

239 Stories for Reproduction

L. A. HILL

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239 Stories

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Stories

Practice makes perfect.

Level 1



1

Mr. and Mrs. Peters went to Brighton for a holiday last summer. Brighton is a town by the sea in England. Mr. Peters likes fishing very much, and on the first day he said to his wife, 'I'm going to go out fishing on the sea. Are you going to come with me?'

'No,' his wife answered. 'It's cold and windy today.'

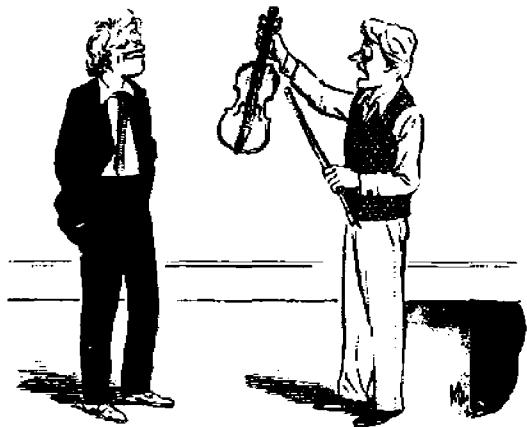
Mr. Peters went out in a boat alone and fished for several hours. But he caught nothing-except an advertisement on a piece of plastic for a fish-shop in the town.

He went back to the hotel and gave it to his wife.

'How did you catch that?' she asked him.

'A diver put it on my hook,' Mr. Peters answered.

1. Does Mr. Peters like fishing?
2. Did he go fishing on the first day of his holiday?
3. Did Mrs. Peters go with him?
4. Why?
5. What did Mr. Peters catch?
6. Did he throw it back into the sea?
7. What did his wife ask him?
8. And what did Mr. Peters answer?



2

Sam left school last June. 'You don't like work very much, Sam,' his friend Paul said. 'What are you going to do now?'

'I'm going to study music,' Sam answered. 'I'm going to go to a music college.'

Sam went to the music college, but he did not study much. He played games and went to dances and enjoyed everything. But he never had much money.

Then he had some holidays. He went home and saw his friend Paul again. Paul said, 'How are you getting on, Sam?'

'Quite well,' was Sam's answer, 'but my father isn't very nice. I wrote to him and asked him for £500 for a new violin, but he didn't send me the money. He sent me a violin.'

1. What did Paul say to Sam last June?
2. And what did Sam answer?
3. Did he go to a music college?
4. Did he study much there?
5. What did he do at the college?
6. Did he have much money?
7. What did Paul say to him during his holidays?
8. And what did Sam answer?



3

An old woman lived alone in her house, because her husband was dead.

She fell down the stairs and hurt her left leg very badly. She telephoned her sister, and her sister came to her house and took her to the doctor in her car.

The doctor cleaned the leg and then he bandaged it. After that, he said to the old woman, 'Now, Mrs. Grace, this leg's going to be bad for a long time. Don't run up and down the stairs in your house for a few weeks.'

Mrs. Grace visited the doctor every week for about a month, and then he said, 'Your leg's quite well again, Mrs. Grace.'

'That's very good,' said the old woman happily. 'I hated climbing up and down that drainpipe to my bedroom every day.'

1. Did Mrs. Grace live with her husband in her house?
2. Why?
3. How did she hurt her leg?
4. Did she drive herself to the hospital?
5. What did the doctor say to her?
6. Did Mrs. Grace visit him every week after that?
7. What did he say after a month?
8. And what did Mrs. Grace answer?



4

Jean and Mark were twins. They were ten years old, and they were in the same class at their school. A few weeks ago, their English teacher said to the children, 'I haven't given you any homework for two weeks, children. Now this week, write a composition about "Our cat", and give it to me next Monday. Have you all got a cat at home?'

'Yes, Miss Jones,' all of them answered.

All the pupils did the composition, and they gave it to the teacher on Monday. The teacher read all the compositions and then she gave them back to the pupils on Tuesday.

'Jean,' she said, 'your composition is the same as your brother's.'

'Yes,' answered Jean quickly. 'It's the same cat!'

1. Was Jean older than Mark?
2. What did their English teacher say a week ago?
3. Did all the pupils have cats?
4. What did the pupils do then?
5. Did the teacher read all the compositions?
6. When did she give them back to the pupils?
7. What did the teacher say to Jean on Tuesday?
8. And what did Jean answer?



5

Many years ago, Wonder Air was a small, very new company. It had very little money and its aeroplanes were very old. Mr. Black flew by Wonder Air once. That day, he went to the airport, got on the Wonder Air aeroplane and waited.

After a few minutes, there was a lot of noise, and then the captain came out and shouted, 'I'm not going to take this aeroplane up! One of the engines is broken, and they aren't going to get a new one.'

The passengers got out, and then, an hour later, an air-hostess said, 'The aeroplane's ready again now.' The passengers walked past her to the aeroplane again.

'Did you get a new engine?' Mr. Black asked the air-hostess.

'No, we got a new captain,' she answered.

