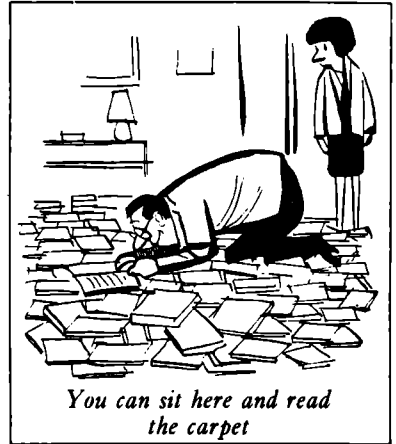


## 52 A Pretty Carpet

- We have just moved into a new house and I have been working hard all morning. I have been trying to get my new room in order. This has not been easy because I own over a thousand books. To make matters worse, the room is rather small, so I have temporarily put my books on the floor. At the moment, they cover every inch of floor space and I actually have to walk on them to get in or out of the room. A short while ago, my sister helped me to carry one of my old bookcases up the stairs. She went into my room and got a big surprise when she saw all those books on the floor. 'This is the prettiest carpet I have ever seen,' she said. She gazed at it for some time then added, 'You don't need bookcases at all. You can sit here in your spare time and read the carpet!'



### Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions in not more than 75 words.

1. Has the writer been trying to get his new room in order all morning or not?
2. Why has this proved difficult? Do they cover every inch of floor space at the moment or not? (*because . . . which*)
3. What did his sister help him to do a short while ago?
4. Did she get a surprise when she saw his room or not? Did she think that the books made a pretty carpet, or did she find the room untidy? (*but*)

### Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. I moved into a new room. Three workmen brought my things upstairs. (*When*)
2. There were several cases of clothes. There were hundreds of books. (*not only . . . but . . . as well*)
3. The pile was as high as the ceiling. I could not get into my room. (*Since*)

### Letter-writing

How would you begin letters to: your cousin Ted, your bank manager, your friend Mary, your grandfather.

### Key Structures

What has happened? What has been happening? (KS 77)

Compare these pairs of sentences:

*It hasn't rained* for six weeks.

*It has been raining* hard since yesterday and it is still raining.

*He has rung* me up five times since 12 o'clock.

*He has been ringing* me up all morning.

He *has never stayed* at this hotel before.  
He *has been staying* at this hotel for the last three weeks.  
I *have read* 'Oliver Twist' five times.  
I *have been reading* all afternoon.

### Exercises

A. Underline the verbs in the passage that tell us *what has happened* and *what has been happening*.

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

We just (move) into a new house and I (work) hard all morning. I (try) to get my new room in order. This (not be) easy because I own over a thousand books. The room is rather small, so I temporarily (put) my books on the floor. My sister got a big surprise when she saw all those books on the floor. 'This is the prettiest carpet I ever (see),' she said.

C. What has happened? What has been happening? Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

'I (explain) this to you several times already,' said the teacher. 'I hope you (understand) it now.' Then he looked at a little boy at the back of the class. '... you (listen), Jones?' he asked. 'Here is a simple problem: "Sally (work) in an office for thirty-four weeks. In that time, she (earn) £10 a week. How much ... she (earn) so far?"'

'Please, sir,' Jones answered. 'I can only answer your first question. I (not listen).'

## Special Difficulties

I have been working hard all morning. (l. 2)

Compare these pairs of sentences:

She has a beautiful voice. She sings beautifully.

He is a slow worker. He works slowly.

He is a hard worker. He works hard.

He is a fast driver. He drives fast.

Now compare these pairs of sentences:

The train arrived very late.

Have you travelled by train lately?

He worked very hard.

He hardly ever does any work.

The plane flew very high.

He thinks very highly of me.

He made sure it was safe before he went near.

He was nearly run over by a car.

### Exercise

Choose the correct words in the following sentences:

1. She dusted the furniture very (careful) (carefully).
2. I hit him very (hardly) (hard).
3. This exercise is not (hard) (hardly).
4. I got home from work very (lately) (late) last night.
5. I (near) (nearly) missed the bus this morning.
6. He ran so (fastly) (fast) no one could keep up with him.
7. I can't jump so (highly) (high).