

Ten Trees a Day: The adventures of Gwilym and Wilhelmina, the multilingual buffalo

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Introductory Units

Day 1

1. The wind blew across the plains.
2. The tall grasses were waving in the wind.
3. The birds chirped cheerily in the trees.
4. Happy gophers cavorted on the grass.
5. An eagle observed the gophers with interest.
6. The sun was nearing the horizon.
7. A rumbling sound was resounding deeply.
8. A passing mouse wondered about the deep sound.
9. The rumbling grew louder by the minute.
10. The animals on the plain hid from the sound.

Day 2

11. The tiny mouse was shaking in fear.
12. The cloud of dust grew larger.
13. The eagle saw a herd of animals in the distance.
14. The herd came over the hilltop.
15. They quickly trampled the grass.
16. The birds gave the other animals a warning cry.
17. The cry meant that the buffalo were coming..
18. The mouse thought that she should disappear quickly.
19. She dived into a hole in the ground in front of her.
20. The ground above her shook as the buffalo went past.

Day 3

21. The animals did not think the buffalo would eat them.
22. They were afraid the buffalo would trample them.
23. The buffalo were pursuing fresh grass.
24. Those buffalo were large and lumbering.
25. The herd that the animals had heard caused considerable alarm.
26. One young buffalo trotted slowly behind the herd.
27. He was smelling the fresh grass.
28. This buffalo was wondering whether he would find any adventures.
29. He was tired of the dry grassy plains.
30. He thought that other places must be more interesting.

Day 4

31. The herd slowly came to a stop.
32. The mouse peeked her head out of the hole.
33. She saw a young buffalo nearby.
34. The buffalo looked too young to be dangerous.
35. The mouse began to talk to the young buffalo.
36. The mouse asked about life on the plains.
37. The mouse had lived in the city before she had moved to the country.
38. The mouse and the buffalo talked for a while.
39. She told the buffalo about the city.
40. The buffalo was very interested in the city.

Day 5

41. The buffalo had always lived on the grassy plains.
42. The buffalo longed for adventure.
43. He wanted to explore the wide, wide world.
44. The mouse woke the buffalo early one day.
45. The mouse told the buffalo that there were places far away.
46. The mouse said that cities were very exciting.
47. The buffalo decided to find a city.
48. He trotted eagerly away from his herd.
49. He soon came to a river.
50. The river blocked the buffalo's path.

Day 6

51. The deep river flowed quickly.
52. The buffalo pondered his options.
53. He might be considered a foolish young buffalo.
54. The buffalo waded into the river and swam.
55. The fast current caught him by surprise.
56. He tumbled down the river out of control.
57. The buffalo began to panic.
58. He cried out for help.
59. A wily old mare on the other bank heard his frantic cries.
60. She quickly cantered to the riverbank.

Day 7

61. The mare quickly assessed the situation.
62. That the buffalo was in trouble was clear to her.
63. The river was flowing too fast for him.
64. Her options were very limited.
65. She saw a large branch on the river bank.
66. She swiftly grabbed the branch with her teeth.
67. She tossed the branch into the river.
68. She then yelled for him to swim to it.
69. The buffalo swam to the branch.
70. He wished that he had opposable thumbs so he could grab the branch.

Day 8

71. The buffalo chomped down on the branch with his powerful jaws.
72. He whirled with the branch down the river.
73. They soon became stuck in the bank of the river.
74. The old mare cantered over to him.
75. She dangled her long flowing tail into the water for the buffalo to grab.
76. He grabbed her tail.
77. She pulled the buffalo with great strength.
78. The buffalo slowly scrambled up the bank with the mare's help.
79. He flopped exhausted onto the green grass.
80. For the buffalo to be saved pleased the old mare.

Day 9

81. The old mare walked over to the recumbent buffalo.
82. "I want to know why you were crossing the treacherous river."
83. "I am going to see the city."
84. A mouse told me that cities are sensational."
85. "You silly young buffalo!"
86. Cities are only for humans.
87. They are not for buffalos or for horses."
88. The young buffalo pondered this new information thoughtfully.
89. "I want to know why cities are not for buffalos."
90. "Cities do not have enough grass."

