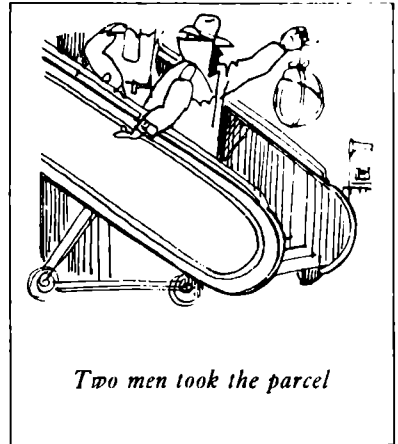


## 7 Too Late

The plane was late and detectives were waiting at the airport all morning. They were expecting a valuable parcel of diamonds from South Africa. A few hours earlier, someone had told the police that thieves would try to steal the diamonds. When the plane arrived, some of the detectives were waiting inside the main building while others were waiting on the airfield. Two men took the parcel off the plane and carried it into the Customs House. While two detectives were keeping guard at the door, two others opened the parcel. To their surprise, the precious parcel was full of stones and sand!



*Two men took the parcel*

### Comprehension Précis and Composition

Answer these questions *in not more than 50 words*.

1. How long were detectives waiting at the airport?
2. What were they expecting from South Africa?
3. Where did two men take the parcel after the arrival of the plane?
4. How many detectives opened it?
5. What was the parcel full of?

### Key Structures

What were you doing when I telephoned?

Study these sentences carefully. Pay close attention to the words in *italics*.

*When* I was watering the garden, it began to rain.

I was having breakfast *when* the telephone rang.

*While* we were having a party, the lights went out.

George was reading *while* his wife was listening to the radio

*As* I was getting on the bus, I slipped and hurt my foot.

Someone knocked at the door *just as* I was getting into the bath.

The plane was late and detectives were waiting at the airport *all morning*.

### Exercises

A. Underline the verbs in the passage which tell us what *was happening*.

B. What was happening when . . . ?

Read the passage again then answer these questions. Write a complete sentence in answer to each question.

1. What was happening when the plane arrived?
2. What was happening when two of the detectives opened the parcel?

C. Write sentences of your own in answer to these questions. Each answer must begin with 'I was . . .'

1. What were you doing when I telephoned you?
2. What were you reading when I saw you in the library this morning?
3. What were you saying when I interrupted you?

D. What was happening? What happened?

Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

1. As my father (leave) the house, the postman (arrive).
2. Tom (work) in the garden while I (sit) in the sun.
3. As I (walk) down the street, I (meet) Charlie.
4. While he (read) the letter, he (hear) a knock at the door.
5. While mother (prepare) lunch, Janet (set) the table.
6. She (drop) the tray when I (speak) to her.

## Special Difficulties

Two men took the parcel off the plane. (ll. 10-11)

Do you remember these sentences? (SD 24)

Come and *look at* my photograph album.

I am *looking for* my pen. I lost it this morning.

Will you *look after* the children for me please?

Now read these sentences:

*Instead of saying:*

He took off his coat.

He put out the fire.

She put on her hat.

*We can say:*

He took his coat off.

He took it off.

He put the fire out.

He put it out.

She put her hat on.

She put it on.

### Exercise

We can change the position of the words in italics in some of the sentences below. For instance, we can change the position of the word *out* in this sentence: He put *out* the fire. But we cannot change the position of the word *for* in this sentence: He is looking *for* his pen. Where possible, change the position of the words in italics in the sentences below:

1. He gave *away* all his books.
2. She woke *up* the children early this morning.
3. He is looking *for* his umbrella.
4. They cut *off* the king's head.
5. Put *on* your hat and coat.
6. Give it *back* to your brother.
7. Help me to lift *up* this table.
8. Take *off* your shoes and put *on* your slippers.
9. He is looking *at* the picture.
10. Send her *away* or she will cause trouble.
11. They have pulled *down* the old building.
12. Make *up* your mind.
13. He asked *for* permission to leave.
14. She threw *away* all those old newspapers.