1. Were Wonder Air's aeroplanes new, or old?
2. Where did Mr. Black wait?
3. What did the captain of the aeroplane shout?
4. Did the passengers stay on the aeroplane after that?
5. Did they get out?
6. What did the air-hostess say an hour later?
7. Did they get a new engine?
8. What did they get?



6

Mr. Kent is sixty-five, and his wife is sixty-one. Mr. Kent is small and thin, and his wife is big and tall. She is not a happy person. She always criticizes everybody and everything, and she criticizes her husband more than anyone else. She always says to her neighbours, 'He never does anything right.'

Last month she said to her husband, 'Look at your shirt! There are two holes in the collar! I'm going to buy you some new shirts.' She went to the shops that afternoon and bought him three new shirts.

The next morning, Mr. Kent put one of them on and went down to the kitchen. Mrs. Kent looked at him and then shouted angrily, 'And what's wrong with the other two shirts? Don't you like them?'

1. Is Mrs. Kent tall, or small?
2. Is she happy?
3. What does she always say to her neighbours about her husband?
4. What did she say to her husband last month?
5. What did she do then?
6. Did Mr. Kent put one of the new shirts on the next morning?
7. What did his wife shout at him?
8. Do people put three shirts on at the same time?



7

Norman Harris worked in an office for twenty years, but then he lost his job, because he began doing everything wrong. His wife sent him to a doctor, and the doctor asked him a lot of questions for an hour and then said to him, 'Mr. Harris, there are two different people in you, and they're fighting each other. I'm going to send you to a hospital for a week, and I'm going to examine you again after that.'

The doctor gave him a bill for £20. Norman took £10 out of his pocket and gave it to the doctor. Then he said to him, 'Get the other half from the other man. I'm not going to pay for him too!'

1. Did Norman work in the same office for a long time?
2. Why did he lose his job?
3. Did his wife send him to the doctor?
4. What did the doctor say to him?
5. What did he give Norman after that?
6. Did Norman give the doctor any money?
7. How much did he give him?
8. And what did Norman say?



8

John was ten years old, and he was a clever boy. Most of the pupils in his class at school were not very good at mathematics, but John usually answered the teacher's questions very well.

Last Tuesday the teacher said to the class, 'Now I'm going to give you a mathematics test. I'm going to give you a question and say a name, and that boy or girl's going to answer. Now, there's £5.73 in your left pocket, and £3.27 in your right pocket. What have you got? Peter? Mary? Helen?'

None of the pupils said anything for a long time. Then the teacher said, 'What's the answer, John?'

John answered quickly, 'Somebody else's trousers!'

1. Were most of the pupils in John's class good at mathematics?
2. Did John usually give good, or bad answers?
3. What was the teacher's first question?
4. Did the teacher ask several pupils then?
5. What did the pupils answer?
6. Who did the teacher ask then?
7. And what did John answer?
8. Did the teacher want that answer?



9

Mr. Green went to Germany, because he had some work there. He came back last Monday, and his young wife met him at the airport. They walked to their car and passed a tall, pretty air-hostess. Mr. Green said to her, 'Goodbye, Miss Harris,' and the air-hostess smiled and said, 'Goodbye' too.

Mrs. Green stopped and looked at the air-hostess. Then she said to her husband, 'How did you know her name?'

'That was easy,' answered Mr. Green. 'The names of the captain and all the crew were on a piece of paper in front of our seats.'

'What was the name of the captain?' Mrs. Green asked with a smile. Mr. Green laughed and answered, 'I don't remember any of the other names.'

1. Did Mr. Green go to France, or to Germany?
2. Did anyone meet him at the airport in England?
3. What did he say to the air-hostess?
4. Did the air-hostess answer?
5. What did Mr. Green's wife ask then?
6. What was Mr. Green's answer?
7. What did his wife ask then?
8. Did Mr. Green remember any of the other names?



10

Mike was not well. He was tired all the time, and his head often hurt.

'Go to the doctor,' his wife said.

Mike did not like visiting the doctor, but after a week, he went. The doctor asked him a lot of questions and wrote Mike's answers down.

'What do you eat in the morning?' he asked him.

'Eggs, bread, butter, jam and coffee,' Mike answered.

'And what lunch do you have?' the doctor asked.

'Meat or fish and bread.'

'And what do you have in the evening?' the doctor asked. 'Eggs and bread.'

Then the doctor said, 'Eat some fruit every day, and eat all the skin of the fruit. The skin is very good. What fruit do you like best?'

Mike was not happy. 'Coconuts,' he answered.

1. Why did Mike go to the doctor?
2. Did he like going to him?
3. Did the doctor ask him any questions?
4. Did Mike eat bread at every meal?
5. Did he eat any fruit?
6. What did he eat in the evening?
7. What did the doctor say then?
8. And what did Mike answer?



