

MORE PRACTICE

- 1 *Read Part I of the story **Little John Joins The Band** and say what the stranger looked like and how he behaved when Robin Hood provoked him into a fight.*

Little John Joins The Band

Part I

(from *Robin Hood* after Antonia Fraser)

According to old stories Robin Hood was a man who lived as an outlaw¹ in Sherwood Forest, near Nottingham, with a group of his companions (the Merry Men). His main enemy was the Sheriff of Nottingham, who was always trying to catch and punish him.

Robin Hood ['rɒbɪn 'hʊd],
Little John [dʒɔ:n],
Will Scarlett ['ska:lɪt],
Tom Turpin ['tə:pɪn],
Sherwood ['ʃɛ:wʊd] Forest,
Nottingham ['nɒtɪŋəm]

Robin Hood and his friends had to keep a sharp look-out² for any further tricks which the Sheriff and his men might try to play upon them. From time to time bold young men attacked any of the Sheriff's people who appeared in Sherwood Forest, and proved their courage by some clever deed. In this way they had many fine adventures and many rich barons had to give their money to Robin's men. That money was later given to the poor of Nottingham.

The poor people, who had been starving³ under the Sheriff's rule, spoke about Robin Hood's generosity⁴ with delight. They often woke up and found a bag of gold or some silver coins on their doorstep and a piece of paper with these words on it: "Greetings from Robin Hood, who robs the rich to pay the poor."

One of the bravest and merriest of Robin's men who always took part in all the adventures was Little John.

¹ **outlaw** ['aʊtlɔ:] — находящийся вне закона

² **to keep a sharp look-out** — быть предельно осторожным

³ **to starve** — голодать, умирать от голода

⁴ **generosity** [dʒenə'rɒsɪti] — щедрость, великодушие

It all began one sunny afternoon in spring. All Robin's men were in the camp, busy with their duties — Much the Miller was preparing the meat for the evening meal, Will Scarlett was working out some complicated system for sounding an alarm¹ when the enemy approached the camp, and Alan-a-Dale was playing a sad tune on his lute² as usual, and dreaming of his lady love. And Robin Hood felt ready for a new adventure.

The adventure came even sooner than he had expected: an arrow whistled through the air, and landed in the ground at his feet. Robin examined the arrow, and recognized it as the black-feathered arrow which his men had agreed to shoot into the camp when there was some danger or if a stranger was approaching. A few minutes later Tom Turpin arrived, breathing hard and bringing the news that a very big man, “a giant no less”, had been noticed and was coming nearer.

“He seems to know his way,” said Tom. “I fear he comes from the Sheriff.”

Robin seized his bow and arrows and ran up the hill and on to the secret path which led to their camp. Will Scarlett shouted after him to be careful and take someone with him, but Robin replied:

“One outlaw against one enemy. We don't use the Sheriff's methods here.”

Everything in the forest was quiet, and Robin walked silently for a mile or so, but found no sign of a visitor. Then, on the bank of one of the many streams which flowed through Sherwood Forest, he came on some footprints in the moss. Robin saw at once that

¹ **complicated** ['kɒmplɪkeɪtɪd] **system for sounding an alarm** [ə'la:m] — сложная система, с помощью которой подается сигнал тревоги

² **to play a tune** [tju:n] **on the lute** [lu:t] — играть мелодию на лютне (*музыкальный инструмент*)

either the footprints belonged to a strange sort of animal, or else the man he was tracking had the largest pair of feet that ever a man owned.

“This is a welcome guest,” thought Robin. “I’m sure I’ll find a good fighter at the end of the track.” A moment later he saw a man on the other bank of the stream, standing beside a narrow plank¹ which served as a bridge. Yes, Tom Turpin had been right. This was a giant of a man.

“Ahoy [a'hoi] there, stranger!” shouted Robin.

The unknown man turned and gave a silent attentive look at the figure on the opposite bank.

“Greetings to you, my young friend,” he said in a slow, deep voice.

“What is your business in Sherwood, giant?” Robin shouted.

