

ENCOUNTER WITH A LION.

[Livingstone was a famous traveller and missionary in Africa. The natives of a village were much troubled by lions, which leapt into the cattlepens by night, and destroyed their cows.]



It is well known that if one in a troop of lions is killed the others take the hint and leave that part of the country. So the next time the herds were attacked, I went with the people, in order to encourage them to get rid of the annoyance by destroying one of the marauders. We found the lions on a small hill which was covered with trees. A circle of men was formed round it, and they gradually closed up, ascending pretty near to each other. Being down below on the plain with a native schoolmaster, named Mebalwe, I saw one of the lions sitting on a piece of rock

within the now closed circle of men. Mebalwe fired at him before I could, and the bullet struck the rock on which the animal was sitting. He bit at the spot struck, : as a dog does at a stick or stone thrown at him; then, leaping away, broke through the opening circle and escaped unhurt.

The men were afraid to attack him, perhaps on account of their belief in witchcraft. When the circle was re-formed, we saw two other lions in it; but we were afraid to fire lest we should strike the men, and they allowed the beasts to burst through also. If the Bakatla had acted according to the custom of the country, so they would have speared the lions in their attempt to get out. Seeing we could not get them to kill one of the lions, we went back towards the village. In going round the end of the hill, however, I saw one of the beasts sitting on a piece of rock as before, but this time he had a little bush in front. Being about thirty yards off, I took a good aim at his body through the bush, and fired both barrels into it.



Exercises.

A) Compléter avec des prépositions s'il y a lieu : — 1. Did the native schoolmaster obey ... Livingstone. — 2. He aimed ... the lion ... the bush. — 3. Look ... my rifle. It's empty; I can't find my cartridges although I've been looking ... them all over the house. — 4. The native entered ... the village, listening ... all the noises. — 5. The hill was covered ... trees; I climbed ... one of them, but found it difficult to climb down.;

B) Traduire : — 1. Les hommes devaient (to be to) se tenir très près les uns des autres. — 2. L'instituteur tira sur le lion; Livingstone en fit autant. — 3. Ils s'écartèrent (to step apart) les uns des autres; le premier lion s'échappa, le second fit de même (the same). — 4. Serrez-vous tout près (close to) les uns des autres, de crainte que le lion ne passe entre vous. — 5. Il n'a pas saisi l'allusion et ne s'est pas débarrassé de la mauvaise habitude (habit) de fumer pendant les repas (meals).

ENCOUNTER WITH A LION (1)

1. I did not dare to tell him openly that I was very busy, and I should have liked **to be left alone**. I only **hinted** ['hintid] at it (told him indirectly). But he did not **take the hint** (did not understand). There are people who cannot take a hint. It is often most **annoying** [ə'noɪɪŋ] (it makes you angry).

2. You are sitting too far apart. **Close up!** ['klouz'ʌp] (sit closer ['klouzə] together). It will allow you to hear me better.

So that the spectators of the film could see (to allow them to see) the **details** ['di:teɪlz] of her face, the actress was **shot** (photographed) from a short distance, **at close range**. In this **close up** ['klouz'ʌp] (gros plan) you could see the tears **gradually** ['grædʒuəli] (little by little) forming in her eyes, and running down her cheeks. It was a remarkable [ri'mɑ:kəbl] shot (Fr. plan).

3. **On account** [ɔn ə'kaunt] (because) **of the marauders** [mə'rɔ:dəz] that would rob the orchard of its fruit (steal the fruit from the orchard), they put up a **fence** [fens] all around it. Thus they got rid of this **annoyance** [ə'noɪəns].

4. The long round pipe of a rifle through which the bullet passes is called the **barrel** ['bærəl]. Do not touch the barrel when you fire, **lest** (for fear that) you should burn your fingers.

5. A **pen** is a small **enclosure** [in'klouzə] for cows, sheep, poultry, etc. The cows, sheep, poultry etc., are **pent up** there (shut in).

6. A **bomb** [bɒm] burst near the house. The house burst into fire. The windows burst open. Big flames burst out through the windows.

7. To **encourage** [in'kʌrɪdʒ] — to **ascend** [ə'send].

Compare : **close** (adj. or adv.) [klouz] — to **close** (verb) [klouz].
detail (subst.) ['di:teɪl] — to **detail** (verb) [di'teɪl].

Livingstone ['lɪvɪŋstən].