

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!

-----TO BE CONTINUED-----

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!