

89 A Slip of the Tongue

People will do anything to see a free show—even if it is a bad one. When the news got round that a variety show would be presented at our local cinema by the P. and U. Bird Seed Company, we all rushed to see it. We had to queue for hours to get in and there must have been several hundred people present just before the show began. Unfortunately, the show was one of the dullest we have ever seen. Those who failed to get in need not have felt disappointed as many of the artistes who should have appeared did not come. The only funny things we heard that evening came from the advertiser at the beginning of the programme. He was obviously very nervous and for some minutes stood awkwardly before the microphone. As soon as he opened his mouth, everyone burst out laughing. We all know what the poor man *should* have said, but what he *actually* said was: 'This is the Poo and Ee Seed Bird Company. Good ladies, evening and gentlemen!'



Précis

Make a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words. Write two different paragraphs using the points and connections given below.

CONNECTIONS

because

As . . . who

who

POINTS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| [| 1. Local cinema—packed. |] |
| [| 2. P. & U. Bird Seed Co. |] |
| [| 3. Presenting free variety show. |] |
| [| 4. Many artistes should . . . |] |
| [| 5. Failed to turn up. |] |
| [| 6. Show very dull. |] |
| [| 7. Funniest thing— |] |
| [| 8. Advertiser introduced programme saying: |] |
| [| 9. 'This . . . gentlemen.' |] |

CONNECTIONS

but . . . who

Because of this

who at the beginning

Composition

Write a newspaper report of the event described in the passage. Write two paragraphs in about 150 words using the ideas given below:

1. There was a long queue of people outside the cinema—many people failed to get in—they were the lucky ones.
2. A description of the stage—there was a large, ugly model of a yellow bird—free packets of bird-seed for the audience—the advertiser's mistake—how the audience reacted—the rest of the show: a disappointment.

Letter-writing

Write three letter-endings followed by postscripts.

Key Structures

Must, Have to, Need, Should. Review: KS 45, 104, 160.

Exercises

- A. Note how the verbs *have to*, *must*, *need* and *should* have been used in the passage.
- B. Supply the correct form of *have to*, *must*, *need* and *should* in the following. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise:
1. We . . . queue for hours to get in and there . . . (be) several hundred people present just before the show began. Unfortunately, the show was one of the dullerest we have ever seen. Those who failed to get in . . . not (feel) disappointed as many of the artistes who . . . (appear) did not come.
 2. As soon as he opened his mouth, everyone burst out laughing. We all know what the poor man . . . (say), but what he *actually* said was: 'This is the Poo and Ee Seed Bird Company . . .'
- C. Supply *must not* or *need not* in the following sentences:
1. You . . . open the door of the compartment until the train has stopped. It is very dangerous.
 2. You . . . bother to post those letters for me. I'll be going out myself soon.
- D. Supply the correct form of *have to* or *should* in the following sentences:
1. I'm sorry I couldn't get here on time. I (. . . go) to the bank.
 2. I (. . . go) to the dentist yesterday but I forgot all about it.
 3. We (. . . begin) work at 9 o'clock but we never do.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused and Misused.

a Free and Single. Study these examples:

People will do anything to see a free show. (ll. 1-2)

The people are free to choose who will govern them.

Is she still single? I thought she was going to get married last April.

b Queue and Row. Study these examples:

We had to queue for hours to get in. (ll. 6-7)

There was a long queue outside the cinema.

I enjoyed the performance because I had a very good seat in the fifth row.

c Funny. Study these examples:

The only funny things we heard that evening . . . (ll. 14-15)

There's something funny about this house. (Something peculiar.)

Exercise

- A. Choose the correct words in the following sentences:
1. I joined the (queue) (row) at the bus-stop.
 2. He's still (free) (single) even though he's over forty. I don't think he'll ever marry.
- B. Write two sentences bringing out the meanings of the word *funny*.