

# 75 SOS

When a light passenger plane flew off course some time ago, it crashed in the mountains and its pilot was killed. The only passengers, a young woman and her two baby daughters, were unhurt. It was the middle of winter. Snow lay thick on the ground. The woman knew that the nearest village was miles away. When it grew dark, she turned a suit-case into a bed and put the children inside it, covering them with all the clothes she could find. During the night, it got terribly cold. The woman kept as near as she could to the children and even tried to get into the case herself, but it was too small.

Early next morning, she heard planes passing overhead and wondered how she could send a signal. Then she had an idea. She stamped out the letters 'SOS' in the snow. Fortunately, a pilot saw the signal and sent a message by radio to the nearest town. It was not long before a helicopter arrived on the scene to rescue the survivors of the plane crash.



*She turned a suit-case into a bed*

## Précis

In not more than 80 words, describe what happened. Write two different paragraphs using the points and connections given below.

### CONNECTIONS

### POINTS

### CONNECTIONS

but

1. Plane crashed—mountains.
2. Only passengers—woman, baby daughters not hurt.

When

and  
so

3. Mid-winter—extremely cold.
4. Put children in case.
5. Covered them—clothes.

However, and  
After putting

and  
When

6. Kept close all night.
7. Planes—next morning.
8. Stamped 'SOS'—snow.

the woman  
On hearing  
the woman  
which

This  
who  
and

9. Seen by pilot.
10. Message sent.
11. Rescued—helicopter.

and

## Composition

Write two paragraphs in about 150 words using the ideas given below:

1. A light aeroplane with a heavy cargo—sudden storm—high winds—the pilot made a crash landing in the snow.
2. The pilot was unhurt—roped the plane to a rock—spent the night in a tent—next morning—found that the plane had been swept away by the wind—smashed to pieces—cargo and wreckage in the snow.

## Letter-writing

Write a suitable *Purpose* of about 50 words to follow this introductory paragraph:

I have just heard that Tom Blake will be staying with you for a week. I would love to meet him again as I haven't seen him for years.

## Key Structures

What has happened? What has been happening?

Review: KS 19, 77, 133.

### Exercises

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

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

Macaroni (grow) in this area for over six hundred years. Two of the leading growers, Giuseppe Moldova and Riccardo Brabante, tell me that they (expect) a splendid crop this year and harvesting (begin) earlier than usual. Here you can see two workers who, between them, just (finish) cutting three cart-loads of golden brown macaroni stalks. The whole village (work) day and night gathering and threshing this year's crop before the September rains. On the right, you can see Mrs Brabante herself. She (help) her husband for thirty years now. This last scene shows you what will happen at the end of the harvest: the famous Calabrian macaroni-eating competition! Signor Fratelli, the present champion, (win) it every year since 1961.

## Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused.

a Usual and Usually. Study these examples:

Harvesting has begun earlier than usual. (ll. 9-10)

He usually gets up at 6 o'clock.

b Between and Among. Study these examples:

Here you can see two workers who, between them, have just finished cutting three cart-loads of macaroni. (ll. 10-13)

Tom sat between Jill and Jennifer.

The Prime Minister was among those present.

You'll find it somewhere among those newspapers.

c Manager, Director, Headmaster. Study these examples:

Mrs Brabante is talking to the manager of the local factory. (l. 18)

Mr Jones is the director of several companies.

Who is the headmaster of this school?

### Exercise

Supply any of the above words in the following sentences:

1. I found your pipe. It was . . . those things on the table.
2. As . . . , he asked the same silly questions.
3. The lady in the shop asked to see the . . .
4. He has been . . . of this school for seventeen years.
5. It seems to be warmer than . . . this month.
6. Everybody dreams of living like a company . . . with a large expense account.
7. She stuck the flower . . . the pages of a book.
8. He . . . returns from work about this time, but he is late today.