

12

IF I WERE YOU

Gerrard, a young man, is packing. Suddenly a man enters who resembles him. He is holding a revolver in his hand. Let us find out what he wants from Gerrard.



OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- read and understand a one act play;
- understand and use words which have different meanings;
- use tenses appropriately;
- write job applications; and
- express preferences.

12.1 SECTION I

(The scene is a small cottage interior. There is an entrance back right which may be curtained. Another door to the left must be a practical door. The furniture is simple, consisting of a small table towards the left, a chair or two, and a divan rather up-stage on the right. On the table is a telephone.)

When the curtain rises Gerrard is standing by the table phoning. He is of medium height, and wears horn-rimmed glasses... He is dressed in a lounge suit and a great coat. His voice is cultured.



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He puts down the phone and goes to the divan on the right, where there is a travelling bag, and starts packing. Whilst he is thus engaged, another man, similar in build to Gerrard enters from the right silently-revolver in hand. He is flashily dressed in an overcoat and a soft hat. He bumps accidentally against the table, and at the sound Gerrard turns quickly.

Gerrard : (pleasantly) Why, this a surprise, Mr ___ er ___.

Intruder : I am glad you're pleased to see me. I don't think you'll be pleased for long. Put those paws up!

Gerrard : This is all very melodramatic, not very original, perhaps but ___

Intruder : Trying to be calm and ___ er ___

Gerrard : Nonchalant is your word, I think.

Intruder : Thanks a lot. You'll soon stop being smart. I'll make you crawl. I want to know a few things, see.

Gerrard : Anything you like. I know all the answers. But before we begin I should like to change my position; you may be comfortable, but I am not.

Intruder : Sit down there, and no funny business. (Motions to chair, and seats himself on the divan by the bag) Now then, we'll have a nice little talk about yourself!

Gerrard : At last a sympathetic audience! I'll tell you the story of my life. How as a child I was stolen by the gypsies, and why at the age of thirty-two, I find myself in my lonely Essex cottage, how-

Intruder : Keep it to yourself, and just answer my questions. You live here alone? Well, do you?

Gerrard : I'm sorry. I thought you were telling me, not asking me. A question of inflection, your voice is -unfamiliar.

Intruder : (with emphasis) Do you live here alone?

Gerrard : And if I don't answer?

Intruder : You've got enough sense not to want to get hurt.

Gerrard : I think good sense is shown more in the ability to avoid pain than in mere desire to do so. What do you think, Mr ___ er ___?

Intruder : Never mind my name. I like yours better. Mr Gerrard. What are your Christian names?

Gerrard : Vincent Charles.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.1

1. Did the Intruder try to frighten Gerrard?
2. Did the Intruder succeed?
3. What was the Intruder's first question to Gerrard?
4. Why do you think he wanted an answer to the question?
5. If Gerrard did not answer, what would the Intruder do?

12.2 SECTION II

What brings the Intruder to Gerrard's house? Chance? Fate? Or a planned move?

Intruder : Do you run a car?

Gerrard : No.

Intruder : That's a lie. You're not dealing with a fool. I'm as smart as you and smarter, and I know you run a car. Better be careful, wise guy! Listen, this gun's no toy. I can hurt you without killing you, and get my answers.

Gerrard : Of course, if you put it like that, I'll be glad to assist you. I do possess a car, and it's in the garage round the corner.

Intruder : That's better. Do people often come out here?

Gerrard : Very rarely. Surprisingly few people take the trouble to visit. There's that baker and the greengrocer, of course; and then there's milkman.

Intruder : I happen to know that you never see trades people.

Gerrard : You seem to have taken a considerable amount of trouble. Once you know so much about me, won't you say something about yourself? You have been so modest.

Intruder : I could tell you plenty. You think you're smart, but I'm smarter. I've got brains and I use them. That's how I've got where I have.

Gerrard : And where precisely have you got? It didn't require a great brain to break into my little cottage.

Intruder : When you know why I've broken into your little cottage, you'll be surprised, and it won't be a pleasant surprise.