11

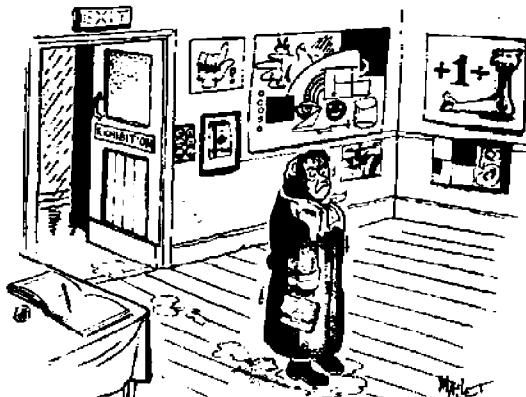
Mr. Lloyd went to the barber every month to have a haircut. He sometimes took his small son Philip with him, and Philip sat and looked at magazines during his father's haircut. But at that time, the barber did not cut Philip's hair. Mrs. Lloyd always cut it at home.

Then, one day, Mr. Lloyd said to his wife, 'Philip's five now and the barber is going to cut his hair next time.'

He took Philip there the next day, and first the barber cut Mr. Lloyd's hair. Then he put Philip in the chair and said, 'How do you want your hair, young man?'

'Like my father's,' answered Philip. 'With a hole in the middle.'

1. Did Philip's mother, or his father cut his hair at home?
2. Where did Mr. Lloyd sometimes take Philip?
3. What did he say to his wife then?
4. Did the barber cut Philip's hair first?
5. Did he put him in the chair?
6. What did he ask Philip then?
7. And what did Philip answer?
8. Did the barber make the hole in the middle of Mr. Lloyd's hair?



12

Ted Lawrence was an artist. He painted very modern pictures -- blue squares and yellow circles, red sheep and green sky....

Last December, there was an exhibition of his pictures in our village hall for a week, and there was a big book on a table at the door. In it there were two questions:

'Why did you come to this exhibition?'

'Which of the pictures did you like?' Every evening, Ted went to the book and read the visitors' answers.

The weather was not very good, and on the Saturday, it rained a lot.

That evening Ted looked at the book at the door of the hall, and read one lady's answers to his two questions. They were:

'I did not like any of the pictures. I came into the exhibition because it began raining, and I didn't have an umbrella.'

1. Did Ted paint pictures?
2. What pictures did he paint?
3. What was there in the village hall last December?
4. Was there anything on the table at the door?
5. Were there any questions in the book?
6. What was the first one?
7. And what was the second?
8. What did one lady answer?



13

Jeremy is a student at a university. He likes rock music very much. Last October he said to some of his friends, 'We're going to start a rock band, and we're going to play every evening in my parents' living-room. They aren't at home then, because they work at a hotel.'

Jeremy and his friends went to his house every evening and played their music, but they played very badly, and the neighbours always shouted, 'Stop that! Be quiet!' Then Jeremy closed the windows, and he and his friends played more music.

But last June, Jeremy opened a window, put his head out, listened and then said to his friends, 'We're playing better! The neighbours are shouting, "Turn that radio off!" now.'

1. Is Jeremy a student at a school, or at a university?
2. Does he like music?
3. What did he say to his friends last October?
4. Did they play well?
5. Did the neighbours enjoy their music?
6. What did the neighbours shout first?
7. And what did they shout last June?
8. What did Jeremy say then?



14

Mr. White found work in a small town, and he and his wife sold their house in London and bought one in the new town. Mr. White went to work by bus every day with some of his new neighbours.

Last month he was on the bus, and one of his new neighbours was in front of him. Mr. White said to him, 'One of my teeth is hurting very badly. Is there a good dentist here?'

'You don't want a dentist,' answered the neighbour. 'One of my teeth hurt a lot yesterday too, but my wife put her arms round me and kissed me, and the tooth stopped hurting. Go and try that too.'

Mr. White stood up. 'Good,' he said happily. 'Where's your wife now?'

1. Did Mr. and Mrs. White go to a new town?
2. Did they buy a house there?
3. Did Mr. White go to work by car?
4. Did he go alone?
5. Who was in front of him on the bus?
6. What did Mr. White say to him?
7. What did the neighbour answer?
8. And what did Mr. White ask then?



15

Lily was twelve years old, and her brother Tim was eight. Lily had a small dog. His name was Rover.

Lily liked cooking very much, and during the holiday, she made two beautiful, small cakes.

'We're going to eat them this afternoon,' she said to Tim. 'You're going to have one, and I'm going to have the other one.'

Their parents were not at home that afternoon, and at four o'clock Lily made some tea and put the cakes on the table.

'Where's Rover?' she said.

'He's under the table,' Tim answered.

They began their tea, but then Lily shouted, 'Tim, quick, I've dropped my cake under the table, and Rover's going to eat it!' 'It's all right, Lily,' Tim answered. 'I've put my foot on it.'

1. Did Lily make anything during the holidays?
2. What did she say to her brother?
3. Did she, or her brother make tea at four o'clock?
4. What did she ask Tim then?
5. Was Rover under the table?
6. Did the children begin their tea then?
7. What did Lily shout during their tea?
8. And what did Tim answer?



