

This is not a word-for-word transcript

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Future perfect

Gulliver narrator

Come here and listen to my tale – for I am Gulliver, and I have seen many strange things in my life, and many parts of the world that should not be seen. The land of Lilliput with tiny people, no bigger than my foot... And now this land, Brobdingnag, where I am but a mouse beside the giants who live here.

And today, I was to meet the King of Brobdingnag.

King

Welcome, Gulliver. Tell me, how do you like my Kingdom?

Gulliver

Your Majesty, your people have been extremely kind to me. I dine on delicious food with the Queen, and live in a beautiful house made just for me. Next week I'll **have lived** here for one year.

King

Well, I see. But...?

Gulliver

But, your Majesty, this is not my home. I miss my own people, and wish to return there.

King

Ah yes. The Queen has told me about a place called... England? Tell me, do you have laws in England?

Gulliver

Yes we do. And we have policies too, and political parties... the debates between our parties are magnificent!

King

Political parties! But you're so small. Oh, I say!

Gulliver

Yes, we have the Whigs and the Tories.

King

And which are you – a Whig or a Tory?

Gulliver narrator

The more I talked about England, the more he just laughed. I needed to tell him something that would impress him – make him realise what a great nation we were. Then I thought of it.

Gulliver

There is one thing we have in England, that you don't have in Brobdingnag, Sir.

King

And what's that, little man?

Gulliver

Gunpowder.

King

Gunpowder?

Gulliver

Yes, for all your guns.

King

Explain.

Gulliver

England's armies are the **envy** of the world. And the secret of our power is gunpowder. You see, powder is **rammed** into a **hollow** iron tube, and then set alight, forcing the ball of metal, through the tube...

Gulliver narrator

The King sat in silence.

Gulliver

We can destroy whole **ranks** of an army at once, sink down ships, attack cities and tear up their houses. It's **glorious**. And you can have the secret. I will offer it to you, to **enforce** your rule.

King

I am amazed, Gulliver.

Gulliver

Yes?

King

I am amazed at how a little insect like you, can have such **inhuman** ideas. The blood and **desolation** you speak of so familiarly: it comes from an evil source. Speak of this gunpowder no more.

Gulliver

No, your Majesty.

Gulliver narrator

I seem to have offended him, for the King nor Queen ever invited me back again. Nobody liked me at court. Only my dear friend Glumdalclitch still cared for me.

Gulliver

I need to get home.

Glumdalclitch

But I love it here Gulliver. I've learned to write, to sing, to sew... and they pay me well. Soon, I'll **have saved** enough to buy a new farm for Mum and Dad. I don't want to go home, not yet.

Gulliver

But I need to. Walk with me.

Gulliver narrator

Glumdalclitch took me in my travelling box and we set off. Soon the court was far behind us and we walked through the strange land of Brobdingnag. It was **vast** – at least 6,000 miles across. There was no way I could escape alone. And the island was surrounded by rough seas – so much so, that no other nations ever came to trade here. I was stuck.

Gulliver

What's that? Wait... where... Glumdalclitch!!!!

Glumdalclitch

Gulliver!!!

Gulliver narrator

I was being carried high into the sky by... a bird! I looked out from my case and yes – a huge eagle was carrying my travelling box in its claws. We went higher and higher – and Brobdingnag grew smaller.

And then we were over the sea – I saw the rough waves breaking beneath – before, with a great cry – he dropped my box – right down into the waters. I floated and floated for hours until I fell asleep on the waters...

Sailor

Hello, anyone there?

Gulliver narrator

English voices? I had been rescued.

Gulliver

It's me, Gulliver! Gosh you're... small!

Sailor

What? And why are you shouting?

Gulliver

Sorry. It's just... you wouldn't believe me.

Gulliver narrator

The journey home took a month, and soon I was nearing my own front door. My dear wife ran out to embrace me.

Gulliver's wife

My... my Gulliver?!

Gulliver

My... dear.

Gulliver narrator

And so my second voyage was at an end. In truth, it took me some time to adjust to life with my own people. I had seen such strange things.

Gulliver's wife

Promise me you will never go to sea again.

Gulliver narrator

I wish I could. But as you may guess, this was not my unfortunate destiny. On my next voyage, my life changed forever, and I saw the terrible things that man had created.

Vocabulary

gunpowder

a mixture of substances which explodes

envy

wanting something that someone else has

rammed

pushed forcefully

hollow

empty

ranks

rows of soldiers

glorious

wonderful, beautiful

enforce

make people do something or obey a rule

inhuman

cruel, not moral

desolation

a situation where everything has been destroyed

vast

huge

Questions

1. How long has Gulliver lived at the palace by the time he meets the King?
(Hint: He says "next week I'll have lived here for one year".)
 - a) Just under one year.
 - b) Exactly one year.
 - c) Just over one year.

2. Why is the King not impressed by gunpowder?
(Hint: What does 'inhuman ideas' mean?)
 - a) He thinks gunpowder is not a very advanced technology.
 - b) He thinks killing people with gunpowder is evil.
 - c) He thinks gunpowder is too complicated to produce in Brobdingnag.

3. Why does Gulliver shout when he sees the English sailor?
(Hint: How does he have to communicate with giants?)
 - a) Because he is used to having to shout when he speaks to much larger people.
 - b) Because he has been alone at sea for a long time.
 - c) Because English is not his first language.

Answers

1. How long has Gulliver lived at the palace by the time he meets the King?
 - a) **Just under one year. That's right. He says "next week I'll have lived here for one year," so at the time he meets the King it's under one year.**
 - b) Exactly one year. That's not right. He says "next week I'll have lived here for one year," so at the time he meets the King it's under one year.
 - c) Just over one year. That's not right. He says "next week I'll have lived here for one year," so at the time he meets the King it's under one year.

2. Why is the King not impressed by gunpowder?
 - a) He thinks gunpowder is not a very advanced technology. That's not right. What does 'inhuman ideas' mean?
 - b) **He thinks killing people with gunpowder is evil. That's right.**
 - c) He thinks gunpowder is too complicated to produce in Brobdingnag. That's not right. What does 'inhuman ideas' mean?

3. Why does Gulliver shout when he sees the English sailor?
 - a) **Because he is used to having to shout when he speaks to much larger people. That's right. The giants are much larger than him, so he has to shout to communicate with them.**
 - b) Because he has been alone at sea for a long time. That's not right. The giants are much larger than him, so he has to shout to communicate with them.
 - c) Because English is not his first language. That's not right. English is his first language. The giants are much larger than him, so he has to shout to communicate with them.