

# The Tempest

## Snappy Shakespeare Script: The Tempest



An adaption of Shakespeare's play for  
English Language Learners

# The Tempest

## THE TEMPEST

### CHARACTERS:

CAPTAIN  
ANTONIO  
KING  
ALONZO  
FERDINAND  
STEFANO  
SEBASTIAN  
PROSPERO  
CALIBAN

ARIEL (always invisible except to Prospero and the audience)  
MIRANDA

*[Aboard a ship in a dangerous tempest. The Captain, Antonio, Alonzo, Ferdinand, Stefano and Sebastian are all running around the ship that is about to be wrecked at sea.]*

### CAPTAIN

Take in the topsail!  
Down with the topmast! Lower, lower!

*[To the others]*

What do you here? Shall we give over  
and drown? Have you a mind to sink?

### ANTONIO

Let's all sink with the king!

**CAPTAIN** *[To Alonzo and Ferdinand]*

The king and prince!  
*[To the others]* Let's assist them.

*[Captain and Stefano help Alonzo and Ferdinand]*

### Vocabulary

**topsail (n)** - the top piece of the pieces of material that are fixed to a pole on a boat to catch the wind and make the boat move

**topmast (n)** - the second section of a of the upright post on a ship that holds the sails

**to drown(v)** - to die because you are underwater and cannot breathe

**to assist (v)** - to help

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**SEBASTIAN** *[to Antonio]*  
Let's take leave of them.

*[Sebastian and Antonio exit]*

**STEFANO**  
I would fain die a dry death.

*[The others exit a different way]*

**MIRANDA**  
If by your art, my dearest father, you have  
Put the wild waters in this roar, allay them.

**PROSPERO**  
Be collected.  
There's no harm done. It is now time  
I should inform thee farther. Lend thy hand,  
And pluck my magic garment from me.  
*[Miranda takes off Prospero's magic cloak]*  
Twelve years since, Miranda,  
Thy father was the Duke of Milan.  
My brother and thy uncle, called Antonio  
Managed my state while I did read and study.  
That false man did take my titles and wealth.  
Thyself and I hurried aboard a boat,  
Some food we had and some fresh water with  
Rich garments and my books  
From mine own library with volumes that  
I prize above my dukedom.

**MIRANDA**  
Sir, what is your reason  
For raising this sea-storm?

## Vocabulary

to take leave of (v) - to say goodbye to (someone) and depart

fain (adj) - gladly

to allay (v) - calm

to be collected - be calm

to pluck (v) - take hold of (something) and quickly remove it from its place

volume (n) - a single book or a bound collection of printed sheets

dukedom (n) - area ruled by a duke

# The Tempest

## PROSPERO

By accident most strange, Fortune hath mine enemies  
Brought to this shore.  
Here cease more questions.  
Thou art inclined to sleep.

*[He casts a spell over Miranda and she falls asleep]*

*[Enter Ariel]*

## PROSPERO

Hast thou, spirit,  
Performed to point the tempest that I bade thee?

## ARIEL

To every article.  
But is there more toil?

## PROSPERO

After two days  
I will discharge thee.

## ARIEL

What shall I do?

## PROSPERO

Go make thyself like a nymph of the sea. Go, hence with diligence!

*[Exit Ariel]*

*[To Miranda]*

Awake, thou hast slept well.  
Shake it off. Come on.  
We'll visit Caliban my slave.

*[They both walk over to the other side of the stage]*

## Vocabulary

bade, past tense of bid (v) - order

toil (n) - hard work, especially work that makes you feel physically tired

to discharge (v) - to allow someone to leave

nymph (n) - spirit of nature portrayed as a beautiful woman

diligence (n) - the quality of working carefully and with a lot of effort



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## PROSPERO

What, ho! slave! Caliban!  
Thou poisonous slave, come forth!

*[Enter Caliban]*

## CALIBAN

A south-west blow on ye and blister you all over!  
I must eat my dinner.  
This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother,  
All the charms  
Of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!

## PROSPERO

Thou most lying slave,

## CALIBAN

You taught me language; and my profit on it is, I know how to curse.

## PROSPERO

Hag-seed, hence!  
Fetch us in fuel, and be quick.

## CALIBAN

I must obey!

*[Exit Caliban and the others a different way]*

*[Enter Ariel singing]*

Come unto these yellow sands,  
And then take hands.  
Hark, hark!

*[Enter Ferdinand]*

## Vocabulary

what, ho - hello there

poisonous (adj) - very harmful and able to cause illness or death

blister (n) - a painful, raised area of skin with liquid inside

profit (n) - benefit

curse (n) - a rude word or phrase

hag-seed (n) - the child of a witch

to fetch (v) - to go get something or someone from another place

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**FERDINAND**

Where should this music be? In the air or the earth?

**ARIEL** *[singing]*

Full fathom five thy father lies.  
Of his bones are coral made.  
Those are pearls that were his eyes.  
Full fathom five thy father lies.

