

中央电视台电视教育节目用书

ENGLISH ON SUNDAY

星期日英语

1984

中央电视台电视教育部编 广播出版社出版

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星 期 日 英 语
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84—4 (总19)

中央电视台电视教育部编

广 播 出 版 社

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〈总第19期〉

中央电视台电教部编

广播出版社出版

外文印刷厂印刷

新华书店北京发行所发行

1984年12月第1版 1984年12月第1次印刷

787×1092毫米 16开 印张5.5 字数 138(千)字 印数 1—15,000册

统一书号: 9236·045 定价: 0.91元

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PART I

This part of the magazine contains the scripts to some of our English on Sunday programmes, including drama serials, documentaries, feature films and also Forum, our monthly interview show.

The scripts are annotated, but instead of giving literal translations of difficult phrases and sentences, only a general explanation of the concepts underlying them will be rendered, so that viewers can work out for themselves the actual meaning of the words concerned. The scripts are followed by questions to test how well you have understood the content of the programmes; answers to these will be provided in each subsequent issue.

ROBIN HOOD

EPISODE FOUR

(Inside Sheriff's chamber)

GISBORNE: It's the waiting . . . the damned interminable waiting for the Prince to make up his mind to strike.

NOTTINGHAM: What would you have him do?

GISBORNE: Summon the Great Council, here at Nottingham - have them proclaim him King, or at least Regent.

NOTTINGHAM: And if they voted against him?

GISBORNE: How could they, with our swords at their throats?

NOTTINGHAM: It would mean civil war.

GISBORNE: It's worth the risk!

NOTTINGHAM: No, my friend. We are playing for the very highest stakes. We dare not show our hand, until we are sure that it is the strongest.¹

GISBORNE: How long must we wait?

NOTTINGHAM: Until I receive an answer to certain letters that I have written.

ALARIC: My lord -

NOTTINGHAM: We were not to be disturbed!

ALARIC: My lord - I tried.

NOTTINGHAM: Your business?

MONK: Most urgent and private. I bring greetings . . . from a well-wisher to the north.

* * *

(Inside the cave)

MUCH: Three out of four²! Beat that³.

RALPH: Anyone care to make a little wager⁴? A nice fat juicy pheasant⁵.

ROBIN: Careful, Much. He may have only one hand but it's the quickest for cutting purses in all England⁶.

RALPH: A lot of good it's doing my hand⁷, Huntingdon.

(Will comes in)

MUCH: Did you have any luck?

WILL: Boar, buck, deer, pheasant⁸.

MUCH: What?

WILL: Not a mouse. The woods are crawling with Foresters and Sheriff's men.

LITTLE JOHN: Another day without food! I've a hunger like a raging fire.

MUCH: Then sup some water.

LITTLE JOHN: Take care, little man. I may turn cannibal.

ROBIN: We must eat soon.

WILL: Yes, and not just roots and berries.

RALPH: I might be able to find some food, enough for a few days, maybe.

ROBIN: Where?

RALPH: My home village. It's only a few miles from here, on the edge of the forest.

LITTLE JOHN: They wouldn't welcome us.

RALPH: They'd not refuse me.

MUCH: Could we get past the patrols?

ROBIN: We could try.

RALPH: No, you'd never find the way. I know the paths to avoid.

ROBIN: Then we'll go together.

RALPH: Alright.

(on the forest road)

TUCK: Steady, man . . . steady! Did you run into a sleeping bear, eh? Or a pack of wild boar?

1ST SOLDIER: Did you see him? . . . A serf - he ran this way!

TUCK: A fugitive? What had he done?

1ST SOLDIER: Not paid his taxes for a quarter⁹. We had him tied up for branding, and he slipped the rope.

TUCK: Branding?

2ND SOLDIER: Here he is.

1ST SOLDIER: Dog of a hedge priest¹⁰!

TUCK: For pity sake leave him.

(They kill the serf)

ROBIN: Tuck - Tuck.

TUCK: They cut him down in cold blood I rose in wrath - Oh God. Forgive Thy servant for his anger . . . and these hands that stained with blood the earth beneath Thy Holy Rood¹¹.

RALPH: . . . It's Edric . . . He's from my village.

(By the countryside stream)

RALPH: Elfritha - Elfritha - ! Goda -! I don't understand.

ROBIN: We're as welcome as wolves in lambing time¹².

RALPH: Thurkill, the Headman. We'll see him.

(Inside Thurkill's hut)

RALPH: Thurkill! - are you there? Thurkill - It's Ralph - Ralph Gammon! It's alright. Have no fear of us, man! We come as friends.

