

## 38 Everything Except the Weather

- My old friend, Harrison, had lived in the Mediterranean for many years before he returned to England. He had often dreamed of retiring in England and had planned to settle down in the country. He had no sooner returned than he bought a fine house and went to live there. Almost immediately he began to complain about the weather, for even though it was still summer, it rained continually and it was often bitterly cold. After so many years of sunshine, Harrison got a shock. He acted as if he had never lived in England before. In the end, it was more than he could bear. He had hardly had time to settle down when he sold the house and left the country. The dream he had had for so many years ended there. Harrison had thought of everything except the weather.



### Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in not more than 60 words.

1. Where had the writer's friend, Harrison, spent many years? What did he want to do? What did he buy? (*but ... so*)
2. Was the summer that year very good, or was it very bad? What did he complain about? (*and*)
3. Did Harrison sell the house in the end or not? Did he leave the country or not? (*Harrison not only ... but also*)

### Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. He bought an old car. It was in a very bad state. (*but*)
2. The engine was worn out. The gear-box was full of sawdust. (*The engine ... not only ... but ... as well*)
3. He could not drive it. He could not sell it. He could not even give it away. (*neither ... nor ... nor*)

### Letter-writing

**The Date:** The following months of the year are usually written in full: March, April, May, June and July. The remaining months are often written as follows: 'Jan.', 'Feb.', 'Aug.', 'Sept.', 'Oct.', 'Nov.', and 'Dec.'.

**Exercise** Write today's date in the way it should appear on a letter.

### Key Structures

He acted as if he had never lived in England before.

*a* Do you remember these sentences? (KS 39)

The children ran away *after they had broken* the window.

*As soon as the sun had set* we returned to our hotel.

*When he had finished lunch he asked for a glass of water.*

*I had not understood the problem until he explained it.*

*b Now study these sentences. They tell us what happened some time ago and what had happened some time before.*

*He lived in Scotland fifteen years ago.*

*He had lived in Scotland for fifteen years before he came to England.*

*The police found Billy Wilkins last night. He had run away from home five days before.*

*He had spent the last two nights near a farmhouse. The police took him home at once.*

*When she saw him, his mother burst into tears. She said he had never run away before.*

### Exercises

A. Underline the verbs in the passage which tell us *what happened some time ago* and *what had happened some time before*.

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

My old friend, Harrison, (live) in the Mediterranean for many years before he (return) to England. He often (dream) of retiring in England and (plan) to settle down in the country. He no sooner (return) than he (buy) a fine house and (go) to live there. Almost immediately he (begin) to complain about the weather, for even though it (be) still summer, it (rain) continually and it (be) often bitterly cold. After so many years of sunshine, Harrison (get) a shock. He (act) as if he never (live) in England before. In the end, it (be) more than he could bear. He hardly (have) time to settle down when he (sell) the house and (leave) the country. The dream he (have) for so many years (end) there. Harrison (think) of everything except the weather.

## Special Difficulties

### Words Often Confused and Misused

*a No sooner . . . than; hardly . . . when.*

Study these examples:

He had no sooner returned than he bought a fine house. (ll. 6-7)

He had hardly had time to settle down when he sold the house. (ll. 15-16)

*b Country and Countryside.*

Study these examples:

He had planned to settle down in the country. (ll. 4-5)

He sold the house and left the country. (ll. 16-17)

The countryside around Vienna is very beautiful.

*c Continuously and Continually.*

Study these examples:

It rained continually. (l. 10) (i.e. At frequent intervals.)

The river flows under this bridge continuously. (i.e. It does not stop at all.)

### Exercises

A. Join these sentences using *no sooner . . . than*:

1. I had left the house. It began to rain.

2. We had hung the picture on the wall. It fell down.

B. Choose the correct words in the following sentences:

1. The sea moves (continuously) (continually).

2. He borrows money from people (continuously) (continually).

3. The Robertsons do not live here any more. They now live in the (countryside) (country).