

## 36 Across the Channel

- Erna Hart is going to swim across the English Channel tomorrow. She is going to set out from the French coast at five o'clock in the morning. Erna is only fourteen years old and she hopes to set up a new world record. She is a strong swimmer and many people feel that she is sure to succeed. Erna's father will set out with her in a small boat. Mr Hart has trained his daughter for years. Tomorrow he will be watching her anxiously as she swims the long distance to England. Erna intends to take short rests every two hours. She will have something to drink but she will not eat any solid food. Most of Erna's school friends will be waiting for her on the English coast. Among them will be Erna's mother, who swam the Channel herself when she was a girl.



### Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in not more than 55 words.

1. Who is going to swim across the English Channel tomorrow?
2. How old is she? Is she a strong swimmer or not? (and)
3. Whom has Erna been trained by?
4. Will he follow her in a small boat or not?
5. Where will Erna's mother be waiting?
6. What did she do as a girl?

### Composition

Rewrite these sentences using the correct verbs and joining words:

The man on the raft saw the boat (so) (but) he tried to send a signal. He (took off) (put out) his shirt (or) (and) (waved) (shook) it (but) (so) the men on the boat (neither) (either) saw (or) (nor) (heard) (listened to) him.

### Letter-writing

We do not always write the names of areas or postal districts in full when writing the address. Sometimes we write part of a name or only capital letters. For instance: 'Berks.' stands for 'Berkshire'; 'Calif.' for 'California'; 'N.W. 3' for 'North West 3'; 'N.Y.' for 'New York'.

#### Exercise

Write these words again in the way they might appear in an address:

Street, Road, Avenue, Square, Place, New York, West 8, South West 3.

### Key Structures

She is going to swim across the Channel tomorrow.

Instead of saying: (KS 35)

I shall travel by air.

He will sell his car.

We can say:

I am going to travel by air.

He is going to sell his car.

They will move to a new house.	They are going to move to a new house.
I intend to write to him.	I am going to write to him.
She means to ask for an explanation.	She is going to ask for an explanation.

We can often use *going to* in place of *shall* or *will* in simple statements and questions.  
**(KS 13)** We cannot use *going to* in sentences like this one:  
 You will enjoy yourself if you travel by sea.

### Exercises

A. Underline the verbs in the passage which tell us *what will happen*, *what is going to happen*, and *what will be happening*. (KS 37)

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

Erna Hart (swim) across the English Channel tomorrow. She (set out) from the French coast at five o'clock in the morning. Erna is only fourteen years old and she hopes to set up a new world record. Erna's father (set out) with her in a small boat. Mr Hart has trained his daughter for years. Tomorrow he (watch) her anxiously as she swims the long distance to England. Erna intends to take short rests every two hours. She (have) something to drink but she (not eat) any solid food. Most of Erna's school friends (wait) for her on the English coast. Among them (be) Erna's mother, who swam the Channel herself when she was a girl.

C. Write these sentences again. Use *going to* in place of the verbs in italics:

1. We *intend to* leave at six o'clock.
2. I *intend to* pay these bills tomorrow.
3. *Do you intend to* write to him?
4. She *does not intend to* look for a new job.
5. When *do you intend to* buy a new car?

## Special Difficulties

### Words Often Confused

*a* Watch, Look at, Follow.

*Watch* (something happening): Tomorrow he will be watching her anxiously. (Il. 10-11)

*Look at*: Look at the blackboard. Look at your book. Look at this picture.

*Follow* (go after): I followed my mother into the kitchen.

*b* Solid, Firm, Stable.

*Solid* (not liquid): She will not eat any solid food. (Il. 14-15)

*Firm* (not loose): I've fixed that hook. It is firm now.

(not doubtful): He gave me a firm refusal.

(not lenient): You must be very firm with that child.

*Stable* (often describing character): He is a very stable person.

### Exercise

Use any of the above words in the following sentences:

1. I came to a . . . decision **and** I will not change my mind.
2. I stood on the bridge **and** . . . the boats passing by.
3. May I . . . your photograph album?
4. The ice in the pond is so . . . that you can walk on it.
5. I tried to persuade him **but** he remained . . .

