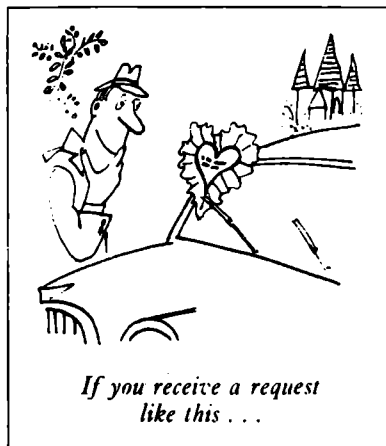


16 A Polite Request

- If you park your car in the wrong place, a traffic policeman will soon find it. You will be very lucky if he lets you go without a ticket. However, this does not always happen. Traffic police are sometimes very polite. During a holiday in Sweden, I found this note on my car: 'Sir, we welcome you to our city. This is a "No Parking" area. You will enjoy your stay here if you pay attention to our street signs. This note is only a reminder.' If you receive a request like this, you cannot fail to obey it!



Comprehension Précis and Composition

Answer these questions *in not more than 55 words*.

1. Do traffic police usually give you a ticket if you park your car in the wrong place or not?
2. When did the writer find a polite note on his car?
3. What did the traffic police want him to do?
4. Can anyone fail to obey a request like this or not?

Key Structures

If you open the door you will get a surprise.

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

a *If he is out*, I'll call tomorrow.

If it rains tomorrow, we shall stay at home.

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

If you see him, will you tell him about it?

If he is working I shall not disturb him.

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

He will come tomorrow *if he can*.

If they can help you they will.

b *If you make* a mistake, correct it.

If you don't like the food, don't eat it.

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

Exercises

A. How many times has the word *if* been used in the passage?

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

1. If you (park) your car in the wrong place, a traffic policeman soon (find) it.
2. You (be) very lucky if he (let) you go without a ticket.
3. You (enjoy) your stay here if you (pay) attention to our street signs.*
4. If you (receive) a request like this, you (cannot) fail to obey it.

C. Supply the correct form of the verbs in brackets in these sentences:

1. If it (rain) I shall take an umbrella with me.
2. You never (pass) this test if you don't work hard.
3. If he (be) here before 10 o'clock, I shall see him.
4. If he plays well, he (get) into the team.
5. If he (enjoy) concerts, why doesn't he come with us?
6. Tell him to wait for me if he (be) not in a hurry.

D. Supply the correct form of the verbs in brackets in this paragraph:

A mother received a letter from her eight-year-old daughter. Here is part of it: 'If I (listen) to the radio, don't tell me to do my homework. If I (do) something wrong, (not shout) at me. If the house (be) untidy, (not blame) me. If you (want) me to do something, (not forget) to say "please". If I (play) a nice game, (not send) me to bed. If I (ask) for something, don't always say "No!" If it (be) cold (not put) the cat out. Don't say "don't" so often!'

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused and Misused

a Police. Traffic police are sometimes very polite. (ll. 5-6)

Study these examples:

The police *are looking* for him. *They have* not found him.

There were police everywhere.

b Pay attention to, Care, Take care of, Look after.

Compare the following:

Please *pay attention to* the blackboard.

I don't care if he breaks his neck!

Don't worry about the garden. I'll *take care of* it while you are on holiday.

Please *look after* the children for me when I am out.

c Remind and Remember. This note is only a reminder. (l. 11)

Remind: I reminded him to post my letter.

Remember: I remembered to post your letter.

Remember me to your mother.

d You. If you receive a request like this . . . (ll. 11-12)

Instead of saying:

We can say:

One must be careful these days.

You must be careful these days.

One must never tell lies.

You must never tell lies.

'You' can have the sense of 'anyone'.

Exercise

Choose the correct words in the following sentences:

1. You can only learn if you (look after) (pay attention).
2. Don't forget to (remind) (remember) me about it tomorrow.
3. The police (is knocking) (are knocking) at the door.
4. Our neighbours will (pay attention to) (look after) our house when we are away.
5. (Remind me) (Remember me) to your wife.