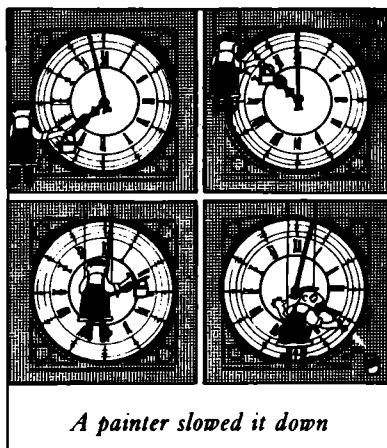


## 71 A Famous Clock

- When you visit London, one of the first things you will see is Big Ben, the famous clock which can be heard all over the world on the B.B.C. If the Houses of Parliament had not been burned down in 1834, the great clock would never have been erected. Big Ben takes its name from Sir Benjamin Hall who was responsible for the making of the clock when the new Houses of Parliament were being built. It is not only of immense size, but is extremely accurate as well. Officials from Greenwich Observatory have the clock checked twice a day. On the B.B.C. you can hear the clock when it is actually striking because microphones are connected to the clock tower. Big Ben has rarely gone wrong. Once, however, it failed to give the correct time. A painter who had been working on the tower hung a pot of paint on one of the hands and slowed it down!



### Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in not more than 75 words.

1. When were the Houses of Parliament burnt down? Who was made responsible for the construction of a huge clock? Did it become known as Big Ben or not? (*After ... which ...*)
2. Why is it very accurate despite its immense size? (*for*)
3. Has this clock often gone wrong, or has it rarely gone wrong? Why can it be heard on the B.B.C. when it is striking? (*This clock which ... because ...*)

### Composition

Write two or three sentences using the ideas given below:

Big Ben tells correct time—it also tells us when Parliament is in session—there is a light in the clock tower—it is kept on until the House closes—sometimes it is on all night.

### Letter-writing

Learn the following phrases by heart:

I wonder how you learnt that ...

You will never guess who/what ...

### Exercise

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

### Key Structures

Review KS 149–167

The moment you leave this tent, you will get a big surprise. (KS 149)

By that time, the *Astra* will have been flying through space for seventeen hours. (KS 151)

The planes had been planting seed for nearly a month when it began to rain. (KS 153)  
 If the British had not feared invasion, it would have been completed. (KS 158)  
 Must, Have to, Should and Ought to. (KS 160)  
 Have. (KS 161)  
 After having been instructed to drive out of town, I began to acquire confidence.  
 (KS 167)

### Exercises

- A. Underline the verbs in the passage. Revise any Key Structures you have forgotten.
- B. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise.
  1. When you (visit) London, one of the first things you will see is Big Ben, the famous clock which (can/hear) all over the world on the B.B.C. If the Houses of Parliament (not burn) down in 1834, the great clock would never have been erected.
  2. Officials from Greenwich Observatory have the clock (check) twice a day. On the B.B.C. you can hear the clock when it actually (strike) because microphones (connect) to the clock tower.
  3. Once it failed to give the correct time. A painter who (work) on the tower hung a pot of paint on one of the hands.
- C. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets:
  1. I shall have completed this novel by December. By then I (work) on it for ten months.
  2. Now that you (finish) work you can go home.
- D. Supply the correct form of *should*, *ought to* or *have to* in these sentences:
  1. I couldn't go shopping yesterday afternoon. I (. . . go) to the dentist.
  2. I really (. . . buy) a new car but I can't afford to.
  3. I didn't know you would be late. You (. . . telephone).

## Special Difficulties

### Words Often Confused.

*a* Official, Clerk, Employee, Shop-assistant.

Study these examples:

Officials from Greenwich Observatory have the clock checked twice a day. (ll. 12-14)

The Customs official asked me several questions.

He works as a clerk for an insurance firm.

Over a thousand factory employees went on strike.

She works as a shop-assistant in a clothing store.

*b* Hang/Hung and Hang/Hanged.

Study these examples:

A painter hung a pot of paint on one of the hands. (ll. 18-19)

When the sun came out, she hung the washing on the line.

The murderer was hanged.

### Exercise

Choose the correct words in the following sentences:

1. The (clerk) (shop-assistant) who served me was very helpful.
2. I (hanged) (hung) my coat in the hall.
3. Capital punishment has been abolished. Murderers will not be (hung) (hanged) in future.
4. He used to work as a (clerk) (shop-assistant) in a government department before he joined the army.