

Activity Sheet no. 3 – Responses

To help you assess your own responses, you will find sample translations of the three exercises you completed.

Exercise no. 1

Literal – “You descend into village to do some courses for your mother, to buy tobacco for your father, cigarettes for you.”

Balanced – “You go down into the village to run some errands for your mother, buy some tobacco for your father, and cigarettes for yourself.”

Free/Idiomatic – “You pop into town to do bits and bobs for ma, buy some baccy for you pa and cigs for thee.”

Exercise no. 2

« À travers le brouillard, il contemplait des clochers, des édifices dont il ne savait pas les noms ; puis il embrassa, dans un dernier coup d’œil [...] Notre-Dame ... » (Flaubert)

Literal – “Traversing the fog, he contemplated of the bells, of the edifices of which he did not know the names; then he embraced, in a behind cut of the eye [...] Notre-Dame”

Balanced – “Through the fog, he contemplated the bells, the buildings, whose names he did not know; then, he embraced, in one last glance [...] Notre-Dame”

Free/Idiomatic – “Gazing through the fog at the bells and nameless buildings; he held Notre-Dame in his eye one last time”

Exercise no. 3

The following are three possible translations of the passage given in the third exercise, with the weakest being (1), the strongest being (3), and the one in between being (2).

(1) Sometimes, when I consider the varied unrest of men and the perils and sorrows they expose themselves to, in court, at war, from whence so many arguments, so much passion, risky and often dishonourable business, etc., I found that all men’s happiness comes from one thing, which is not knowing how to rest in one’s room.

(2) Sometimes when I actually stop and consider all the struggles of men, and the grief and difficulty they face, in court, at war, producing so many fights, so many strong emotions, so many ambitious, often failed, plans, and more, I discovered that all of men’s pain comes from just one thing: never being able to relax in one’s bedroom.

(3) When I sometimes set myself to the task of thinking about the diverse and restless activities of men, the perils and pains to which they expose themselves, in court or at war, from which arise so many quarrels, passions, and risky, often wicked enterprises, etc., I discovered that all men's unhappiness comes from one thing: not knowing how to remain at rest in his room.