

67 Volcanoes

- Haroun Tazieff, the Polish scientist, has spent his life-time studying active volcanoes and deep caves in all parts of the world. In 1948, he went to lake Kivu in the Congo to observe a new volcano which he later named Kituro. Tazieff was able to set up his camp very close to the volcano while it was erupting violently. Though he managed to take a number of brilliant photographs, he could not stay near the volcano for very long. He noticed that a river of liquid rock was coming towards him. It threatened to surround him completely, but Tazieff managed to escape just in time. He waited until the volcano became quiet and he was able to return two days later. This time, he managed to climb into the mouth of Kituro so that he could take photographs and measure temperatures. Tazieff has often risked his life in this way. He has been able to tell us more about active volcanoes than any man alive.



he could not stay for very long

Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions *in not more than 80 words*.

1. Where did Tazieff, the Polish scientist, go in 1948? Why did he go there? What did he call it? (*to . . . which*)
2. Did he take photographs or not? Did he have to leave almost at once or not? Did a river of liquid rock threaten to surround him or not? (*After taking . . . because*)
3. Did he escape just in time or not? When did he return? Had the volcano become quiet, or was it still active? (*but . . . when*)
4. Where did he climb this time? Why did he do so? (*in order to*)

Composition

Write three or four sentences using the ideas given below:

Tazieff went into mouth of Kituro—saw the boiling red centre—ash—lumps of rock shooting up—in great danger—took photographs—returned to camp.

Letter-writing

Write six sentences beginning with each of the following:

Thank you . . . ; What a . . . ; Forgive . . . ; I have not . . . ; I am sorry . . . ; It was very . . .

Key Structures

Can, Able to and Manage to

a Do you remember these sentences: (KS 107b and c)

I couldn't understand him.

I wasn't able to understand him.

He was able to leave Europe before the war began.

b Managed to can be used like *was able to* to show that an action has been completed successfully. (KS 107c)

Instead of saying :

He didn't agree with me at first but I *was able to* persuade him.

He *was able to* leave Europe before the war began.

We can say :

He didn't agree with me at first but I *managed to* persuade him.

He *managed to* leave Europe before the war began.

Exercises

A. Underline the verbs *could*, *was able to* and *managed to* in the passage. Note how they have been used.

B. Supply *could*, *was able to* or *managed to* in this paragraph. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise.

Tazieff . . . set up his camp very close to the volcano while it was erupting violently. Though he . . . take a number of brilliant photographs, he . . . not stay near the volcano for very long. He noticed that a river of liquid rock was coming towards him. It threatened to surround him completely, but Tazieff . . . escape just in time. He waited until the volcano became quiet and he . . . return two days later. This time, he . . . climb into the mouth of Kituro so that he . . . take photographs and measure temperatures.

C. Rewrite these sentences using *managed to* in place of *could not*.

1. I could not get into town this morning.
2. They could not find the boy who had run away.
3. He could not find a new job.
4. I could not translate the passage into English.
5. They could not swim to the other side of the river.

Special Difficulties

Phrases with Say and Tell. (KS 41) Study these phrases:

a Say

Did he *say anything* to you about it? No, he *said nothing*.

He knelt down and *said his prayers*.

If you want some more cake, please *say so*.

I'm sure it would help if you could *say a good word* for him.

He *said goodbye* and left.

Please *say no more* about it.

b Tell

He *has been able to tell us more about* volcanoes . . . (ll. 19-20)

Can you *tell me anything about* it?

Please *tell us a story*.

Can you *tell the time* in English?

I want you to *tell me the truth*.

He often *tells lies*.

If you promise not to tell anyone, I'll *tell you a secret*.

Can't you *tell the difference* between an Austin and a Morris?

Exercise

Supply the correct form of *say* or *tell* in the following sentences:

1. He is only five, but he *can already* . . . the time.
2. They asked the prisoner several questions, but he . . . nothing.
3. If you . . . so, I suppose it's true. I don't think you would . . . me a lie.
4. They are so alike, I can't . . . the difference between them.
5. He . . . me about his experiences in the Navy.
6. If you could . . . a good word for him, he might get the job.