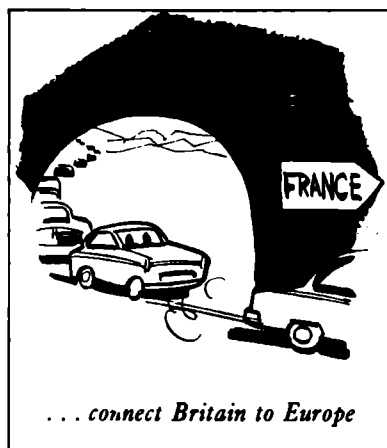


64 The Channel Tunnel

- In 1858, a French engineer, Aimé Thomé de Gamond, arrived in England with a plan for a twenty-one mile tunnel across the English Channel. He said that it would be possible to build a platform in the centre of the Channel. This platform would serve as a port and a railway station. The tunnel would be well-ventilated if tall chimneys were built above sea-level.
- In 1860, a better plan was put forward by an Englishman, William Low. He suggested that a double railway tunnel should be built. This would solve the problem of ventilation, for if a train entered this tunnel, it would draw in fresh air behind it. Forty-two years later a tunnel was actually begun. If, at the time, the British had not feared invasion, it would have been completed. Recently, there has again been great interest in the idea of a Channel Tunnel. If it is built, it will connect Britain to Europe for the first time in history.



Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in not more than 85 words.

1. Who planned to build a tunnel across the English Channel in 1858? How would it be ventilated? (*The tunnel, which . . .*)
2. Who suggested a better plan two years later?
3. How would passing trains solve the problem of ventilation in his proposed double railway tunnel? (*because they would*)
4. Did work begin forty-two years later or not? Why was it stopped? (*Though . . . because*)
5. Has there been renewed interest in the idea lately or not? (*However*)

Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. The English Channel separates Britain from Europe. The country has not been invaded since 1066. (*Thanks to . . . which*)
2. Modern warfare is far more complex. Such fears no longer exist. (*However, now that . . .*)
3. Britain would benefit enormously from a Channel Tunnel. Europe would benefit enormously from a Channel Tunnel. (*Both . . . and*)

Letter-writing

Write opening sentences which would be suitable for letters to the following:

1. A former school mistress who has just got engaged.
2. A friend who has sent you a telegram on your birthday.
3. A librarian who has sent you information you wanted.
4. An aunt you failed to meet for an appointment.

Key Structures

If the British had not feared invasion, it would have been completed.

a Do you remember these sentences:

If he is out, I'll call tomorrow. (KS 43a)

You'll miss the train *if you don't hurry.*

If you went to the exhibition you would enjoy it. (KS 101b)

If I were in your position, I would act differently.

b Now study these sentences carefully:

You would have missed the train *if you had not hurried.*

If you had gone to the exhibition, you would have enjoyed it.

If I had been in your position, I would have acted differently.

If you could have made him change his mind, you would have saved him a lot of trouble.

Exercises

A. How many sentences in the passage contain the word *if*? Study the form of the verbs in these sentences.

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

1. The tunnel would be well-ventilated if tall chimneys (be) built above sea-level.
2. If a train entered this tunnel, it (draw) in fresh air behind it.
3. If, at the time, the British had not feared invasion, it (complete).
4. If it (be) built, it will connect Britain to Europe for the first time in history.

C. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

1. If you had told me about it earlier I (be able) to help you.
2. If you (can/come) with us, we would have been pleased.
3. You (not make) such a mistake if you had been more careful.
4. If father (be) alive he would be horrified.
5. If it (be) fine tomorrow we shall go for a swim.

Special Difficulties

The verb *draw* has a different meaning in each of these sentences. Study them carefully:

If a train entered this tunnel, it would *draw in* fresh air behind it. (ll. 14-16)

The dog *drew back* in terror when it saw the snake.

A taxi *drew up* outside the bank. (It stopped.) Two men got out and then the taxi *drew off*. (It went away.)

A new trading agreement was *drawn up* between Holland and Denmark. (A new agreement was made.)

Exercise

Choose the correct words in the following sentences:

1. We shall have to draw (in) (up) a new plan.
2. When I recognized who he was I drew (back) (up) in horror.
3. The car drew (back) (up) outside the cinema.