What incident began the series of traffic accidents?

We have all experienced days when everything goes wrong.

A day may begin well enough, but suddenly everything seems to get out of control.

What invariably happens is that a great number of things choose to go wrong at precisely the same moment.

It is as if a single unimportant event set up a chain of reactions.

Let us suppose that you are preparing a meal and keeping an eye on the baby at the same time.

The telephone rings and this marks the prelude to an unforeseen series of catastrophes.

While you are on the phone, the baby pulls the tablecloth off the table, smashing half your best crockery and cutting himself in the process.

You hang up hurriedly and attend to the baby, crockery, etc.

Meanwhile, the meal gets burned.

As if this were not enough to reduce you to tears, your husband arrives, unexpectedly bringing three guests to dinner.

Things can go wrong on a big scale, as a number of people recently discovered in Parramatta, a suburb of Sydney.

During the rush hour, one evening, two cars collided and both drivers began to argue.

The woman immediately behind the two cars happened to be a learner.

She suddenly got into a panic and stopped her car.

This made the driver following her brake hard.

His wife was sitting beside him, holding a large cake.

As she was thrown forward, the cake went right through the windscreen and landed on the road.

Seeing a cake flying through the air, a lorry driver who was drawing up alongside the car, pulled up all of a sudden.

The lorry was loaded with empty beer bottles and hundreds of them slid off the back of the vehicle and onto the road.

This led to yet another angry argument.

Meanwhile, the traffic piled up behind.

It took the police nearly an hour to get the traffic on the move again.

In the meantime, the lorry driver had to sweep up hundreds of broken bottles.

Only two stray dogs benefited from all this confusion, for they greedily devoured what was left of the cake.

It was just one of those days!

When the driver behind braked, his wife was thrown forward and the large cake on her lap flew through the windscreen and landed on the road.

A lorry had to pull up suddenly and hundreds of empty beer bottles slid off onto the road.

The traffic piled up so that it took the police an hour to get it on the move again.

The lorry driver swept up the glass and two stray dogs ate the remains of the cake.

We have all experienced days when everything seems to go wrong.

Things certainly went wrong for Ray, a friend of mine, one day last month.

It all started, as these things do, with a simple case of 'mistaken identity'.

Ray had been shopping and was loaded with parcels when he got back to the multi-storey car park to look for his car.

He knew he was on the correct level, but he couldn't see his car anywhere.

Then, suddenly, while he was looking, he saw one exactly like it.

It was a red Nissan.

It was exactly the same as his own car, and naturally, he mistook it for his own.

Still holding the parcels, he felt in his jacket pockets and found his key.

He tried to open the driver's door, but the key just wouldn't turn.

He couldn't understand it.

In the end, he forced the lock- and naturally broke the key.

At that point, he dropped the parcels as well.

This infuriated him.

The only way he could get into his car was to break a window, SO he deliberately smashed the window of the car.

As he was putting his hand in, the owner came back and saw him.

The owner rushed towards Ray, held him against the car, and called a policeman on his mobile phone.

When Ray was arrested, he tried to explain, but the police did not believe him-until they found Ray's car on a level below!

For the first time in his life, he experienced real fear.

She has a lot of experience in teaching young children.

This work is just not good enough.

I never seem to have enough money to do everything I want to.

He's a fairly tall person.

For years, they said that Columbus discovered America.

I read somewhere the other day that the Chinese invented ice cream.

He came and sat down beside me.

I've got plenty of other books besides these.

He drew back when he saw the man with the gun.

The taxi waited a few minutes and then drew off.

He had to take an exam to qualify as an engineer.

I should have taken John's book back to him last week, but I forgot.

What would have most upset the woman on the day everything went wrong for her? Her husband had not told her he was bringing anyone to dinner.

What might have prevented a chain reaction following the initial collision? Had there been a more experienced driver behind the two cars.

There was a second angry argument because the lorry driver blamed the owner of the cake for his accident.

It is as if a single event that is of no importance set up a chain of reactions.

Immediately behind the two cars was a woman who happened to be a learner.

The police spent nearly an hour getting the traffic on the move again.

You are preparing a meal and watching the baby at the same time.

She stopped her car in a sudden panic.

They greedily devoured the remains of the cake.