

A New Friend

I did not die that day in 1660, but I felt very different about life after that. I saw that life is a gift. It's easy to die on an island when you are alone. There's no medicine. There's no one to help you.

I learnt new things all the time. The best month to start my vegetable garden was in February because it rained in March and April. I made plates and cups from wood or coconut shells. It felt like I was the only man on this earth, and I had to learn everything by myself. The biggest problem was that I wanted to talk to someone. Then something wonderful happened.

Poll and I went for a walk one day through the forest. I heard a bird flying around my head, and I saw that it was a parrot. A small green parrot with yellow feathers on top of its head.

"Hello."

"Hello."

"It talks! It talks Poll, it talks!"

"It talks, it talks!"

That little bird made me laugh, and I was so happy to have a new friend. Every day, I tried to teach it a new word. After several years, we could almost have a dialogue. I came back to our tent in the morning after a swim in the sea, and we had conversations like this:

"What should we have for breakfast?"

"Fruit and milk. Fruit and milk."

"And what do you want for breakfast?"

"Nuts. Nuts."

"You see, Poll, he knows what he wants."

"Stupid Poll. Stupid Poll."

Poll barked when the bird said this. I didn't want to teach him that, but he heard me say it and he remembered it.

I talked to Poll and the parrot like they were people. It made me feel very good, but there was still something missing. I still wanted to see another person.

I made a small boat from a tree. But the sea was too dangerous, so I stayed close to the island.

The island I was on was large. I found many new beaches and many new kinds of fruits with the boat. And that's when I saw the footprints. Someone else was on the island, but I did not know if they were friendly or not.



The Natives

After I saw the ^{tracks} footprints, I stayed close to my tent. I thought natives might be on the island. When I went out, I took Poll and the gun with me.

I didn't see anyone else on the island for a long time. Maybe someone came to the island, saw that no one was there, and then left. But that meant others knew about the island. I was always afraid that they might come again.

One night, I had a very strange dream. I saw that there were natives on the island and had two native prisoners with them. They were going to kill one. He escaped and found me. He was very friendly.

"I can help you leave the island," he said.

When I woke up, I felt both afraid and happy. I was afraid of the natives, but the one in my dream was so kind, I felt he was a friend.

Time passed. I planted new kinds of food, I hunted and I thought of new ways to leave the island. Then, one morning, when I was on the hill above the beach, I saw five canoes on the beach. Near them I saw about thirty natives sitting around a fire. One of the natives was a prisoner. The others wanted to kill him.

Suddenly, the prisoner started to run. He ran into the forest, and ten or twelve others took their spears and went after him. I climbed down the hill to go back to my tent, but I stopped in the forest when I heard their voices. They spoke in a strange language. I realised they were close to my tent,

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so I ran ahead to stop them.

I knew the island very well, so I knew where to hide. They tried to swim across the small river at the bottom of my hill. The prisoner got out of the water first. He ran towards where I was hiding behind a tree. There were only two other natives following him now. When they got out of the water, I came out from behind the tree and fired two shots and killed them both. The prisoner stopped running. I think he was more surprised to see me than to hear the sound of my gun. He fell to his knees, tired.

"It's alright. I'm not going to kill you."

The prisoner did not understand me. He crawled along the ground and kissed my foot. I think he thought I was the king of this island. I tried to make him understand me by using my hands.

"It's OK. I am a friend. Come! I'll give you food. Come, come!"

And that's how I started one of the best friendships of my life.



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Name: Parrot
Features: brightly coloured feathers, a tail, beak
Habitat: hot countries, different parts of the world
Abilities: very good mimics
Food: nuts, fruit, seeds, insects
Lifespan: up to 80 years

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Name: Elephant
Features: grey or brown skin, long trunk and big ears
Weight: about 4,000 kg
Habitat: on the plains of Africa and India
Abilities: very good memory, take revenge
Food: grass, leaves, fruit
Lifespan: about 60 years

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C Match the names with the pictures. If you could only take three things with you on a desert island, which would you take and why?

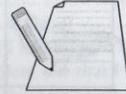
axe, pen and paper, toothbrush, guitar, mobile phone, bottle, gun, magnifying glass, matches, torch



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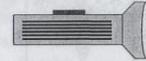
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Vocabulary Exercises

Replace the words in bold with their opposites.

easy	no one	laugh
different	best	stupid

- 1 He is a very **clever** man.
- 2 This exercise is very **difficult**.
- 3 My brother and I look **alike**.
- 4 He is the **worst** student in the class.
- 5 When she heard his story, she wanted to **cry**.
- 6 **Everybody** enjoyed the party.

Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the box.

hear	bark	start
learn	fly	another

- 1 Schools in September and finish in June.
- 2 I can the phone ringing.
- 3 Can I have piece of cake, please?
- 4 Dogs and cats miaow.
- 5 Birds in the sky.
- 6 Students new things at school.

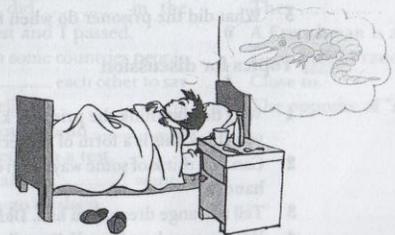
Fill in the gaps with the correct prepositions.

in, of, by, for, for

- 1 I need some help. I can't do everything myself.
- 2 It's a lovely day! Let's go a walk.
- 3 As it was very hot, we decided to swim the lake.
- 4 This year we are going on holiday August.
- 5 The parrot has yellow feathers on top its head.

Read the passage and guess the meaning of the words in bold.

Yesterday I had a strange **dream**. I was swimming in a **river** when suddenly a crocodile appeared and wanted to **kill** me. I started swimming very fast but the crocodile **followed** me. I was very **tired** and could not swim anymore but the crocodile was still **behind** me. **Then**, I heard a strange **voice**. I looked around to see who it was, but I couldn't see anyone. I heard the same voice again and **realised** that it was my mother who was trying to wake me up for school.



B Try to imagine how the natives that Robinson met live. Write a similar description to the one about Pygmies. Use the notes to help you.



- Where they live:** e.g. Caribbean islands
- Appearance:** e.g. tall, slim etc.
- Clothes:** e.g. grass skirts, animal tooth necklaces etc.
- Houses:** e.g. huts etc.
- Occupation:** e.g. hunters, fishermen etc.
- Equipment:** e.g. canoes, spears etc.
- Character:** e.g. kind, friendly etc.

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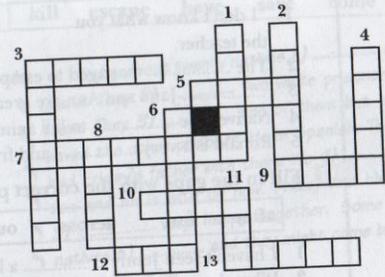
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Vocabulary Exercises

Fill in the crossword below.



- | | |
|--|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 3 The Nile is the longest in Africa. | 1 Dogs make a lot of when they bark. |
| 5 It's wrong to endangered species. | 2 "I will you everywhere", said Friday. |
| 7 I speak the English fluently. | 3 To suddenly understand. |
| 9 I did in the test and I passed. | 4 Babies don't walk. They |
| 10 In some countries people each other to say hello. | 6 A Frenchman is a of France. |
| 12 You should a pencil in a test. | 8 Close to. |
| 13 I am I want to go to sleep. | 11 The opposite of "stand". |

1. Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

prisoner kind spears mean both

- 1 "I don't know what you", the student said to the teacher.
- 2 The managed to escape from prison.
- 3 Jane and Ann are great dancers.
- 4 Natives use to kill animals.
- 5 Ronald is a very and friendly person.

2. Fill in the gaps with the correct prepositions.

after for across out of

- 1 I haven't seen Jenny a long time.
- 2 What do you think the new teacher? Do you like him?
- 3 The policeman ordered the man to get of the car.
- 4 The dog went the cat.
- 5 We swam to the other side of the river.

3. Look at the words in bold and try to guess their meanings.

Once, when I was still a **student** at school, I visited my uncle's farm. There were many **animals** there like horses, cows and rabbits. In the morning, my uncle and I milked the cows but **by mistake** I spilt some milk. Then, I went horseriding. It was very **funny** when I fell off the horse. Everybody laughed at me. After that, some of the animals were **hungry** so I gave them some food but the rabbits were **frightened** of me so they ran away. Later in the afternoon I helped my uncle **build** a fence. I really **enjoyed** myself that day.

Friday

1. Listening



Listen to the recording and put R for Robinson, F for Friday and P for parrot.

- 1 "I will teach you my language."
- 2 "It's OK. I won't kill you."
- 3 "Guns kill people."
- 4 "We are friendly if you are friendly."
- 5 "Yes, I loved our king very much."

2. Comprehension questions

- 1 What did Robinson give the native prisoner to eat?
- 2 Why did Robinson call him Friday?
- 3 Why did Robinson teach the bird to talk?
- 4 Why did they begin to build a boat?
- 5 What did Friday teach Robinson?

3. Topics for discussion

- 1 What are the first English words you learnt?
- 2 Have you ever helped someone in need? What did you do?
- 3 If you were Robinson, how would you help Friday?
- 4 What are the most important qualities that a friend should have?