

MORE PRACTICE

- 1 *Read the story **The Practical Princess** and find out how Princess Bedelia used common sense¹ to solve a problem.*

The Practical Princess

(after Jay Williams)

Princess Bedelia was as lovely as the moon shining upon a lake full of water lilies. She was as graceful² as a cat leaping³. And she was also extremely practical, always ready to take actions instead of daydreaming.

Princess Bedelia [prɪn'ses bə'deliə], King Ludwig ['lʌdvɪg]
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When she was born, three fairies came to her cradle⁴ to give her gifts as was usual in that country. The first fairy gave her beauty. The second gave her grace. But the third, who was a wise old creature, said, "I give her common sense."

"I don't think much of that gift," said King Ludwig, raising his eyebrows. "What good is common sense to a princess? All she needs is charm⁵."

But, when Bedelia was eighteen years old, something happened that made the king change his mind.

A dragon moved into the neighbourhood. He settled in a dark cave on top of a mountain, and the first thing he did was to send a message to the king. "I must have a princess to eat up," the message said, "or I shall breathe⁶ out my fire and destroy the kingdom."

¹ **sense** [sens] — смысл; **common sense** — здравый смысл

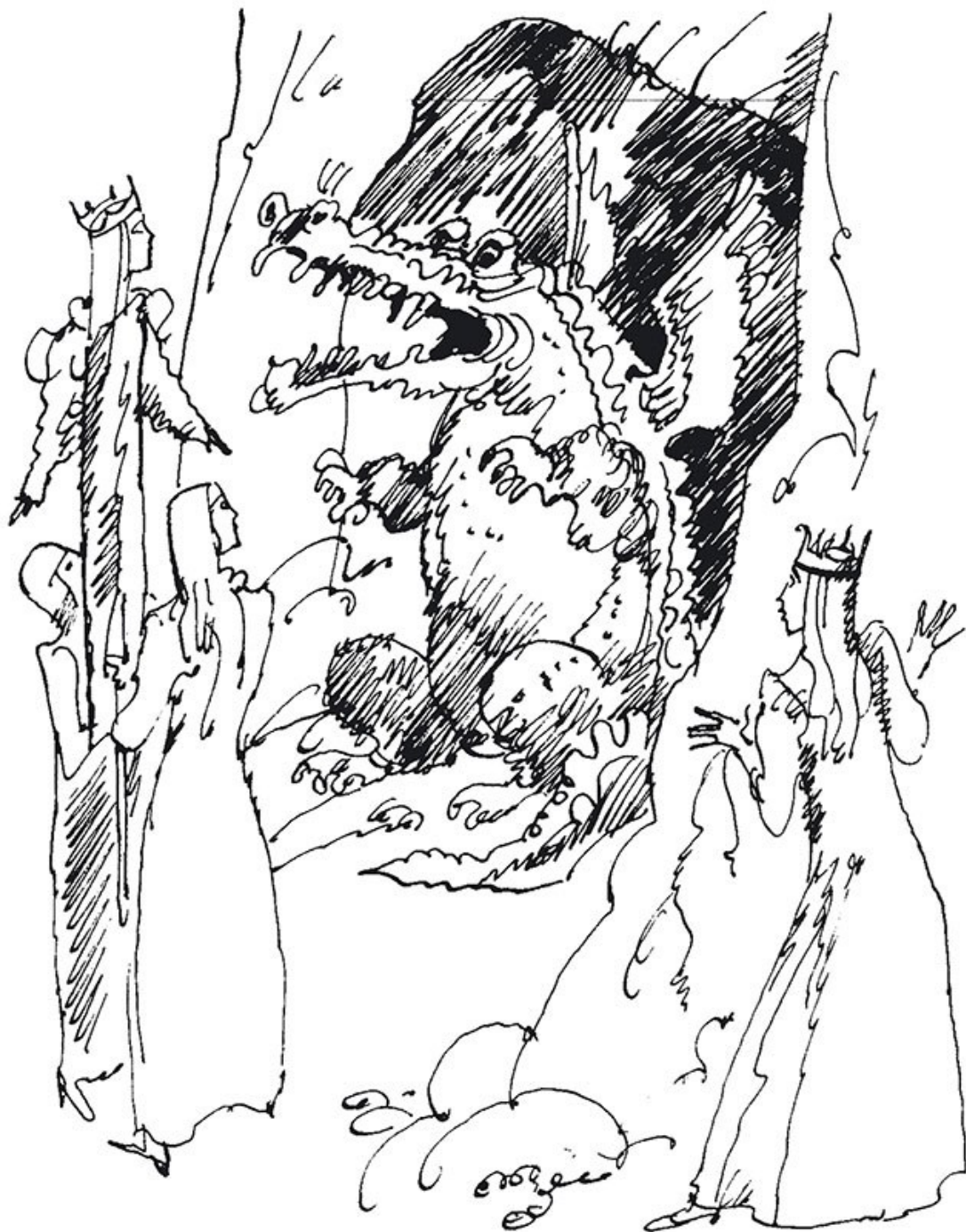
² **graceful** ['greɪsful] — грациозный

³ **to leap** [li:p] — прыгать

⁴ **cradle** ['kreɪdl] — колыбель, люлька

⁵ **charm** [tʃɑ:m] — очарование, обаяние

⁶ **to breathe** [bri:ð] **out** — выдохнуть



Sadly, King Ludwig called together his councillors¹, chosen to give advice, and read them the message. “Perhaps,” said the Prime Minister, “we had better send for a knight² to kill the dragon. That is what is generally done in these cases.”