16

Dan was the doorman of a club in a big city. Every day, thousands of people passed his door, and a lot of them stopped and said to him, 'What's the time, please?'

After a few months, Dan said to himself, 'I'm not going to answer all those stupid people any more. I'm going to go to a shop and buy a big clock. Then I'm going to put it up on the wall here.' He bought a clock and put it up on the wall.

'Now people aren't going to stop and ask me the time,' he said happily. But after that, a lot of people stopped every day, looked at the clock and then said to Dan, 'Is that clock right?'

1. What work did Dan do?
2. Did many people stop at his door?
3. Did they ask Dan the time?
4. Was he happy about this?
5. What did he say to himself then?
6. And what did he do?
7. Did people stop and look at the clock?
8. And what did they say to Dan?



17

Larry was sixteen years old. He was a student, but he was not a very good one. He always sat at the back of the class, and he often went to sleep during lessons, because he stayed up late every night.

One of Larry's teachers was Miss Perry. One day Larry was asleep in her class, and she came and woke him up. 'You can go to sleep in my class, Larry,' she said to him, 'but please say, "Good night" to me first.'

Another day, Larry arrived at school very late in the morning, and Miss Perry said to him, 'Why are you late, Larry?'

'I didn't wake up at the right time this morning, Miss,' Larry answered.

'Oh,' Miss Perry said, 'do you sleep at home too?'

1. Was Larry a good student?
2. What did he often do during lessons?
3. Why did he do this?
4. Was Miss Perry a student too?
5. What did she say to Larry one day?
6. Was Larry late another morning?
7. Why was he late?
8. What did Miss Perry say to him then?



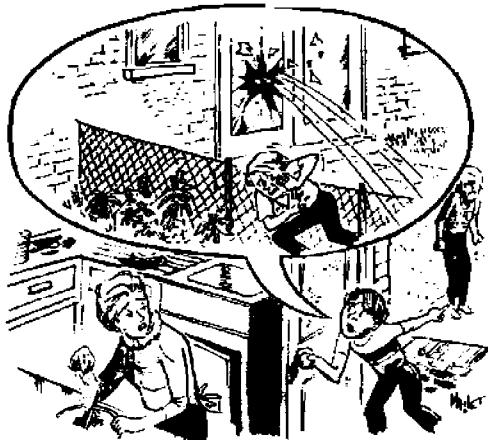
18

Helen Smith liked Japanese food very much. One day she went to a Japanese restaurant and looked at the menu. She said to herself, 'The Japanese letters on this menu are very pretty,' and she wrote two of them on a piece of paper. Her hobby was sewing, and at home she sewed them on the front of her new blouse.

All her friends liked the blouse very much, but then a few days later, she went to the Japanese restaurant again. The Japanese people looked at her blouse, and then began smiling.

Helen said, 'Why are you smiling?' and one of the Japanese answered, 'Because the words on your blouse say: "young chicken".'

1. Did Helen like Japanese food?
2. And did she enjoy sewing?
3. What did she say to herself in the Japanese restaurant?
4. What did she do then?
5. Did her friends like it?
6. What did the Japanese people in the restaurant do?
7. What did she ask them?
8. What were the words on Helen's blouse?



19

Billy and Bobby were small boys. They were brothers, and they often had fights with each other.

Last Saturday their mother said to them, 'I'm going to cook our lunch now. Go out and play in the garden-and be good.'

'Yes, Mummy,' the two boys answered, and they went out.

They played in the garden for half an hour, and then their mother heard something. She said to herself, 'Someone's broken some glass.'

Then Billy ran into the kitchen. He was older than Bobby. 'Mummy,' he said, 'Bobby's broken a window in Mrs. Allen's house.' Mrs. Allen was one of their neighbours.

'He's a bad boy,' his mother said. 'How did he break it?'

'I threw a stone at him,' Billy answered, 'and he ducked.'

1. What did the boys' mother say to them last Saturday?
2. Did the boys play in the garden then?
3. Did their mother hear a noise?
4. What did she say to herself?
5. What did Billy say to his mother?
6. What did his mother say then?
7. And what did Billy answer?
8. Did Bobby, or Billy break the window?



20

Mr. and Mrs. Miller came to London and bought a very old house there. Then Mrs. Miller's old friend, Mrs. Yates, came and visited her.

Mrs. Yates went around the house with Mrs. Miller, and she was surprised, because there were bells on the walls of every room.

She said to Mrs. Miller, 'Why have you got all those bells in your house, Gladys?'

Mrs. Miller answered, 'Fifty years ago, ladies and gentlemen had servants. The ladies and gentlemen rang the bells in the rooms, and then the servants came up from the kitchen. But now everything's different. I work in the kitchen, and I sometimes ring the bells in the rooms. Then my husband, or my children come down and help me.'

1. Did Mr. and Mrs. Miller buy an old, or a new house?
2. Did anyone visit Mrs. Miller there?
3. Why was Mrs. Yates surprised?
4. What did she say to Mrs. Miller?
5. What did ladies and gentlemen do fifty years ago?
6. Did the servants come then?
7. Did Mrs. Miller sometimes ring the bells?
8. And what did her husband, or the children do then?



