

Adventures on the Tenses Mountains

Past - Present – Future

Ist Edition



George E. Kissamitakis

*Adventures in the Grammarian Kingdom
Series*

Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate students
Stories written for a better understanding of the English tenses

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*D*edication

*With special gratitude to
my sister Maritsa and my brother-in-law Sergio,
for without them, my life would be
completely different.*

*And of course, to all of my students,
but especially to
Maria, and Pablo,
for whom I wrote these stories.*



Free Sample

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Grammarians Kingdom



Story 1.
Present Tenses
Mountains



THE OLD MAN'S WARNING

*“Traveler! You who seeks knowledge!
Your journey is long and difficult!”*

You turn and see an old man wearing a grey *cloak* staring at you. His eyes seem kind and wise.

“These mountains are not for the faint-hearted. You will face the 4 Guards of the Present Tenses. Two brothers and two sisters. Monsters and beasts lurk in every shadow.

“But the final quest...” the old man continues *“... is much more challenging!”*

“What are you talking about? You are mad!” you shouted at him.



The old man laughs and *vanishes* in a puff of smoke, nowhere to be found.

For a moment you stand and try to understand what had just happened. Then, you shake your head to get rid of the thoughts you have as if everything you saw was in your imagination.

A small path leading to the first mountain is up ahead and you decide to follow it.

Words

Seek: attempt to find (something)

Knowledge: facts, information, and skills acquired through

experience or education

Cloak: an outdoor

overgarment, typically

sleeveless, that hangs loosely

from the shoulders

Faint-hearted:

with no courage

Guard: watch over to protect or control

Beast: An animal, especially a large

or dangerous

four-footed one

Lurk: be or remain hidden so

as to wait in ambush for

someone or something

Quest: a long search for something

Challenging: testing

one's abilities

Vanish: to disappear

Exercises Chapter I – The Old Man’s Warning

Vocabulary review and practice – Do you remember the meaning?

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Seek | a) facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or education |
| Knowledge | b) attempt to find (something) |
| Cloak | c) a long search for something |
| Guard | d) testing one's abilities |
| Beast | e) to disappear |
| Quest | f) An animal, especially a large or dangerous four-footed one |
| Challenge | g) watch over to protect or control. |
| Vanish | h) an outdoor overgarment, typically sleeveless, that hangs loosely from the shoulders |

Make a sentence with each word or phrase. If possible, the sentences should form a small story:

Questions

What does the old man warn you about?

Do you believe him?

What happens to him?

THE FIRST GUARD

The old man's **warning** came to be true.

The First Guard appears in front of you out of nowhere. He stands tall and blocks your way. He holds a huge sword and a shield.

Peter the **Just** is the one to guard the Present Simple Mountain.

At first, you are a little bit scared but then, you find out that he is **kind** and **fair** and offers you food and **shelter**.

He likes to talk about his habits and the general truths of the world.

When you talk to him you speak about your habits. It is something he appreciates deeply.

"Tell me, my friend, what do you like to do as a hobby?"

You answer:

After you give your answer, he replies:

"Excellent! Thank you for the conversation my friend."

He gets up and shows me a path.

"Follow this path to the Present Continuous Mountain..." he says *"... but be incredibly careful. My sister is not as **kind** as I am."*

Words

Warning:
cautionary advice

Just: based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair

Kind: Polite; Good hearted

Fair: without cheating or trying to achieve unjust advantage

Shelter: a place giving temporary protection from bad weather or danger

Exercises Chapter 2 – Peter the Just

Vocabulary review and practice – Do you remember the meaning?

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Warning | a) a place giving temporary protection from bad weather or danger |
| Just | b) without cheating or trying to achieve unjust advantage |
| Kind | c) cautionary advice. |
| Fair | d) Polite; Good hearted |
| Shelter | e) based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair |

Make a sentence with each word or phrase. If possible, the sentences should form a small story:

Questions

Is the old man's warning true?

- Yes
- No

What does Peter the Just guard?

- The Present Simple Book
- The Present Simple Mountain

Peter is:

- Rude and did not offer you food and shelter
- Kind and offered you food and shelter

When do we use the Present Simple? OR What does Peter like to talk about?

What are your habits?
