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# **Around the World in 80 Days** **(90-Minute Version)**

Adapted by  
MARK BROWN

From the novel by  
JULES VERNE

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MARK BROWN

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# **Around the World in 80 Days**

## **(90-Minute Version)**

### CHARACTERS

#### ACTOR 1:

Gauthier Ralph, British Consul, Director of Police, Priest, Sir Francis, Judge Obadiah, Chinese Broker, Ship Clerk, Opium Den Waiter, Porter, Bunsby, Proctor, Engineer, Mudge, Clerk, Captain Speedy, Ship Engineer, Train Clerk

#### ACTOR 2:

Andrew Stuart, Detective Fix, Priest, Indian Train Conductor, Elephant Owner, Young Parsi, OysterPuff, U.S. Conductor, Reverend Wilson's Servant (a woman)

#### ACTOR 3:

Passepartout, John Sullivan, Yet Another British Consul

#### ACTOR 4:

James Forster, Newspaperman, Priest, Aouda

#### ACTOR 5:

Phileas Fogg

# Around the World in 80 Days

## (90-Minute Version)

### WE MEET PHILEAS FOGG

*(As the lights come up, we see an old-fashioned map of the world and an old-fashioned train schedule board. The ticking of a clock is heard. PHILEAS FOGG sits, staring straight ahead. After a few beats, ACTOR 1 enters.)*

ACTOR 1. In the year 1872, number seven Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, England, is occupied by Phileas Fogg, Esquire, and his sole servant, James Forster—

*(JAMES FORSTER enters.)*

JAMES FORSTER. Ex-sole servant. I was sacked today.

ACTOR 1. What happened?

JAMES FORSTER. I made the mistake of bringing him his shaving water at a temperature of eighty-four degrees Fahrenheit instead of eighty-six degrees Fahrenheit.

ACTOR 1. He's very precise.

JAMES FORSTER. That's not the word I'd use.

PASSEPARTOUT *(from offstage)*. Hallo ... ?

JAMES FORSTER. Excuse me. There's my replacement.  
The new servant, sir.

PHILEAS FOGG. Show him in.

*(He shows in PASSEPARTOUT.)*

PASSEPARTOUT. *Bonjour, monsieur.*

*(PASSEPARTOUT hands FOGG his résumé.)*

PASSEPARTOUT. Jean Passepartout.

PHILEAS FOGG. Quite a résumé. Circus rider, trapeze artist.

PASSEPARTOUT. Tightrope walker.

PHILEAS FOGG. Gymnastics teacher. Paris Fire Brigade.

PASSEPARTOUT. Sergeant.

PHILEAS FOGG. Why did you leave France?

PASSEPARTOUT. I wish for a quieter life, *monsieur*.

PHILEAS FOGG. You come well recommended. Have you a watch?

PASSEPARTOUT. *Oui, monsieur*. A family watch, which has come down from my great-grandfather. It does not vary five minutes in the year. It is a perfect timepiece.

PHILEAS FOGG. Good. Now from this moment, twenty-nine minutes past eleven ...

*(PASSEPARTOUT and FOGG compare watches.)*

PASSEPARTOUT. *Oui*.

PHILEAS FOGG. You are in my service.

*(FOGG exits.)*

JAMES FORSTER. Now Mr. Passepartout, here is the daily schedule.

*(Perhaps a large version of the card flies in, perhaps not.)*

PASSEPARTOUT *(reading the card)*. Tea and toast at twenty-three minutes past eight, shaving water at thirty-seven minutes past nine—

JAMES FORSTER. Eighty-six degrees Fahrenheit.

PASSEPARTOUT. He's a real machine.

JAMES FORSTER. That's not the word I'd use. *Monsieur* Passepartout, Godspeed.

*(JAMES FORSTER exits.)*

PASSEPARTOUT. This is just what I wanted! We shall get along magnificently, *Monsieur* Fogg and I!

ACTOR 1. Mr. Fogg is certainly one of the most remarked-upon members of the Reform Club.

*(ACTORS 1, 2 and 3 become members of the Reform Club.)*

## THE BET

ANDREW STUART. Clearly he's British, although I doubt he's a Londoner.

GAUTHIER RALPH. He has quite a fortune.

JOHN SULLIVAN. Without a doubt.

ANDREW STUART. But how?

ALL. Hmm ...

GAUTHIER RALPH. He's well traveled.

ANDREW STUART. Yet I've never seen him anywhere else but here in London.

GAUTHIER RALPH. True. He's at the club every day to take his lunch and dinner.

JOHN SULLIVAN. At the same time.

ANDREW STUART. In the same room.

GAUTHIER RALPH. At the same table.

ALL. Alone.

JOHN SULLIVAN. He has no wife.



ANDREW STUART. Nor children.

GAUTHIER RALPH. Nor friends.

JOHN SULLIVAN. Nor relatives.

ALL. Hmm ...