¹ **councillor** ['kaunslə] — советник

² **knight** ['naɪt] — рыцарь

“I’m afraid we haven’t time,” answered the king. “The dragon has only given us time until tomorrow morning. There is no help for it. We shall have to send him the princess.”

Princess Bedelia had come to the meeting because, as she said, she liked to mind her own business, and this was certainly her business.

“Rubbish!” she said. “Dragons can’t tell the difference between princesses and anyone else. Use your common sense. He’s just asking for me because he’s a snob².”

“That may be so,” said her father, “but if we don’t send you along, he’ll destroy the kingdom.”

“Right!” said Bedelia. “I see I’ll have to deal with³ this myself.” She left the room in which the council sat. She got the largest and brightest of her state dresses, filled it with straw, and into the centre of the bundle she packed about a hundred pounds of gunpowder⁴. She got two strong young men to carry it up the mountain for her. She stood in front of the dragon’s cave and called:

“Come out! Here’s the princess!”

The dragon appeared looking out of the darkness with curiosity. Seeing the bright dress covered with gold and silver embroidery⁵, and hearing Bedelia’s voice, he opened his mouth wide.

At once, at Bedelia’s signal, the two young men threw the dress right down the dragon’s throat. Bedelia threw herself flat on the ground, and the two young men ran.

¹ **rubbish** [ˈrʌbɪʃ] — ерунда, чепуха

² **snob** — сноб (человек, чье отношение к людям зависит от их положения в обществе)

³ **to deal** [di:l] (**dealt, dealt** [delt]) **with** — иметь дело с чем-либо

⁴ **gunpowder** [ˈɡʌnpaʊdər] — порох

⁵ **embroidery** [ɪmˈbrɔɪdəri] — украшение, вышивка

As the gunpowder met the flames inside the dragon, there was a great explosion¹.

Bedelia got up, dusting herself off. "Dragons," she said, "are not very bright."

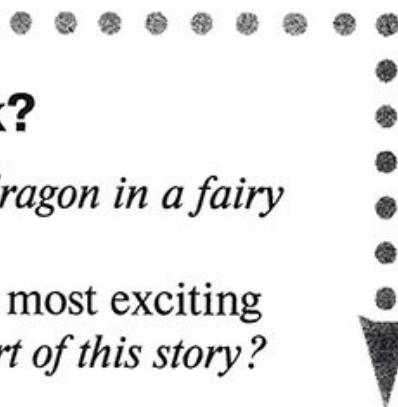
She left the two young men sweeping up the pieces, and she went to the castle to have her geography lesson, for as you know, she was very practical!

Do You Understand The Story?

- 2 *Answer the questions.*
- 1 Who was Bedelia? What did she look like? What was the most interesting quality of her character?
 - 2 What happened when Bedelia was a baby?
 - 3 Which of the gifts seemed unnecessary to the king?
 - 4 What happening made the king change his mind?
 - 5 What was written in the message that the dragon sent to the king?
 - 6 What did the king's councillors advise him to do?
 - 7 How did Bedelia receive the news that she would be sent to the dragon? Was she frightened?
 - 8 What actions did Bedelia take before going to the dragon?
 - 9 How did Bedelia and the two young men kill the dragon?

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 76—77)



What Do You Think?

- 3 *What character usually kills the dragon in a fairy tale?*
- 4 *Every tale and every story has its most exciting part. What is the most exciting part of this story? Give your reasons.*
- 5 *Say what Bedelia proved about the gift of common sense.*

¹ explosion [iks'plouʒn] — взрыв



How Good Is Your English?



6 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 Which, to your mind, is more important — sight, smell, or hearing?
- 2 This man has a real for conversation. He can speak about everything for hours.
- 3 Everybody admired her and grace.
- 4 Be more practical and take necessary actions instead of
- 5 There is much between living in a city and living in the country.
- 6 If I'm not there when you phone, leave a

message
gift
beauty
sense
daydreaming
difference

7 Complete the phrases with appropriate nouns.

to send a message

to settle in

to destroy

to ask for

to change

to raise

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

- 1 The fire ... the building.
a) destroyed b) exploded c) swept
- 2 The wonderful smell of flowers ... the room.
a) changed b) raised c) filled
- 3 She ... her eyebrows in surprise when she heard the news.
a) moved b) raised c) lifted
- 4 No wonder they are good friends, they have much in
a) common b) general c) similar

- 9 Choose the correct article if necessary (✓).
- 1 Councillors are people who are chosen to give ... advice.
a) — b) a c) the
 - 2 She was ... wise woman able to use her common sense.
a) — b) a c) the
 - 3 There was a beautiful castle in ... centre of the old park.
a) — b) a c) the
 - 3 They wanted to settle in ... place where all their relatives lived.
a) — b) a c) the

10 a) Fill in the missing forms of the **Present Participle** and **Past Participle** .

Infinitive	Present Participle	Past Participle
do	doing	done
shine		
raise		
choose		
fill		
rise		
sweep		

b) **Present Participle ? Past Participle ?**

Choose the correct form of the **Participle** (✓).

- 1 The travellers looked at the (shining, shone) moon which seemed bigger and brighter than usual.
- 2 The pictures (choosing, chosen) for the new exhibition were really splendid.
- 3 Practically nothing was left from the building (destroying, destroyed) by the explosion.
- 4 The (rising, risen) sun was a wonderful sight.
- 5 Fill the teapot with (boiling, boiled) water.
- 6 They entered a big hall (filling, filled) with a lot of chairs.
- 7 The boat (sweeping, swept) out to sea by the storm was hardly seen among the huge waves.