

88 Trapped in a Mine

- Six men have been trapped in a mine for seventeen hours. If they are not brought to the surface soon they may lose their lives. However, rescue operations are proving difficult. If explosives are used, vibrations will cause the roof of the mine to collapse. Rescue workers are therefore drilling a hole on the north side of the mine. They intend to bring the men up in a special capsule. If there had not been a hard layer of rock beneath the soil, they would have completed the job in a few hours. As it is, they have been drilling for sixteen hours and they still have a long way to go. Meanwhile, a microphone, which was lowered into the mine two hours ago, has enabled the men to keep in touch with the closest relatives. Though they are running out of food and drink, the men are cheerful and confident that they will get out soon. They have been told that rescue operations are progressing smoothly. If they knew how difficult it was to drill through the hard rock, they would lose heart.



Précis

Make a summary of the passage *in not more than 80 words*. Write two different paragraphs using the points and connections given below.

CONNECTIONS

who

because

Since

but

Two hours ago

and

but

POINTS

1. Six men—trapped—seventeen hours
2. May lose lives.
3. Rescue difficult.
4. Explosives—collapse.
5. Drilling—hard rock.
6. Progress slow.
7. Microphone lowered.
8. In touch—relatives.
9. Running short—food.
10. Good spirits.

CONNECTIONS

and

as

Because of this

yet

Now that

Though

Composition

Continue the above passage. Write two paragraphs in about 150 words using the ideas given below:

1. During the rescue operations there was a loud noise—collapse of mine—microphone silent—the men's voices were heard an hour later—they were all right.
2. Drilling began again—the collapse had made things easier—the men were brought to the surface—the scene on their return.

Letter-writing

The Postscript. If you wish to add something to your letter after you have finished it, you may do so under your signature. Whatever you write must be preceded by the letters 'P.S.' which stand for 'Postscript'. Study this example:

Yours sincerely,

Tom

P.S. I'll send you a copy of the book by separate post.

Exercise

Write two letter-endings followed by postscripts.

Key Structures

If. Review: KS 43, 101, 158.

Exercises

A. How many sentences in the passage contain the word *if*? Study the form of the verbs in these sentences.

B. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise.

1. If they (not bring) to the surface soon they may lose their lives.
2. If explosives are used, vibrations (cause) the roof of the mine to collapse.
3. If there had not been a hard layer of rock beneath the soil, they (complete) the job in a few hours.
4. If they knew how difficult it was to drill through the hard rock, they (lose) heart.

C. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

1. If he had fitted safety belts to his car he (not injure).
2. The man would have been saved if a helicopter (be) available.
3. If you come home late, you (find) the key under the mat.
4. I would have found the house easily if he (give) me the correct address.
5. If smoking (forbid), illnesses will be reduced.

Special Difficulties

The verb *run* has a different meaning in each of these sentences. Study them carefully: They are *running out of* food (l. 18) (They have nearly used up all their supplies.)

A crowd of boys *ran after* the beggar. (They chased the beggar.)

That boy was nearly *run over* by a car. (The car nearly hit him.)

Don't drive so fast. This car hasn't been *run in* yet. (The car must be driven slowly so as not to damage the new engine.)

I *ran into* Helga while I was in Sweden. (I met her by accident.)

Exercise

Supply the missing words in the following sentences:

1. I ran . . . an old friend of mine in a restaurant yesterday.
2. While driving to work yesterday, I ran petrol and had to walk to a garage.
3. This car will have to be serviced as soon as it has been run . . .
4. She's been taken to hospital. She was run . . . by a car.
5. I ran . . . him, but I could not catch him.