

# The Dragon And The Hero

Thousands of years ago, Vladimir-I was the prince of the old city of Kiev in Russia. One day he held a great feast. He invited the princes and noble men, rich merchants and brave warriors and knights.

On the night of the feast, Prince Vladimir and his guests sat together at a long table in the big hall. The guests talked and **cracked** jokes to make laugh each other.

Suddenly a dragon burst into the hall. He walked to the table and pushed himself between Prince Vladimir and his wife, Princess Aprakshya. The **Dragon** was twice as tall as a man with teeth like spikes and claws like knives. When he opened his mouth, flames shot forth and black smoke curled up out of his nostrils.

Everyone was too frightened to say a word. Everyone, that is, except the hero Alyosha Popovich. He **glared** angrily **at** the dragon and said loudly, “What kind of ill-mannered creature are you?”

The dragon did not reply. He took the whole pie from the **platter** and swallowed it whole. Then he drank all the wine of a large **flagon**.

“What a glutton!” yelled the hero “You have no more manners than a pig!”

This was too much for the dragon. He sprang to his feet. “Will you come outside and fight me, Alyosha Popovich?” he roared





“Of course,” said the hero, with a cheerful smile.

They both moved to the courtyard.

The princes, nobles and rich merchants agreed that Alyosha Popovich had no chance at all against the dragon. They began to make bets amongst themselves as to how long it would take to the dragon to finish off the hero!

“Well, Alyosha Popovich, how would you like to die ?” asked the dragon with a **dreadful** smile. “Shall I chew you to bits with my spike like teeth ?

Shall I slice you to pieces with my knife like claws ? Shall I roast you to a **cinder** with my fiery breath ?”

But Alyosha put his hands on his hips and scowled, “Now, see here,” he said angrily. “This was to be a fight between just the two of us!” He pointed behind the dragon, “Why have you brought an army here to help you fight ?”

Dragons are not very clever, but heroes are. The dragon turned to see what Alyosha was pointing at. Quick as a finger snap, Alyosha drew his sword and cut off the dragon’s head!

## Word Treasure

**cracked** : told jokes

**dragon** : a large imaginary animal that has wings and a long tail can breathe out fire

**glare at** : to look angrily at someone for a long time

**platter** : a large plate from which food is served

**flagon** : a large pot from which wine is served

**dreadful** : extremely fearful

**cinder** : a very small piece of burnt wood, coal etc.



## EXERCISE TIME

### Comprehension Skills

#### A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- Who was the prince of the old city of Kiev ?  
a. Vladimir-I     b. Alyosha Popovich     c. Aprakshya
- Who was the hero ?  
a. Vladimir     b. dragon     c. Alyosha Popovich
- Who pushed himself between the prince and his wife ?  
a. dragon     b. Alyosha     c. Knight

#### B. Fill in the blanks with the correct option :

manners, army, word, Alyosha, knife

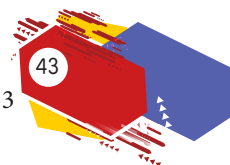
- Everyone was too frightened to say a \_\_\_\_\_.
- You have no more \_\_\_\_\_ than a pig.
- Shall I slice you to pieces with my \_\_\_\_\_ like claws ?
- Why have you brought an \_\_\_\_\_ here to help you fight ?
- The dragon turned to see what \_\_\_\_\_ was pointing at.

#### C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

- Prince Vladimir invited to all mean and poor servants in his great feast.
- At one night a long snake burst into the hall.
- The dragon did not get reply of the prince.
- The dragon was so clever.
- The dragon asked Alyosha to fight with him.

#### D. Answer the following questions :

- Who held a great feast ?
- What happened when the dragon opened his mouth ?
- What did the noble men think about the fight of Alyosha and the dragon ?
- Why did the dragon ask Alyosha to fight with him ?
- What did Alyosha say to the dragon at the time of fight ?



## Fun with Words

### E. You like to read fairy tales. The characters in fairy tales are the following :

- Princess** : a daughter of a king and a queen or the wife of a prince
- Fairy** : a small imaginary creature with magic powers, which looks like a very small person
- Mermaid** : an imaginary woman who has a fish's tail instead of legs and who lives in the sea.
- Elf** : an imaginary creature like a small person with pointed ears and magical powers
- Magician** : a man in stories who can use magic (special powers to do impossible things—very enjoyable, exciting or romantic in a strange or special way)
- Witch** : a woman who is supposed to have magic powers, especially to do bad things
- Dragon** : a large imaginary animal that has wings and a long tail and can breathe out fire
- Knight** : a man with a high rank in the past who was trained in fighting while riding a horse.

The knight saves someone, especially a princess from a dangerous situation.

## Essential Grammar

We use **Present Simple Tense** for everyday actions — facts, habitual actions, actions somebody does often. We use **plural verb** (original form) **for plural doer noun**, I, we, you or they. But we use singular verb for singular doer noun, he, she or it.

**To change plural verb into singular**, we add **s** or **es** to the original form. For example,

play → plays                      make → makes                      go → goes

### Examples of Present Simple Tense

1. The sun **rises** in the east. (fact)
2. The horses **run** very fast. (habitual actions)
3. Diana **plays** the piano very well. (actions somebody does often)
4. They **go** to the theatre at night show.

**F. Fill in the blanks with the present simple tense of the verbs in brackets :**

1. Stars \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. (twinkle)
2. Birds \_\_\_\_\_ in the air. (fly)
3. Papa \_\_\_\_\_ us to the pool every Sunday. (take)
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ ice-cream. (like)
5. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ his car every Saturday. (wash)

**G. In negative sentences of Present Simple Tense, we use 'do not + plural verb' after plural doer noun-: I, we, you or they :**

- Ex. :
1. I **do not take** my lunch in a restaurant.
  2. They do not play tennis.
  3. Paul and Sandra **do not drink** coffee.

We use 'does not + plural verb' after singular doer : he, she or it.

1. He **does not watch** television now and then.
2. It **does not bark** at every passerby.

**Change the following sentences into negative form :**

1. I like washing car. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tom and Ann play tennis. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Children like chocolates. \_\_\_\_\_
4. It rains a lot here. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She washes her clothes every day. \_\_\_\_\_

## Essential Speaking

**How do you feel in different situations :**

A : "How do you feel when someone insults you ?"

B : "I feel really sad."

A : "How do you feel when you see a snake in your way ?"

B : "I feel really frightened."

A : "How do you feel when you go on a holiday ?"

B : "I feel really excited. "

A : "How do you feel when a stranger tells his relationship with you ?"

B : "I feel really surprised."

Here is some more talk about feelings :

Upset, angry, happy, astonished.

I. Use these expressions in your conversation in class :

## Essential Writing

J. Write about your teacher. Fill in the blanks :

gentle, teacher, active, like, keeps, punctual, teaches

1. Mrs. Monica is our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She is a \_\_\_\_\_ lady.
3. She always \_\_\_\_\_ smiling.
4. She is always \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ us well.
7. We all \_\_\_\_\_ her very much.

Now write all the sentences in your notebook.

## Fun to Do

K. Write the rhyming words to complete the rhyme.

joy, bun, pair, near

1. My pet is fun.  
I give him a \_\_\_\_\_
2. It is like a toy.  
Which gives me \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is so dear.  
I keep it \_\_\_\_\_.
4. How much I care.  
We make a \_\_\_\_\_.

