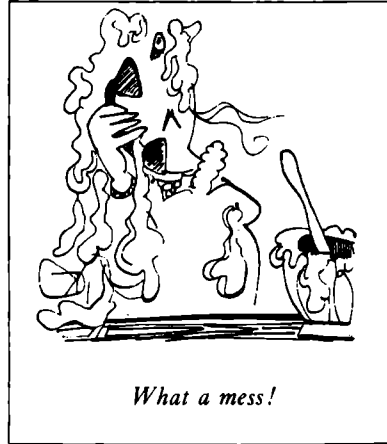


54 Sticky Fingers

After breakfast, I sent the children to school and then I went to market. It was still early when I returned home. The children were at school, my husband was at work and the house was quiet. So I decided to make some tarts for tea. In a short time I was busy mixing butter and flour and my hands were soon covered with sticky pastry. At exactly that moment, the telephone rang. Nothing could have been more annoying. I picked up the receiver between two sticky fingers and was dismayed when I recognized the voice of Mrs Bates. It took me ten minutes to persuade her to ring back later. At last I hung up the receiver. What a mess!



There was pastry on my fingers, on the telephone, and on the door-knobs. I had no sooner got back to the kitchen than the door-bell rang loud enough to wake the dead. This time it was the postman and he wanted me to sign for a registered letter!

Comprehension and Précis

Answer these questions *in not more than 75 words*.

1. Did the writer return home from market or not? What did she begin to make? (*As soon as*)
2. Did the telephone ring soon afterwards or not? Were her fingers very sticky or not? (*When*)
3. How long did she spend talking to Mrs Bates on the telephone?
4. Did she look at the mess she had made or not? (*After that*)
5. What was covered with pastry?
6. Who rang the door-bell? (*Just then*)
7. What did he want her to do?

Composition

Rewrite the following sentences using the joining words in brackets:

1. I put the cake in the oven. I forgot all about it. (*After putting*)
2. Two hours had passed. I smelt something burning. (*When*)
3. I went into the kitchen. I found it full of smoke. (*On going*)

Letter-writing

In the first paragraph of your letter you should refer either to a letter you have received or to an event which has prompted you to write. Look at the example below. Note where the first paragraph begins:

Dear Fred,

I was very pleased to learn that you are well.

Exercise

Write your address, the date and the first sentence of a letter to a friend beginning: 'Thank you for ...'

Key Structures

A, The, Some and Any. (KS 81)

a Some and Any. See KS 81a and SD 30

Study the use of *some* and *any* in these sentences:

Did you get any information? I want some information.

Is there any news in the paper? There is some interesting news in the paper.

Did the storm do any damage? The storm did some damage to the crops.

Did you do any work yesterday? I did some work before breakfast.

Did you bring any luggage? I have some luggage in the car.

b Compare these pairs of sentences:

He was very poor years ago, but now he is a rich man.

The rich should help the poor.

She was born deaf and blind.

There are many organizations to help *the* deaf and *the* blind.

c Compare these pairs of sentences:

The school in our village was built last year.

The children went *to school* early this morning.

There is a market for these goods abroad.

The farmer goes *to market* on Saturdays (i.e. to buy and sell).

But: I'm going *to the market*. I want to buy some fruit.

We need a new cinema and a new theatre.

I often go *to the cinema* and *the theatre*.

d Compare these sentences:

It is *the* most interesting exhibition I have ever seen.

Most people enjoyed it.

It is *the* biggest shop in London.

Most shops are closed on Saturday afternoon.

Exercises

A. Underline the words *a*, *the* and *some* in the passage.

B. Put in the words *a*, *the* and *some* where necessary. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise:

After ... breakfast, I sent ... children to ... school and then I went to ... market. It was still early when I returned home. ... children were at ... school, my husband was at ... work, and ... house was quiet. So I decided to make ... tarts for ... tea. In ... short time I was busy mixing ... butter and ... flour and my hands were soon covered with ... sticky pastry. At exactly that moment, ... telephone rang. Nothing could have been more annoying. I picked up ... receiver between ... two sticky fingers and was dismayed when I recognized ... voice of Mrs Bates. It took me ten minutes to persuade her to ring back later. At last I hung up ... receiver. What ... mess! There was ... pastry on my fingers, on ... telephone, and on ... door-knobs. I had no sooner got back to ... kitchen than ... door-bell rang loud enough to wake ... dead. This time it was ... postman and he wanted me to sign for ... registered letter!