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- Gerrard : With you figuring so largely in it, that is understandable. By the way, what particular line of crime do you follow, or aren't you a specialist?
- Intruder : My speciality's jewels robbery. Your car will do me a treat. It's certainly a dandy car.
- Gerrard : I'm afraid, jewels are few and far between in this part of England.
- Intruder : So are the cops. I can retire here nicely for a little while.
- Gerrard : You mean to live with me? A little sudden isn't it; you've not been invited.
- Intruder : You won't be here long; so I didn't trouble to ask
- Gerrard : What do you mean?
- Intruder : This is your big surprise. I'm going to kill you.
- Gerrard : A little harsh, isn't it?
- Intruder : (with heavy sarcasm) Yeah, I'll be sorry to do it. I've taken a fancy to you, but it's just got to be done.
- Gerrard : Why add murder to your other crimes? It's a grave step you're taking.
- Intruder : I'm not taking it for fun. I've been hunted long enough. I'm wanted for murder already, and they can't hang me twice.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.2**

1. Is Gerrard successful in finding out the Intruder's name? How many times does he try?
2. Does Gerrard have a car? Where does he keep it?
3. List at least 3 facts about Gerrard that the Intruder had found out before coming to his house.
4. Refer to 2 incidents that prove that the Intruder is boastful.

12.3 SECTION III

The Intruder threatens to kill Gerrard. Is Gerrard afraid? Is he nervous? Does the Intruder carry out his threat?

Gerrard : You're planning a double murder so to speak. Admitted you've nothing to lose, but what have you to gain?

If I Were You

Intruder : I've got freedom to gain. As for myself, I'm a poor hunted rat. As Vincent Charles Gerrard, I'm free to go to places and do nothing. I can eat well and sleep and without having to be ready to hide at the sight of a cop.

Gerrard : In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated. You are much luckier.

Intruder : I'm O.K. I've got a reason for everything. I'm going to be Vincent Charles Gerrard, see. I've got to know what he talks like. How I know. Your accent comes easy. This is Mr. V.C. Gerrard speaking. (Pantomime of phoning, in imitated cultured voice). And that's not all (He stands up). Get up a minute. (Gerrard stands), Now take a look at me.

Gerrard : You're not particularly attractive.

Intruder : No! Well, that goes for you, too. I've only got to wear specs and I'll look enough like you to get away with it.

Gerrard : What about your clothes? They'll let you down if you're not careful.

Intruder : That'll be all right. Yours will fit me fine.

Gerrard : That is extremely interesting, but you seem to miss the point of my remark. I said, you were luckier than most melodramatic villains. It was not a compliment to your intelligence. You won't kill me for a very good reason.

Intruder : So that's what you think.

Gerrard : You'll let me go, and thank God you didn't shoot sooner.

Intruder : Come on. What's on your mind! Better be quick. This conversation bores me.

Gerrard : Your idea is to elude that police by killing me and taking on my identity?

Intruder : Yes, I like the idea.

Gerrard : But are you sure it's going to help you?

Intruder : Now listen here. I've got this all planned. I did a job in town. Things went wrong and I killed a cop. Since then I've done nothing but dodge.

Gerrard : And this is where dodging has brought you?

Intruder : It brought me to Aylesbury. That's where I saw you in the car. Two other people saw you and started to talk. I listened. It looks like you're a bit queer kind of a mystery man.

Gerrard : A mystery which I propose to explain.

If I Were You



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INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.3

1. Why was the Intruder a hunted rat?
2. What did he plan to do as Vincent Charles Gerrard?
3. Which of the following remarks of Gerrard suggest that the Intruder will not kill him?
 - a) “Your idea is to elude the police by killing me taking on my identity?”
 - b) “You won’t kill me for a very good reason.”
 - c) “Your clothes will let you down if you’re not careful.”
4. (i) Who gives away more information about himself, Gerrard or the Intruder?
 (ii) Is it a strength or a weakness?
 (iii) Does it show that he was:
 - nervous?
 - clever?
 - boastful?
 - queer?

