

32 Shopping Made Easy

- People are not so honest as they once were. The temptation to steal is greater than ever before—especially in large shops. A detective recently watched a well-dressed woman who always went into a large store on Monday mornings. One Monday, there were fewer people in the shop than usual when the woman came in, so it was easier for the detective to watch her. The woman first bought a few small articles. After a little time, she chose one of the most expensive dresses in the shop and handed it to an assistant who wrapped it up for her as quickly as possible. Then the woman simply took the parcel and walked out of the shop without paying. When she was arrested, the detective found out that the shop-assistant was her daughter. The girl 'gave' her mother a free dress once a week!



Comprehension and Précis

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

1. Whom did a detective watch in a large store one Monday?
2. What did she buy? Did she choose an expensive dress or not? (*and then*)
3. Did the assistant wrap it up for her or not? Did the woman take it with her or not? (*and*)
4. Did she pay for it or not? Did the detective arrest her or not? (*so*)
5. Who was the assistant?
6. What did she give her mother once a week?

Composition

Rewrite these sentences using the correct verbs and joining words:

I (came) (arrived at) the office late as usual (so) (but) Mr Blake (saw) (understood) me (and) (or) he was very angry. 'This is your last day here, Jones,' he said. 'You can (neither) (either) (stay) (sit) here (or) (nor) go home!'

Letter-writing

Each line of the address is followed by a comma. The last line is followed by a full stop. We do not put a comma or a full stop after the date.

Exercise

Arrange the following heading in the correct order. Put in full stops or commas where necessary:

New York/504 West 94th St./N.Y./24th June, 19—/U.S.A.

Key Structures

People are not so honest as they once were.

Do you remember these sentences? (KS 27)

Mary is tall, but Jane is taller. Jane is taller than Mary. Betty is very tall. She is the tallest girl in the class.

Now study these sentences carefully:

a He is *as old as* I am.

He unlocked the door *as quickly as* he could.

She is not *as intelligent as* we think.

Or: She is not *so intelligent as* we think.

b *Instead of saying:*

There isn't much I can do to help him.

He hasn't got as much work to do as I have.

There weren't many people in the shop.

He hasn't as many books as I have.

There isn't much whisky in this bottle, but you can have *some* if you want it.

There aren't many apples on the tree, but you can pick *some* if you want to.

We can say:

There is little I can do to help him.

He's got less work to do than I have.

There were very few people in the shop.

He has fewer books than I have.

There isn't much whisky in this bottle, but you can have *a little* if you want it.

There aren't many apples on the tree, but you can pick *a few* if you want to.

Exercises

A. How many comparisons can you find in the passage? Underline them.

B. Supply the missing words and give the correct form of the words in brackets. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise.

People are not . . . honest . . . they once were. The temptation to steal is (great) than ever before—especially in large shops. A detective recently watched a well-dressed woman who always went into a large store on Monday mornings. One Monday, there were (few) people in the shop than usual when the woman came in, so it was (easy) for the detective to watch her. The woman first bought a . . . small articles. After a . . . time, she chose one of the (expensive) dresses in the shop and handed it to an assistant who wrapped it up for her . . . quickly . . . possible.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused

A and One. (KS 23)

Study these examples:

A detective watched a well-dressed woman . . . (ll. 4-5)

One Monday, there were fewer people in the shop . . . (ll. 7-8)

Compare:

There is a boy in the classroom.

There is only one boy in the classroom. (And not two or more.)

Exercise

Put in *a/an* or *one*:

. . . day I received . . . postcard from Harry. He invited me to go on . . . excursion. As he was setting out that afternoon, there was only . . . thing to do. I had to send . . . telegram. I went to . . . post-office and asked for . . . form. I wrote . . . telegram of . . . word: NO.