ANDREW STUART. I think perhaps he—

*(FOGG enters, sits and reads the paper.)*

JOHN SULLIVAN. Ahem ... yes ... well, what's the latest on that bank theft?

GAUTHIER RALPH. I'm confident we will soon lay our hands upon the fellow.

ANDREW STUART. But do we have the thief's description?

PHILEAS FOGG. *The Daily Telegraph* says that he is a gentleman.

*(A large newspaper flies in as the NEWSPAPERMAN enters.)*

NEWSPAPERMAN. *The Daily Telegraph*, second October 1872 states, "On the day of the robbery, a distinguished, well-dressed gentleman was seen in the cash room, where the theft took place. A description of him was sent to every detective in the United Kingdom and Europe." ... end quote.

*(The map flies out and the NEWSPAPERMAN exits.)*

GAUTHIER RALPH. You see? There's not a chance the thief will escape.

ANDREW STUART. I maintain that the chances are in favor of the thief, who is clearly a shrewd fellow.

JOHN SULLIVAN. Whist anyone?

GAUTHIER RALPH. Certainly.

ANDREW STUART. Of course.

*(They play cards.)*

GAUTHIER RALPH. But where can this gentleman hide?  
No country is safe for him.

ANDREW STUART. Really?

GAUTHIER RALPH. Where could he go then?

ANDREW STUART. I couldn't say. It's an awfully big world.

PHILEAS FOGG. It was once. Cut sir.

GAUTHIER RALPH. I agree. The world has grown smaller since a man can now go 'round it ten times more quickly than a hundred years ago.

ANDREW STUART. So, because you can go round it in three months—

PHILEAS FOGG. Eighty days.

ANDREW STUART. Eighty days?

JOHN SULLIVAN. That is true. There is an estimate made by *The Daily Telegraph*.

*(The NEWSPAPERMAN enters. A large newspaper flies in.)*

NEWSPAPERMAN. "Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Last Complete, appears on page three of *The Daily Telegraph*, second October, 1872. It discusses how the section between Rothal and Allahabad has finally opened, thus connecting Bombay and Calcutta by rail, making it possible for one to travel around the world by steamer and rail. The estimate made by *The Daily Telegraph* is thus:"

*(The NEWSPAPERMAN refers to the old wooden train board. As each "leg" of the journey is announced, the city and the travel times flip on the board.)*

NEWSPAPERMAN (*cont'd*). "London to Suez by rail and steamer: seven days. Suez to Bombay by steamer: thirteen days. Bombay to Calcutta by rail: three days. Calcutta to Hong Kong by steamer: thirteen days. Hong Kong to Yokohama by steamer: six days. Yokohama to San Francisco by steamer: twenty-two days. San Francisco to New York by rail: seven days. And New York to London by steamer and rail: nine days. Total: eighty days.

(*The NEWSPAPERMAN exits.*)

ANDREW STUART. Yes, eighty days ... in theory. But that doesn't take into account bad weather, shipwrecks, accidents and so on.

PHILEAS FOGG. All included.

ANDREW STUART. But suppose the Hindus or Indians pull up the rails? Suppose they stop the trains, pillage the luggage vans and scalp the passengers!

PHILEAS FOGG. All included.

ANDREW STUART. I should like to see you go 'round the world in eighty days.

PHILEAS FOGG. I should like nothing better.

ANDREW STUART. When?

PHILEAS FOGG. Now.

ANDREW STUART. Very well, Mr. Fogg. I shall wager four thousand pounds.

GAUTHIER RALPH. Calm yourself, Stuart—

PHILEAS FOGG. Twenty thousand.

ALL. Twenty thousand pounds?!

GAUTHIER RALPH. You will lose that with a single mishap!

PHILEAS FOGG. The unforeseen does not exist.

JOHN SULLIVAN. But, in order to accomplish it, you must jump mathematically from the trains to the steamers, and from the steamers to the trains.

PHILEAS FOGG. I will jump ... mathematically.

ANDREW STUART. You're joking!

PHILEAS FOGG. A true Englishman never jokes when he is talking about so serious a thing as a wager. I shall bet twenty thousand pounds against anyone who wishes that I will make the tour of the world in eighty days or less. Do you accept?

ALL. We accept.

PHILEAS FOGG. Good. The train leaves for Dover at eight fifty-five. I will take it.

ANDREW STUART. This very evening?

PHILEAS FOGG. As today is Wednesday, the second of October, I shall be due in London in this very room of the Reform Club on Saturday, the twenty-first of December, at eight fifty-five p.m. If I fail, the twenty thousand pounds will belong to you.

*(A clock strikes seven.)*

JOHN SULLIVAN. Seven o'clock.

GAUTHIER RALPH. Shall we suspend the game?

ANDREW STUART. So that you might make preparations for your departure.

PHILEAS FOGG. I am quite ready now. Be so good as to play, gentlemen.

