


LISTENING ACTIVITY

1/4



LES MISÉRABLES

 **1. Listen to the audio and complete the text. Choose the words from the basket below.**

nervously • robbery • locked • appearance • pointing • obedient • ex-convicts • unexpected • beard • height • fountain

One evening in October 1815, a man with a long **1** and torn clothes walked into the town of Digne. He was in his late forties, of medium **2** and had a strong body. His face was tired and sunburnt, and he carried a large wooden stick. A heavy soldier's bag was on his back.

The townspeople, who had never seen him before, watched him with interest as he stopped at the **3** for some water. He then crossed the square and walked into an inn.

'What can I do for you, sir?' asked the innkeeper without looking at him.

'A meal and a bed,' said the stranger.

'Of course,' said the innkeeper, who turned and looked at him. The innkeeper saw his rough **4** and added, 'If you can pay for it.'

'I have money,' the stranger showed him an old leather purse.

'Show me your passport,' said the innkeeper.

The stranger took a yellow passport out of his pocket. As soon as the innkeeper saw the yellow passport, which was only given to **5**, he exclaimed, 'You can't stay here! You've just come out of prison. I don't want people like you here!'

The stranger got up, took his bag and stick and left. It was getting dark and a cold wind was blowing from the east. He lay down on a stone bench near a church.

A few minutes later an old woman came out of the church and saw him. 'What are you doing?' she asked.

'I need a place to sleep,' said the stranger **6**

'Go and knock on the door of the bishop's home,' said the old woman, **7** to a door near the church. 'He can help you.'

The Bishop of Digne was a kind old man who had given his palace to the town hospital. He lived a simple life and was loved by the people of the town. His doors were never **8** so that anyone who needed his help could find him easily.



LISTENING ACTIVITY

2/4



The stranger got up from the stone bench and went to knock on the bishop's door.

'Come in,' said the bishop.

The stranger walked in and the bishop looked at his

9visitor kindly.

'My name is Jean Valjean,' said the stranger before the bishop could speak.

'I've been in prison for nineteen years and they let me out four days ago. I've been walking all day and nobody in this town will give me food or a place to sleep. A woman told me to come here. I've got some money. Will you let me stay?'

The bishop looked at Mrs Magloire, the old servant, and said, 'Please prepare another place at the table for this gentleman.'

Jean Valjean was surprised and said, 'Perhaps you don't understand. I've spent five years in prison at the Bagne of Toulon for **10** and another fourteen years for trying to escape four times. I'm a dangerous man!'

'Mrs Magloire,' said the bishop calmly, 'please put clean sheets on the bed in the spare room.'

Mrs Magloire, who was an **11**servant, left the room without saying a word.

(from Chapter One)



LISTENING ACTIVITY

3/4



ACTIVITIES

2. Choose the correct answer – a, b, or c.

1. Jean Valjean arrived at the town of Digne

- a early in the morning.
- b late at night
- c in the evening.

2. The innkeeper did not want Jean Valjean in his inn

- a and called the police.
- b because Valjean had a yellow passport.
- c because Valjean did not have enough money to pay for a meal and a bed.

3. An old woman told Jean Valjean

- a to knock on the door of the bishop's home.
- b to knock on the door of the church.
- c to go back to the inn.

4. Jean Valjean had stayed in prison

- a for nineteen years.
- b for five years.
- c for fourteen years.

5. The old servant, Mrs Magloire

- a did not obey the bishop.
- b went to put clean sheets on the bed in the spare room.
- c was the bishop's sister.

