**Outlander and Native**

**Vocabulary preview**

**Complete the following table where possible. You may use morphological variations of base words (e.g. honest / dishonest) or different lexical items (honest / crooked).**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adj positive** | **Adj negative** | **Noun** |
| *honest* | *dishonest*  *crooked* | *honesty* |
|  | *uncouth* |  |
| *affable* |  |  |
| *polite* |  |  |
|  | *cruel* |  |
|  | *vengeful* |  |
| *courteous* |  |  |
|  | *arrogant* |  |
|  | *rude* |  |
|  |  | *honor* |
|  | *condescending* |  |
|  | *foolish* |  |
| *mild* |  |  |
|  | *fierce* |  |

**Read the following extract from Chap IX.**

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| Before I left the tame West and came into this wild East, I would have asked a few questions myself, if I had known anyone to answer them. As it was, I turned up rather abruptly in a backwoods settlement where the “furriner” was more than a nine−days wonder. I bore no credentials; and it was quite as well. If I had presented a letter from some clergyman or from the President of the United States it would have been—just what I was myself—a curiosity: as when the puppy discovers some weird and marvellous new bug.  Everyone greeted me politely but with unfeigned interest. I was welcome to sup and bed wherever I went. Moonshiners and man−slayers were as affable as common folks. I dwelt alone for a long time, first in open camp, afterwards in a secluded hut. Then I boarded with a native family. Often I left my belongings to look out for themselves whilst I went away on expeditions of days or weeks at a time. And nobody ever stole from me so much as a fish−hook or a brass cartridge. So, in the retrospect, I smile.  Does this mean, then, that Poe's characterization of the mountaineers is out of date? Not at all. They are the same “fierce and uncouth race of men” to−day that they were in his time. Homicide is so prevalent in the districts that I personally am acquainted with that nearly every adult citizen has been directly interested in some murder case, either as principal, officer, witness, kinsman, or friend.  This grewsome subject I shall treat elsewhere, in detail. It is introduced here only to emphasize a fact pertinent to the present topic, namely: that the private wars of the highlanders are limited to their own people. In our corner of North Carolina no traveller from the outside ever has been a victim, nor do I know of any such case in the whole Appalachian region. [Illustration: Many of the homes have but one window]  And here is another significant fact: as regards personal property I do not know any race in the world that is more honest than our backwoodsmen of the southern mountains. As soon as you leave the railroad you enter a land where sneak−thieves are rare and burglars almost unheard of. In my own county and all those adjoining it there has been only one case of highway robbery and only one of murder for money, so far as I can learn, in the past forty years.  The mountain code of conduct is a curious mixture of savagery and civility. One man will kill another over a pig or a panel of fence (not for the property's sake, but because of hot words ensuing) and he will “come clear” in court because every fellow on the jury feels he would have done the same thing himself under similar provocation; yet these very men, vengeful and cruel though they are, regard hospitality as a sacred duty toward wayfarers of any degree, and the bare idea of stealing from a stranger would excite their instant loathing or white−hot scorn.  Anyone of tact and common sense can go as he pleases through the darkest corner of Appalachia without being molested. Tact, however, implies the will and the insight to put yourself truly in the other man's place. Imagine yourself born, bred, circumstanced like him. It implies, also, the courtesy of doing as you would be done by if you were in that fellow's shoes. No arrogance, no condescension, but man to man on a footing of equal manliness.  And there are “manners” in the rudest community: customs and rules of conduct that it is well to learn before one goes far afield. For example, when you stop at a mountain cabin, if no dogs sound an alarm, do not walk up to the door and knock. You are expected to call out Hello! until someone comes to inspect you. None but the most intimate neighbors neglect this usage and there is mighty good reason back of it in a land where the path to one's door may be a warpath. If you are armed, as a hunter, do not fail to remove the cartridges from the gun, in your host's presence, before you set foot on his porch. Then give him the weapon or stand it in a corner or hang it up in plain view. Even our sheriff, when he stopped with us, would lay his revolver on the mantel−shelf and leave it there until he went his way. If you think a moment you can see the courtesy of such an act. It proves that the guest puts implicit trust in the honor of his host and in his ability to protect all within his house. There never has been a case in which such trust was violated. I knew a traveler who, spending the night in a one−room cabin, was fool enough (I can use no milder term) to thrust a loaded revolver under his pillow when he went to bed. In the morning his weapon was still there, but empty, and its cartridges lay conspicuously on a table across the room. Nobody said a word about the incident: the hint was left to soak in. |

**Language Development**

**Characterization and verbs**

We often draw conclusions (i.e. make inferences) about a person’s character by observing how he or she acts. Normally, a single act is not sufficient; we look for habitual behaviour. For example, someone who on a single occasion takes an apple from a neighbor’s tree is not generally considered to be a thief. This term applies only if the behaviour is characteristic.

The English tense and aspect system provides several ways of suggesting that a person’s actions are habitual and therefore characteristic. Note also that habits are conceptualized as states.

The simple present refers almost exclusively to habitual actions and states.

*Mary walks to school*. (= every day; She is a pedestrian; She doesn’t contribute to air pollution, etc.)

*Mr Smith teaches history.* (= He is a teacher; That is his job; He doesn’t know anything about algebra, etc.)

The simple past may refer to single events or to repeated events. The intended meaning may be made clear by adverbials of time, such as *often, yesterday*, or *when I was a kid*, but subtler indicators may also be used.

*Ilaria wrote me an email*. (single event)

*My students wrote me emails.* (repeated events)

The modal *will* can also be used to suggest repeated events and, therefore, characteristic behaviour.

*Boys will be boys.* (= Boys tend to be a bit unruly.)

*She would sit on the porch in the evening and watch the nighthawks*. (= habit)

Find the passages in the text that correspond to the statements below and decide if each is intended to characterize or to report a single event. In the case of characterization try to find an approximate stative reformulation, such as *Monica writes with her left hand* = *Monica is left-handed*.

1. I left the tame West.

2. I was greeted politely.

3. I was welcome to have dinner.

4. I boarded with a native family.

5. I left my belongings.

6. Nobody stole from me.

7. The man will be cleared in court.

8. A traveller thrust a loaded revolved under his pillow.