21

Mrs. Andrews said to her husband, 'There's going to be a big dance at the club on Saturday, and all the other women are going to have new dresses. I want a new one too.'

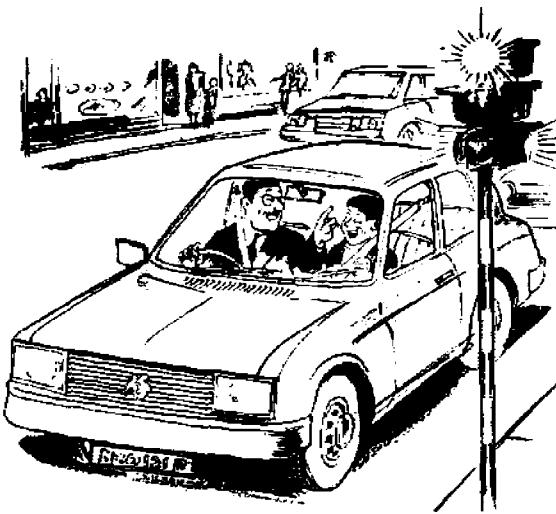
But her husband answered, 'No, I'm not going to buy you a new dress.'

Then Mrs. Andrews went to a shop, bought a beautiful dress, and put it on her husband's account, but she did not say anything about it to him.

She wore the dress at the dance, and everyone said, 'That's a beautiful dress!'

At midnight, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews went home, and Mr. Andrews said to his wife, 'You were as pretty in your old dress as the other women were in their new ones.'

1. What did Mrs. Andrews say to her husband?
2. And what did he answer?
3. Did Mrs. Andrews go to a shop then?
4. And did she buy anything there?
5. Did she give any money for it?
6. And did she say anything about it to her husband?
7. What did everyone say about her dress at the dance?
8. And what did Mr. Andrews say to his wife after the dance?



22

Mr. Walker had one son. His name was Harry, and he was twelve years old. Mr. Walker went to work by car every day, and he took Harry with him to his school.

Harry wanted a bicycle very much. 'A lot of my friends ride to school on their bicycles,' he said to his father.

A few days ago, Mr. Walker stopped his car at a red light, and then he said to Harry, 'I'm going to give you a bicycle next month, Harry. But first I'm going to ask you some questions. Now, do you know the meaning of these traffic lights?'

'Yes, I do,' Harry answered quickly. 'Red is "Stop", green is "Go", and yellow is "Go very fast"!'

1. Was Harry a boy, or a man?
2. Did his father have a car?
3. Did Harry have a bicycle?
4. Did he want one?
5. What did he say to his father?
6. Where did Mr. Walker stop his car?
7. What did he ask Harry then?
8. And what did Harry answer?



23

Mr. Williams went to India for a few months, and he grew a moustache and a beard there. Then he came back to England, and he and his wife had a holiday in a hotel by the sea.

After the first day, his wife said to him, 'I don't like your beard, Ted.' He shaved it off, but he did not shave his moustache off.

Then the next morning he said to himself, 'Now I don't like my moustache.' He shaved that off too.

Then he and his wife went down to breakfast, and all of the people at the other tables looked at them and began whispering to each other. Everybody said, 'That woman always comes down to breakfast with a different man each morning!'

1. Did Mr. Williams go to Africa, or to India?
2. Did he grow a moustache, or a beard?
3. Did he go to a hotel alone during his holiday?
4. Did his wife like his beard?
5. What did her husband do then?
6. What did he say to himself the next morning?
7. And what did he do?
8. What did everybody whisper at breakfast time?



24

Edward Lake was twenty. He visited the manager of a bank, because he wanted work there. The manager's name was Thompson.

Mr. Thompson said to Edward, 'Where did you work before?'

Edward answered, 'I was in an office in London.'

'For how long?' the manager asked.

'For a year and a half,' Edward answered.

'Which office?' the manager asked then.

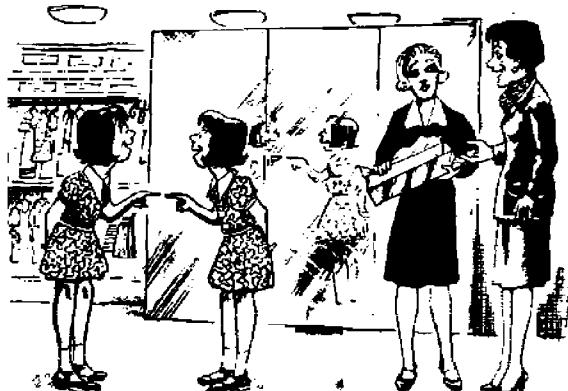
Edward gave him the name, and Mr. Thompson telephoned the manager there. 'How long did Edward Lake work for you?' Mr. Thompson asked.

'About a week,' the other manager answered.

'But he said, "I was there for a year and a half"!' Mr. Thompson said.

'Yes, that's correct,' was the answer. 'He was with us for a year and a half, but he only worked for a week during that time.'