12.4 SECTION IV

Gerrard was a mystery man. Why did he act in a mysterious way? Was he also a crook like the Intruder? Let’s find out what happens to Gerrard and the Intruder.

Intruder : (disregarding him). You phone your orders and sometimes you go away suddenly and come back just as suddenly. Those are just the things I want to do. Hearing about you was one of my luckiest breaks.

Gerrard : Apparently you haven’t the intelligence to ask why I am surrounded in this air of mystery.

Intruder : (preparing to shoot). As I said before, this conversation bores me.

Gerrard : Don’t be a fool. If you shoot, you’ll hang for sure. If not as yourself, then as Vincent Charles Gerrard.

Intruder : What is this?

Gerrard : This is your big surprise. I said you wouldn't kill me and I was right. Why do you think I am here today and gone tomorrow, never see trades-people? You say my habits would suit you. You are a crook. Do you think I am a Sunday-school teacher?

Intruder : You may be a liar.

Gerrard : Listen. The game's up as far as I'm concerned. Things went wrong with me. I said it with bullets and got away. Unfortunately they got one of my men, and found things the fools should have burnt. Tonight I'm expecting trouble. My bag's packed ready to clear off. There it is.

Intruder : It's a bag all right and this is a gun all right. What's all this?

Gerrard : That's a disguise outfit; false moustaches and what-not. Now do you believe me?

Intruder : (musingly) I don't know.

Gerrard : For God's sake clear that muddled head of yours and let's go. Come with me in the car. I can use you. If you find it's a fake, you've got me in the car, and you've still got your gun.

Intruder : Maybe you're right.

Gerrard : Then don't waste time. (goes and pick up hat and bag)

Intruder : Careful, boss, I'm watching you.

Gerrard : I've got a man posted on the main road. He'll ring up if he sees the police, but I don't want to leave it as late as that. (Telephone bell rings). Come on! They're after us. Through here straight to the garage.

Intruder : How do I know that?

Gerrard : Oh, don't be a fool. Look for yourself.

(Gerrard opens door and steps away. Intruder leans forward to inspect it, with his side towards Gerrard, but with his revolver ready. As he turns his head, Gerrard gives him a push into the cupboard, knocking the revolver out of his hand. He slams the door, and locks it, picks up the revolver and goes to the phone, where he stands with the gun pointed at the cupboard door.)

Intruder : (rattles door and shouts) Let me out of here!

Gerrard : Hello, yes, speaking. Sorry I can't let you have the dress in time for rehearsal, I've had a spot of bother – quite amusing. I think, I'll put it in my next play. Listen, can you tell our friend the Sergeant to come up here at once. You'll probably find him in the Public Bar.



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**INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.4**

- 1) Gerrard told the Intruder that
 - a) he had killed someone and was wanted by the police.
 - b) he was a Sunday-school teacher.
 - c) he was friendly with the police.
- 2)
 - i) Describe the disguise outfit.
 - ii) Who was it for?
 - iii) Why would he use it?
- 3)
 - i) What does Gerrard do for a living ?
 - ii) How do you know?
- 4)
 - i) Did the telephone bell ring?
 - ii) Who did Gerrard say was coming to his cottage?
 - iii) Did the Intruder go with Gerrard willingly or unwillingly?
- 5)
 - i) Where did Gerrard push the Intruder into?
 - ii) What happened to the Intruder's revolver?
 - iii) Who was cleverer- Gerrard or the Intruder?

**OVERALL QUESTIONS**

1.
 - i) What is the title of the play?
 - ii) If 'I' in the title stands for Gerrard, the title can be completed like this:
If I were you I would not talk so much.
 - iii) Now, suppose 'I' in the title stands for the Intruder. Complete the title as in (ii)
2. Answer the following in about 50-55 words:
 - (i) Why had the Intruder come to Gerrard's house?
 - (ii) Could the Intruder carry out his plan. If not, why?
 - (iii) What are the two pieces of evidence that make the Intruder believe Gerrard's story?