NOTTINGHAM: They have no jurisdiction in Nottingham. Prince John's word is law here - and I speak for him.

MONK: Then we are agreed. If you will excuse me, I have far to ride.

NOTTINGHAM: My men will provide you with an escort.

MONK: There is no need. Some of my brothers are waiting for me. We do not fear attack.

NOTTINGHAM: You do not care for¹⁶ our new friend?

GISBORNE: He's enough to make one's blood run cold¹⁶. What does he follow - the cross or the sword¹⁷?

NOTTINGHAM: Both. He is the military Prior of his order.

GISBORNE: I'd as soon face a tribe of painted hillmen¹⁸ as him and his . . . brothers.

NOTTINGHAM: Thanks to our agreement you will not have to face him. He will be at our side

GISBORNE: You told that monkish devil there was no unrest here, not a sign of it.

NOTTINGHAM: Nor is there.

GISBORNE: What of Huntingdon?

NOTTINGHAM: Alaric. What of Huntingdon, Alaric?

ALARIC: Our patrols have had no sight nor word of him for months. They say he must have fled north - or been killed by wolves.

NOTTINGHAM: And has ceased to trouble us.

GISBORNE: Can we be sure of that?

NOTTINGHAM: Perhaps we have already made too much of this man!

GISBORNE: I'll not be easy in my mind until his head is on a spike above the gateway of Nottingham Castle!

NOTTINGHAM: Very well, then double your patrols, Alaric, tell the Foresters the search goes on.

* * *

(Inside Neston's manor)

MARION: So these are the children, Friar?

TUCK: Yes, my lady. Those in most need.

MARION: Well, my uncle will give them his protection.

SERVING WOMAN: Where will they sleep?

MARION: In the barn.

SERVING WOMAN: They'll need a wash first.

MARION: No, they must eat first. Bread and hot soup - have it fetched now. Are there any more children in your village? Robin . . . why haven't I heard from you? It's been so long.

ROBIN: There was no way to send word.

MARION: My uncle said that you had been killed - or re-captured.

ROBIN: They'll not capture me again.

MARION: I prayed - you had made for Scotland, or France¹⁹.

ROBIN: This is my country. I'll not be driven from it.

MARION: Why have you come today? You brought the children.

ROBIN: I had to know you would take them in.

MARION: Could you doubt it?

ROBIN: No, Marion. But there may be many more. From the farms and villages - starving after everything has been stolen from them.

MARION: Who has done this?

ROBIN: Nottingham and Gisborne. I have seen things - men and women mutilated - homesteads burnt.

MARION: But why?

ROBIN: Because the King's law is set aside as the great ones left to guard England squabble for power - and the evil prey upon the weak.

RALPH: Robin, we stay too long!

MARION: Where will you go?

ROBIN: Back to the forest.

MARION: Take me with you.

ROBIN: Marion, I can't.

MARION: Robin -

ROBIN: No, Marion, I can't. You don't know what you ask. We sleep in caves and eat when we can. We are hunted like wild dogs.

MARION: What will you do?

ROBIN: I don't know. But one thing is sure - I have done with hiding²⁰.

SIR KENNETH: Marion! Where *is* the girl?

ROBIN: If you need me, send word through the Friar.

SIR KENNETH: What's all this damned nonsense about children? Ah - What did you bring them here for, Friar?

TUCK: The generosity of Sir Kenneth Neston is well known.

SIR KENNETH: And his foolish head, eh?

MARION: They are only children, uncle. And our own kind.²¹

SIR KENNETH: All the same - they'll eat me out of hearth and home.²² These are hard times Well . . . I dare say we'll not miss what it will take to fill their bellies.²³

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(By the forest stream)

RALPH: For God's sake, Robin, just a piece of bread.

ROBIN: No. We're nearly at the cave.

ALARIC: We'll rest here. Fall out!

ROBIN: Along the stream!

ALARIC: Get him! . . . Shoot, man! Shoot him down!

(Inside the cave)

LITTLE JOHN: Put up your sword. We've had enough fighting for one day.

MUCH: Aye, that was too close.

LITTLE JOHN: A sight too close. We'd best move on.

ROBIN: Why?

LITTLE JOHN: Because at first light there'll be an army of men combing the woods.

On our doorstep! . . . That's why! I say we must leave -

ROBIN: And I say we have never been so safe in our lives.

WILL: How's that?

ROBIN: Don't you see, only a madman would stay so close to where we fought today.