1. Did Edward visit Mr. Thompson because he wanted money?
2. What did Mr. Thompson ask him first?
3. What was Mr. Thompson's second question? 4. And what was his third question?
5. What did Mr. Thompson ask the manager of the office in London?
6. And what did the manager answer?
7. What did Mr. Thompson say then?
8. And what did the other manager answer?



25

Annie and Julie were twins, and they were ten years old. They liked nice clothes very much, and they always wanted the same ones.

Last week their mother said, 'Today I'm going to buy you some new dresses,' and the girls were very happy. Their mother took them to a shop in town and said to them, 'What colour do you want this time?'

'Blue!' both of them answered together, and then they all laughed.

A woman brought them some pretty blue dresses, and the twins put them on.

The woman said to them, 'There's a mirror on that wall. Look at yourselves in it.'

Their mother laughed again and said, 'They don't need a mirror. They always look at each other in their new clothes.'

1. Did the twins like nice clothes?
2. Did they always want different ones?
3. What did their mother say to them last week?
4. Did she take them to a shop in town then?
5. Did they both want red dresses?
6. Did a woman bring them some then?
7. What did the woman say?
8. And what did the twins' mother say then?



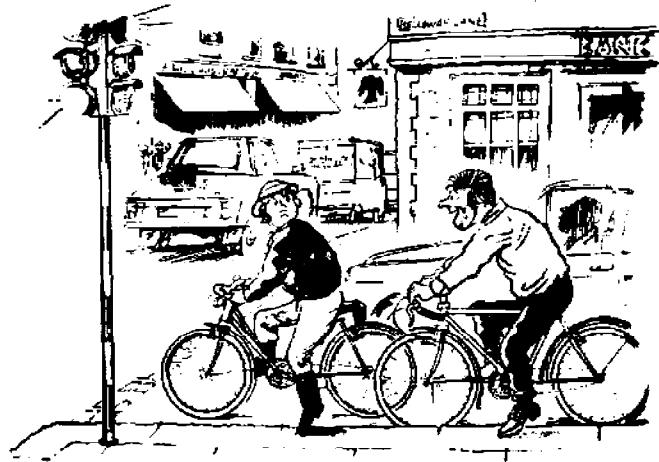
26

Two old men were friends. They had no work last Thursday and they went out for a walk. But it was cold and wet in the streets, and after a quarter of an hour, they went into a big shop. It sold cheap, second-hand things. Each of the old men said to himself, 'My friend's going to buy something. He wants something in here,' but both of them were in the shop because it was warm and dry.

They walked around for another quarter of an hour and looked at a lot of things, and then each of them said to himself, 'He doesn't want anything. He's like me.'

Then one of them said, 'We aren't going to buy anything, are we? Come and look at some more beautiful things in the expensive shops.'

1. Did the old men go for a walk together last Thursday?
2. Was the weather good?
3. What did the old men do after a quarter of an hour?
4. Did the shop sell expensive things?
5. What did each of the old men say to himself first?
6. Did they look at anything in the shop?
7. What did each of them say to himself after that?
8. And what did one of them say to the other then?



27

Mrs. Holland lives in a big city and she works in a shop. She went there by car every morning for twenty years. Then she was forty-five years old, and she said to herself, 'I'm fat and soft now, because I go everywhere by car. I'm going to buy a bicycle.'

She bought one, and after that, she always went to her shop on that, and not in her car. Sometimes all the cars stopped at a red light, and she went quickly past them to the front, because her bicycle was narrow. Then she was happy.

Yesterday she stopped at a red light, and a man came up behind her on another bicycle. He stopped too and said, 'Have the police taken your driving licence away too?'

1. Does Mrs. Holland work in an office?
2. What did she say to herself after twenty years?
3. Did she buy anything then?
4. Did she go to her shop on it?
5. Where did she stop one day?
6. Who came up behind her then?
7. Did he stop too?
8. And what did he say to Mrs. Holland?



28

Jim was sixteen. He left school, but he did not find any work for a long time. Then he began selling brushes to ladies in their houses. He went to the front doors of the houses and knocked at them, or rang the bell. Then the lady came to the door, and Jim said, 'I've got some beautiful brushes here.' Some ladies did not want any brushes, but others bought some from him.

Last Monday he came to the front door of one house and rang the bell. A big dog came round the corner. It was angry, and Jim was afraid.

Then a lady came to the door and shouted at Jim, 'Stop attacking my poor dog! Take your leg out of its mouth!'

1. Did Jim find work easily?
2. What did he say to ladies?
3. Did all of them buy his brushes?
4. What did Jim do last Monday?
5. What came round the corner of the house?
6. Were the dog and Jim happy?
7. Did a man open the door then?
8. What did the lady shout at Jim?



29

An English film director made a film in a small village in India. The weather was very important for making the film, and the director always listened to the weather forecasts on the radio. But then every morning, an old Indian said to the director, 'It's going to rain today,' or 'The sun's going to shine today,' or 'It's going to be cloudy,' and he was always right.