- (iv) Who is the more intelligent of the two: Gerrard or the Intruder? Give reasons for your answer.
- (v) Which of the following words describe Gerrard and which the Intruder? Put them in the right column.
- boastful, well dressed, clumsy, intelligent, theatrical, witty, uncultured, educated.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

A. One word can have more than one meaning.

Example

- i) The president placed a wreath on the **grave** of the unknown soldier. (a place where someone is buried)
- ii) With a **grave** look Mr. Birla told his employee, "You must never whistle while working." (serious)
- I. Select the correct meaning of the underlined words and write them against the sentence.
- (a) You have been at the computer all morning; you deserve a **break**.
(b) I came back to the house to discover that thieves had **broken** in and stolen everything.
 - (a) The **motion** to increase college fees was unanimously rejected.
(b) The slow **motion** of the bullock cart lulled him to sleep.
 - (a) She was a leading **figure** in the movement against child labour.
(b) Without looking at the **figures** we cannot say whether the company is running at a loss.
 - (a) The audience burst into **wild** applause.
(b) Lions that have been living in the **wild** usually do not thrive in zoos.
- B. Find out more such words and use them in your daily language use.

GRAMMAR

Read the following conversation. Fill in the blanks using the Simple Past Tense of the verbs given in brackets. Please note that you may have to make interrogatives or negatives.

1. Divya: _____ you _____ (go) any where last week?
Neel: Yes, I _____ (do). I _____ (go) to Bhopal. I have relatives there, you know.



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Divya: Really? I _____ (know) that, I _____ (think) all your relatives _____ (be) in Delhi.

Neel: No, I have an aunt and uncle in Bhopal.

Divya: _____ you _____ (have) a good time?

Neel: Yes, I _____ (do).

2. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in bracket. Use either the Simple Past or Present Perfect Tense.

The policeman _____ (open) the cell door. He _____ (look) inside and _____ (find) the cell empty. He _____ (call) for guard.

“Where is the man? Who _____ (see) him last?”

“The prisoner _____ (fall) ill last Sunday. He _____ (eat) since then. The doctor _____ (visit) him on Tuesday, I _____ (not, see) him recently,” the guard _____ (reply).

LET’S WRITE

You have just read about Gerrard and the Intruder. It is obvious that the Intruder is without a job and a means of earning his livelihood. Suppose he were to start looking for a job, how do you think he would begin? He would first have to draft an application for a job. Let us now find out how job applications are written.

Look at the following advertisement which appeared in Times of India, 10th Jan’04.

Wanted – A responsible Secretary with pleasing manners for Good Hope Escorts Ltd. Knowledge of computers and fluency in English essential. Apply within 10 days with biodata to P.O. Box 148, New Delhi-110019.

The above advertisement tells us the following:

- Post of secretary vacant in Escort Ltd.
- What the job requirements are
- C.V./Bio-data required
- Where to apply
- Write job application

Let us look once again at the advertisement.

This advertisement clearly tells us the following

Wanted — a Secretary

Company name — Good Hope Ltd.

- Job requirement — 1. Knowledge of computer and fluency in English
 2. Pleasing manners
- Where to apply — P.O. Box No. – 148, New Delhi – 19
- Time limit — Within 10 days
- Document to be attached — Bio-Data

Sometimes advertisements also contain a format (prescribed proforma) which has to be used for applying for a job. In that case, sending an application for a job is rather easy as all you need to do is fill up the format and mail it to the concerned person or address as the case may be. Here is a sample format.

FORMAT

Post applied for _____

1. Name _____
 (first) (middle) (last)

2. Age _____
 DD MM YY

3. Address _____

Contact No.: _____

e-mail : _____

4. Educational Qualifications
 (starting from degree onward)

Exam Passed	Year	Univ/Board	Subjects	Marks (%)

5. Professional Qualifications

Exam Passed	Year	Univ/Board	Subjects	Marks (%)



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6. Previous Experience

Have you distinguished yourself in any co-curricular activities? If so, give details

Curricular/co-curricular	Details

Place:

Date:

(Signature)

Sometimes a format is not provided and you want to apply for a job which has been advertised. You wish to apply for the post of secretary, in Good Hope mentioned earlier. How would you write the letter? Here is a sample.

