

## Reading & Language practice (в учебнике *English, English, Level B2*)

*The Chaser* by John Collier (1901-1980), British-born author and screenplay writer

На этом уровне текст может быть сокращен, если он большой, но не адаптирован. Незнакомые слова и выражения должны быть поняты студентами в ходе работы с текстом.

Можно составить любые традиционные задания: true/false/not stated; correct factual mistakes in the sentences given; match the chunks; put the sentences in the correct order to retell the text; say which sentences are direct statements and which are clear from the context; complete the description of a character/place; etc. Но здесь я предлагаю только задания на литературный анализ и интерпретацию текста. Ученики читают текст вслух маленькими отрывками. Учитель говорит, где остановиться, и задает вопросы. Ученики вопросов не видят, текст выглядит как обычно в их учебниках, и они должны ответить на вопросы, опираясь на текст. Ключевые слова и выражения подчеркнуты для учителя.

(1) Alan Austen, as nervous as a kitten, went up certain dark and creaky stairs in the neighborhood of Pell Street, and peered about for a long time on the dime landing before he found the name he wanted written obscurely on one of the doors.

**Questions: What kind of house does the hero find himself in? How is he feeling?**

(2) He pushed open this door, as he had been told to do, and found himself in a tiny room, which contained no furniture but a plain kitchen table, a rocking-chair, and an ordinary chair. On one of the dirty buff-colored walls were a couple of shelves, containing in all perhaps a dozen bottles and jars.

**Questions: What kind of room does Alan find himself in? What does/might the owner of this room do?**

(3) An old man sat in the rocking-chair, reading a newspaper. Alan, without a word, handed him the card he had been given. "Sit down, Mr. Austen," said the old man very politely. "I am glad to make your acquaintance."

"Is it true," asked Alan, "that you have a certain mixture that has er-quite extraordinary effects?"

"My dear sir," replied the old man, "my stock in trade is not very large - I don't deal in laxatives and teething mixtures-but such as it is, it is varied. I think nothing I sell has effects which could be precisely described as ordinary."

"Well, the fact is. . ." began Alan.

"Here, for example," interrupted the old man, reaching for a bottle from the shelf. "Here is a liquid as colorless as water, almost tasteless, quite imperceptible in coffee, wine, or any other beverage. It is also quite imperceptible to any known method of autopsy."

**Questions: What kind of man is the owner of the room? What does he do? What does he actually sell?**

(4) "Do you mean it is a poison?" cried Alan, very much horrified.

"Call it a glove-cleaner if you like," said the old man indifferently. "Maybe it will clean gloves. I have never tried. One might call it a life-cleaner. Lives need cleaning sometimes."

"I want nothing of that sort," said Alan.

"Probably it is just as well," said the old man. "Do you know the price of this? For one teaspoonful, which is sufficient, I ask five thousand dollars. Never less. Not a penny less."

"I hope all your mixtures are not as expensive," said Alan apprehensively.

"Oh dear, no," said the old man. "It would be no good charging that sort of price for a love potion, for example. Young people who need a love potion very seldom have five thousand dollars. Otherwise they would not need a love potion."

"I am glad to hear that," said Alan.

"I look at it like this," said the old man. "Please a customer with one article, and he will come back when he needs another. Even if it is more costly. He will save up for it, if necessary."

"So," said Alan, "you really do sell love potions?"

"If I did not sell love potions," said the old man, reaching for another bottle, "I should not have mentioned the other matter to you. It is only when one is in a position to oblige that one can afford to be so confidential."

"And these potions," said Alan. "They are not just-just-er-"

"Oh, no," said the old man. "Their effects are permanent, and extend far beyond the mere casual impulse. But they include it. Oh, yes they include it. Bountifully, insistently. Everlastingly."

"Dear me!" said Alan, attempting a look of scientific detachment. "How very interesting!"

"But consider the spiritual side," said the old man.

"I do, indeed," said Alan.

"For indifference," said the old man, they substitute devotion. For scorn, adoration. Give one tiny measure of this to the young lady - its flavour is imperceptible in orange juice, soup, or cocktails - and however gay and giddy she is, she will change altogether. She will want nothing but solitude and you."

**Questions: What is actually the 'life cleaner'? Why is it so expensive? What happens to a person who takes the love potion? How much can it cost (far more, the same as, or less than the life cleaner)?**

(5) "I can hardly believe it," said Alan. "She is so fond of parties."

"She will not like them anymore," said the old man. "She will be afraid of the pretty girls you may meet."

"She will actually be jealous?" cried Alan in a rapture. "Of me?"

"Yes, she will want to be everything to you."

"She is, already. Only she doesn't care about it."

"She will, when she has taken this. She will care intensely. You will be her sole interest in life."

"Wonderful!" cried Alan.