*(Is he joking? They play cards.)*

**FOGG BREAKS THE NEWS TO PASSEPARTOUT**

PASSEPARTOUT (*reading from the card*). “And tea with one spoonful of honey at five minutes past twelve.” I believe I have it all memorized.

(*FOGG enters.*)

PHILEAS FOGG. Passepartout, pack the bags. We leave for Dover in ten minutes.

PASSEPARTOUT. *Monsieur* is going to leave home?

PHILEAS FOGG. Yes. We are going 'round the world.

PASSEPARTOUT. 'Round the world!

PHILEAS FOGG. In eighty days.

PASSEPARTOUT. Eighty days? (*To himself, or so he thinks.*) I think my master is a fool. And I was looking for the quiet life.

PHILEAS FOGG. Did you say something?

PASSEPARTOUT. I said I think I need a tool. I am looking for my pocketknife.

PHILEAS FOGG. A tool won't be necessary.

PASSEPARTOUT. You never know.

(*He pulls a pocketknife out of his pocket.*)

PASSEPARTOUT (*cont'd*). Ah. *Voilà!*

PHILEAS FOGG. Here is a roll of Bank of England notes.

(*FOGG hands PASSEPARTOUT a large roll of money.*)

PHILEAS FOGG. Are you ready?

PASSEPARTOUT. I—

PHILEAS FOGG. Good. Then we're off.

*(PASSEPARTOUT runs after him.)*

PASSEPARTOUT. *Monsieur—*

ACTOR 4. At eight fifty-five—

ACTOR 1. The whistle sounds ...

ACTOR 2. The train pulls out of the station ...

ACTOR 4. And Phileas Fogg begins his journey around the world.

*(The train lurches forward.*

*FOGG and PASSEPARTOUT ride the train for a few beats and then ... )*

PASSEPARTOUT. *Sacre bleu!*

PHILEAS FOGG. What's the matter?

PASSEPARTOUT. I forgot to turn off the gas in my room.

PHILEAS FOGG. Well, young man, it will burn at your expense.

PASSEPARTOUT. *Mon Dieu!*

## NEWS OF THE TRIP

ACTOR 4. News of the bet spreads through the Reform Club and soon is in every newspaper throughout England.

ACTOR 1. "MADMAN ATTEMPTS TOUR OF THE WORLD!"

ACTOR 2. "EIGHTY-DAY ENDEAVOUR IMPOSSIBLE!"

ACTOR 3. "PHILEAS FOGG'S FEAT NOT FEASIBLE!"

ACTOR 4. However, one week after his departure, *The Morning Chronicle* runs this headline—

ACTOR 2. "GENTLEMAN BANK ROBBER MAY BE PHILEAS FOGG!"

**FIX ... DETECTIVE FIX**

*(ACTOR 2 becomes DETECTIVE FIX. The BRITISH CONSUL enters.)*

BRITISH CONSUL. Mr. Fix?

FIX. *Detective* Fix. Yes.

BRITISH CONSUL. Welcome to Suez. I'm the British Consul.

FIX. I've been dispatched from England in search of the bank robber.

BRITISH CONSUL. All the way to Suez?

FIX. Yes. It is my task to watch every passenger who arrives at Suez and to follow any who seem to be suspicious characters.

BRITISH CONSUL. Do you have a description of the thief?

*(FIX whips out the description.)*

FIX. Always at the ready.

*(He hands it to the BRITISH CONSUL.)*

BRITISH CONSUL. Why this could be almost anyone.

FIX. To your untrained eye, perhaps, Consul. But not to mine.

BRITISH CONSUL. But I don't see how—

FIX. I have what you might call a sixth sense for this kind of work.

BRITISH CONSUL. You don't say.

FIX. I do.

BRITISH CONSUL. A sixth sense?

FIX. A combination of all of the senses ... hearing, seeing, smelling ... and ... the other ones. He won't slip through my fingers.

BRITISH CONSUL. I wish you much success, Mr. Fix.

FIX. *Detective Fix.*

BRITISH CONSUL. Detective Fix.

*(BRITISH CONSUL exits. Three loud whistles are heard.)*

FIX. The Brindisi is here!

*(FIX hides so as not to be noticed. PASSEPARTOUT enters. The schedule board flips to show "On Time.")*

PASSEPARTOUT. Ah, right on schedule.

*(PASSEPARTOUT then walks right up to FIX.)*

PASSEPARTOUT. *Excusez-moi.* I wish to have a passport stamped.

*(FIX takes the passport and looks at it with a rapid glance.)*

FIX *(aside)*. The description is identical with that of the bank robber. *(To PASSEPARTOUT.)* I'm afraid he must go to the consulate in person.

PASSEPARTOUT. Is that necessary?

FIX. Quite indispensable.

PASSEPARTOUT. My master won't be pleased at being disturbed.

*(PASSEPARTOUT exits.)*

FIX. And he won't be pleased at being *arrested*.

*(FIX hurries to the British Consulate.)*