Then the film director stopped listening to the radio and asked the old man about the weather every morning. But one morning, the old man was not happy and did not speak to the film director.

'Look,' the film director said kindly, 'what's wrong? Are you ill? We've got a doctor here.'

The Indian answered, 'Radio. Broken.'

1. Was the film director Indian, or English?
2. What did he listen to on the radio?
3. Why did he stop doing it?
4. How was the old Indian one morning?
5. Did he speak to the film director?
6. What did the director say to him then?
7. Was the old Indian ill?
8. What did the old Indian answer?



30

Tom is twelve. Last Saturday, his uncle David visited him and his parents. He arrived at eleven; and at half past twelve, they had their lunch. They had meat, and then oranges and apples.

Then Tom's mother said to Uncle David, 'You like cheese very much, David, but the box is empty. I'm sorry.' Then she took the dirty plates out to the kitchen.

Tom went out of the dining-room quietly and came back after a minute with a piece of cheese. He gave it to Uncle David, and Uncle David was happy. He put the piece of cheese in his mouth and then said, 'You've got very good eyes, Tom. Where did you find this nice cheese?'

The boy answered, 'In the rat-trap, Uncle David.'

1. Did Tom's uncle visit him and his parents last Saturday?
2. Did they all have lunch together?
3. What did Tom's mother say after lunch?
4. Did she go to the kitchen then?
5. And did Tom go out of the room too?
6. What did he bring his uncle then?
7. And what did his uncle say?
8. What was Tom's answer?



31

Mr. James Richards lived in a flat. At midnight last Friday, he was asleep, but then he woke up, because there was a lot of noise. 'Someone's knocking at a door,' Mr. Richards said to himself. He went into his living-room, but the noise was not at his door.

The person knocked for a long time, and then Mr. Richards opened his door. A man with a telegram was at the door of the next flat. Mr. Richards went and knocked at the door hard, and they made a lot of noise.

Then Mr. Richards' neighbour came to the door. She was a lady. The man gave her the telegram and said, 'A telegram for Mr. James Richards.' The lady was not happy!

1. What woke Mr. Richards?
2. What did he say to himself?
3. Did he go into his living-room then?
4. And did he go out of his flat?
5. Did he knock at his neighbour's door too?
6. What did the man give Mr. Richards' neighbour?
7. And what did he say to her?
8. Was she happy then?



32

Mr. Wall is the manager of a big bank. Last Thursday afternoon, Mr. Nelson came to Mr. Wall's office in the bank and talked to him for a long time. Then Mr. Wall looked at his watch and said, 'Look at the time! The bank closed a quarter of an hour ago! They've locked all the doors now, and there are three of them between us and the street. But I've got keys, because I sometimes work late here after everyone else.' He took some keys out of his pocket.

Mr. Wall and his visitor went out of his office, and then they saw Mrs. Field. She cleaned the bank every evening after 5.30.

'Go out through the back door,' she said to the manager. 'They never lock that one.'

1. What was Mr. Wall?
2. Did anyone visit him last Friday afternoon?
3. What did Mr. Wall say to the visitor then?
4. Did he take some keys out of his pocket?
5. And did Mr. Wall and his visitor go out of the office?
6. Did they see anyone then?
7. What work did Mrs. Field do in the bank?
8. What did she say to Mr. Wall?



33

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan lived in Weymouth. Mr. Bryan worked in a bank there, and Mrs. Bryan always bought her meat from a butcher near the bank. The meat in that shop was always very good.

Then the bank sent Mr. Bryan to Penzance. He bought a house there, and Mrs. Bryan began looking for a new butcher. There was one near her house, and she went into his shop and found a nice piece of meat.

'I want two kilos of that,' she said to the butcher, and he began cutting it, but Mrs. Bryan said, 'You're giving me a lot of bone in that.'

'No, I'm not,' the butcher answered. 'I'm not giving it to you. You're going to pay for it.'

1. Did Mrs. Bryan buy good meat in Weymouth?
2. Did she go to Penzance alone, or with her husband?
3. Did she find a butcher there?
4. Was there any nice meat in his shop?
5. What did she say to the new butcher?
6. What did he do then?
7. What did Mrs. Bryan say to him?
8. And what did he answer?



34

Mr. and Mrs. Perry had four children. One evening, Mrs. Perry went out, and Mr. Perry stayed at home with the children. They were upstairs in their bedrooms. Mr. Perry read his newspaper for half an hour, and then he heard someone on the stairs.

'Go up to your bedroom and stay there!' he shouted.

A few minutes later, he again heard someone on the stairs.

'Go upstairs, or I'm going to come and spank you!' he said angrily.

This happened again, and then someone knocked at the front door.

Mr. Perry went to it. One of his neighbours was there.

'Is my small son here?' he said to Mr. Perry.

'Yes, I'm here,' someone answered from upstairs, 'but Mr. Perry always stops me going home.'

