

40 Food and Talk

Last week at a dinner-party, the hostess asked me to sit next to Mrs Rumbold. Mrs Rumbold was a large, unsmiling lady in a tight black dress. She did not even look up when I took my seat beside her. Her eyes were fixed on her plate and in a short time, she was busy eating. I tried to make conversation.

5 'A new play is coming to "The Globe" soon,' I said. 'Will you be seeing it?'

'No,' she answered.

'Will you be spending your holidays abroad this year?' I asked.

'No,' she answered.

15 'Will you be staying in England?' I asked.

'No,' she answered.

In despair, I asked her whether she was enjoying her dinner.

20 'Young man,' she answered, 'if you ate more and talked less, we would both enjoy our dinner!'



Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in not more than 70 words.

1. Where did the writer sit at the dinner-party?
2. Did he try to make conversation or not? Was she busy eating or not? (*but*)
3. Did he talk about the new play at 'The Globe' or not? Did he talk about the holidays or not? (*and*)
4. Did she answer his questions briefly or not?
5. Did he ask her if she was enjoying her dinner or not? What did she answer? (*Then ... and*)

Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. She refused to answer any questions. She did not ask any questions (*not only ... but ... either*)
2. She was not interested in the theatre. She was not interested in travel. (*neither ... nor*)
3. She liked eating good food. She did not like talking about it. (*but*)

Letter-writing

Rewrite the following dates in the way they would appear on a letter:

2/3/65; 21/9/54; 13/8/61; 1/12/67; 22/1/66; 11/11/70.

Key Structures

If you ate more and talked less we would both enjoy our dinner.

a Do you remember these sentences: (KS 43)

If he is out, I'll call tomorrow.

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

If he is working I shall not disturb him.

If I have time, I shall be writing to him tomorrow.

Please don't disturb him *if he is busy*.

b Now study these sentences carefully:

If you went to the exhibition you would enjoy it.

If you saw him now you wouldn't recognize him.

Would he get annoyed *if I told* him about it?

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

He would help you *if he were* here.

If you could make him change his mind, you would save him a lot of trouble.

Exercise

Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

1. He would enjoy this if he (be) present.
2. She can do better if she (try).
3. If you play with matches you (burn) your fingers.
4. If you broke this window you (have to) pay for it.
5. If you (lose) your way you would have to ask a policeman.
6. If you (not apologize) he will never speak to you again.
7. If he (be) clever, he would not have any difficulty.
8. What would you do if you (win) a lot of money?
9. If I were you I (not be) so confident.
10. If you (can) help me I would be grateful.

Special Difficulties

Make and Do

Study these phrases:

a Make I tried to make conversation. (ll. 7-8)

When she had *made the beds* she went downstairs.

You mustn't *make so much noise*.

I *made a promise* never to see him again.

He's the sort of person who always *makes trouble*.

Do you think it will *make any difference*?

He is learning English but he hasn't *made much progress*.

He *made a lot of money* in South America.

I was asked to *make a speech*.

I'll never *make the same mistake* again.

I found it difficult to *make up my mind*.

b Do

He always *does his best*.

When did you *do your homework*?

Do me a favour please.

I *did a few jobs* about the house.

I can't *do any more work* today.

I want you to *do exercise 24* on page 16.

I *did a lot of shopping* yesterday.

That shop *does very good business*.

Exercise

Supply the correct form of *make* or *do* in the following:

1. He . . . a mistake and I told him to . . . the exercise again.
2. He . . . business in Australia and . . . a lot of money.
3. I know you are . . . your best but you are not . . . very much progress.
4. After I had . . . the beds, I went out and . . . some shopping.