

TENSES: present, past, present perfect simple, past perfect, future, conditional

The stranger and the boy

A

A barber(=Frisör) was in his shop. He _____ (cut) a man's hair when a handsome (=fesch) young stranger _____ (come) in. He had a small boy with him. They _____ (sit) down together and _____ (wait) till the barber _____ (finish). Then the young man told the barber to shave him and to cut the small boy's hair. "Shave me first," he said, "and then I _____ (go) down the road and have a glass of wine while you _____ (cut) the boy's hair." "All right, but I _____ (not be) long," the barber warned him.

B

The young man _____ (go) out and the barber _____ (begin) to cut the boy's hair. As(=wie) he _____ (say), he soon _____ (finish) and then the boy _____ (sit) down and _____ (wait). At the end of half an hour, the young man _____ (not come) back and the boy _____ (still wait).

C

The barber said to the boy, "I wonder why your daddy _____ (take) such a long time. Where can he be?" - "I can't guess," answered the small boy. "And that man _____ (not be) my daddy. I _____ (never see) him before in my life. I _____ (play) in the street this morning when he _____ (come) up to me and _____ (ask) me whether(=ob) I _____ (like) to have my hair cut without having to pay anything."

The net

Mr Jones was the manager of a small circus. If you _____ (ever=jemals, be) in a circus, you'll certainly know what a tightrope(=Seil) walker is: a person who walks on a tightrope stretched(=gespannt) high above the floor. But one day the tightrope walker in that circus _____ (fall) and _____ (hurt) himself. Mr Jones _____ (find) himself without a tightrope walker.

A few days later, a young man with long hair _____ (come) to Mr Jones and _____ (say), "I'm a tightrope walker. I _____ (just hear) that you want one." Mr Jones was very happy and said, "Yes, I do want one. But _____ (you, ever, walk) on a tightrope in your life?" The young man with the long hair answered, "Of course, I _____ (walk) on a tightrope nearly all my life. Some years ago I _____ (even, have) a partner, but since she _____ (die) I _____ (do) it alone."

Mr Jones ordered his worker to put up a net under the rope. The young man _____ (climb) up to the tightrope and _____ (begin) to walk along it. Mr Jones was very pleased and asked, "_____ (you, ever, do) these clever things without a net?" - "No, sir, if I _____ (not wear) a net, my hair _____ (fall) in my eyes and I _____ (not be) able to see."

A newspaper report

The British diplomat Brian Stapleton _____ (be) a prisoner in Omagua for twelve months now. A year ago Mr Stapleton _____ (just leave) the British embassy (=Botschaft) in the Omaguan capital when three men _____ (push) him into a car and _____ (drive) off with him. When the police _____ (arrive), the kidnappers _____ (completely, disappear=verschwinden). Nobody _____ (hear) any definite(=eindeutig) news about him since that day, although most people _____ (believe) that guerrillas _____ (carry) out (=durchführen) the kidnapping. Mr Stapleton _____ (be) in the country for only two weeks. There _____ (be) some hopeful signs lately(=in letzter Zeit) that the war between the guerrillas and the government(=Regierung) may end soon. Guerrilla leaders _____ (have) a meeting with government ministers. We can only hope that these moves(=Schritte) towards peace _____ (lead) to freedom for Brian Stapleton soon.