

- 6 Read the text *The Coming of the Armada* and answer the questions: What is an “Armada”? Who built it?

The Coming Of The Armada

Philip, King of Spain, was one of the most powerful kings in Europe. He made up his mind to declare war against

Philip ['fɪlɪp], Armada [a:'mɑ:də], Plymouth ['plɪməθ], Cadiz [kə'dɪz], the English Channel ['tʃænl]
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England. There were several reasons for that, political and religious. One of the reasons was also the robbery of Spanish treasure-ships. English ships had already been attacking Spanish ships as they returned from America loaded with silver and gold. This had been going on since about 1570. Philip knew that the treasure was shared with the Queen. Elizabeth apologized to Spain, but kept her share of what had been taken from Spanish ships. Philip also knew that Elizabeth was encouraging the “sea dogs”, as they were known.

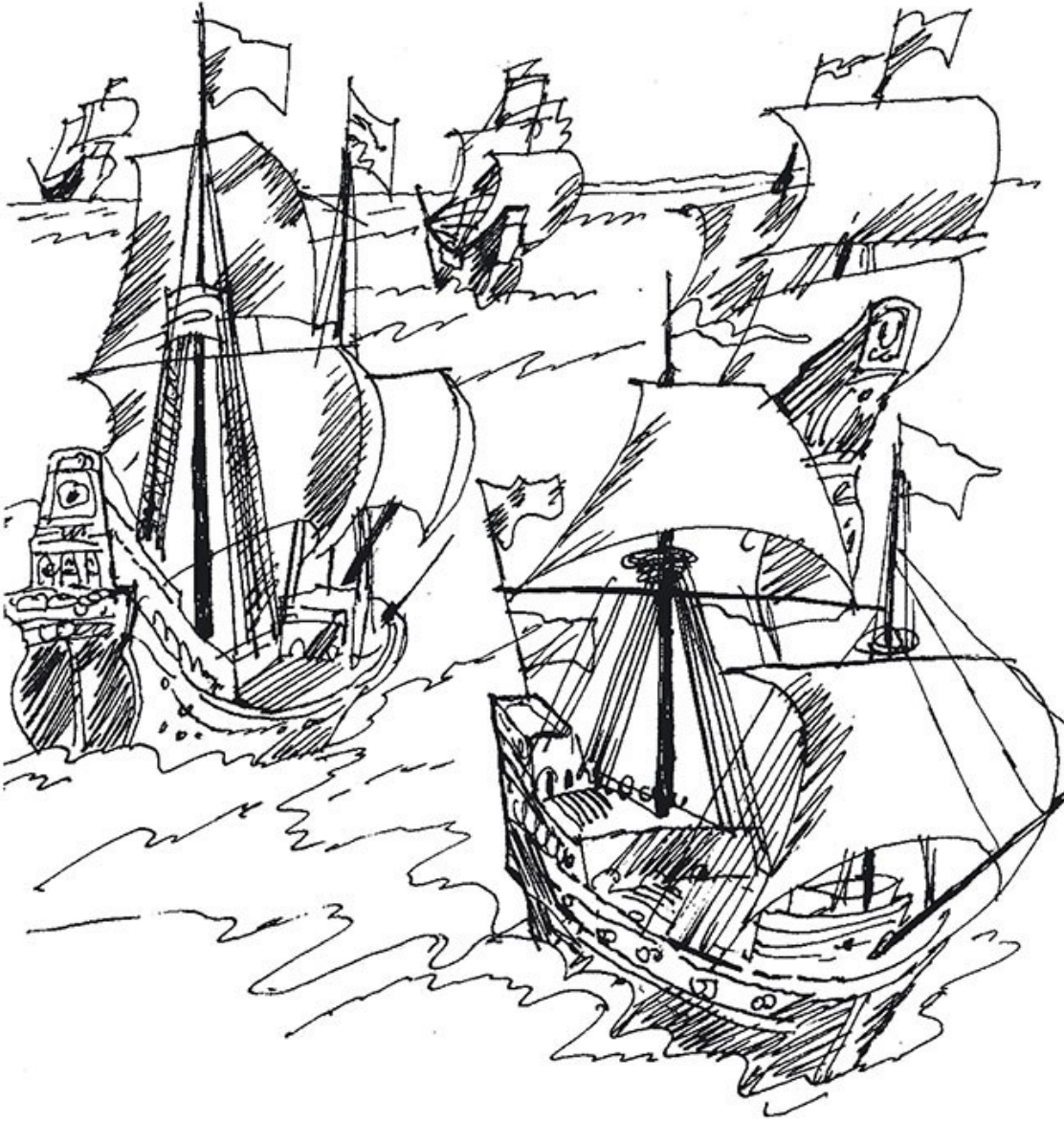
Philip decided to conquer England in 1587. He built a great fleet of ships, an “Armada”, to move his army across the English Channel.

When Francis Drake heard this, he got together thirty ships, and sailed off to Spain. He made his way to Cadiz and sailed boldly into the bay¹ where most of the Spanish ships were lying. With his guns he blew holes in the sides of some of the ships so that they sank; others he set on fire. He then sailed back home. Later he said that he had “singed² the King of Spain’s beard”.

King Philip was angrier than ever. He had to start all over again, and built the largest fleet that had ever gone to sea. But these ships were not as good as the English ones. English ships were longer and narrower, so that

¹ bay [beɪ] — залив, бухта

² to singe [sɪndʒ] — опалить, палить



they were faster, and their guns could also shoot farther than the Spanish.