They'll be looking for us North and West. Anywhere but here. It's a risk.

LITTLE JOHN: But it was good to see them run.

ROBIN: We must keep them running The Normans must be taught fear. Those who have grown rich by squeezing the poor must pay They steal for greed and kill for sport, but we have to kill to stay alive

RALPH: And they call us outlaws.

ROBIN: They have taken the open land and put it in their name. We shall take the forest and put it in ours.

MUCH: Could it be done?

RALPH: Course it can be done. We've just done it.

LITTLE JOHN: Each of us can out-shoot, out-fight any ten of them.

WILL: And we know this forest as no others do.

ROBIN: From now on all travellers using the forest roads must pay us toll. And Nottingham's and Gisborne's men enter these woods at their peril.²⁴

(On the forest road)

ROBIN: I thank you, good sir.

MERCHANT: I am a merchant of Nottingham town! I pay my taxes and support the Sheriff. He shall hear of this!

ROBIN: I hope he will. And be sure to tell him that you have also paid Robin Hood's taxes.

MERCHANT: Robin Hood

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(Inside the Sheriff's chamber)

GISBORNE: Is it true? You had Huntingdon in your hands and lost him? That's the second time!

ALARIC: We came on him unawares, Sir Guy.

NOTTINGHAM: Why did you not cut him down?

ALARIC: We had split up to search. I had only a few men with me.

GISBORNE: And you fled to save your coward's life!

ALARIC: I'd have died for nothing! I could not reach him!

NOTTINGHAM: Why not?

ALARIC: There were - there were at least a dozen of them!

GISBORNE: He's lying.

NOTTINGHAM: He is my officer. *(To Alaric)* You came on them unawares. Was it an ambush?

ALARIC: It could have been, my lord. Yes! They came from all round us.

NOTTINGHAM: If you *are* lying, you will wish you had never been born. Huntingdon's still alive.

GISBORNE: And dangerous. The peasants could see him as a leader.

NOTTINGHAM: No, no danger there. Those cattle cannot be led. But I have given my word to our friends in the North. Double the reward for the man who brings me Huntingdon's head.

ALARIC: My lord.

GISBORNE: What about the villagers?

NOTTINGHAM: Yes . . . some of them must have seen him. Let them find out how harsh life can be unless they talk.

(In the contryside)

ALARIC: You, from this day your tax and tithe are increased by half - to pay for the crimes of the outlaw, known as Robin Hood. They will remain in force until he is taken. What you cannot pay in coin, you'll pay in kind²⁵ - or be sold as slaves. Now off.

* * *

(On the forest road)

CELLARER: An outrage . . . an outrage! . . . You'll pay for this ! All of you! Do you know who I am?

ROBIN: No, we do not have the honour.

CELLARER: I am Cellarer to the Abbey of St. Mary! How dare you attack me!!

TUCK: Attack? We merely asked for alms.

ROBIN: You may still pass in peace, if you leave something for the poor.

CELLARER: Poor . . .! Leave those alone!

LITTLE JOHN: What's in them?

CELLARER: Uh - holy vestments and altar cloths. They belong to the Abbot!

TUCK: By his vows²⁶, the Abbot can own nothing.

CELLARER: You speak to me of vows, you impious villain?

TUCK: Impious? . . . impious! You doubt my odour of sanctity? The odour I have from you is of all wine - you abomination! . . . Now make confession or be whipped for falsehood! In the packs?

CELLARER: Foodstuff - foodstuff! Dried fruit - grain - honey, cheese, and ale . . .

TUCK: And all to be handed out along the way. Alms for the poor - confess!

CELLARER: Alms - to be handed out on the way, yes . . .

TUCK: Willingly and gladly?

CELLARER: Willingly . . . willingly and gladly . . .

TUCK: Now you are purged.

ROBIN: You can go - once you've paid our toll.

CELLARER: Toll!

ROBIN: For the use of my road.

CELLARER: *Your* road, you, scurvy - Ah.

ROBIN: The very sum - you came prepared, Master Cellarer.

CELLARER: You'll pay - you'll pay for this - all of you, you'll pay!

ROBIN: I never thought to rob the church, Tuck.

TUCK: If he'd been a godly man, he would have passed unharmed.

(Inside the cave)

LITTLE JOHN: I'll say one thing for the Normans. Their wine is good.

MUCH: And they run well.

LITTLE JOHN: Drink up, Will! You're too solemn.

TUCK: Come, it will absolve you from gloom.

