
 LANGUE ANGLAISE

 English Dictation and Composition

THE SHIP WITH THREE CAPTAINS.

PART I.—THE FOUR SEAMEN.

Four men came begging to the door of a shipowner called Mr Horsfall, who was staying at that time in Staffordshire. They said they were distressed seamen, and their vessel the *Elizabeth* had been wrecked off the coast of Yorkshire. Mr Horsfall saw that one of the men was a seaman, but thought that he had picked up the other three men as he came along the road, to help him to get money. He resolved to find out whether or not this was the case. He told the seaman to stand where he was; sent one of the other three ten yards to the right; another ten yards to the left; and the third man ten yards to the front. They were very much puzzled to make out what he was going to do. This, however, became plain very soon.

PART II.—MR HORSFALL'S PLAN

He went to the man on the right, and said, « I am very sorry to hear that the *Elizabeth* was wrecked. What was the captain's name? » « Jones, » said the man. Then Mr Horsfall went to the man on the left. « It is a great pity, » said he, « that your ship has been wrecked. May I ask what was the name of your captain? » « Brown, Sir, answered the fellow. » Last of all, Mr Horsfall went to the man in front. « You must be in great distress now that the *Elizabeth* is wrecked. By the way, what was the name of the captain of your vessel? » « Captain Smith, » Sir. »

Then Mr Horsfall called all the men together and said: « I am sorry to find that the *Elizabeth* had three captains. Captain Jones, Captain Brown, and Captain Smith. Now, a vessel can never get on well with more than one captain. You knew this very well, and yet you went to sea in a ship which had three. You have been wrecked, you say, and you richly deserve it. Good-morning! »

PART I

- OUTLINE.—1. Four men come begging at Mr Horsfall's door.
 2. They pretend to be shipwrecked seamen.
 3. Mr Horsfall thinks that only one of them is a sailor.
 4. He resolves to find out.
 5. He makes the seaman remain where he is, and places the others at different distances.
 6. They are much puzzled by his doings.

PART II

- OUTLINE.—1. He asks the man on the right a question.
 2. His answer.
 3. He asks the man on the left the same question.
 4. His answer.
 5. He asks the man in front the same question.
 6. His answer.
 7. He calls the men together and says « — ».

(Taken from Meiklejohn's *Fables, Anecdotes and Stories for teaching composition.*)