



♥ LEWIS CARROLL ♥

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

English
Classics

Lingua

A2

Graded
Readers

English Classics. Graded Readers

Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. A2

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«Алиса в стране чудес» Льюиса Кэролла — одно из самых известных произведений мировой литературы и признанный шедевр литературы абсурда. Роман Кэролла доказал миру, что книги вовсе не обязаны поучать — они могут развлекать читателя и играть с ним. Изучение английского тоже вовсе не обязано быть скучным: учить язык можно играя словами и получая удовольствие от интересных книг — например, от «Алисы в стране чудес»! Текст произведения сокращен и адаптирован для уровня A2. Все более сложные слова вы найдете в словариках, расположенных после каждой главы. В конце книги даны упражнения на проверку понимания прочитанного, закрепление новых слов и работу с текстом. Предложенные читателю задания составлены таким образом, чтобы сделать опыт взаимодействия с книгой более глубоким и многогранным. В формате a4.pdf сохранен издательский макет.

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Льюис Кэрролл
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. A2

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Lewis Carroll's Alice

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898) was an English author, poet, and gifted mathematician. He taught Mathematics at Christ Church, Oxford. There he met three little Liddell sisters: Lorina, Alice, and Edith.

He invented many stories for the three girls during their childhood years but the story about Alice's Adventures Under Ground became everyone's favourite. Carroll first told this story on a boat journey up the River Thames. It happened on July 4, 1862. Later, Carroll always called the day the “**golden** afternoon” in his writing.

Alice Liddell loved the story so much that she asked Carroll to write it down for her. He did just that. Then the writer published it as a book with a title *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The book was two times bigger than the original story.

Six years later Carroll published the next story about Alice. Its title was *Through the Looking Glass*.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland has been translated into many languages. Thousands of children and grown-ups around the world love the book about the girl who wasn't afraid to run after the White Rabbit.

Before-reading questions:

1. Lewis Carroll lived in the United Kingdom during the Victorian era. What do you know about England of that time?
2. Wonderland is a world made up by Lewis Carroll. What other imagined worlds have you seen or read about? Describe them.
3. Englishmen love their puns and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is full of them. Do you know what a pun is? Find the definition of it and try to invent a pun yourself.

Chapter 1

Down the Rabbit Hole

Alice was tired of sitting near her sister. Her sister was reading a book and didn't want to play with her. It was boring. Once or twice Alice looked into the book. But it had no pictures or conversations in it. "How can a book be good," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations!"

She wanted to pick up some flowers, but the day was hot, and she felt very sleepy and lazy. Suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran past her.

The Rabbit said to itself, "Oh! Oh, I will be late!" Then it took a watch out of his pocket and looked at it, and ran faster. She wanted to know where the rabbit was running! She stood up and ran after it. The Rabbit jumped down a large rabbit hole, and Alice went after it. Soon she was falling down a very deep tunnel, so she had time to look around. She saw books, pictures on the walls, cups, plates, and jelly in the cupboards.

Down, down, down.

"I must be near the earth's centre," Alice said. "Maybe I will fall on the other side of the earth! I will see people that walk on their heads! Oh, how funny!"

Down, down, down.

Falling down was very boring, and Alice started thinking about her cat, Dinah. "Dinah will miss me very much, I think! Dinah, my dear!"

Down, down, down.



It was a very long fall! Alice started to feel sleepy but suddenly – THUMP! And the fall ended – she was sitting on a small mountain of dry leaves.

Alice jumped up onto her feet. She looked up, but it was all dark there. Suddenly she saw the White Rabbit and ran after it. The Rabbit said, “Oh, how late it is!” and turned the corner. She turned the corner too, but she couldn't see him. She was now in a long hall.

There were doors all around the hall, but all of them were locked. Suddenly Alice saw a little glass table. A very little **golden** key lay on top of it. But the locks in all the doors were very large and the key was very small! Then suddenly Alice noticed a little door and opened it with the key.