WILL: I speak only for myself - but I have no stomach to eat, when I know that others are starving.

RALPH: What about us, Will, we starved for months.

ROBIN: You are our conscience, Will.

TUCK: There's a truth . . .

ROBIN: Come on, Will. A walk will do your appetite good, and your conscience.

(Inside Thurkill's hut)

THURKILL: Enough to feed the village for a month, Robin. Where's it all from?

RALPH: Nottingham and the Abbot of St. Mary's.

ROBIN: A repayment of the taxes and tithes - stolen from you.

THURKILL: The people will never betray you, Robin - but Nottingham's men if they come back. If they see this -

RALPH: Don't let them, man! Share it out before dawn. Make sure everything is hidden away. Then when the soldiers come - you know nothing. You've paid once. They cannot make you pay again. We'll bring you more when we can.

THURKILL: How can we ever repay you?

ROBIN: One day, I may need the strength and arms of your men. And promise to come when I call.

THURKILL: I promise.

(Inside the cave)

TUCK: You have done a great deal.

ROBIN: But never enough.

TUCK: Robin, you have given the people a rare thing - the taste of hope. And you have shown them their Norman masters are not invincible. Why they sing ballads of you man.

ROBIN: And most of them not true.

TUCK: What would you have - a miracle?

ROBIN: I would have King Richard home again, and England at peace.

RALPH: We ambushed a knight. I was for cutting his throat, but Little John said to bring him here.

ROBIN: Your name, sir knight?

SIR RICHARD: I am Sir Richard of the Lea. And you, I take it, are Robert, Earl of Huntingdon.

ROBIN: Not any more. I'm not. Just plain Robin Hood.

WILL: When we stopped him in your name, he said he hoped to speak to you.

LITTLE JOHN: He didn't try to fight.

SIR RICHARD: I would have - if I had anything worth stealing.

ROBIN: Why hope to speak to me?

SIR RICHARD: I knew your father once. And I wanted to see the man who has made the forest a place the Sheriff's men fear to enter I had not thought to see you with so few men.

ROBIN: That is a secret that if discovered could cost us dear.

SIR RICHARD: From the tales we hear of you, you are said to have many more.

ROBIN: If we had the weapons, we could have.

WILL: A hundred from the villages alone!

ROBIN: They are learning they have to fight for their own justice - until King Richard gets back.

SIR RICHARD: So much we all.

ROBIN: Cheese and ale for our guest.

TUCK: Where are you from?

RICHARD: East of here, towards Lincoln.

ROBIN: And where bound?

RICHARD: York - St. Mary's.

TUCK: For what reason?

SIR RICHARD: It is a long story.

TUCK: The best for telling²⁷.

SIR RICHARD: I go to tell the Abbot I cannot repay a debt he lent me a year ago. Four hundred marks.

TUCK: A good round sum²⁸.

SIR RICHARD: We had two bad harvests. I was in need of money. Four hundred marks. To arm my son as a Knight and ten men to follow him, on the Crusade with King Richard Abbot Roger, offered to lend me the whole sum, against my manor estate. It was a formality, he said. This year the harvest is late again and he'll not wait. Either I pay my debt on time or he dispossesses me of all my land.

TUCK: Why has he changed towards you?

SIR RICHARD: He has changed towards all men. These days there's more politics talked at St. Mary's than Holy Writ.

ROBIN: Yes, we have heard of this Abbot. But have you no other friends?

SIR RICHARD: All their wealth is in land and cattle.

ROBIN: When is your debt due?

SIR RICHARD: Tomorrow. And I have but ten shillings in all the world, which is why I did not care if I was robbed Well, if I may take my leave - I must travel North

RALPH: But first, Sir knight, the reckoning²⁹.

LITTLE JOHN: It is not right that mere outlaws should pay for a knight's supper.

SIR RICHARD: You are welcome to what I have. Though it shames me.

WILL: We shall see.

SIR RICHARD: Do you doubt my word?

TUCK: In these days, men are not always what they seem.

RALPH: He spoke the truth.

ROBIN: Little John - 400.

LITTLE JOHN: What is this - an act of kindness or madness?

ROBIN: He can have it as a loan. We'll send Will along to make sure it's delivered.

LITTLE JOHN: 400 in silver. Until next years harvest. Pray it's a good one.

SIR RICHARD: But why?

ROBIN: For one whose son is on the Crusade - and whose enemy is the Abbot of St. Mary's.

* * *

(Inside the Abbot's chamber)

ABBOT: It is nearly noon.

