What was it about snails that made the writer collect them for his friend on that day in particular?

People become quite illogical when they try to decide what can be eaten and what cannot be eaten.

If you lived in the Mediterranean, for instance, you would consider octopus a great delicacy.

You would not be able to understand why some people find it repulsive.

On the other hand, your stomach would turn at the idea of frying potatoes in animal fat—the normally accepted practice in many northern countries.

The sad truth is that most of us have been brought up to eat certain foods, and we stick to them all our lives.

No creature has received more praise and abuse than the common garden snail.

Cooked in wine, snails are a great luxury in various parts of the world.

There are countless people who, ever since their early years, have learned to associate snails with food.

My friend, Robert, lives in a country where snails are despised.

As his flat is in a large town, he has no garden of his own.

For years, he has been asking me to collect snails from my garden and take them to him.

The idea never appealed to me very much, but one day, after a heavy shower, I happened to be walking in my garden when I noticed a huge number of snails taking a stroll on some of my prize plants.

Acting on a sudden impulse, I collected several dozen, put them in a paper bag, and took them to Robert.

Robert was delighted to see me and equally pleased with my little gift.

I left the bag in the hall, and Robert and I went into the living room where we talked for a couple of hours.

I had forgotten all about the snails when Robert suddenly said that I must stay to dinner.

Snails would, of course, be the main dish.

I did not fancy the idea and I reluctantly followed Robert out of the room.

To our dismay, we saw that there were snails everywhere: they had escaped from the paper bag and had taken complete possession of the hall!

I have never been able to look at a snail since then.

The writer collected several dozen snails, put them in a paper bag, and took them to Robert, who was delighted to see him and pleased with the snails.

The writer left the bag in the hall, and he and Robert went into the living room and talked for a couple of hours.

He had forgotten the snails until Robert invited him to dinner, and he followed Robert into the hall to find snails everywhere.

They had escaped from the bag.

The snails had escaped from the paper bag, and they were everywhere-on the walls, on the ceiling, on the carpet, and even on the large hall mirror.

When we began to look carefully, we found that they were even in coat pockets in the clothes hanging on the clothes hooks in the hall.

It was disgusting!

Snails move slowly, but it's amazing how far they can travel in a couple of hours!

It took Robert and me ages to collect them.

He fetched a pair of steps for me and ladders for himself, and we collected them in two buckets.

There were snail marks everywhere, too, and it took hours to clear up the mess- remember, there were several dozen of them.

Snails may not be fast, but we had been talking for a couple of hours, and they can travel.

Even now, I am sure we didn't find them all: some are still crawling round Robert's house.

The ones that we did not find were lucky!

Robert was amused, but I wasn't.

He decided to cook the snails and invited me to stay.

I said before that I didn't fancy the idea, so I left him to his meal for one.

I just couldn't look at the snails and have never been able to face them since then.

I was quite sure that the boy was innocent.

You must keep quiet during the concert.

If you had lived in the Mediterranean, you would have considered the octopus a great delicacy.

When you are learning to play the piano, you need a lot of practice. You need to practise a lot when you are learning to play the piano.

Most people hated the play.

This is the most interesting exhibition I've been to.

I've been learning English since I was ten.

I've been learning English for four years.

I started learning English four years ago.

As here means because or since: She often appears on the stage as a young girl.

I saw her as she was coming out of the bank.

You should do as you are told.

She has been asking me questions all day.

She has asked me three questions in the past 5 minutes!

He happens to be a friend of mine.

It happened that we were in the town on holiday.

Nothing much happened at the meeting.

It was boring.

In a country where snails are eaten, you would expect people to be amazed by anyone who refused to eat them.

The idea of collecting snails never appealed to the writer very much until the sight of the snails made him think of Robert.

When the writer arrived at Robert's flat, he gave Robert the snails, little thinking Robert would propose a dinner with snails as the main dish.

Most of us have been brought up to eat certain kinds of food.

Having left the bag in the hall, I accompanied Robert into the living room.

Snails would, of course, be the main course

I went into the living room where we talked for two hours or so.