Behind the door was a small corridor. It led to a very beautiful garden. Alice wanted to be among those bright flowers and cool fountains! But even her head was too big for the little door. So she went back to the table. Maybe there is another key on it? But this time she found there a little bottle and a piece of paper. The paper said. “DRINK ME”.

Alice thought about the bottle and the note. Maybe it was **poison**. But the bottle did NOT say “**poison**,” so Alice drank it. “What an interesting feeling!” said Alice, “I am getting smaller.”

Now she could go through that little door! But poor Alice! She forgot to take the little **golden** key from the table! Now she couldn't take it from the glass table because she was too small. So she sat down and cried.



“But crying will not help me,” said Alice to herself and looked around. She noticed a little glass box under the table. She opened it and found in it a very small cake with the words “EAT ME”. She ate a little bit, but nothing happened so very soon she ate the whole cake.

Dictionary

golden – золотой

poison – яд

Chapter 2

The Pool of Tears

Now Alice started to grow taller and taller. Her feet were now very far away, and she almost couldn't see them. "Goodbye, feet!" she said. "Oh, my poor little feet, who will put shoes on you now? I will be too far away. But I will send you a new pair of shoes every Christmas. How funny it will be!"

At that moment, her head hit the roof of the hall. She took the little **golden** key from the table and went to the small garden door.

Poor Alice! This time she could look into the garden with only one eye. So she sat down and began to cry again. Soon there was a large pool around her.

Suddenly she heard footsteps far away and quickly dried her eyes to see what it was. The White Rabbit returned! It wore beautiful clothes and had a pair of white **gloves** in one hand and a large **fan** in the other. Alice needed help very much. When the Rabbit came near her, she began very quietly. "Please, sir—" The Rabbit was very scared. It dropped the white **gloves** and the **fan** and ran away.

Alice took the Rabbit's **gloves** and the **fan** and began to think how strange everything was that day. "And yesterday things were so usual. Did I change during the night? Who am I? That's the great puzzle!"

"I'm sure I'm not Ada," she said. "Her hair is curly and my hair isn't curly at all. And I'm sure I can't be Mabel because I know a lot of things, and she, oh! she knows so little! What is more, SHE'S she, and I'M I, and – oh, how difficult it all is! Do I really know the things I knew once? **Four times five is twelve**, and four times six is thirteen, and four times seven is – Oh no! It is all wrong! No, Math doesn't mean anything. Let's try Geography. London is the capital of Paris, and Paris is the capital of Rome, and Rome – no, THAT'S all wrong, I'm sure! Am I Mabel now? I'll try and say '*How does the little —*'".

She had had to learn this **poem** for one of her lessons once, and she knew it very well. But now, when she tried to repeat it, her voice sounded strange, and the words were all different.

"I'm sure those are not the right words," said poor Alice, and she started to cry again, "I must be Mabel then. And they will make me live in that terrible little house, and I will have no toys, and oh! I will have to learn so many lessons! No, I made a decision. If I'm Mabel, I'll stay in this rabbit hole! They will come for me and they will try to make me come back. But I will only look at them and say, 'Who am I then? Tell me that. Then, if I like that person, I will come up. If I will not like that person, I'll stay down here and try to become somebody else'" cried Alice, "But oh! Why don't they come for me right now and call me back home? I am soVERY tired of being all alone here!"



Suddenly she noticed one of the Rabbit's white **gloves** on her hand. She put it on! "How could I do that?" she thought. "Maybe I am growing small again." So she went to the table to check it and found that she wasn't much taller than the table now and she was continuing to get smaller and smaller. And then she understood that it was the **fan** in her hand and she quickly dropped it.

"And now to the garden!" and Alice ran fast to the little door, but the little door was locked again, and the **golden** key was still on the glass table.

She made a step but the floor under her feet was wet and then – **SPLASH!** She was in salt water. She thought about the sea, but soon she understood that it was a lake of her own **tears**.