**FERDINAND**

The song reminds me of my drowned father.

*[Enter Miranda and Prospero]*

**MIRANDA** *[seeing Ferdinand]*

What is it? A spirit?

**PROSPERO**

No, wench. It eats and sleeps and hath such senses as we have.

**FERDINAND** *[seeing Miranda]*

O you wonder!

**MIRANDA**

No wonder, sir.

**PROSPERO** *[To Ferdinand]*

Follow me.

*[Exit Prospero]*

**FERDINAND**

No!

I will resist him.

*[To Miranda]* What is your name?

## Vocabulary

**fathom (n)** - a unit for measuring the depth of water, equal to 1.8 metres or 6 feet

**coral (n)** - a substance like rock found in the sea

**wench (n)** - a young woman

**to resist (v)** - to fight against something or someone that is attacking you

# The Tempest

**MIRANDA**

Miranda.

**FERDINAND**

Admired Miranda!

You, so perfect and so peerless, are created  
Of every creature's best!

**MIRANDA**

Do you love me?

**FERDINAND**

Beyond all limit I

Do love, prize, honour you.

**MIRANDA**

My husband, then?

**FERDINAND**

Ay, here's my hand.

**MIRANDA**

And mine. And now farewell  
Till half an hour hence.

*[Exit Ferdinand and Miranda]*

*[Enter Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio]*

**ALONZO**

Our garments, being, as they were, drenched in  
the sea, still hold their freshness.

But my son is lost!

Ferdinand! Ferdinand!

## Vocabulary

**admired (adj)** - someone or something that is found attractive and pleasant to  
look at

**peerless (adj)** - better than all others

**beyond (prep/adv)** - further than

**to prize (v)** - to think that someone or something is very valuable or important

**to honour (v)** - to respect someone

**garment (n)** - a piece of clothing

**to be drenched (v)** - to be extremely wet

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*[Enter Ariel who puts a sleeping spell on Alonzo. Then he goes to the back of the stage and watches the others]*

**ALONZO**

I feel wondrous heavy.

**ANTONIO**

We two, my lord,  
Will guard your person while you take your rest,  
And watch your safety.

*[Alonzo lies down and sleeps]*

**SEBASTIAN**

What a strange drowsiness possesses him!

**ANTONIO**

Ay, sir. Here lies your brother,  
No better than the earth he lies upon.  
I, with this obedient steel *[draws his sword]* three inches of it,  
Can lay him to bed for ever.

**SEBASTIAN**

As thou didst get Milan,  
I'll come by Naples. Draw thy sword!

*[Antonio and Sebastian get ready to stab Alonzo to death]*

**ARIEL** *[coming forwards but invisible to the others]*

Open-eyed conspiracy!  
*[He reverses his sleeping spell on Alonzo]*  
Shake off slumber, and beware!  
Awake, awake!

**ALONZO**

Why, how now? Ho, awake! Why are you drawn?

## Vocabulary

**spell (n)** - a group of secret words that are believed to have magic power

**wondrous (adv)** - very

**drowsiness (n)** - a sleepy feeling

**obedient (adj)** - willing to do what you have been asked to do by someone in authority

**to draw (v)** - to take something out of a container or your pocket, especially a weapon



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*[Sebastian and Antonio look at each other and then run away off stage]*

I'll go make further search  
For my poor son.

*[Exit Alonso and Enter Caliban]*

## CALIBAN

All the infections that the sun sucks up  
From bogs, fens, flats, on Prospero fall!

*[Enter Stefano]*

Lo, now, lo!  
Here comes a spirit of his to torment me.  
I'll fall flat and he will not mind me.

*[Caliban lies down flat and covers himself with a cloth]*

## STEFANO

Here's neither bush nor shrub, to bear off  
any weather at all, and another storm brewing.  
Well, here's my comfort.

*[He takes out his bottle and drinks. Then he sees Caliban on the ground]*

What have we here? A man or a fish? Dead or alive? A fish!  
he smells like a fish! This is some monster of the island!

*[He goes over and pulls the cover off Caliban and screams]*

## CALIBAN

Do not torment me. Oh!

## Vocabulary

**conspiracy (n)** - a secret plan made by two or more people to do something bad,  
illegal, or against someone's wishes

**to reverse (v)** - to cause something to stop or return to an earlier state

**infection (n)** - a disease in a part of your body that is caused by bacteria or a  
virus

**to torment (v)** - to bother endlessly, make miserable

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**STEFANO**

*[To the audience]*

He shall taste of my bottle. If he have never drunk wine before it will go near to remove his fit.

*[Caliban drinks some wine from Stefano's bottle]*

**CALIBAN**

That's a brave god and bears celestial liquor.  
I'll show thee every fertile inch of this island,  
And I will kiss thy foot. I prithee, be my god!

