

## Zeiten-Mix: The Letter

**EXERCISE 1** Fill in the verbs in the right tense: past progressive, simple past, present progressive, simple present, present perfect, will-future.



1. It was a dark and stormy night. A cold wind \_\_\_\_\_ (*howl*) around the castle and the rain \_\_\_\_\_ (*hammer*) against the windows.
2. Sir Henry \_\_\_\_\_ (*sit*) in his bedroom and \_\_\_\_\_ (*read*) the *Times* when the doorbell \_\_\_\_\_ (*ring*). He \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) very surprised – after all, it \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) past twelve o'clock!
3. Still he \_\_\_\_\_ (*get up*) and \_\_\_\_\_ (*go*) downstairs to open the door. The bell \_\_\_\_\_ (*keep*) ringing.
4. "Yes, yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ (*come*)!" he \_\_\_\_\_ (*call*) loudly. He \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) a bit angry. Wasn't it a bit late for a visit?
5. But when he \_\_\_\_\_ (*open*) the door, he \_\_\_\_\_ (*get*) a shock. A tall man in black clothes \_\_\_\_\_ (*stand*) in the rain. Sir Henry \_\_\_\_\_ (*cannot/see*) his face because he \_\_\_\_\_ (*wear*) a dark hood (*Kapuze*).
6. "Who \_\_\_\_\_ (*be/you*)?", he \_\_\_\_\_ (*ask*) nervously. "What \_\_\_\_\_ (*want/you*)?"
7. "I \_\_\_\_\_ (*come*) from London to give you this letter", the stranger \_\_\_\_\_ (*answer*).
8. "A letter? Who \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) it from? Why \_\_\_\_\_ (*cannot/send/they*) it by mail?"
9. "I'm sorry, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (*cannot*) tell you that. This letter \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) really important. We \_\_\_\_\_ (*cannot/risk*) losing it. That's why I \_\_\_\_\_ (*come*) here in person. Now, good night, Sir Henry."
10. He \_\_\_\_\_ (*disappear*) in the darkness. Sir Henry \_\_\_\_\_ (*stare*) down at the letter, puzzled (*verwirrt*) and a little frightened. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ (*decide*) to go up to his room again and to open the letter.
11. "Now, that's the strangest thing I \_\_\_\_\_ (*ever/see*)", he said quietly. Even the paper \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) strange – it \_\_\_\_\_ (*look*) old and \_\_\_\_\_ (*smell*) dusty. He \_\_\_\_\_ (*read*):

12. "Dear Sir Henry,

You \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) in great danger. You \_\_\_\_\_ (*must come*) to London next Sunday – I \_\_\_\_\_ (*want*) to meet you there. Then I \_\_\_\_\_ (*tell*) you everything I \_\_\_\_\_ (*know*). Horrible things \_\_\_\_\_ (*happen*) if you \_\_\_\_\_ (*not talk*) to me!

Please \_\_\_\_\_ (*meet*) me at three o'clock in Hyde Park. I \_\_\_\_\_ (*find*) you.

Yours sincerely, A Friend."

13. Now, that \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) really strange! But Sir Henry \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) curious. He \_\_\_\_\_ (*want*) to know what this man had been talking about. He would go to London. And he could take his butler with him – that would be safe enough!

-----TO BE CONTINUED-----

**EXERCISE 2** Free Text Production. Answer these questions in full sentences.

- What could Sir Henry look like? What hobbies could he have? Describe him as you imagine him.
- What would you do in Sir Henry's situation? Would you meet the letter-writer? Why/Why not?
- What could happen next? Why does somebody want to talk to Sir Henry? Continue the story.