She heard something splashing about in the lake and swam nearer to see what it was. At first, she thought it was some big and scary animal. But then she remembered how small she was and understood that it was only a mouse.

“Should I speak to this mouse?” thought Alice. “I think it can talk. I'll try.” So she began. “O Mouse, do you know the way out of this lake? I do not want to swim anymore!” But the mouse said nothing.

“Perhaps it doesn't understand English,” thought Alice. “Maybe it's a French mouse.” So she tried again – this time with the first sentence in her French lesson book. “Ou'est ma chatte?” It meant. “Where is my cat?” The scared Mouse jumped up out of the water. “Oh, I am so sorry” cried Alice, “I forgot! You don't like cats.”

“Don't like cats!” cried the Mouse. “What mouse likes cats?”

“Well, you are right,” said Alice; “don't be angry. But our cat Dinah is very different. I think you will like her. She is such a nice quiet thing.”

“No! Our family always HATED cats! They are awful! I don't want to hear this word again!” the Mouse was trembling.

“I am sorry!” said Alice. “Do you... do you... do you like dogs?” The Mouse didn't answer, so Alice started to talk about dogs. But the Mouse was swimming away from her.

“Mouse dear! Come back again, and we won't talk about cats or dogs if you don't like them!” Alice called softly. When the Mouse heard this, it turned round and swam slowly back to her. “Get to the dry place. There I'll tell you my story and you'll understand why I hate cats and dogs,” it said.

More and more animals were swimming in the pool: a Duck, a Parrot, a Little Eagle, some strange bird and others. Alice swam towards the dry floor, and everybody swam after her.

Dictionary

golden – золотой

gloves – перчатки

fan – веер

four times five is twelve – четырежды пять – двенадцать

poem – стихотворение

tears – слёзы

Chapter 3

A Political Race and A Long Tale

The group looked very strange: the birds and the animals were all wet, angry and unhappy. First, they needed to get dry. They talked about the best way to do it. Then the Mouse said. "Sit down, all of you, and listen to me! I will soon make you dry enough!"

They all sat down.

"Are you ready?" asked the mouse with an important look, "This is the driest thing I know. Listen to me, please, and do not talk!" And the Mouse began speaking about the history of England. After some time it asked Alice. "How are you, my dear?"