"She will want to know all you do," said the old man. "All that has happened to you during the day. Every word of it. She will want to know what you are thinking about, why you smile suddenly, why you are looking sad."

"That is love!" cried Alan.

"Yes," said the old man. "How carefully she will look after you! She will never allow you to be tired, to sit in a draught, to neglect your food. If you are an hour late, she will be terrified. She will think you are killed, or some siren has caught you."

"I can hardly imagine Diana like that!" cried Alan, overwhelmed with joy.

"You will not have to use your imagination," said the old man. "And, by the way, since there are always sirens, if by any chance you should, later on, slip a little, you need not worry. She will forgive you, in the end. She will be terribly hurt, of course, but she will forgive you-in the end."

"That will not happen," said Alan fervently.

"Of course not," said the old man. "But, if it did, you need not worry. She would never divorce you. Oh, no! And, of course, she will never give you the least, the very least, grounds for uneasiness."

"And how much," said Alan, "is this wonderful mixture?"

"It is not as dear," said the old man, "as the glove-cleaner, or life-cleaner, as I sometimes call it. No. That is five thousand dollars, never a penny less. One has to be older than you are, to indulge in that sort of thing. One has to save up for it."

"But the love potion?" said Alan.

"Oh, that," said the old man, opening the drawer in the kitchen table, and taking out a tiny, rather dirty-looking phial. "That is just a dollar."

**Questions: What kind of girl is Diana? How does Alan feel about her? How does she feel about him? What would life be like for Alan and Diana if she took the love potion? Is the picture drawn by the old man his, or Alan's, or stereotypical image of love? Can this kind of relationship be lasting? Why do you think such an effective potion is so cheap?**

(6) "I can't tell you how grateful I am," said Alan, watching him fill it.

"I like to oblige," said the old man. "Then customers come back, later in life, when they are better off, and want more expensive things. Here you are. You will find it very effective."

"Thank you again," said Alan. "Good-bye."

"Au revoir," said the man.

**Questions: What is the old man's philosophy like? Is he wise? Business-like? Cynical? Why did the old man say "Au revoir"? Is Alan supposed to come back?**

- A chaser is a drink, usually soft, following a strong alcoholic drink.

После прочтения текста и ответов на все предложенные вопросы задания на интерпретацию текста совмещаются с повторением пройденных тем. В моем учебнике *English, English* это Unit 3 с грамматической темой 'Ways of expressing the future' и лексической темой 'Gradable & strong adjectives'.

1. Answer the questions:

- What did Alan Austen want to purchase? Why?
- What is a love potion? What are the effects of the love potion the old man sells?
- What kind of person is Alan? Diana? The old chemist?
- Do you think Alan will come back? Why or why not?
- What does the title 'Chaser' mean?

Перед выполнением задания следует напомнить ученикам правила комментирования.

**1) Перефразировать цитату, показав, что понимаете значение. 2) Объяснить, что имел в виду (might/must have meant) автор. 3) Согласиться/Не согласиться с идеей. 4) Выразить свое мнение.**

2. Comment on the old chemist's quotes. 1) "Lives need cleaning sometimes." 2) "Young people who need a love potion very seldom have five thousand dollars. Otherwise they would not need a love potion."

Пользуясь таблицей, представленной в Юните, ученики должны увидеть следующие значения: **future prediction, promise, 1<sup>st</sup> conditional.**

3. Analyse the use of future forms in the story. Describe Alan's future as you see it.

**Таблица с gradable и strong adjectives и соответствующими наречиями дана в Юните.**

4. Speaking about the effects of the love potion the old man uses mainly gradable adjectives with the corresponding modifiers: *quite extraordinary; precisely described as; almost tasteless; quite imperceptible; so confidential; very effective; rather better off.*

Describe the effects of the love potion using strong adjectives given in the text and those you can think of, with modifiers like: *extremely, totally, absolutely, amazingly, incredibly, awfully, terribly, utterly.*

5. How could you characterise Alan's speech manner? Does he sound excited? Shy? Insecure? Lacking in drive? Eager? Frightened? Suspicious? Apprehensive? Insistent? Explain your choice.

**Далее предлагается творческое задание, которое можно выполнить как в классе, так и дома.**

Make up three conversations to role-play in class:

- 1) a dialogue between Alan Austen and his friend (Alan speaking about his love for Diana and his friend giving advice);
- 2) a talk between Diana and her two friends (Diana complaining about Alan pursuing her, one of the friends sympathising with her and the other defending Alan);
- 3) a dialogue between Alan and the old chemist a year (or a couple of years) later.

**Еще одно задание выполняется по желанию – дописать окончание истории.** Как правило, ученики соглашаются и проявляют чудеса изобретательности. Помимо убийства Дианы и самоубийства Алана, был роман Дианы и старого аптекаря, было бегство Алана на необитаемый остров, было полицейское расследование и арест старика.