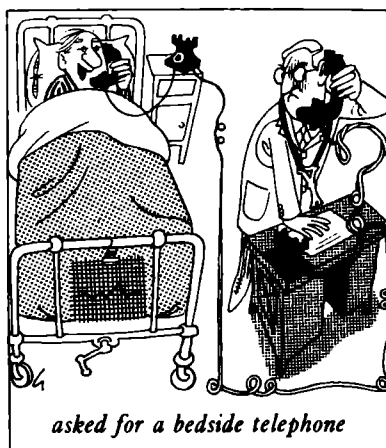


39 Am I All Right?

- While John Gilbert was in hospital, he asked his doctor to tell him whether his operation had been successful, but the doctor refused to do so. The following day, the patient asked for a bedside telephone. When he was alone, he telephoned the hospital exchange and asked for Doctor Millington. When the doctor answered the phone, Mr Gilbert said he was inquiring about a certain patient, a Mr John Gilbert. He asked if Mr Gilbert's operation had been successful and the doctor told him that it had been. He then asked when Mr Gilbert would be allowed to go home and the doctor told him that he would have to stay in hospital for another two weeks. Then Dr Millington asked the caller if he was a relative of the patient. 'No,' the patient answered, 'I am Mr John Gilbert.'



Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions *in not more than 60 words*.

1. What did Dr Millington refuse to tell his patient, John Gilbert?
2. Whom did the patient telephone next day? Whom did he inquire about? (*and*)
3. Did the doctor answer a number of questions about the patient or not? Did he ask whether the caller was a relative or not? (*and then*)
4. Did the caller then tell him who he was or not?

Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. After the telephone call, Dr Millington was angry. He went to Gilbert's room. (*so*)
2. Gilbert was telephoning the nurses. He was asking questions about himself. (*and*)
3. Then the doctor burst out laughing. The patient burst out laughing. (*both . . . and*)

Letter-writing

Write the following dates in the way they might appear on a letter:

3 January; February 28; 20 August; 13 September; October 22.

Key Structures

He said that . . . He told me . . . He asked . . . (KS 41)

'I am very tired,' he said.

What did he say?

He said that he was very tired.

He told me that he was very tired.

'Are you tired?' she asked.

What did she ask?

She asked if (or whether) you were tired.

'Will Jack arrive tomorrow?' Tom asked.

What did Tom ask?

Tom asked if (or whether) Jack would arrive the next day.

'When will Jack arrive?' Tom asked.

What did Tom ask?

Tom asked when Jack would arrive.

'Have you ever been abroad?' Mary asked.

What did Mary ask?

Mary asked if (or whether) you had ever been abroad.

'Why didn't you write to me?' Jane asked.

What did Jane ask?

Jane asked why I hadn't written to her.

Exercise

Here is part of the conversation between Mr Gilbert and Dr Millington:

1. 'I am inquiring about a certain patient,' Mr Gilbert said.
2. 'Was Mr Gilbert's operation successful?' he asked.
3. 'Yes, it was,' the doctor told him.
4. 'When will Mr Gilbert be allowed to go home?' he asked.
5. 'He will have to stay in hospital for another two weeks,' the doctor told him. 'Are you a relative of the patient?' Dr Millington asked the caller.
6. 'No,' the patient answered, 'I am Mr John Gilbert.'

Now answer these questions. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise.

1. What did Mr Gilbert say?
2. What did he ask?
3. What did the doctor tell him?
4. What did he (Mr Gilbert) ask?
5. What did the doctor tell him? What did Dr Millington ask the caller?
6. What did the patient answer?

Special Difficulties

Speech Marks. (SD 74)

Exercise

Write this piece of conversation again using speech marks. Refer to the dialogue in the exercise above when you have finished:

I am inquiring about a certain patient, Mr Gilbert said. Was Mr Gilbert's operation successful? he asked. Yes, it was, the doctor told him. When will Mr Gilbert be allowed to go home? he asked. He will have to stay in hospital for another two weeks, the doctor told him. Are you a relative of the patient? Dr Millington asked the caller. No, the patient answered, I am Mr John Gilbert.