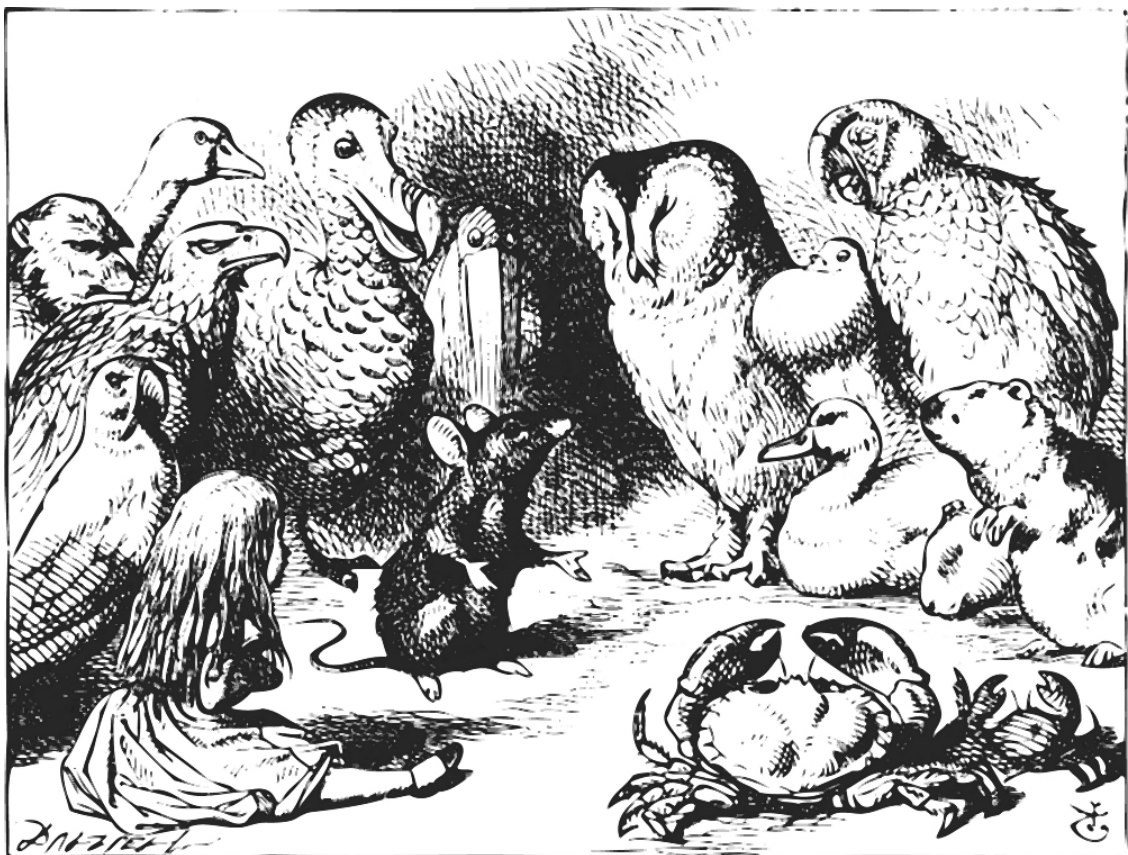
"Wet," answered Alice sadly.

"Well, I think," said the Dodo, standing up, "the best thing to get dry is a political **race**. You will understand how to do it when we start."

First, the Dodo drew a circle on the floor, and everyone stood along the line. Then they began running when they liked and stopped when they liked. After half an hour of running, the Dodo suddenly cried, "The **race** is over!" Everyone started asking, "But who won?"

The Dodo sat thinking and everyone waited for its answer. Finally, the Dodo said. "EVERYBODY won, and everybody will have prizes."

"But who will give us the prizes?" they asked.



"Well, SHE, of course," said the Dodo and looked at Alice.

Alice didn't know what to do. She put her hand into her pocket, took out a box of candy (it was dry), and gave some to everybody as prizes.

“But she must have a prize herself,” said the Mouse.

“Of course,” the Dodo answered seriously. “What else do you have in your pocket?” he asked Alice.

“Only a button,” said Alice sadly.

“Give it to me,” the Dodo said.

Then the Dodo gave her the button back, saying, “Please take this beautiful button as a gift,” and everyone **screamed**, “Hooray!”

It looked very funny to Alice, but they all were so serious that she couldn't laugh. So she took the thread with an important look on her face.

They ate the candy, sat down again and asked the Mouse to tell them something more.

“You promised to tell me your story,” said Alice, “and why you hate – C and D,” she added.

“My **tale** is long and sad!” said the Mouse.

“It IS a long **tail**, of course!” said Alice looking down at the Mouse's **tail** with surprise. “But why do you call it sad?” She continued thinking about it and did not listen to the Mouse.

“You are not listening!” cried the Mouse angrily. “What are you thinking of?”

“I am very sorry,” said Alice. “You began to talk about your **tail**?”

“I had NOT!” the Mouse was very angry.

“A knot!” said Alice. “Oh, let me help you to **undo** it!”

The Mouse stood up and said, “You are a very rude girl!”

“Oh, but I tried to be polite,” cried poor Alice.

The Mouse didn't answer.

“Please come back and finish your story!” Alice called after it but the Mouse only shook its head and went away.

“It is sad that our Dinah is not here!” Alice said. “She would bring the Mouse back.”

“And who is Dinah?” asked the Lory. Alice was always ready to talk about her pet. “Dinah's our cat. And she's so good at catching mice! And oh, she is very good at catching birds too! She is very fast!”