The large man looked at him again. “What has that to do with you², young man?”

“Everything in Sherwood has to do with me!” said Robin. “So answer up, and tell me what you want here.”

The giant looked at Robin attentively — once more. “At this very moment, little man,” he said, “I’m thinking whether to cross the bridge and throw you into the river, or just push you gently into the water from here with this good oak stick of mine.” And the giant showed the fine oak stick which he held in his hand.

“That’s good,” said Robin laughing, but taking care at the same time to step back. “That’s good! Throw me into the river, indeed. I am the Lord of Sherwood Forest, and no one even crosses this bridge if I don’t want him to. Come on, giant, you’ll soon find

¹ **plank** — доска, планка

² **What has that to do with you...?** — Какое это имеет к вам отношение...?



yourself in the water with which you are threatening¹ me.”

“Little man, little man,” said the giant. “You are taking too much on yourself. If I choose to cross this bridge, there is no man who can stop me.”

“Come on, then, giant, and see,” shouted Robin joyfully, cutting himself a stick from a nearby bush. “Let’s put the matter to the test² and see whether or not I am Lord of Sherwood.”

“Willing and ready, little man,” shouted the giant in return, and smiling from ear to ear. “Willing and ready.” The giant tested his stick, cutting the air this way and that, so that the nearby branches shook. Robin in his turn tested his stick before he took up his position at one end of the bridge. The two fighters smiled at one another. Neither moved.

“Ready, giant?” cried Robin.

“Ready enough, little man,” answered the giant, and started to move forward. His great weight³ shook the old plank which served as a bridge. Robin looked strangely small beside him, but he believed in his strong muscles [ˈmʌslz] and quick wits⁴ to defeat his enemy.

Do You Understand The Story?

2 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 What did the arrow which once landed near Robin’s feet mean?

¹ **to threaten** [ˈθretn] — грозить, угрожать

² **Let’s put the matter to the test** — Давай устроим проверку

³ **weight** [weɪt] — вес

⁴ **wits** [wɪts] — ум, разум

- 2 What did Robin Hood's men think of the stranger who was approaching their camp?
- 3 What was the man like that Robin saw on the bank of the stream?
- 4 Was Robin afraid to fight with the giant? How did he speak to him?
- 5 How did Robin Hood and the stranger threaten each other? Did they show any sign of anger or hatred?

3 *Find the lines in the text which prove that:*

- Robin Hood was a fearless and bold man who was always willing to perform a deed;
- Robin Hood was not frightened by the size of the stranger;
- both Robin and the stranger were sure of themselves.

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 38— 39)

What Do You Think?

4 *Try and explain:*

- why Robin Hood did not take any of his men with him when he went to meet the stranger;
- why Robin said that the stranger was a welcome guest;
- why Robin Hood was not at all afraid when he made up his mind to fight against a man so much bigger than himself.





How Good Is Your English?



5 Use the proper word from the box.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Robin Hood is the most famous
..... in English history.</p> <p>2 They sat at ends of the
table refusing to talk to each other.</p> <p>3 Tom shouted with when he
heard that he had passed his exams successfully.</p> <p>4 It will give me great pleasure to
that I am right.</p> <p>5 I admired his at driving.</p> <p>6 The man pulled on the rope with all his</p> <p>7 The police hope to the criminal in a day or two.</p> | <p>strength
outlaw
skill
opposite
joy
prove
seize</p> |
|--|---|

6 Complete the phrases with appropriate nouns.

- to cross a bridge
- to attack
- to approach
- to examine
- to seize
- to defeat

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

- 1 A narrow path ... to the camp which was situated in the middle of the forest.
a) directed b) led c) approached
- 2 Robin believed in his strength and quick wits and was sure that he would ... his enemy.
a) struggle b) push c) defeat
- 3 He has changed so greatly! It's impossible to ... him.
a) recognize b) notice c) encourage
- 4 They began to walk faster and soon managed to ... their companions.
a) seize b) reach c) catch up with

