

My Own Resources ESL/EFL

NAME:

COURSE:

THE TAIPAN

Suddenly he felt he could not bear to stay in the club any longer. As he went out he saw the doctor reading The Times in the reading room, but he could not bring himself to speak to him. He wanted to see for himself whether that grave was really there, and stepping into his chair he told his bearers to take him to the cemetery. You couldn't have a hallucination twice, could you? And besides, he would take the overseer in with him and if the grave was not there he wouldn't see it, and if it was he'd give the overseer the soundest thrashing he'd ever had. But the overseer was nowhere to be found. He had gone out and taken the keys with him. When the taipan found he could not get into the cemetery he felt suddenly exhausted. He got back into his chair and told his bearers to take him home. He would lie down for half an hour before dinner. He was tired out. That was it. He had heard that people had hallucinations when they were tired. When his boy came in to put out his clothes for dinner it was only by an effort of will that he got up. He had a strong inclination not to dress that evening, but he resisted it: he made it a rule to dress, he had dressed every evening for twenty years and it would never do to break his rule. But he ordered a bottle of champagne with his dinner and that made him feel more comfortable. Afterwards he told the boy to bring him the best brandy. When he had drunk a couple of glasses of this he felt himself again. Hallucinations be damned! He went to the billiard-room and practised a few difficult shots. There could not be much the matter with him when his eye was so sure. When he went to bed he sank immediately into a sound sleep.

QUESTIONS

1. Vocabulary. Find words in the text that mean (1 point):

A person that carries someone or something from one place to another.	
A person whose job it is to make certain that employees were working or that an activity is being done correctly.	
A person that is very tired.	
To hit hard or make a series of violent and uncontrolled movements.	
The mental power used to control and direct your thoughts and actions, or a determination to do something, despite any difficulties or opposition.	

2. Answer the following questions according to the text. (5 points)

1. What kind of job did the taipan have?

2. How long had he been to China?

3. After a visit to the cemetery, what surprised him?
