Zeiten-Mix: The Letter

EXERCISE 1 Fill in the verbs in the right tense: past progressive, simple past, present progressive, simple present, present perfect, will-future.

1. It was a dark and stormy night. A cold wind ___________________ (howl) around the castle and the rain ___________________ (hammer) against the windows.
2. Sir Henry ___________________ (sit) in his bedroom and ___________________ (read) the Times when the doorbell ___________________ (ring). He ___________________ (be) very surprised – after all, it ___________________ (be) past twelve o’clock!
3. Still he ___________________ (get up) and ___________________ (go) downstairs to open the door. The bell ___________________ (keep) ringing.
4. “Yes, yes, I ___________________ (come)!“ he ___________________ (call) loudly. He ___________________ (be) a bit angry. Wasn’t it a bit late for a visit?
5. But when he ___________________ (open) the door, he ___________________ (get) a shock. A tall man in black clothes ___________________ (stand) in the rain. Sir Henry ___________________ (cannot/see) his face because he ___________________ (wear) a dark hood (Kapuze).
6. “Who ___________________ (be/you)?”, he ___________________ (ask) nervously. “What ___________________ (want/you)?”
7. “I ___________________ (come) from London to give you this letter”, the stranger ___________________ (answer).
8. “A letter? Who ___________________ (be) it from? Why ___________________ (cannot/send/they) it by mail?”
9. “I’m sorry, but I ___________________ (cannot) tell you that. This letter ________________ (be) really important. We ___________________ (cannot/risk) losing it. That’s why I ___________________ (come) here in person. Now, good night, Sir Henry.”
10. He ___________________ (disappear) in the darkness. Sir Henry ___________________ (stare) down at the letter, puzzled (verwirrt) and a little frightened. Then he ___________________ (decide) to go up to his room again and to open the letter.
11. “Now, that’s the strangest thing I ___________________ (ever/see)”, he said quietly. Even the paper ___________________ (be) strange – it ___________________ (look) old and ___________________ (smell) dusty. He ___________________ (read):
12. “Dear Sir Henry,
You ________________ (be) in great danger. You ________________ (must come) to London
next Sunday – I ________________ (want) to meet you there. Then I ________________ (tell)
you everything I ________________ (know). Horrible things ________________ (happen) if
you ________________ (not talk) to me!
Please ________________ (meet) me at three o’clock in Hyde Park. I ________________ (find)
you.
Yours sincerely, A Friend.”
13. Now, that ________________ (be) really strange! But Sir Henry ________________ (be)
curious. He ________________ (want) to know what this man had been talking about. He would
go to London. And he could take his butler with him – that would be safe enough!

EXERCISE 2 Free Text Production. Answer these questions in full sentences.

➢ What could Sir Henry look like? What hobbies could he have? Describe him as you
imagine him.
➢ What would you do in Sir Henry’s situation? Would you meet the letter-writer?
   Why/Why not?
➢ What could happen next? Why does somebody want to talk to Sir Henry? Continue
   the story.
Lösung

1. It was a dark and stormy night. A cold wind was howling around the castle and the rain was hammering against the windows.
2. Sir Henry was sitting in his bedroom and was reading the Times when the doorbell rang. He was very surprised – after all, it was past twelve o’clock!
3. Still he got and went downstairs to open the door. The bell kept ringing.
4. “Yes, yes, I’m coming!” he called loudly. He was a bit angry. Wasn’t it a bit late for a visit?
5. But when he opened the door, he got a shock. A tall man in black clothes was standing in the rain. Sir Henry couldn’t see his face because he was wearing a dark hood (Kapuze).
6. “Who are you?”, he asked nervously. “What do you want?”
7. “I’ve come from London to give you this letter”, the stranger answered.
8. “A letter? Who is it from? Why can’t they send it by mail?”
9. “I’m sorry, but I can’t tell you that. This letter is really important. We can’t risk losing it. That’s why I came here in person. Now, good night, Sir Henry.”
10. He disappeared in the darkness. Sir Henry stared down at the letter, puzzled (verwirrt) and a little frightened. Then he decided to go up to his room again and to open the letter.
11. “Now, that’s the strangest thing I’ve ever seen”, he said quietly. Even the paper was strange – it looked old and smelled dusty. He read:
12. “Dear Sir Henry,
You are in great danger. You must come to London next Sunday – I want to meet you there. Then I will tell you everything I know. Horrible things will happen if you don’t talk to me! Please meet me at three o’clock in Hyde Park. I will find you.
Yours sincerely, A Friend.”
13. Now, that was really strange! But Sir Henry was curious. He wanted to know what this man had been talking about. He would go to London. And he could take his butler with him – that would be safe enough!