8 *Use the correct article if necessary.*

- 1 Robin examined ... arrow which landed on the ground at his feet.
a) — b) a c) the
- 2 The man spoke in ... slow, deep voice.
a) — b) a c) the
- 3 They were brave young men careless of ... danger and ready for new adventures.
a) — b) a c) the
- 4 ... stranger who was standing on ... opposite side of the stream gave Robin ... silent, attentive look.
a) — b) a c) the

9 *Report these statements and questions.*

- 1 "A stranger has been noticed and is coming nearer," one of Robin's men said to him.
.....
.....
- 2 "I'm sure I'll find a good fighter at the end of the track," thought Robin.
.....
.....
- 3 "No one will cross this bridge if I don't want him to," Robin said to the stranger.
.....
.....
- 4 "What is your business in Sherwood, giant?" Robin asked.
.....
.....
- 5 "What has that to do with you, young man?" said the giant.
.....
.....
- 6 "Are you ready, giant?" shouted Robin.
.....
.....

- 10 *Read Part II of the story **Little John Joins The Band** and say how the fight between Robin Hood and the stranger ended and whether either of them was a loser or a winner.*

Little John Joins The Band

Part II

(from *Robin Hood* after Antonia Fraser)

The stranger's first blow showed Robin that he was fighting with a very strong opponent¹.

Crash! The giant received a blow on the shoulder, but he took as little notice of it as of a fly.

Several heavy blows from the big man followed, which made Robin step quickly backwards to his end of the bridge where he could feel safer.

"Frightened, eh?" shouted the giant in his great voice. "Come forward again, little man, and see what I have in store for you."

Robin's blood boiled² at the giant's words that he was frightened. "Take that! That!" he cried. "And that! And that!"

In a blind fury³ Robin gave his opponent four or five hard blows. Now the fight was fast. Blows were given and received on both sides. And both sides showed skill and strength.

By this time, Tom Turpin and Will Scarlett, who had followed Robin at some distance, had caught up with their friend and were watching the battle from behind the trees. Tom Turpin was willing to rush forward and attack the stranger. But Will, who knew Robin's nature better, stopped him.

"He will never forgive⁴ you," he whispered, "this is a

¹ **opponent** [ə'pounənt] — противник

² **blood** [blʌd] **boiled** — кровь закипела

³ **blind** [blaɪnd] **fury** ['fjuəri] — слепая ярость

⁴ **to forgive** [fə'gɪv] (**forgave, forgiven**) — простить



very strong opponent, and Robin has always liked a good fight. See, Tom, what muscles that great giant has! We could use those in our camp, to chop down trees.”

“And fight with sheriffs!” added Tom Turpin with a smile. Meanwhile the fight on the bridge was still furious¹. Neither seemed to tire. It was Robin who showed the first sign of weakness when he suddenly slipped and seemed about to fall. Was his strength failing? The giant waited a little bit, and at that moment Robin gave him a great push with his stick which sent him flying into the stream!

It was a fine end to the battle, and Robin stood breathing hard and looking at the struggling figure in the water. “Well, now who is Lord of Sherwood?” he said.

“Give me a hand out of the water,” was all the giant said. “I am too heavy to struggle out by myself.”

Robin bent down² and stretched out a hand. The next

¹ **furious** [ˈfjuəriəs] — яростный

² **to bend (bent, bent) down** — наклоняться

thing he knew, he, too, was in the icy water, while the giant was standing on the bank, laughing heartily.

“Brains, little man,” he cried. “Brains — it’s a good thing to have brains.”

Robin laughed, too, and said that he had been outwitted¹.

“You are a fighter after my heart, lad²,” said the big man. “Let us shake hands on it.”

So Robin Hood and the big stranger, both wet, shook hands in the middle of the forest and swore a pact of friendship³.

“Can you tell me something, lad?” asked the stranger after a while, just as Tom Turpin and Will Scarlett were thinking it was time to come out from behind the trees and join their leader. “Can you tell me where lives this famous Robin Hood they talk so much about in this part of the country? I’d like to meet him. I have a strong wish to join him and rob the rich to pay the poor. I have been in trouble and must leave my home for a while.”