Complement Clauses and X-bar Structures (Complement/Adjunct)

X-bar starts Day 14 or 15

Day 10

91. "Places that do not have grass sound very unhealthy.
92. I wonder why the mouse thought that cities are exciting."
93. The mare said "Mice are very different from us."
94. The bedraggled young buffalo looked dejected.
95. The old mare took pity upon the inexperienced buffalo.
96. The eager buffalo reminded her of herself in her younger days.
97. The mare's thoughts turned to her youthful adventures
98. "I can recommend many exciting places that are more friendly to buffalo.
99. For you to have an adventure does not require a city.
100. I would suggest the bluffs high above the river.

Day 11

101. You will find all of the experiences a buffalo would want near the bluffs.
102. The bluffs have forests, prairie, storms, wind and wolves.”
103. The restless young buffalo perked up at these new tidings.
104. “The bluffs must be a fine place indeed!”
105. The mare continued “You could also search for the ancient gargantuan wisteria that all buffalo hold sacred.”
106. The buffalo’s ears twitched with excitement at the prospect of a new adventure.
107. He straightened his shoulders with resolve.
108. That there was another exciting place was something he had never considered.
109. The bison turned to the mare.
110. “I cannot thank you enough for your help.”

Day 12

111. The mare told the buffalo how he could find the bluffs.
112. The mare was sure that he would find the adventure he longed for.
113. The mare’s thoughts turned to her father’s advice when she had been a filly.
114. Her father had warned her that she should think carefully about adventures.
115. Unplanned exploits could be very dangerous for young animals.
116. Meanwhile, the buffalo trotted off into the wilderness.
117. That he would not find adventure never occurred to him.
118. He was very sure of himself for one who was so young.
119. The doughty buffalo came to a tall grassy slope ere long.
120. The slope soon became precipitously steep.

Day 13

121. The buffalo struggled mightily while he climbed the hill.
122. He longed for there to be a spring with fresh water.
123. The buffalo grew gloomier and gloomier.
124. “I should not have come by myself.”
125. “I wish I had a friend with me.”
126. Suddenly, he cocked his head alertly.
127. “I hear the sound of water in the distance!”
128. The thought that he would soon be drinking fresh water buoyed the buffalo’s spirits.
129. He scrambled energetically up the hill toward the water.
130. He soon came to a glistening lake that was surrounded by pine trees.

Day 14

131. A small stream trickled into the lake.
132. The lake was glassy smooth except for the ripples from the stream.
133. The buffalo cautiously walked toward the lake.
134. He scanned the area for potential dangers.
135. He then bent his head and drank deeply.
136. The buffalo suddenly saw himself in his reflection from the lake.
137. “I look terribly disheveled.”
138. He waded into the water to wash.
139. The water felt glorious on the buffalo’s pelt.
140. “I feel like myself again!”

Day 15

141. The buffalo shouted joyfully.
142. He hopped out of the clear water.
143. He remembered the directions of the mare.
144. "I must search for the ancient gargantuan wisteria tree."
145. The buffalo pondered this task.
146. He started his journey with glee.
147. He soon lost hope.
148. He became extremely lonely on his journey.
149. "I need a partner in crime."
150. The lonely buffalo brooded miserably.

Day 16

151. The buffalo was clearly wallowing in self pity.
152. The buffalo continued his journey.
153. Another animal saw this sad little buffalo.
154. She was overwhelmed with pity.
155. The new animal trotted gaily towards the buffalo.
156. She said "You look crestfallen!"
157. Our buffalo looked at the new buffalo.
158. He saw a *second* buffalo who was staring at him.
159. The first buffalo replied "I suppose I am disheartened."
160. The buffalo's deep sigh projected his sadness onto the other buffalo.

Day 17

161. The new buffalo continued with her cheery chatter.
162. "I can always find a reason to be merry!"
163. The new buffalo's exuberant comments helped our buffalo.
164. "I suspect you might be right.
165. I should find a reason to be excited."
166. The new buffalo then continued sagely with her advice.
167. "I always imagine things that could delight me."
168. Our buffalo replied "The thought of the giant wisteria tree gives me hope."
169. The new buffalo nearly danced with excitement.
170. "I am also searching arduously for the ancient gargantuan wisteria tree!"

