

41 Do You Call That a Hat?

'Do you call that a hat?' I said to my wife.

'You needn't be so rude about it,' my wife answered as she looked at herself in the mirror.

I sat down on one of those modern chairs with holes in it and waited. We had been in the hat shop for half an hour and my wife was still in front of the mirror.

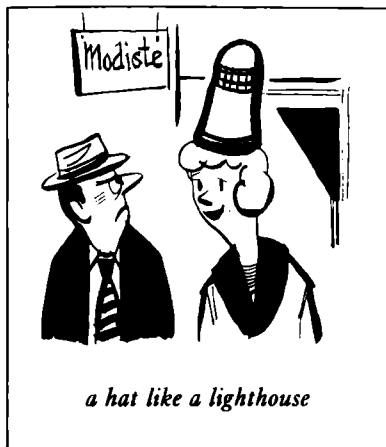
'We mustn't buy things we don't need,' I remarked suddenly. I regretted saying it almost at once.

'You needn't have said that,' my wife answered. 'I need not remind you of that terrible tie you bought yesterday.'

'I find it beautiful,' I said. 'A man can never have too many ties.'

'And a woman can't have too many hats,' she answered.

Ten minutes later we walked out of the shop together. My wife was wearing a hat that looked like a lighthouse!



Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions *in not more than 70 words*.

1. Was the writer's wife trying on a hat or not? Did he like it or not? (*but*)
2. Did he sit down or not? Did he wait for her or did he leave the shop? (*and*)
3. Did they begin arguing again or not? (*Then*)
4. What had he bought the day before? Did his wife like it or not? (*but*)
5. Did he say, 'A man can never have too many ties,' or did he say, 'A man can never have too many hats.'?
6. Did his wife use exactly the same argument or not? Did she buy the hat or not? (*and*)
7. What did it look like?

Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. My wife has too many hats. She has too many dresses. (*not only . . . but . . . as well*)
2. We have been invited to a party this evening. She does not want to go. (*but*)
3. She keeps looking at all those dresses. She keeps saying, 'I haven't got anything to wear!' (*and*)

Letter-writing

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

7/5/55; 1/10/68; 31/1/67; 18/2/63; 23/6/70; 17/4/27.

Key Structures

Must, Have to and Need

a Do you remember these sentences: (KS 45)

I must leave now. I have (got) to leave now.

He must be a fool.

b Now study these sentences:

I need a new hat. I must buy one.

He needs a haircut. He must have one.

I won't buy that. I don't need it.

c Instead of saying:

You needn't wait for me.

You needn't have waited for me.

We can say:

You don't have to wait for me.

You didn't have to wait for me.

d Now compare *mustn't* and *needn't* in these sentences:

You mustn't make a noise. The children are asleep.

You needn't drive so quickly; we have plenty of time.

Or: You don't have to (haven't got to) drive so quickly; we have plenty of time.

You mustn't smoke in a theatre. It is forbidden.

You needn't come with us if you don't want to.

Or: You don't have to (haven't got to) come with us if you don't want to.

Exercises

A. Study the use of *need*, *needn't* and *mustn't* in the passage.

B. Supply *need*, *needn't* and *mustn't* in the following. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise:

1. 'You . . . be so rude about it,' my wife answered as she looked at herself in the mirror.

2. 'We . . . buy things we don't . . .,' I remarked suddenly.

3. 'You . . . have said that,' my wife answered. 'I . . . not remind you of that terrible tie you bought yesterday.'

C. Supply *mustn't* or *needn't* in these sentences:

1. You . . . leave your car here. Can't you see the 'No Parking' sign?

2. I . . . go to bed late tonight. I have to get up early tomorrow.

3. You . . . finish your soup if you don't like it.

4. You . . . push. There's plenty of room on the bus.

5. You . . . read in bed. It's bad for your eyes.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused.

Remark, Observe, and Notice.

Study these examples:

'We mustn't buy things we don't need,' I remarked. (ll. 10-11)

'We mustn't buy things we don't need,' I observed.

He observed me carefully. (He looked at me.)

Did you notice how she was dressed?

Exercise

Supply the correct form of *remark* or *notice* in the following:

1. 'That's a fine picture,' he . . .

2. No one . . . me when I entered the room.

3. He made a lot of rude . . . about the hat she was wearing.

4. He failed to . . . that I had changed the furniture round.