

Навчальний посібник відповідає чинній програмі з англійської мови.

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Даніель Дефо

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CHAPTER I START IN LIFE

My name is Robinson Crusoe. I was born in 1632, in the city of York, in a good family. My father was a merchant from Bremen. My mother was from York. I had two elder brothers, but I know not much about them. The one was a lieutenant; he was killed at the battle. The second brother I never knew.

As I was the youngest child in the family, I didn't want to do anything. I liked to think about the sea, to watch the big and beautiful ships and to dream of my own voyage. My father, a wise and earnest man, wanted me to become a lawyer or a merchant; but I could think only about going to sea.

He tried to explain that it was not a good idea to leave father's house and native country, where life is calm, easy and pleasant. My father said that one day I would take charge of his business. He said:

"My son, if you want to have a good life, you have to learn to do something. You must work hard. I will help and support you. But we, your parents, will never give a permission to go to sea. Only those men sail abroad who do nothing and just search for adventures. If you disobey us you will never be happy."

While he was talking, I observed the tears run down his face. That affected me much, so I decided to forget about my dreams and to do as he wished.

Time passed but my desire to see the world grew stronger with each day. I couldn't do any work, I thought about sailing away. I couldn't ask my father for the permission to go to sea. So I decided to talk to my mother. I said:

"Dear mum, I promise to work hard, even harder than now, but please, allow me to go on one voyage abroad, if I don't like it, I will go no more."

But the conversation had no success. With tears in her eyes she just repeated father's words.

She replied:

"My dear boy, you will be happy if you stay at home; but if you go abroad, you will find difficult and unfair life there".

I didn't say a word then, but I could not help thinking about a sea trip.

The age of 18 I was still at home, doing the work I didn't like. Only the thoughts of sea could improve my mood. Almost a year after I met my friend in a harbor where I used to walk. His father had a ship which was sailing to London. So he suggested going with them.

I said nothing to my parents and on the 1st of September 1651, I went on board of a ship to London. How glad was I! My dream came true!

Suddenly the wind began to blow and the sea to rise in a most frightful manner. My father's tears and my mother's words came now fresh into my mind. How could I leave my father's house and abandon my duty! I felt dizzy. I was seasick. When the storm was over, I told my friend that I was very frightened. He laughed at me saying that it was not a strong storm.

We enjoyed sunny weather and clear blue sky for several days. But the happiness didn't last for long. Another, stronger and more frightful storm arose. Everyone on board thought that the ship would sink. I was dreadfully frightened. The ship sprung a leak and the water poured into it. We got on a small boat, reached the shore and saw the ship sink. I wanted to go back home, to have safe and peaceful life.

Later on I had many struggles with myself how to live my life, and whether I should go home or to sea. I remained some time uncertain what to do, till at last I quite laid aside the thoughts of coming back home, and looked out for a new voyage.

Helpful Words and Notes

Bremen – місто та порт на північному заході Німеччини

York – місто на півночі Англії

Lieutenant – лейтенант

To go to sea – відправитись у плавання

Permission – дозвіл

Disobey – не слухатись, не підкорюватись

Abandon smb's duty – знехтувати своїми обов'язками

Spring a leak – дати течію

Exercises

1. Say if the statements are True (T) or False (F)

1. Robinson Crusoe was born in Bremen. ____
2. He had 2 younger brothers. ____
3. His dream was to go to sea. ____
4. The talk with Robinson's mother wasn't successful. ____
5. Robinson said goodbye to his parents and went on board. ____
6. The voyage was without any problems. ____
7. Robinson didn't like the sea trip and decided to go back home. ____

2. Choose the correct variant

1. Robinson's father was a:

- a) mechanic
- b) lawyer
- c) merchant

2. Robinson's father wanted the boy to become a:

- a) lawyer or a merchant
- b) sailor or a lawyer
- c) merchant or a sailor

3. How old was Robinson Crusoe when he went on board?

- a) 18
- b) 19
- c) 17

4. How did Robinson's mother react when he asked her to go to sea?

- a) She smiled and let him go.
- b) She cried but let him go.
- c) She cried and didn't let him go.

5. What happened with the ship after the storm?

- a) It swam to London.
- b) It sank.
- c) It sprang.

3. Look at the picture, describe the weather. Compare the weather in the picture and the weather from the story.

– Are the weather conditions the same?