“What sort of trouble?” asked Robin.

“I tell you, lad, I spoke against the Sheriff and his people are now after me.”

“Stranger,” Robin said, “you are welcome to Sherwood! You will find a home with Robin Hood and his band.”

The stranger looked at Robin in surprise.

“You are not — you cannot be Robin Hood himself?” he asked. “I had thought Robin to be an old man.”

“I am indeed he,” said Robin with a smile. He saw Tom Turpin and Will Scarlett approaching and said, “Will, Tom, this noble fighter wants to join our band. What will you say?”

“Agreed!” cried Tom, joyfully, throwing his cap in the air.

“What do they call you, man?”

¹ **to outwit** [aʊt'wɪt] — перехитрить

² **lad** — парень

³ **to swear** [swɛə] (**swore, sworn**) **a pact of friendship** — дать клятву дружбы

“I am really called John the Smith,” said the stranger, modestly. “But for my great size, men have called me Little John.”

“Then Little John you shall be! Welcome to Sherwood, Little John! Come now to my camp, and meet the rest of my band.”

Do You Understand The Story?

11 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 What was the word the stranger used that made Robin's blood boil?
- 2 The fight on the bridge was furious, wasn't it? Why was it?
- 3 Why didn't Will Scarlett allow Tom Turpin to attack the stranger and so help Robin Hood?
- 4 Who was the first to find himself in the water?
- 5 How did it happen that Robin Hood found himself in the water?
- 6 Was Robin angry because he had been outwitted?
- 7 Did the stranger have any idea who he was fighting with?
- 8 Were Robin and his friends glad to have Little John in their band? Why?

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 44 — 45)

What Do You Think?

- 12 *Though Robin Hood was outwitted by the stranger and could not call himself the winner, why do you think he was glad to make the stranger his friend?*
- 13 *Which do you think is the most exciting (amusing) episode in the story? Speak about it.*
- 14 *Express your opinion about the characters of the story.*



How Good Is Your English?



15 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 The fighter knocked his opponent with one of his fist.
- 2 He tried his best to the others, but failed.
- 3 The companions laughedat the joke.
- 4 "I have won the prize only with the help of my two friends," he said
- 5 There is a struggle going on between the two participants in the race.

heartily
catch up with
furious
modestly
blow

16 Match the words which are opposite in meaning.

succeed	win
catch up with	whisper
noisy	light
gently	silent
defeat	fail
heavy	sharply
shout	fall behind

17 Use the correct preposition where necessary.

on
with
for
to

- 1 "I'm sure you'll all join me in congratulating the winner."
- 2 They only stayed a short while because they had some other things to do.
- 3 The man received a rather strong blow the shoulder, but he took little notice of it.
- 4 The members of the group were eager to catch up their leader in everything they did.
- 5 It is high time we put an end our quarrel.

18 *Past Indefinite? Past Continuous? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).*

- 1 Everybody was busy — someone (prepared, was preparing) the meal, someone (worked out, was working out) a system for sounding alarm, and one man (played, was playing) his lute.
- 2 If there was some danger, a signal arrow was sent to inform the others that a stranger (approached, was approaching) .
- 3 The stranger's heavy blow showed Robin that he (fought, was fighting) with a very strong and skilful opponent.
- 4 Robin's friends (watched, were watching) the fight from behind the trees but did not want to interfere and stop it.
- 5 Robin and the big stranger (shook, were shaking) hands and then swore a pact of friendship.
- 6 The giant (looked, was looking) at Robin attentively once more and said he was ready to test his strength.

19 *Report these statements and questions.*

- 1 "Give me a hand out of the water," the giant said.
.....
.....
- 2 "I've been outwitted," said Robin laughing.
.....
.....
- 3 "Men have called me Little John," said the stranger.
.....
.....
- 4 "Can you tell me where I can find Ribin Hood?" asked the stranger.
.....
.....
- 5 "What sort of trouble have you been in?" Robin asked the stranger.
.....
.....