**STEFANO**

I prithee now, lead the way without any more talking.

*[Exit Caliban and Stefano]*

*[Enter Prospero]*

**PROSPERO**

Now does my project gather to a head.  
Say, my spirit,  
How fares the king and his followers?

**ARIEL**

Your charm so strongly works on them  
That if you now beheld them, your affections  
Would become tender.

**PROSPERO**

Dost thou think so, spirit?

**ARIEL**

Mine would, sir, were I human.

Vocabulary

to bear (v) - to carry

celestial (adj) - of or from the sky or outside this world

fertile (adj) - something that can allow for good growth

prithee (exclamation) - please (used to convey a polite request)

to fare (v) - to be

charm (n) - a quality which makes you like someone or something

behold (v) - to see or look at someone or something

affection (n) - a feeling of liking or loving a person or place

tender (adj) - kind and gentle

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## PROSPERO

And mine shall.  
Go release them, Ariel.  
My charms I'll break, their senses I'll restore,  
And they shall be themselves.

*[Exit Ariel]*

This rough magic I here abjure, and I'll break my staff,  
Bury it certain fathoms in the earth,  
And deeper than did ever plummet sound  
I'll drown my book.

*[Re-enter Ariel followed by Alonzo, Sebastian, Antonio, Caliban and Stefano all under a spell]*

## PROSPERO

Why, that's my dainty Ariel! I shall miss thee.

*PROSPERO [undoing the spell on Alonzo and the others]*

Behold, sir king,  
The wronged Duke of Milan, Prospero  
Does now speak to thee.  
To thee and thy company I bid  
A hearty welcome.

*PROSPERO [To Antonio]*

For you, most wicked sir, whom to call brother  
Would even infect my mouth, I do forgive  
Thy rankest fault.  
I require my dukedom of thee.

## Vocabulary

release (v) - to set a prisoner free  
restore (v) - to return something to an earlier or original condition  
adjure (v) - to ask or order someone to do something  
plummet (v) - to fall very quickly and suddenly  
dainty (adj) - small, delicate, and often moving in a careful way  
to be wronged (v) - to be treated in unfair way  
hearty (adj) - very great  
wicked (adj) - extremely bad and morally wrong  
rank (adj) - smelling very unpleasant



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*[Antonio hands over his badge of Dukedom to Prospero]*

**PROSPERO**

Welcome, sirs,  
This cell's my court. Here have I few attendants.

*[He draws back a curtain and reveals Miranda and Ferdinand together playing chess]*

**ALONZO**

A most high miracle!

**FERDINAND**

Father!

*[Ferdinand and Alonzo embrace]*

**MIRANDA**

O, wonder!  
How many goodly creatures are there here!  
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,  
That has such people in it!

**ALONZO**

What is this maid with whom thou wast at play?

**FERDINAND**

She's daughter to this famous Duke of Milan.

**ALONZO**

*[To Ferdinand and Miranda]*

Give me your hands.

*[Alonzo embraces Ferdinand and Miranda]*

*[Seeing Stefano]*

Is not this Stefano, my drunken butler?

## Vocabulary

**badge (n)** - a piece of metal, plastic, etc., with words or a picture on it which you wear on your clothes

**attendant (n)** - someone whose job is to travel or live with an important person and help him or her

**to be drunken (v)** - to be unable to act normally because of having had too much



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*[Pointing to Caliban]*

This is a strange thing as ever I looked on.

**PROSPERO** *[to Caliban]*

You mis-shapen knave!  
Go, sirrah, to my cell.  
Take with you your companion.

**CALIBAN**

Ay, that I will, and I'll be wise hereafter.  
What an ass was I, to take this drunkard for a god  
And worship this dull fool!

*[Exit Caliban and Stefano]*

**PROSPERO**

In the morn  
I'll bring you to your ship and so to Naples,  
And thence retire me to my Milan

*[To Ariel]*

My Ariel, chick,  
Be free, and fare thou well!

*[Exit everyone except for Prospero]*

**PROSPERO**

Our revels now are ended. These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits and  
Are melted into air, into thin air.  
We are such stuff  
As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep.  
Now my charms are all overthrown,  
And what strength I have's mine own,

## Vocabulary

knave (n) - an unprincipled, untrustworthy, or dishonest person.  
companion (n) - someone you spend a lot of time with or go somewhere with  
to worship (v) - to love and admire someone or something very much  
morn (n) - morning  
to retire (v) - to leave your job or stop working  
to overthrow (v) - to defeat

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Since I have my dukedom got  
And pardoned the deceiver,  
Release me from my bands  
With the help of your good hands.  
As you from crimes would pardoned be,  
Let your indulgence set me free.

*[End]*

## Vocabulary

**deceiver (n)** - a person who makes others believe something that is not true

**indulgence (n)** - the act of doing something that you enjoy but that is usually thought of as wrong or unhealthy