

The captain and the cabin boy

It's 1875. The Cutty Sark is a **fast** (1) ship on the way **from** (2) China **to** (3) England with **lots/a lot** (4) of tea on board. It's a very **long** (5) way from Shanghai to London. After only a week at **sea** (6) the ship **gets** (7) into **an** (8) awful storm. Big waves **hit** (9) the ship and **throw** (10) the people aboard from one side of the deck to the **other** (11). The sailors can't walk on **deck** (12) and the captain can't **hold** (13) the wheel.

The captain is scared **of** (14) the storm and tells **his** (15) sailors to take the sails down. He **tells** (16) the cabin boy Ben Briggs to climb up, too. Ben is fourteen **years** (17) old and he usually **works** (18) in the cabins.

It **isn't** (19) easy to climb up to the top of the sails in a storm, but it is the **sailors'** (20) normal work. But **for** (21) Ben this work is new and so **he's** (22) slow. The captain looks **at** (23) Ben's slow climb and gets angry, **because** (24) he thinks Ben is just scared and not brave. So he shouts loud: "Come down, Briggs — **you're** (25) in the way. **Don't** (26) stand in the brave **men's** (27) way." Now the sailors **climb** (28) up to the sails very fast and take **them** (29) down. The captain can hold the **wheel** (30-Ruder) again, but he **needs** (31-brauchen) the **first mate's** (32) help. Everyone is tired, but **there's** (33) no time to sleep. The storm is very dangerous.

The captain is happy and says **to** (34) his men: "We're all tired now and **need** (35) a drink. Hey Briggs, bring **us** (36) something to drink." Ben runs and **comes** (37) back to the deck **with** (38) water. But he **can't** (39) get to the men around the wheel, **because** (40) just then a monster **wave** (41) hits the ship. Ben sees a lifebuoy and can hold on to **it** (42) with one hand. Then the wave hits the men **around/at** (43) the wheel and takes the first mate with **it** (44) into the sea. The first mate can't swim and **shouts** (45-schreien): "Help **me** (46)! I can't swim! Save **me** (47)!" The captain throws a lifebuoy to **him** (48), but the first mate can't get to **it** (49), **because** (50) he can't swim. Then the captain tells **his** (51) men to save the man with a lifeboat. But Ben knows the first mate **needs** (52) help right away. There isn't **enough** (53) time for the lifeboat to save the first mate. Ben thinks fast. He **doesn't** (54) wait for the lifeboat. He can swim and jumps into the water right away. He swims to the lifebuoy and takes **it** (55) to the first mate. After that, Ben **doesn't** (56) swim away from the first mate, but stays with **him** (57) till the lifeboat **comes** (58).

The captain watches how Ben saves **his/the** (59) first mate. Well, that's how he finds out he's/is (60) wrong **about** (61) his cabin boy. He's really sorry about his angry words. When Ben and the sailors are back on board, he thanks **them** (62) very much. After the storm he talks to Ben. "**You're** (63) very brave, Briggs," he says, "and brave people make good sailors. **I'm** (64-sein) very happy to have **you** (65) on Cutty Sark."