Day 18

171. The new buffalo said: "My name is Wihelmina."
172. The other buffalo replied "My name is Gwilym."
173. Wihelmina's eyes shone with excitement.
174. "I am very happy that I found you on this path."
175. The two buffalo continued on the path.
176. The path wound its way through the dark forest.
177. The path soon became narrower.
178. Gwilym worried about the dark, narrow path.
179. Wihelmina still looked very calm.
180. She was enjoying the new scenery.

Functional Categories, Movement to CP (preview), Verb Raising

Day 19

181. The trees slowly changed to evergreens.
182. The buffalo were entering a new part of the forest.
183. The buffalos' eyes adjusted to the new light.
184. They could see the many colors of the flowers.
185. "That flower's color is very interesting!"
186. Gwilym agreed that fuchsia was an extraordinary color.
187. "I wonder if the wisteria is the same color."
188. "I think the mare said the wisteria was purple."
189. Each buffalo's thoughts turned to the fateful wisteria.
190. They eagerly trotted down the narrowing path.

Day 20

191. The two new friends soon came to a clearing in the forest.
192. The clearing was bright with dazzling sunlight.
193. The two buffalo stopped in astonishment.
194. They saw a magnificent expanse of color.
195. Everywhere the eye could see was a blaze of purple.
196. The purple flowers cascaded off of intertwining vines.
197. The vines' thick trunks rose to a majestic height.
198. The network of vines created a massive shady corridor.
199. The vast corridor's flowers stretched for kilometers.
200. That there could be so many acres of flowers astounded the young buffalos.

Day 21

201. Gwilym's dark eyes followed the flowers.
202. The mare had only said to find the wisteria.
203. He did not know what they would find when they arrived.
204. "Do you know the direction we should go now?"
205. Wilhelmina paused for a long time to consider her reply.
206. "I know that we must find the wisteria's original stem."
207. "No one has said what we will find there."
208. Gwilym pondered Wilhelmina's curious reply.
209. "I guess we must follow the shady wisteria path to its end."
210. That their path was the correct one was clear to him.

Day 22

211. The two buffalo walked underneath the magnificent foliage.
212. The sun was beginning to slowly set behind the bluffs.
213. Wilhelmina trotted forward in eager anticipation of their journey's end.
214. Gwilym lumbered behind her wondering what the significance of the wisteria was.
215. Wilhelmina suddenly bellowed a panicked cry.
216. For Wilhelmina to bellow so loudly meant danger.
217. Gwilym's heart began to race as he galloped to meet Wilhelmina.
218. "What scared you so badly?"
219. The buffalos' panic grew as their eyes adjusted to the growing darkness.
220. An enormous snarling wolf blocked the path under the wisteria.

Day 23

221. The two buffalo recoiled in horror as the wolf came closer.
222. The wolf stunned them by speaking Welsh.
223. “What did the wolf say?”
224. “Will der Wolf uns fressen?!”
Wants the Wolf us eat
‘Does the wolf want to eat us?’
225. Wilhelmina’s frantic German response startled Gwilym.
226. Gwilym realized that he was the only animal who could speak the two languages.
227. That another species could speak Welsh surprised him.
228. Der schreckliche Wolf sagte: “Wir Wölfe müssen den heiligen Baum schützen.”
The terrible wolf said “We wolves must the holy tree protect”
The terrible wolf said “We wolves must protect the holy tree”
229. Gwilym then turned his attention to the snarling wolf.
230. “Mae'r byfflo chwilio am y goeden sanctaidd”
Are the buffalo looking for the tree holy
‘The buffalo are looking for the holy tree.’

VPISH and Questions

Day 24

231. Gwilym’s comment calmed the tense wolf.
232. “Can you speak English or German?”
233. “My friend does not speak Welsh.”
234. The wolf shook its massive head.
235. Dydy'r gwarcheidwaid ddim yn siarad Saesneg nac Almaeneg
Not is-the guardians NEG PRT speak English nor German
The guardians do not speak English or German
236. Mae rhaid i chi ddweud y cyfrinair
Is need to you to-say the secret-word
You need to say the password
237. Gwilym turned to Wilhelmina to translate.
238. “We need a password to continue.”
239. “What do you think it could be?”
240. For a simple password to block their path frustrated Gwilym immensely.

