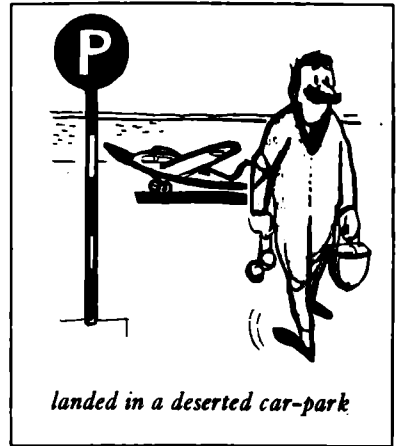


29 Taxi!

- Captain Ben Fawcett has bought an unusual taxi and has begun a new service. The 'taxi' is a small Swiss aeroplane called a 'Pilatus Porter'. This wonderful
- 5 plane can carry seven passengers. The most surprising thing about it, however, is that it can land anywhere: on snow, water, or even on a ploughed field. Captain Fawcett's first passenger was a doctor
- 10 who flew from Birmingham to a lonely village in the Welsh mountains. Since then, Captain Fawcett has flown passengers to many unusual places. Once he landed on the roof of a block of flats and
- 15 on another occasion, he landed in a deserted car park. Captain Fawcett has just refused a strange request from a businessman. The man wanted to fly to Rockall, a lonely island in the Atlantic Ocean, but Captain Fawcett did not take him because the trip was too dangerous.



Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in *not more than 60 words*.

1. Has Captain Ben Fawcett bought a small Swiss aeroplane, or has he bought an ordinary taxi? Does he use it as a taxi or not? (*and*)
2. What is it called?
3. How many passengers can it carry? Can it land anywhere or not? (*not only . . . but*)
4. Has Captain Fawcett taken passengers to many strange places in his plane or not?
5. Did he refuse to fly a businessman to Rockall or not? .
6. Was the journey too dangerous or not?

Composition

Rewrite these sentences using the correct verbs and joining words:

The plane (*not only*) (*neither*) (*flew*) (*threw*) close to the river, (*but*) (*or*) also flew under a bridge. (*Then*) (*However*) it (*climbed*) (*ran*) into the air. The people on the bridge (*waved*) (*shook*) to the pilot (*and*) (*yet*) he did not (*notice*) (*look after*) them.

Letter-writing

I am writing to someone who lives abroad. Which of these two headings would be correct?

19 High Lane,
Newton,
Middlesex.
10th September, 19—

19 High Lane,
Newton,
Middlesex,
England.
10th September, 19—

Key Structures

What happened? What has happened? (KS 21)

Study these pairs of sentences. Pay close attention to the words in *italics*:

I saw him *in 1964*.

I have not seen him *since 1964*.

I saw him *three years ago*.

I have not seen him *for three years*.

He stayed at this hotel *last month*.

Have you *ever* stayed at this hotel?

I went abroad *last year*.

Up till now, I have never been abroad *before*.

Exercises

A. Underline the verbs in the passage which tell us *what happened* and *what has happened*.

B. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise:

Captain Ben Fawcett (buy) an unusual taxi and (begin) a new service. The 'taxi' is a small Swiss aeroplane called a 'Pilatus Porter'. This wonderful plane can carry seven passengers. Captain Fawcett's first passenger (be) a doctor who (fly) from Birmingham to a lonely village in the Welsh mountains. Since then, Captain Fawcett (fly) passengers to many unusual places. Once he (land) on the roof of a block of flats and on another occasion, he (land) in a deserted car park. Captain Fawcett just (refuse) a strange request from a businessman. The man (want) to fly to Rockall, but Captain Fawcett (not take) him because the trip (be) too dangerous.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused

a Refuse and Deny.

Refuse (a request or something offered): Captain Fawcett has just refused a strange request from a businessman. (ll. 16-17)

Deny (an accusation): He denied that he had stolen the money.

b Bring, Take, and Fetch. He did not take him. (ll. 18-19)

Bring (come from somewhere with something): He brought the book with him when he came to see me.

Take (away from somewhere or someone): He took the book with him when he left. (Compare SD 20)

Fetch (go somewhere, pick something up and bring it back): I asked him to go to my room and fetch my glasses.

c Very and Too. The trip was too dangerous. (1. 19)

Very: I arrived very late but I caught the train.

Too: I arrived too late and I missed the train.

Exercise

Choose the correct words in the following:

1. When you go to the kitchen, please (fetch) (bring) me a glass of water.
2. The ball went over the fence and the football player asked a boy to (fetch) (bring) it.
3. When I asked him he (refused) (denied) to tell me.
4. Do you (deny) (refuse) that you have told me a lie?
5. How are you? (Too) (Very) well thank you.