

MAGGIE I'm sorry, but there are a lot of people eating here today.

MAN 2 But how long is it going to take? My train leaves in forty minutes.

MAGGIE Not long. I'm very sorry.

WOMAN 1 Excuse me, I was before these men. Where is my coffee?

WOMAN 2 And what about me? I asked for a sandwich and a coke half an hour ago.

WOMAN 3 Well, I'm before all of you. I asked for a pizza forty-five minutes ago.

MAN 1 Look here, in your window it says, 'Fast food'.

MAGGIE Yes, it does.

MAN 1 Then why is it so slow?

MAGGIE It isn't slow. But people today want everything faster and faster—

MAN 1 What are you talking about?

WOMAN 1 Look, I can't wait. I have to get back to work.

WOMAN 2 And I have a meeting. I'm late.

MAN 2 Time is money, you know!

WOMAN 3 Where's my pizza?

WOMAN 1 Where's my coffee?

MAN 1 What about my chicken?

PEOPLE We want our food!

MAGGIE Please, everybody! Please! Your food is coming. He's doing it now.



*'We want our food!'*

PEOPLE *He?*

MAGGIE Sorry, *they*. The chefs are doing it now.

MAN 2 How many chefs have you got?

MAGGIE Oh, lots.

WOMAN 2 How many?

MAGGIE Some.

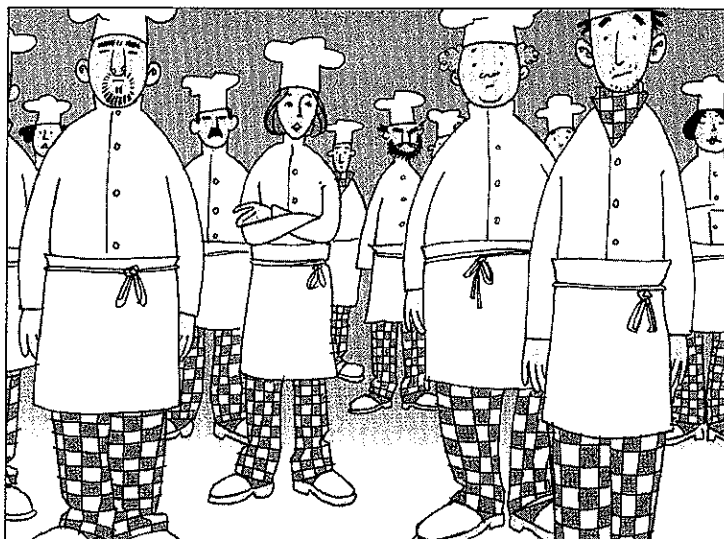
WOMAN 1 How many exactly? Tell us!

MAGGIE Er, twelve.

WOMAN 3 Your restaurant has twelve chefs?

MAGGIE Well, no, not now. We had one in January, one in February, one in March – one every month for the last year. That makes twelve.

WOMAN 3 Well, where are they now?



*'Your restaurant has twelve chefs?'*

MAGGIE They all stopped working here.

WOMAN 1 Why did they leave?

MAGGIE Because it was too fast for them.

MAN 2 And how many chefs have you got now?

MAGGIE Well, er . . . one.

PEOPLE One!

MAGGIE No, sorry. That's wrong—

MAN 1 I'm happy to hear it!

MAGGIE We haven't got *any*.

PEOPLE What?

MAGGIE That's right. There's only me here. Our last chef left yesterday. He was fed up with fast food.

MAN 2 Fed up?

## *Slow Food*

MAGGIE Yes. He said to me, 'That's it! Enough! No more fast food for me! I'm going!' And he went.

WOMAN 2 But what about our—

MAGGIE And do you know? I'm fed up too. Yes, I'm really, really fed up. Fast chicken, fast burgers, fast French fries, fast coke, fast coffee, fast talking, fast walking, fast eating, fast sleeping, fast living, fast dying! I'm fed up with it all!

WOMAN 1 But who is going to—

MAGGIE What's the matter with everybody these days? Why is everything so fast? Come here. (*Maggie walks to the window.*) Come on! (*The people all go to the window.*) Look outside. Go on, look! It's a beautiful day. Life is beautiful. We can all be happy. But first we must slow down. We must take the time to *live*.

MAN 1 Live? But we have to work!

WOMAN 3 We have lots to do.

WOMAN 1 And we want food.

MAN 2 We want *fast* food—

WOMAN 1 Not *slow* food!

WOMAN 2 We haven't got time to—

MAGGIE Time! Time! Time! Don't talk to me about time. You don't understand it. You — oh, it's no good, you're not listening to me.

*She takes off her work clothes and picks up a bag.*

WOMAN 3 Hey, where are you going?  
MAGGIE I'm going out. I'm going to sit in the sun. I'm going to look at the sky and listen to the sea. I'm going to do nothing . . . *slowly!*  
WOMAN 1 But what about our food?  
MAN 2 What about my burger?  
MAGGIE *You can do it!*  
MAN 2 *What did you say?*  
MAGGIE I said, you can do it. Behind me is the kitchen. In the kitchen there's a big bag of chicken and another bag of burgers. You can do your own food, and you can do it as fast as you like. Goodbye!  
PEOPLE But we don't—  
MAGGIE And have a nice day!  
*She goes out.*



*'We must take the time to live.'*

## EXERCISES

### A Checking your understanding

- 1 Choose the best question-word and answer these questions.  
What Who Why  
1 . . . thinks of the plan to rob the bank?  
2 . . . is the matter with Michael Scott?  
3 . . . does Chris want to travel?  
4 . . . buys four bags of salt at a hundred dollars a bag?  
5 . . . does Maggie leave the restaurant in the end?
- 2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
  - 1 The woman working in the library is afraid of the robbers.
  - 2 The woman in blue wants to help the man lying in the street.
  - 3 The older people laugh at Chris and his dreams.
  - 4 In the end Chris wants to stay at home.
  - 5 Nello understands Groot's plan to buy all the salt.
  - 6 Maggie likes fast food.
- 3 Who said these words, in which play, and about what?
  - 1 'You're very adventurous.'
  - 2 'Oh, that's nice. They look interesting. Thanks.'
  - 3 'But how long is it going to take? My train leaves in forty minutes.'
  - 4 'Can I help you with all that?'
  - 5 'We helped someone famous.'
  - 6 'You just put your hand in your pocket like this.'
  - 7 'Well, you say some funny things sometimes!'
  - 8 'What does it say? Read it!'