Day 25

241. The two young friends were discussing the issue.
242. Wilhelmina was insisting “I think that the password is “wolf””
243. Gwilym’s eyes were doubtful as he said “blaidd” (wolf)
244. Nid yw gair yn y cyfrinair cywir.
Not is-the word PRT the password
‘That word is not the password’
245. “He said that is not the password”
246. An idea that should have been obvious suddenly occurred to Gwilym.
247. Gwilym said “heddwch” (peace)
248. That the word was correct became clear as the wolf stood aside.
249. The two buffalo emerged from the shadows of the wisteria to see a wonderful sight.
250. What do you think that the buffalo saw when they were reaching their journey’s end?

Day 26

251. The two young buffalo gazed in awe across the meadow at the giant wisteria.
252. Hundreds of buffalo were frolicking in the meadow and speaking different languages.
253. "Where did all these buffalo come from?"
254. Several elderly buffalo with grizzled beards came over to them.
255. "I welcome you to the wisteria's home."
256. "Ich begrüße auch die jungen Büffel auf der Wiese der Glyzinien " (German)
I greet also the young-PL buffalo to the meadow of-the wisteria
"I also welcome the young buffalo to the meadow of the wisteria."

257. "Этот старый буйвол также приветствует молодых буйволов на лугу" (Russian)
etot starij bujvol lugar takzhe privetstvujet molodih bujvolov na lugu
this old-MASC buffalo also greets (PRES) young-ACC buffalos-PL-ACC on meadow

258. "Cuireann na sean-cinn fáilte romhaíbe chuig an gcrann naofa (Irish)
Offer the old-ones welcome to-you(pl) to the tree sacred
'The old ones welcome you to the sacred tree'

259. The young buffalo returned the elders' greetings with great respect.
260. Why do you think the all the buffalo loved the wisteria?

Day 27

261. The young buffalos slowly wandered across the great meadow.
262. The voices of the senior buffalo called after them.
263. "You should be careful!"
264. Gwilym asked, "Why do we need to be careful?"
265. Los búfalos jóvenes no debería dañar a la gran vid de glicinas. (Spanish)
The buffalos young-PL not should harm to the great vine of wisteria.
266. Wilhelmina responded "We will not harm the tree!"
267. Gwilym reacted to Wilhemina's words with surprise.
268. "I did not know that you spoke Spanish!"
269. She replied, "I once ran with a herd from Mexico."
270. That she spoke Spanish impressed Gwilym very much.

Raising and Passives

Day 28

271. Wilhelmina and Gwilym spent several happy weeks with the buffalo at the wisteria tree.
272. They met many new friends from all over the world.
273. They seemed to have found a buffalo's paradise.
274. The idyllic time under the wisteria tree did not last, unfortunately.
275. An argument was heard one day from across the flowery meadow.
276. Four large angry buffalo were pawing the ground.
277. Our two young buffalo were frightened by the commotion.
278. The tension in the air grew stronger and stronger.
279. A fight was likely to erupt at any moment.
280. What could the two small newcomers do?

Day 29

281. Wilhelmina traded a look with Gwilym.
282. She suddenly declared, “Those buffalo must not fight.”
283. “You should fetch the elderly buffalo who welcomed us.”
284. Gwilym asked “What can be done?”
285. “I will talk to those bull-headed buffalo.”
286. Gwilym hesitated as he realized the danger she would be in.
287. “You must go before it is too late!”
288. Gwilym raced off toward the entrance to the meadow.
289. The elderly buffalo were likely to be there.
290. Wilhelmina marched boldly across the still meadow.

Day 30

291. Gwilym skittered to a halt in front of the elderly buffalo.
292. They seemed to be surprised by his appearance.
293. “Why do you arrive with such haste?”
294. “I saw four massive buffalo preparing to fight.”
295. “The wisteria tree appears to be in danger.”
296. The multilingual senior buffalo all spoke at once.
297. Azok a bölények nem okoztak kárt a fában (Hungarian)
Those the buffalo+pl neg. cause+pst+3pl damage+ACC the tree+SUPE
‘Those buffalos should not damage the tree.’
298. hűi hàá à tàmbú yòmndó lé. (Kisi)
buffalo that-pl 3pl spoil tree neg
‘Those buffalo do not spoil the tree.’
299. They all dashed off toward the meadow with the argumentative buffalo.
300. What seems likely to have happened before they arrived?