

JEROME K. JEROME: THREE MEN IN A BOAT

→ TASK

Listen to the extract and try to answer the following questions:

- 1) **Why did the narrator go to British Museum?**
 - a) to read about a treatment of hay fever
 - b) to study diseases
 - c) to read about symptoms of several diseases
- 2) **What terrified him?**
 - a) the number of deadly diseases
 - b) the dangerous diseases
 - c) the symptoms of some disease he thought he had
- 3) **What did he read about afterwards?**
 - a) different types of dances
 - b) all other diseases
 - c) the treatment of Bright's disease
- 4) **What made him sad?**
 - a) he was born with cholera
 - b) he didn't suffer from housemaid's knee
 - c) he would die soon
- 5) **What does he think about himself?**
 - a) he would be a perfect subject for students of medicine
 - b) he should go to the hospital
 - c) he should get a diploma
- 6) **How does he examine himself?**
 - a) he feels his pulse and touches his thighs
 - b) he touches his thighs and looks at his tongue
 - c) he feels his pulse and pats himself

Solution: 1A, 2C, 3B, 4B, 5A, 6C



Translating from English into Czech is always difficult, but sometimes the result is quite good. Let's take a closer look at the Czech translation by Jiří Zdeněk Novák.

I plodded conscientiously through the twenty six letters, and the only malady I could conclude I had not got was housemaid's knee. I felt rather hurt about this at first; it seemed somehow to be a sort of slight. Why hadn't I got housemaid's knee? Why this invidious reservation? After a while, however, less grasping feelings prevailed. I reflected that I had every other known malady in the pharmacology, and I grew less selfish, and determined to do without housemaid's knee.

→ TASK

Listen to the extract and match the words:

1 malignant	A) stage
2 devastating	B) complications
3 premonitory	C) symptoms
4 acute	D) ailment
5 severe	E) fever
6 frozen with	F) dance
7 scarlet	G) horror
8 St Vitus'	H) scourge

Solution: 1D, 2H, 3C, 4A, 5B, 6G, 7E, 8F

Now housemaid's knee disease is a common cause of swelling and pain above the kneecap. However the name itself suggests that only housemaids suffer from it. Novák doesn't try to translate it word for word, instead he introduces a completely different disease which is really impossible for a man to get.

Svědomitě jsem probádal všechna písmena abecedy a pouze o jediném neduhu jsem mohl s jistotou usoudit, že jím netrpím, a to o sklonu k samovolným potratům. V první chvíli mě to dost zamrzelo; připadlo mi to jako urážlivé přezírání. Jak to, že netrpím sklonem k samovolným potratům? Jak to, že zrovna já mám být takto omezován? Po nějaké chvíli však ve mně převládly pocity méně chamtivé. Uvážil jsem, že mám všechny ostatní ve farmakologii známe nemoci, začal jsem se na celou věc dívat méně sobecky a došel jsem k rozhodnutí, že se bez sklonu k samovolným potratům obejdu.

So, as you can see translation doesn't have to be a word for word copy of the original after all.