How did the policeman discover that the whole thing was a joke?

it has never been explained why university students seem to enjoy practical jokes more than anyone else.

Students specialize in a particular type of practical joke: the hoax.

Inviting the fire brigade to put out a nonexistent fire is a crude form of deception which no self-respecting student would ever indulge in.

Students often create amusing situations which are funny to everyone except the victims.

When a student recently saw two workmen using a pneumatic drill outside his university, he immediately telephoned the police and informed them that two students dressed up as workmen were tearing up the road with a pneumatic drill.

As soon as he had hung up, he went over to the workmen and told them that if a policeman ordered them to go away, they were not to take him seriously.

He added that a student had dressed up as a policeman and was playing all sorts of silly jokes on people.

Both the police and the workmen were grateful to the student for this piece of advance information.

The student hid in an archway nearby where he could watch and hear everything that went on.

Sure enough, a policeman arrived on the scene and politely asked the workmen to go away.

When he received a very rude reply from one of the workmen, he threatened to remove them by force.

The workmen told him to do as he pleased and the policeman telephoned for help.

Shortly afterwards, four more policemen arrived and remonstrated with the workmen.

As the men refused to stop working, the police attempted to seize the pneumatic drill.

The workmen struggled fiercely and one of them lost his temper.

He threatened to call the police.

At this, the police pointed out ironically that this would hardly be necessary as the men were already under arrest.

Pretending to speak seriously, one of the workmen asked if he might make a telephone call before being taken to the station.

Permission was granted and a policeman accompanied him to a pay phone.

Only when he saw that the man was actually telephoning the police did he realize that they had all been the victims of a hoax.

When a policeman arrived, he asked the workmen to go away.

Later, four more policemen arrived.

The workmen still refused to stop and the police threatened to confiscate their pneumatic drill.

One workman then threatened to call the police, which was silly because they were already under arrest.

When another workman asked to make a telephone call, a policeman accompanied him to a phone.

The workman actually rang the police and they realized they had been victims of a hoax.

The policeman who accompanied the workman to the pay phone still did not realize that they had been the victims of a practical joke.

When he and the worker returned to the scene of the hoax right outside the university gates, the other workman was still quarrelling with the police and resisting arrest.

Following the worker's call to the police station, it was not long before more police arrived on the scene-and it is at this point that the story becomes very complicated!

The workmen told the police who had just arrived that the first lot of policemen were actually students dressed up as policemen.

The second lot of police, therefore, threatened to arrest the first lot of police, but before they did so, they asked for their identity cards.

The first lot ignored this request and said that they really were policemen, but that the workmen were students.

The workers had to prove their identity, too, they said.

None of them had to prove their identity by showing identity cards, because at this point two or three of the policemen started laughing, and then the workmen started laughing, and in the end they were all laughing.

They finally realized that they had all been victims of a hoax-and not one of them could remember what the student had looked like.

'After all,' said one workman, 'they all look the same to me.'

We put up our tent in the corner of the field.

Could you put us up for a couple of nights?

We can't put up with her bad behaviour any longer.

They have put off the game until next week.

Everyone found it funny except me.

Apart from this one mistake, your composition is excellent.

We all got up, washed, dressed and left the house early.

Most children like dressing up.

I watched the whole procession from where I stood.

Her eyes followed him wherever he went.

I'm surprised you're in such a good temper.

She is always in a good mood.

Don't speak to her.

She's in a very bad temper.

I'm not in the mood to play games.

A good hoax is a joke which depends on deceiving people into behaving in a way which amuses everyone but themselves.

When the policeman first arrived outside the university, the workmen refused to take his request that they should move seriously.

When did it become clear to the police that the workmen were not students? When the policeman saw whom the workman was ringing from the pay phone.

The workmen told him to do as he pleased.

Only then did he realize that it had been a trick.

Four more policemen arrived to protest against the workmen's behaviour.

The police attempted to get hold of the pneumatic drill.