



Topic: Pirates

Level: Advanced

Grammar Focus: Adjectives



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? These words will help you.

pirate treasure earring eye patch skull and cross bones parrot wooden leg



B. Read and discuss the following questions.

1. How did pirates traditionally get around? Car, train, aeroplane or ship?
2. Where do you think this pirate got his chest of gold coins from?
3. This pirate has two injuries. What are they? How do you think they happened?
4. What weapon would you expect a pirate to carry?

C. General chat about pirates.

What do pirates do with their treasure? Do pirates still exist? Have you seen any movies about pirates?

D. Word Play

Pirates are usually tough men who live outside the law. Which of these adjectives (describing words) would you expect to find in a story about pirates?

mean gentle cunning kind honest fierce brave



Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time, pronounce words carefully and follow the punctuation.

Danger at Sea

“Land ahoy,” screamed the boy. He could hear the cries of relief and excitement from his fellow sailors on the ship Columbus as he climbed down the mast. By the time he landed lightly on the deck the ship had turned to port and was sailing for the island.

They had been at sea for three weeks and their supplies of food and fresh water were running low. Their precious cargo of tea, spices and carpets was bound for America. Stormy weather had blown them off course and they were all eager to feel dry land beneath their feet.

As the rugged, bush covered hills drew closer Captain Bates gave orders to sail through a break in the coastline. He hoped for a sheltered bay and a safe mooring. Imagine the horror when the masts of another ship came into view and the flag hanging limply from the top mast was unmistakably the black and white skull and cross bones. It was a pirate ship! From the activity on board it was obvious that they had been spotted.

The pirates were planning to raise anchor and give chase. There was no fear of cannon fire. The pirates wanted the cargo intact. Captain Bates responded immediately and gave orders for the ship to swing around. With the mainsail filling with the ocean breeze they were soon on their way down the coast. They could outrun the pirate ship but they could not risk entering another harbour in case they became trapped. Fresh supplies would have to wait.



B. Quick Questions.

1. What is meant by 'turn to port'?
2. How did the crew of the Columbus know they were looking at a pirate ship?
3. How could the Columbus 'become trapped' in a bay?

C. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. The boy was up the ship's mast to look out for land.
2. The ship was carrying a valuable cargo.
3. The main reason for entering the bay was to find the pirate ship.
4. Flags are used to identify ships.
5. Captain Bates sailed the Columbus down the coast to find another bay to anchor in.



D. Match Maker.

The list of words on the left contains adjectives. Match these words with nouns (or naming words), on the right, as they appear in the story.

fresh	cargo
fellow	mooring
precious	weather
dry	bay
stormy	water
rugged	land
sheltered	sailors
safe	hills

E. Put the following words in alphabetical order.

captain mast anchor ship cargo

F. Exploring other ideas

There are many words and expressions in our language that come from sailors and life at sea. These are called 'nautical' terms.

There are also many songs or sea shanties as sailors used to sing while they worked.

If you are interested you can find information through the internet.