain (was, had been) at sea a long time.
- 5 The sailor looked for the boy in every part of the ship and then (told, had told) the Captain about the happening.
- 6 The boy did not cry because he (remembered, had remembered) the Captain's words.

c) **Past Indefinite? Future-in-the Past?** Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1 The boy (understand) that it (be) hard for him to think clearly in such a dangerous situation.
- 2 The Captain and the sailors (not hope) that they (find) the boy.
- 3 The boy (believe) that the sailors on the ship (see) him and (pick) him up.

11 *Read Part II of the story **Alone And Far From Land** and answer the question: What saved the boy?*

Alone And Far From Land

Part II

The Captain did not expect to find the boy. A head is a small thing to see across miles of ocean. When fear fills the mind¹, even grown men drown² quickly. What chance did this boy have? The sailors said he had never learned to swim.

The Captain looked at his watch. Almost one hour and 20 minutes had passed. "We are nearly there," he said. "Reduce the speed to slow."³ His head turned from side to side. His eyes moved over the sea, stopped and moved again.

Suddenly he shouted: "Stop! Be ready to lower⁴ the lifeboat!" He had seen the small head of the boy rising and falling, not more than 100 yards⁵ away.

The boy saw the ship stop. He saw the lifeboat come towards him. Just as his last strength left him, strong hands caught him. They pulled him into the lifeboat and laid him on some blankets. The boy looked at the faces of the sailors in the boat. One man said, "Swimming! The sea is for boats, boy, not for boys who want to learn to swim."

Another said, "You're going to get into trouble, my boy. The Captain doesn't like this. We've lost almost three hours because you wanted to go swimming!"

He knew that they were joking. He wanted to smile, to let them know he understood; but he felt too weak to do anything.

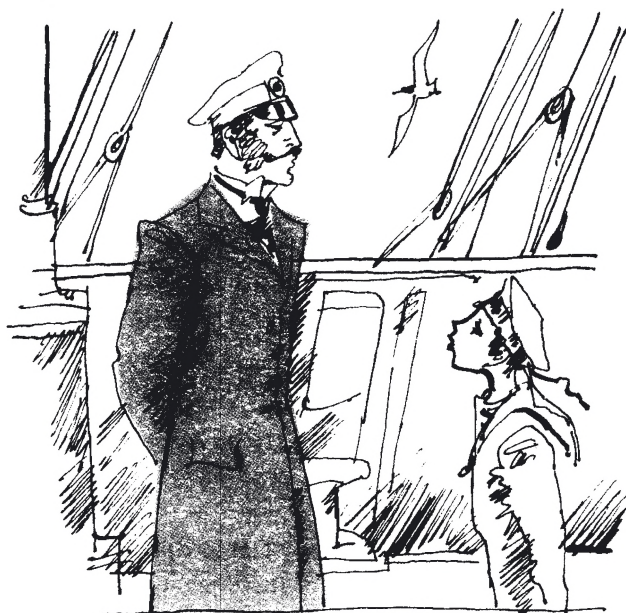
¹ **When fear fills the mind** — Когда охватывает страх

² **to drown** [draʊn] — тонуть

³ **Reduce** [rɪ'dju:s] **the speed to slow.** — Снизить скорость.

⁴ **to lower** ['ləʊə] — опустить, спустить

⁵ **yard** — ярд (=91,44 см)



“Stop talking,” the officer said. “We’ve got to take him back and put him to bed. Hurry!”

I heard half of this story later from the boy. I knew half of it from the beginning. You see, I was the Captain.

When the boy was on board the ship again, I went down to see him. With the blankets around him, he looked much younger. Tears came to his eyes, and he said softly, “Sir, I’m sorry if I’ve made you late¹.”

I tried to tell him it was not important, and I told him to rest.

On the day before we reached the port, I saw him sitting on the deck. I said to him, “You couldn’t swim, but you were in the water more than two and a half hours. How did you ever stay on the surface?”

“You told me to stay up there, sir,” he replied.

“I?”

¹ if I’ve made you late — зд. если вы из-за меня опаздываете

“Yes, sir. You told me to use my head. You tell everyone that, sir. And I knew you would come back to find me.”

“How did you know that?”

He said nothing for a moment. I could see that he was thinking. Then he looked up and said quietly, “Because you are that kind of man.”

The boy did not know it, but with these words he had given me something great. It was a greater gift than I could ever receive¹ from governments² or kings.

Do You Understand The Story?

12 *Number the facts below in the order in which they come in the text. You may look back at the story.*

- Strong hands caught the boy just as his last strength left him.
- The Captain did not expect to find the boy.
- The boy's words were a greater gift than the Captain could ever receive.
- The Captain saw the small head of the boy in the sea.

13 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 When the Captain gave orders to go back he was sure that:
 - they would find the boy.
 - they must do their best to find and save the boy.
 - there was no chance to find the boy.
- 2 The sailors were joking because:
 - they wanted the boy to feel cheerful.
 - they wanted to make him smile.
 - they loved jokes.

¹ **to receive** [rɪ'si:v] **a gift** — получить награду

² **government** ['gʌvənmənt] — правительство

- 3 The Captain was happy to hear the boy's words about himself because:
- he felt proud of himself.
 - the boy's words were pleasant.
 - his advice had really saved the boy's life.

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 64–65)

What Do You Think?

- 14 *Say which of these things helped the boy to stay alive.*
- He remembered the Captain's words.
 - He was an excellent swimmer.
 - He tried his best not to lose his heart and to think clearly.
 - He was sure the ship would come back to find him.
 - He was a strong and healthy boy.
- 15 *Find in the text and read the Captain's words that helped the boy to stay alive. What do you think about these words? How helpful and wise were they?*
- 16 *Why do you think the boy's words were a greater gift to the Captain than he could ever receive from governments or kings?*
- 17 *Do you think the Captain was right to give orders to go back even though he did not expect to find the boy? Why?*
- 18 *Did you learn anything of importance from this story? What is it?*
- 19 *Say what you think of the main characters of the story — the boy and the Captain.*



How Good Is Your English?



20 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 We would like to have a to meet him before he leaves the country.
- 2 Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the of the moon.
- 3 It is not surprising that you feel after your illness.
- 4 They laughed until the ran down their cheeks.
- 5 It is for children to learn how to get on with each other.
- 6 The boy showed no even when the storm began.
- 7 The night was hot and we slept without any

surface
fear
weak
blanket
chance
tears
important

21 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 The waves were big and the boat turned side to side.
- 2 When the waves washed the boy, he felt helpless and frightened.
- 3 When the boy was board the ship, the Captain came to talk to him.
- 4 People can easily lose their hearts when they get trouble.
- 5 He said nothing a moment.
- 6 The sailors couldn't see anything miles of ocean.

into
over
from
on
across
for

22 Find the words which are opposite in meaning.

strong	weak
young	to continue
to rise	to cry
to stop	to fall
quietly	to leave
to laugh	angrily
soft	old
to come	hard

23 a) Write the missing forms of the verbs.

to grow	grew	grown
to catch		
to lose		
to hear		
to stay		
to learn		

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

- The sailors knew that the boy (never learned, had never learned) to swim.
- The Captain's eyes moved over the sea, (stopped, had stopped) and (moved, had moved) again.
- The boy wanted to smile, but he (felt, had felt) too weak to do anything.
- The Captain shouted "Stop!" because he (saw, had seen) the boy's head in the water.