

Text 1.
The Seven Wells
Crimean Legend

Long-long ago in the Crimean village there were problems with water. So, the men dug seven wells that started to give some water to the local people.

Once, a German man was chosen as the head of the village. He was a wise man and he offered the people to take water free. So everybody was happy to get as much water as they needed.

That man had seven sons. The youngest, whose name was Fritz was the healthiest and strongest in the family. In his childhood he noticed that when some water was taken from the wells, it splashed on the ground. So he didn't like that and once said to his father, "When I grow up, I'll ask the village dwellers to pay for the water from the wells. They splash too much water on the ground". "On, no!" said his father, "water is the most precious thing in this land. It should be free."

A few years passed. The old German died. Then his six sons died of some disease one by one, and Fritz was made head of the village. He immediately made his wish come true. He said to the villagers that from that day they should pay for the water from the wells. All the wells were locked and Fritz kept the keys to the wells.

One day the village dwellers decided to rebel against Fritz because he told them they wouldn't have any water for one day.

An old soldier came to the village. He was tired and thirsty and asked for some pure water. Fritz didn't let him drink because the soldier had no money to pay for it. The soldier begged Fritz to help him. But it was all in vain. When the soldier was dying, he cursed Fritz.

After his death one of the wells was open but the water disappeared from it. When Fritz's servant opened the other six wells and found no water there, he told it to his master. Fritz was furious. Thus he was punished for his cruelty.

1. Find in the text the English equivalents:

выкопали семь колодезей, глава деревни, проливалась на землю, самая драгоценная вещь на земле, он тотчас же осуществил своё желание, не позволил ему попить, умолял, всё это было напрасно, вода исчезла из колодца

2. Answer the questions:

- 1) Why did the men dig seven wells?
- 2) Who was chosen the head of the village?
- 3) How many sons did the German have?
- 4) What did Fritz dislike in childhood?
- 5) When did Fritz make his wish come true?
- 6) What did Fritz do with the wells?
- 7) Why couldn't the old soldier drink any water from the well?
- 8) What happened to the wells after the soldier's death?

Text 2

In 1608 an Englishman whose name was Thomas Coryate visited Italy. He liked the country and noted down every interesting thing he found. But there was one thing which he found more interesting than the others. In his diary Thomas wrote, "When the Italians eat meat, they use small forks. They don't eat with hands because, as they say, do not always have clean hands".

Before leaving for England, Thomas Coryate bought a few forks.

At home Thomas gave a dinner party to show the invention to his friends. When the servant brought the steak, he took out a fork and began to eat like they did in Italy.

Everybody looked at him in surprise. When he told his friends what it was, they all wanted to take a good look at the strange thing. All his friends said that the Italians were very strange people because the fork was very inconvenient.

Thomas Coryate tried to prove the opposite. He said it was not nice to eat with one's fingers because they were not always clean.

Everybody got angry at that. Did Mr. Coryate think that people in England always had dirty hands? And weren't the ten fingers they had enough for them?

Thomas Coryate wanted to show that it was very easy to use the fork. But the first piece of meat he took with the fork fell to the floor. His friends began to laugh and he had to take the fork away.

Only fifty years later people in England began to use forks.

1. Translate the following sentences into Russian:

In 1608 an Englishman whose name was Thomas Coryate visited Italy.

But there was one thing which he found more interesting than the others.

He said it was not nice to eat with one's fingers because they were not always clean.

But the first piece of meat he took with the fork fell to the floor.

2. Correct according to the contents of the text :

They eat with the hands because, as they say, do not always have clean hands.

Everybody got happy at that.

Only seventy years later people in England began to use forks.

When the servant brought the steak, he took out a knife and began to eat like they did in Italy.

Text 3

London

London is the capital of Great Britain. London is a very old town. London is two thousand years old. Many years ago London was a small town on the Thames. There were a lot of villages round it. After many years London and three hundred villages grew into a very large city. Some of the names of those villages are the names of the streets in modern London-Kensington, Westminster.

Now London is a beautiful city with large squares and parks. The city of London is the business centre. East End includes the poor districts. West of London is the West End where rich people live.

Trafalgar Square is in the centre of the West End of London. In the centre of Trafalgar Square there is the column made of granite. On the top of the column there is a 17-foot-tall statue of Admiral Nelson who defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1809. The total high of the monument is 184 feet (44 meters). On the pedestal is a bronze relief cast from a captured French cannon, representing Nelson's victory.

On the North side of Trafalgar Square is the National Gallery.

The National Gallery has one of the finest collections of pictures in the world.

Trafalgar Square is one of the busiest place in London, where people go to and from the work, it is hard to cross the street.

Text 4

The Christmas Tree

No one _1_ for sure who decorated the first Christmas tree . The _2_ of bringing an evergreen tree indoors and _3_ it at Christmas started in Germany. One _4_ says that Martin Luther started the practice. Luther was an important Christian _5_ . According to the story, he noticed the starlit sky as he walked home one Christmas Eve about the year 1513. He thought the stars looked as if they were shining on the branches. When he arrived home, Martin Luther placed a small fir tree _6_ his house. He decorated it with lighted candles.

Decorating Christmas trees became _7_ in Germany. Prince Albert of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, the German husband of Queen Victoria, took the tradition to England. Both German and English people brought it to America. And now nearly every family in Great Britain and the USA has a _8_ tree.

The biggest Christmas tree in Britain is put up in Trafalgar Square in _9_ .

The people of Norway still give this tree every year to the _10_ to thank them for helping Norway against Hitler in the second World War.

Chose the right answer:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| a) knows | b) begins | c) decides | d) is |
| a) tree | b) legend | c) story | d) custom |
| a) showing | b) giving | c) putting | d) decorating |
| a) story | b) legend | c) fairy | d) novel |
| a) man | b) saint | c) leader | d) woman |
| a) inside | b) outside | c) upside | d) offside |
| a) comfortable | b) beautiful | c) public | d) popular |
| a) Christmas | b) fir | c) pine | d) birch |
| a) London | b) Paris | c) Moscow | d) Madrid |
| a) French people | b) British people | c) Irish people | d) Russian people |

Text 5

THE STORY OF MY TROUBLES

From my childhood I was an easily taught and obedient boy. My kindness was so noticeable that my friends made fun of me. I was especially fond of animals and had a great number of pets. With these I spent most of my time, and never was so happy as when feeding and playing with them. My character did not change much when I grew up.

I married early, and was happy to find in my wife a character very much like my own. Seeing my love for pets she never lost a chance of getting the most pleasant animals. We had birds, gold-fish, a fine dog, rabbits, a small monkey, and a cat.

This cat was a remarkably large and beautiful animal, quite black and surprisingly clever. In speaking of his cleverness, my wife, who was a superstitious woman, often mentioned the old popular belief, which considered all black cats to be in disguise. Pluto- this was the cat's name- was my favourite pet and playmate. I alone fed him, and he followed me everywhere about the house. It was even with difficulty that I could prevent him following me through the streets.

Our friendship lasted for several years, during which my character (I blush to confess it) had changed for the worse. I became day by day more moody and irritable. It often happened that I hurt the feelings of others; I suffered myself as I was rude to my wife. At last I even hit her.

My pets, of course, could feel the change in my character. In fact, I began to treat them cruelly. As for Pluto, I held back from cruelty as I did treat cruelly the rabbits, the monkey, or even the dog when they came in my way. But my illness took hold of me- for what other illness is like alcohol!- and at last even Pluto, who was now becoming old, even Pluto began to feel the effects of my temper.