When news of this Armada reached England in summer 1588, Elizabeth gathered her soldiers. She won their hearts with well-chosen words:

“I have come to live or die amongst you all, to lay down for my kingdom, and for my people. I know I have the body of a weak and feeble¹ woman, but I have the heart and stomach² of a king, and of a king of England too.”

Everyone in England was ready for the great fight. Men and ships had been brought from every port. One afternoon an English ship sailed into Plymouth with the news that the Spanish Armada was drawing near to the south coast of England. Great bonfires were lit on one hilltop after another along the coast, and soon everyone knew that the fight was about to begin.

The Spanish ships were bigger than the English ones, but the English ships were better for fighting because they could move about quickly. They sailed close to the Armada, fired their guns, and sailed away again before the big clumsy Spanish ships could do them any harm.

Again and again the English did this, so that many of the Spanish ships sank or were captured. The rest of the Armada sailed across to the coast of France and waited there, while the Spanish captains talked about what should be done.

Drake and the other English leaders wanted to drive the Spaniards away altogether. They took eight small ships and filled them with gunpowder, barrels of tar³, dry wood and other things which would burn quickly.

In the middle of the night they set fire to these ships, and cut them loose⁴ so that the wind blew them towards the Spanish Armada. The Spaniards were filled with fear when they saw these blazing⁵ ships moving towards them.

¹ **feeble** ['fi:bl] — слабый, ничтожный

² **stomach** ['stʌmæk] — желудок; зд. отвага, мужество

³ **barrels** ['bærəlz] **of tar** — бочки со смолой

⁴ **to cut loose** [lu:s] — освобождать, отделять

⁵ **blazing** ['bleɪzɪŋ] — ярко горящий

In a hurry they tried to get away. The English followed them, firing at the Spanish ships whenever they got a chance.

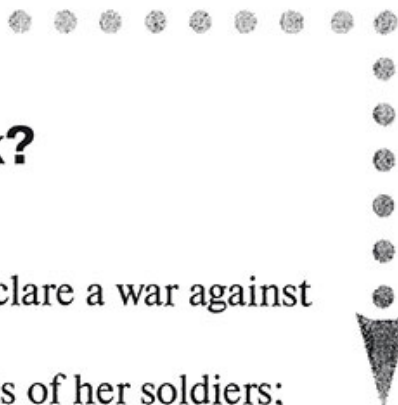
Some of the Spanish ships tried to sail back to Spain, but a great storm arose, and many of the ships were dashed¹ against the rocks. Of all the powerful Spanish Armada, only a few broken ships ever got back to Spain.

Do You Understand The Story?

- 7 *Answer the questions.*
- 1 What were the reasons of the war between Spain and England?
 - 2 When did Spain build the first Armada?
 - 3 Why did King Philip have to build another fleet?
 - 4 How did Queen Elizabeth address her soldiers?
 - 5 What made the English ships better for fighting?
 - 6 What did the English do to win the victory?
 - 7 How did the sea battle end?
- 8 *Describe the English ships and the Spanish ships. Compare them.*
- 9 *Give a description of the battle between the English fleet and the Spanish Armada.*

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 86—87)



What Do You Think?

- 10 *Try and explain:*
- what made King Philip of Spain declare a war against England;
 - why Queen Elizabeth won the hearts of her soldiers;
 - why the Englishmen won a victory over the powerful Spanish fleet.

¹ **be dashed** — быть выброшенными



How Good Is Your English?



11 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 It's very important for many countries to develop international
- 2 They fought in the against France.
- 3 If a person has done something great he is a
- 4 Even when the boat was rocked by bigger waves, the boy showed no
- 5 How can people their homeland if they don't have a strong army?
- 6 The only I went was that I wanted to meet your friends.
- 7 The nation's for independence lasted for more than twenty years.
- 8 As a child he dreamt of future as an Olympic champion.

struggle
trade
reason
fear
war
hero
glory
defend

12 Complete the phrases with appropriate nouns.

- To attack the enemy
- To shoot
- To join
- To declare
- To set of on
- To rule

13 Choose the best word to complete the sentences (✓).

- 1 They watched the sun
a) raise b) rise c) lift
- 2 It took the enemy army ten days to ... the city.
a) catch up with b) seize c) capture
- 3 Never ... your hand against a child.
a) raise b) rise c) lift
- 4 The Spanish ... the New World in the sixteenth century.
a) won b) conquered c) defended

14 *Use the correct article if necessary.*

- 1 The English ships sailed round ... America into ...
Pacific Ocean.
a) — b) a c) the
- 2 Suddenly ... great storm arose, and many ships sank.
a) — b) a c) the
- 3 ... victory of the British fleet over the Spanish Armada
was ... very important event for the country.
a) — b) a c) the
- 4 Is there ... chance of making a voyage to some distant
lands?
a) — b) a c) the

15 *Rewrite these sentences using the passive.*

- 1 The Englishmen lost their five small ships during the
storm.
.....
- 2 Queen Elizabeth made Francis Drake a knight.
.....
- 3 The sailors loaded their ships with the captured
treasure.
.....
- 4 Fear and panic filled the people when they saw the
ship on fire.
.....
- 5 The great storm dashed the ship against the rocks.
.....
- 6 The Englishmen captured several enemy ships.
.....
- 7 The Englishmen destroyed the Spanish fleet.
.....
- 8 People lit great bonfires along the coast.
.....