



Lesson 3.1

Circumstances on board.



Life on board was very structured. Each day began with prayer. At 8 o'clock everybody went to work. There was always something to do, such as cleaning, making repairs and keeping watch.

Once the crew boarded the ship they were divided into watches. Almost every watch lasted four hours. The duration of the watch was measured by an hourglass, or glass. Each glass lasted half an hour. After each half hour the hourglass was turned over while simultaneously ringing the ships bell so all members of the crew knew half an hour had passed.

① Reading comprehension

Declaration by the officers regarding the loss of a stream anchor, May 10th, 1762

"We, officers employed by the honorable directors of the Commerce Company of the city of Middelburg, Zeeland, sailing on the snow ship The Unity, declare unanimously, as requested by our captain Jan Menkenveld and to whomever it may concern, that we lost our stream anchor on the 4th of May 1762. We were anchored at d'Elmina with the stream anchor when the buoy rope of the anchor broke, but we managed to catch it again. Shortly after, the stream anchor's rope close to the anchor broke due to a strong wind and a high sea, causing the anchor to disappear in the sea. Several attempts were made to locate the anchor, all in vain. We thus declare that at our departure to America the aforementioned stream anchor remains at the roadstead of d'Elmina."

Questions about the text:

Who is the captain of the ship?

What did they do with the stream anchor?

What broke off?

Where did they travel to from Elmina?

What caused the stream anchor rope to break?

Would you like to know more about this anchor?

Have a look at the following website:

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/stream%20anchor>

② Maritime language?

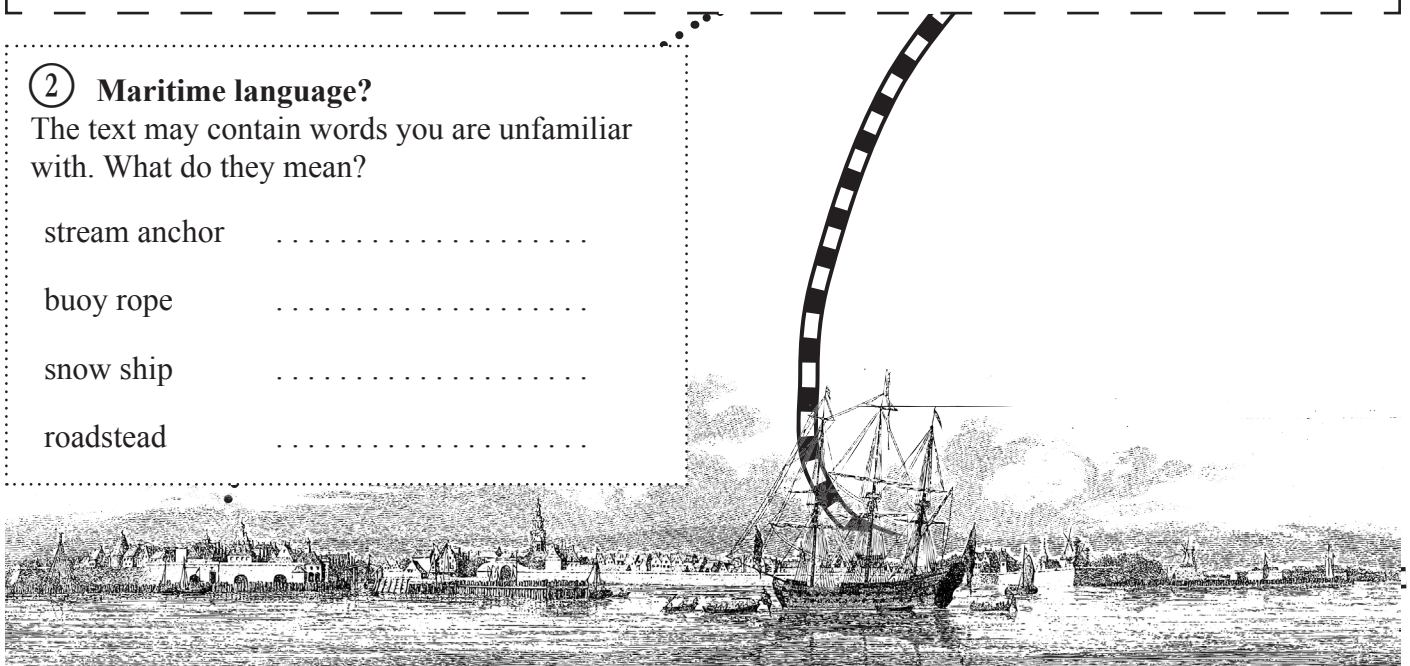
The text may contain words you are unfamiliar with. What do they mean?

stream anchor

buoy rope

snow ship

roadstead



③ Proverbs and sayings

In our language there are many proverbs and sayings that find their origin in shipping.

Below you will find a number of them, match the correct meaning to the proverb or saying:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Feeling blue | a. Disclose the trick |
| 2. The bitter end | b. To understand how to do something |
| 3. A square meal | c. Did not cover the distance, or meet the mark |
| 4. Let the cat out of the bag | d. Surprised by a sudden turn of events |
| 5. Batten down the hatches | e. A nourishing meal |
| 6. High and dry | f. To feel sick, unwell |
| 7. Know the ropes | g. Show your true intentions |
| 8. Long shot | h. Feeling down, or sad |
| 9. Pipe down | i. Prepare for trouble |
| 10. Taken aback | j. A person is well, healthy |
| 11. Turn a blind eye | k. To fulfill the requirements |
| 12. Under the weather | l. The limit of one's efforts |
| 13. A clean bill of health | m. Refuse to acknowledge something you know is real or true |
| 14. Fits the bill | n. Be quiet |
| 15. Show your true colors | o. Stranded without hope of recovery |

④ Make a drawing

Illustrate this saying: *To have the wind in the sails.*

⑤ Complete

There are five proverbs and sayings below.

Each sentence has a word missing. Complete the missing word. You should choose from:

ship, captain, seas, water, shore, lighthouse, anchor, seamen, harbor, wind.

1. Smooth do not make skilful sailors.
2. Better lose the than the whole ship.
3. Too many captains will sink the
4. One cannot discover new lands without losing sight of the
5. He has taken the out of their sails.