

УДК 811.111(075)
ББК 81.2 Англ-9
К98

Дизайн обложки А.И. Орловой

Кэрролл, Льюис.

К98 Алиса в стране чудес = Alice in Wonderland / Л. Кэрролл; адаптация текста, словарь С.А. Матвеева, Д.В. Положенцевой. – Москва: Издательство АСТ, 2019. – 320 с. – (Карманное чтение на английском языке).

ISBN 978-5-17-113986-5

Увидев однажды странного белого кролика с карманными часами, Алиса тут же следует за ним. Ведь ей необходимо узнать, зачем кролику нужны карманные часы? Куда ведет кроличья нора? И главное: чем ворон похож на письменный стол?

Текст произведений адаптирован и сопровождается словарем. Предназначается для начинающих изучать английский язык (уровень Elementary).

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ISBN 978-5-17-113986-5

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**ALICE'S
ADVENTURES
IN WONDERLAND**

CHAPTER I

Down the Rabbit-Hole

Alice¹ was boring. She was sitting by her sister on the bank of the river, and doing nothing. Once or twice she looked at the book that her sister held in her hands, but there were no pictures in it. “**What is the use of a book**²,” thought Alice “without pictures or conversations?”

She decided to get up and pick some flowers, when suddenly

¹ **Alice** — Алиса

² **what is the use of a book** —
что толку в книжке

a **White Rabbit**¹ with pink eyes ran nearby. There was nothing remarkable in that; but the Rabbit said, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I am late!" Then the Rabbit took a watch out of its pocket, and looked at it. Alice stood up. How strange! A rabbit has pockets, and a watch! She ran across the field after it. The Rabbit jumped into a large **rabbit-hole**² under the hedge.

Alice went after it. The rabbit-hole was like a tunnel. Alice began to fall down a deep well. The well was very deep, and she was falling very slowly. Down, down, down. Where is the end?

It took her a long time to go down, and as she went she had time to look at the strange things around her. First she tried to look down, but it was too dark to see. Then she looked at the sides of the

¹ **White Rabbit** — Белый Кролик

² **rabbit-hole** — кроличья нора

well and saw many book-shelves; here and there she saw different maps. She took a jar from one of the shelves as she passed. On it was a label "ORANGE MARMALADE", but there was no marmalade in it, so she put it back on one of the shelves.

"I'm sure I am going to the centre of the earth," Alice said aloud. "It is four thousand miles down, I think. But maybe I am falling **right through the earth**¹! How funny! The people there walk with their heads downward! I shall ask them what the name of the country is, you know. Please, Ma'am, is this New Zealand or Australia?"

Down, down, down. Nothing to do. Alice soon began to talk again. "**Dinah**² will miss me very much tonight, I think!" (Dinah was the

¹ **right through the earth** — насквозь через всю Землю

² **Dinah** — Дина

cat.) “I hope they’ll give her milk. Dinah my dear! Where are you? Why not with me down here? There are no mice in the air, I’m afraid, but you can catch a bat. But do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats? Dinah, tell me the truth: do you eat bats?”

Suddenly, **thump! thump!**¹ she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves. Alice jumped up on to her feet very fast: she looked up, but it was dark there. Before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit went down it. Alice went like the wind. The Rabbit was saying, “Oh my ears and whiskers, how late, how late!” And he disappeared.

Alice stood in a long, low hall, a row of lamps was hanging from the roof. There were many doors on all sides, but they were all locked. She walked back and forth and tried

¹ **thump! thump!** — хрясь! хрясь!

to think how to get out. Suddenly she saw a little glass table; there was a tiny golden key on it. Alice thought that this was the key to one of the doors of the hall, but when she tried the key in each lock, she found that the locks were too large or the key was too small.

Then Alice noticed a little door **about fifteen inches high**¹. She tried the key in the lock, and to her great joy it fitted. Alice opened the door and found a small passage, not larger than **a rat-hole**². But how to get there? She was too big for that passage. She knelt down and looked through it into a garden of flowers.

Alice went back to the table: this time she found a little bottle on it, which was not there before,

¹ **about fifteen inches high** — примерно пятнадцать дюймов в высоту

² **a rat-hole** — крысиная нора

and round **the neck of the bottle**¹ was a paper label with the words “DRINK ME” in large letters.

It was all very well to say “Drink me,” but the wise little Alice said, “No, I’ll look first. Is it marked “poison” or not?” She knew: if you drink much from a bottle marked “poison,” it will certainly make you sick.

However, this bottle was not marked “poison,” so Alice decided to taste it, and found it very nice (it had a taste of a cherry-cake, ice-cream, pine-apple, roast turkey, and hot toast).

“How strange I feel” said Alice; “I am sure I am not so large as I was.”

And so it was indeed: she was now only ten inches high. She was now the right size to go through the small door and get out to that

¹ **the neck of the bottle** — горлышко бутылки

beautiful garden. So she decided to enter; but, alas for poor Alice! she forgot the little golden key, and when she went back to the table for it, she could not reach it: she was too little. Poor little Alice sat down and cried.

Soon she saw a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which she noticed the words "EAT ME". "Well, I'll eat it," said Alice, "and if I grow larger, I can reach the key; and if I grow smaller, I can creep under the door!"

She soon ate all the cake.

CHAPTER II

The Pool of Tears

“How strange!” cried Alice; “how tall I am! Good-bye, my feet! Oh, my poor little feet, who will put on your shoes and stockings for you now, dears?”

When she looked down at her feet they were so far off.

“Let me see. I’ll give my feet a new pair of shoes every Christmas.”

She stopped to think: how to send them?

“They must go by mail,” she thought; “how funny! I’ll send shoes to my own feet! How strange the address will be!”

Just then her head struck against the roof of the hall: in fact she was now more than nine feet high, and she at once took up the little golden key. But she can't open the door, she is too big. Poor Alice! She sat down and began to cry again.

"Shame on you," said Alice, "a big girl like you! Don't cry! Stop at once, I tell you!"

She was shedding **gallons**¹ of tears, until there was a large pool all round her, about four inches deep and reaching half down the hall.

After a time she heard some noise. She hastily dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit. He was returning, with a pair of white gloves in one hand and a large fan in the other. He was muttering to himself, "Oh!

¹ **gallon** — галлон (мера объёма), английский галлон = 4,5461 литра

the **Duchess**¹, the Duchess! She will be angry. Oh! I can't be late!"

Alice began, in a low, timid voice, "If you please, sir—"

The Rabbit dropped the white gloves and the fan, and ran away into the darkness.

Alice took up the fan and gloves. "Dear, dear! How queer everything is today! And yesterday everything was as usual. Was I changed in the night? Let me think, who am I? Do I know the things **that I used to know**²? Let me see: **four times five**³ is twelve, and four times six is thirteen, and four times seven is—oh dear! **I shall never get to twenty at that**

¹ **Duchess** — Герцогиня

² **that I used to know** — которые я знала

³ **four times five** — четырежды пять

rate¹. 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 certain! Who am I then?" cried Alice with tears, "I am so tired!"

As she said this she looked down at her hands, and was surprised. She put on one of the Rabbit's little white gloves. "How could I do that?" she thought. "I am growing small again."

She got up and went to the table. She was now about two feet high. The cause of this was the fan that she was holding, and she dropped it hastily.

¹ **I shall never get to twenty at that rate.** — Так я никогда не достигну до 20. (в английских учебниках арифметики таблица умножения обычно заканчивается на 12; то есть, если считать по методу Алисы, то получится: $4 \times 5 = 12$, $4 \times 6 = 13 \dots 4 \times 12 = 19$)