PRIOR: It lacks a little yet.³⁰

ABBOT: What he has not raised in a year, he will not find in a moment. This is the day for him to repay his loan. If it is not paid by noon, the estate of Lea is mine. Take some of your men and claim it if he resists.

MONK: He'll not resist, Lord Abbot.

PRIOR: It is shameful! In his prosperity he gave many gifts to our Abbey. Now, because he sent his only son to free the Holy Sepulchre³¹, we take his home and land.

ABBOT: His final gift³². Go now.

PRIOR: Not until noon.

ABBOT: Sir Richard -

SIR RICHARD: I am here on the appointed day, Lord Abbot.

ABBOT: And have you brought the money you owe me?

SIR RICHARD: I have come to beg you to grant me a little more time. Till after the next harvest. Then with every hundred I shall repay ten more.

ABBOT: And for a miserable forty pounds, you ask me to give up manor and lands?

SIR RICHARD: By the name of Him³³ who died for us Sir Prior?

PRIOR: I have pleaded for you. And would that my words had been heard.

ABBOT: Enough! I'll hear no more. Out of my sight, false knight!

SIR RICHARD: I have never been false to my vows. Can you answer the same? I call you all to bear witness that I am quit of this man³⁴ who is a shame to his office and to the Holy Church.

(Inside the cave)

LITTLE JOHN: I've never been false to my vows. Can you say the same.

TUCK: No, I am 'A shame to my office, and to the Holy Church'

WILL: You should have seen his face. We were gone before he could think of an answer!
Sir Richard sends you a message.

ROBIN: Yes?

WILL: In three days time, Gisborne and the Sheriff will be in York, to meet the Abbot in secret. What they are to talk of, he does not know.

ROBIN: What else should they talk of, but treason?

* * *

(Inside the Abbot's chamber)

NOTTINGHAM: When the Prince is made Regent, he will reward his friends handsomely.

ABBOT: And when he is King?

NOTTINGHAM: He will be even more generous. The Archbishopric of York is vacant.

ABBOT: I would accept no less.

GISBORNE: You drive a hard bargain, my lord Abbot.

ABBOT: It is a hard world. Prince Jonh - and you - need my help if you are to carry the Great Council. With me, you can win.

GISBORNE: And without you?

ABBOT: You must think again.

NOTTINGHAM: We have no quarrel. The Prince has empowered me to meet all your demands.

ABBOT: Good. First and most pressing - the Collectors of the King's Exchequer arrive in York next week.

NOTTINGHAM: How can they harm you?

ABBOT: Apart from the Abbey Treasury, there is my private fortune. I must get the bulk of it away, before they can assess it.

NOTTINGHAM: And the perfect place is Nottingham, where the Royal Exchequer has no jurisdiction.

ABBOT: Precisely. There is no fear of theft?

NOTTINGHAM: I myself will give you covering bills. And the column that guards it south will be personally commanded by Sir Guy.

ABBOT: At one point it must pass through the forest. What of outlaws?

NOTTINGHAM: All roads are under our control.

ABBOT: We have heard much of this 'Robin Hood'. My own Cellarer was savaged by him.

GISBORNE: A name to frighten children with! And besides whoever heard of outlaws attacking an armed convoy?

ABBOT: Nevertheless - my personal guard shall go with you.

NOTTINGHAM: As you please. I shall inform the Prince of our compact.

ABBOT: But not in writing.

NOTTINGHAM: But the Lord Abbot is committed.

ABBOT: Until those you have spoken of join us, I would prefer my name not to be recorded. You would have further proof of my gratitude. Some personal service perhaps?

GISBORNE: I am betrothed to Sir Kenneth Neston's niece, the Lady Marion.

ABBOT: Is there some difficulty?

GISBORNE: By now I should have taken her to wife - but she has made some ridiculous pledge that she will not wed until King Richard has set foot inside Jerusalem!

ABBOT: The vows of women are as silken threads - easily broken.

GISBORNE: This was a solemn oath, made before the Bishop of Durham.

ABBOT: Ah - such oaths are binding.

GISBORNE: What the Church has made, surely the Church can unmake!

ABBOT: Not against the lady's wishes and not without penance - but perhaps she can be persuaded.

(Inside Neston's hall)

MARION: I cannot break my vow.

ABBOT: Surely you can see it would be wrong to delay your wedding any longer, against your uncle's wishes?

NOTTINGHAM: Not forgetting the pain it is causing Sir Guy.

MARION: I am sorry to cause pain to anyone. But Sir Guy must wait. You will understand, my lord.