17, Ajmera Road,
Cochin,
Kerala.

17th July' 98

Good Hope Ltd.,
P.O. Box – 148,
New Delhi – 19.

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your advertisement in the Times of 10th January' 04 for the post of secretary, I would like to apply for the same .

I have attached, as required, my complete bio data.

I shall be obliged if I am considered for the post.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Rosy P. V.

Here is a sample of a bio-data**Bio-Data**

1. Name Rosy P. V.
 2. Address 17, Ajmera Road
 Kerala
 3. Data of Birth 03.02.1976
 4. Marital Status Single
 5. Educational Qualification B.A.

6. Academic Record

Exam Passed	Year	Univ./Board	Subjects Offered	Marks
School leaving Certificate	1991	Kerala High School Board	Eng, Maths, Science, Eco	50%
Sr. School Certificate	1993	Board of Sr. Sec. Edu. Kerala	Eng. Pol.Sc., Logic	67%
B.A.	1996	Bombay University	English (Major)	59%

7. Other Qualifications

Exam Passed	Year	Name of Institute
Certificate in Typing	1994	Council for Technical Studies
Diploma in Computers	1996	Institute of Computer Studies

8. Work Experience

(a) Name of the organization – Council for Language Studies

Post Held – Receptionist

Status – Part-time

Job Profile – Attending to telephone calls, guests/clients

Pay – Rs. 6000/-

Duration - 6 months



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(b) Name of the organization – Continental Airways

Post held – Jr. Secretary

Status – Confirmed employee

Job Profile – Assistant to the Secretary, typing confidential letters, etc.

Pay – Rs. 6500/-

Duration – till date

Rosy P. V.

(Signature)

DISCUSSION

The bio-data you have just looked at contains the following:

- name
- address
- date of birth
- marital status
- educational qualifications
- professional expertise
- work experience

So, your bio-data should be self explanatory. By simply looking at your bio-data the employers should be convinced that you are the right candidate for the specific job. It should be impressive.

Exercise

Read the following carefully

A leading export-import house is looking for a young and dynamic person with a pleasing personality to co-ordinate business at their new showroom opening shortly at Centre Point, Connaught Place. The selected candidate would be expected to offer customer support services, conduct small scale business. Knowledge of English and computers essential. Attractive salary and perks. Apply within 15 days to P.O. Box – 405, New Delhi – 110011.

Apply for the above job giving all the necessary details.



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Intext Questions 12.4

1. a
2. i) False moustache, long coat, etc.
ii) An actor, as part of his role.
iii) For a stage performance
3. i) Writes and directs plays for the theatre.
ii) He is sorry for the delay in giving the costume for a play. He says this to someone over the phone.
4. i) Yes
ii) A policeman to catch him.
iii) Unwillingly – the Intruder was confused and did not know whether Gerrard could be trusted.
5. (i) A cupboard
(ii) It fell off when Gerrard pushed him into the cupboard. Gerrard got the Intruder's gun.
(iii) Gerrard.

OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. (i) If I Were You (ii) If I Were You I would drive the car
2. (i) To live as Gerrard (ii) No - Gerrard
(iii) Phone call, bag
(iv) Gerrard. He got the intruder to talk about his plans, quickly got him locked in a cupboard.
(v) Gerrard - Well dressed, intelligent, witty, educated. Intruder - boastful, 'clumsy' theatrical, uncultured.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

1. (a) – stop for a brief period (b) – steal into a locked house
2. (a) – proposal or plan (b) – movement
3. (a) – person (b) – accounts
4. (a) – uncontrolled, excited (b) – in natural conditions

GRAMMAR

1. Did, go, did, went, did not, thought, are, Did, have, do
2. Opened; looked; found; called.
Saw; fell; has not eaten.
Visited; have not seen; replied.