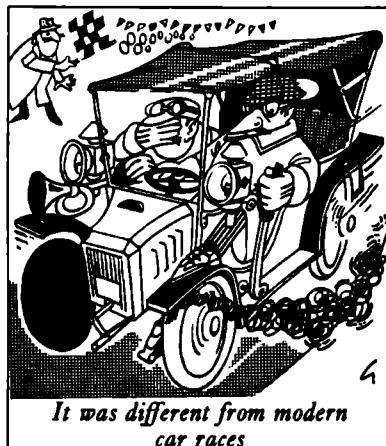


56 Faster than Sound!

Once a year a race is held for old cars. A lot of cars entered for this race last year and there was a great deal of excitement just before it began. One of the most handsome cars was a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost. The most unusual car was a Benz which had only three wheels. Built in 1885, it was the oldest car taking part. After a great many loud explosions, the race began. Many of the cars broke down on the course and some drivers spent more time *under* their cars than *in* them! A few cars, however, completed the race. The winning car reached a speed of forty miles an hour—much faster than any of its rivals. It sped downhill at the end of the race and its driver had a lot of trouble trying to stop it. The race gave everyone a great deal of pleasure. It was very different from modern car races but no less exciting.



Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions *in not more than 70 words*.

1. Did a lot of old cars enter for the race or not? How often is it held? (*which*)
2. What could be heard when they set off? Did many cars break down during the race or not? Did a few manage to complete the course or not? (*and though*)
3. Did the winning car go downhill quickly or slowly? When did its driver have a lot of difficulty trying to stop it? (*so quickly . . . that*)

Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets. Where necessary omit the words in italics.

1. There was a loud explosion. My old car stopped. (*and*)
2. I got out. *I wanted to* have a look at the engine. (*to*)
3. Then a man passed me. *He was driving* a large modern car. (*a man who*)
4. I waved to him. He did not stop. (*but*)
5. I passed the large car later. Its driver was changing a wheel. (*When*)

Letter-writing

Learn the following opening phrases by heart:

I am sorry it has taken me so long to write, but . . .

I was glad to hear from you at last and to learn that . . .

Exercise

Write two short paragraphs (of not more than two sentences each) completing the above phrases.

Key Structures

A lot of cars entered for this race.

a Do you remember these sentences: (KS 86)

He is as old as I am.

She is not as intelligent as we think.

There is little I can do to help him.
There were few people in the shop.
There isn't much whisky, but you can have a little.
There aren't many apples, but you can pick a few.

b Now study these sentences:

Instead of saying:

There isn't *much* I can do to help him.

We can say:

There isn't *a lot* I can do to help him.

Or: There isn't *a great deal* I can do to help him.

Many of our products are sold overseas.

A lot of our products are sold overseas.

Or: *A great many of* our products are sold overseas.

Or: *A great number of* our products are sold overseas.

c Study these sentences:

Instead of saying:

My jacket is *like* yours.

My jacket *isn't like* yours.

We can say:

My jacket is *the same as* yours.

My jacket is *different from* yours.

Exercises

A. How many comparisons can you find in the passage? Underline them. Note the use in the passage of the following: a lot of, a great deal of, a great many, a few, and different from.

B. Supply the missing words in the following. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise:

Once a year a race is held for old cars. A cars entered for this race last year and there was a great . . . of excitement just before it began. One of the . . . handsome cars was a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost. The . . . unusual car was a Benz which had only three wheels. Built in 1885 it was the . . . (old) car taking part. After a great . . . loud explosions, the race began. . . of the cars broke down on the course and some drivers spent . . . time *under* their cars than *in* them! A . . . cars, however, completed the race. The winning car reached a speed of forty miles an hour—much faster . . . any of its rivals. It sped down-hill at the end of the race and its driver had a trouble trying to stop it. The race gave everyone a great . . . of pleasure. It was very different . . . modern car races but no . . . exciting.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused and Misused.

Study the examples given under each heading:

a Handsome (l. 5), Beautiful, Pretty, Good-looking.

He is a very handsome young man.

She used to be very pretty as a child. She is now a beautiful woman.

She's a very good-looking girl, and her boy friend's good-looking too.

b Reach and Arrive at.

The winning car reached a speed of forty miles an hour. (ll. 14–15)

Will you pass me that book please. I can't reach it.

We arrived in New York at five o'clock.

c Take part and Take place.

It was the oldest car taking part. (l. 8)

The next race will take place in a year's time.

Exercise

Write eight sentences using each of the above words.