After that, everyone ran away and Alice was soon alone.

“It was a bad idea to talk about Dinah!” She said to herself sadly. “It seems nobody likes her here, and I'm sure she's the best cat in the world! Oh, my dear Dinah! Will I ever see you again?” And here poor Alice began to cry again because she felt very sad. However, a little later she again heard some sounds far away. She thought that it was the Mouse and that it returned to finish the story.

Dictionary

race – гонка, состязание на скорость

scream – кричать

tale – история

tail – хвост

undo – зд. развязать

Chapter 4

The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill

But it wasn't the Mouse – it was the White Rabbit. The Rabbit was looking for t **fan** and **gloves**. It was saying to itself. “The **Duchess**! The **Duchess**! Oh my! Oh my! I should say goodbye to my head, I'm sure! Where ARE they?” Alice began looking for the **fan** and **gloves** too, but she couldn't find them anywhere.

The Rabbit soon noticed Alice and asked her angrily, “Mary Ann, what ARE you doing here? Run home now, and bring me a pair of **gloves** and a **fan**! Quick!” And Alice was so scared that she ran to the house immediately.

“He thinks that I am his **servant**,” she said to herself. “Oh, how surprised he will be when he knows who I am! But I should bring him his **fan** and **gloves**. If I can find them, of course.” At that moment, she came to a nice little house with the name W. RABBIT written on the door. She went in and ran upstairs.

Alice entered a little room and saw a **fan** and two or three pairs of little **gloves** lying on the table. Alice took the **fan** and one pair and wanted to run back but then she saw a little bottle near the mirror. This time there was no piece of paper on it but she still drank it. “I know SOMETHING interesting will happen,” she said to herself, “I hope I'll grow large again because I'm tired of being such a little thing!”

Alice became big so quickly that in the next moment the room was too small for her and she couldn't get out of the door. She had to put one arm out of the window. Alice felt very unhappy. “It was much better at home,” thought poor Alice, “when nobody grew larger and smaller. When I read fairytales, I thought that such things never happened, and now they are happening to me!”

“Mary Ann! Mary Ann!” she heard the Rabbit's voice. “Bring me my **gloves** this moment!”

When the White Rabbit came up to the door, it couldn't open it because Alice's arm did not let it open, and Alice couldn't move her arm. Then the Rabbit said to itself, “Then I'll get in through the window.”

But when the Rabbit was just under the window, it saw her other arm and made a scared sound. Then the Rabbit cried angrily, “Bill! Bill! Where are you? Come and help me! Take that thing away from the window!”

Bill arrived to help the Rabbit. They were talking very quietly. Alice couldn't understand them and sitting there in the room was very boring. She moved her hand to scare them a little. This time there were TWO little scared sounds.

“We must burn the house down!” said the Rabbit's voice.

“If you do, Dinah will catch you!” said Alice loudly.

After that, everything was quiet for a minute or two. Then Bill and the White Rabbit started throwing little stones through the window, and some of them hit Alice in the face. Alice was very angry but suddenly she noticed that the stones were all transforming into little cakes. “If I eat one of these cakes,” she thought, “I will become smaller.”

So she ate one of the cakes, and began to grow small. As soon as she was small enough to get through the door, she ran out of the house. She ran as fast as she could, and soon she was in a wood.

“First,” said Alice to herself, “I must grow again and become the right size; and then I want to go into that lovely garden.”

It sounded like an excellent plan, but she did not know how to start. “I suppose I must eat or drink something; but what?” That was a great question. Alice looked all round her at the flowers and the grass, but she did not see anything that looked like the right thing.

Suddenly Alice heard a loud bark. She looked up and she saw a very big puppy. It stood right next to her. It wanted to touch Alice with its paw. “Poor little thing!” said Alice. She tried to talk to it as if it was a normal puppy, but she was scared that the puppy might be hungry. Will it eat her?

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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