1. Was Mrs. Perry at home that evening?
2. Were her children at home?
3. Did Mr. Perry hear anyone on the stairs?
4. What did he shout then?
5. What did he say a few minutes later?
6. Did anyone come to the front door then?
7. What did he say?
8. And what did his son say?



35

Professor Carter visited some friends on the other side of town. After a good dinner and a game of cards, he said, 'I'm going to walk home now.'

But his hostess looked out of the window and said, 'The weather's very bad. It's cold and wet and windy. Please stay here tonight.' She went and made him a bed.

After a few minutes, she came back to the living-room, but the professor was not there. She and her husband waited for half an hour, and then they went to bed. But then the professor knocked at the back door of the house. He was very wet. His host came to the door. 'You're here!' he said happily.

'Yes,' the professor answered. He smiled and said, 'I went home and got my pyjamas.'

1. Did Professor Carter have dinner at his friends' house?
2. What did he say after the game of cards?
3. And what did his hostess answer?
4. Did she go and make Professor Carter a bed then?
5. Where did she go after that?
6. Was the professor there?
7. Where did the professor go?
8. Did he get his pyjamas from there?



36

Max Hollingsworth had a holiday in Mexico. He did not speak any Spanish. On the first morning he sat down at his table in the dining-room of his hotel, and another man said, 'Buenos dias,' and bowed.

Max said to himself, 'That's his name.' He bowed too and said, 'Max Hollingsworth.'

The next morning, the same man bowed again and said, 'Buenos dias,' and again Max answered, 'Max Hollingsworth.'

The waiter spoke a little English, and after breakfast he said to Max, '"Buenos dias" isn't that guest's name. It's "Good morning" in Spanish.'

The next morning, Max bowed and said to the Mexican gentleman, 'Buenos dias.'

The Mexican looked up, smiled happily, because Max spoke some Spanish now, and answered, 'Max Hollingsworth.'

1. What did the Mexican gentleman say to Max?
2. Did he bow?
3. What did Max say to himself then?
4. Did he say his name?
5. What did the waiter say to Max after breakfast?
6. Did Max say, 'Buenos dias' to the Mexican gentleman the next morning?
7. What did the Mexican gentleman answer?
8. Was he happy?



37

Joe was nineteen. He had long hair, and he never washed or brushed it.

He wore black clothes, and his nails were always black too. He did not like work, and he was often absent.

Last Monday he said to himself, 'I'm not going to go to work this week. I'm going to get a certificate from my doctor, and then I'm going to stay at home, but I'm going to get my money.'

He went to the doctor and said to him rudely, 'I'm not well. What are you going to do about it?'

The doctor looked at him for a few seconds. Then he said, 'Here. Take this three times a day. With Water.'

'What is it?' Joe asked.

'Soap,' answered the doctor.

1. Was Joe's hair long, or short?
2. Was it clean, or dirty?
3. Were his nails clean?
4. What did he say to the doctor?
5. Did the doctor look at him then?
6. And what did he say after that?
7. What did Joe ask?
8. And what did the doctor answer?



38

George worked in an office, and he liked walking very much. He always said, 'Sitting on a chair for eight hours every day, and then sitting at home in the evening, is very bad.'

Every summer, he had a holiday, and he went somewhere by train and then walked every day for five or six hours.

Last spring he took a map to a friend's house and said, 'You've been to Switzerland and walked in the Alps, Fred. I'm going to go there in August, and I'm going to walk from here to here on Saturday and Sunday in the first week.' He put his finger on two places on the map.

'Wait a minute, George,' Fred answered. 'In two days? But your map's flat, and those mountains aren't!'

1. Did George like walking?
2. What did he always say?
3. Did he have a holiday every winter?
4. Did he walk much during his holiday?
5. What did he do last spring?
6. What did he say to his friend Fred?
7. Did he put his finger on the places on the map?
8. And what did Fred answer?



39

Mrs. Jones was on a bus with her son, Peter. He said, 'Look, there's a puppy on the bus. I want it.'

Mrs. Jones said, 'No, Peter, it belongs to someone.'

'No,' the bus driver said. 'I'm taking it to the Dog Hospital. They're going to destroy it.'

Peter again said, 'I want it!' and his mother answered, 'Take it home.'

That evening, she was on the same bus. There was another puppy there. It was like the first, and another boy wanted it. His mother said, 'No, it belongs to someone,' but the driver said,

'No.'

Mrs. Jones said to him, 'Do you often take puppies to the Dog Hospital?'

He answered, 'My dog had six puppies last week, and I'm looking for homes for them.'

1. Was there a puppy on the bus?
2. What did Peter say about it?
3. What did his mother answer?
4. What did the bus driver say then?
5. Did Mrs. Jones get on the same bus that evening?
6. And was the same puppy on it too?
7. What did Mrs. Jones ask the bus driver then?
8. And what did he answer?



40

Frances Hay was seventy years old. She liked hats very much, and she always bought a new one every spring.

Last April she said to herself, 'I'm going to go to town today, and I'm going to buy myself a nice, new hat.' She went into town by bus and went into a hat shop. Then she said to one of the young sales ladies, 'I want a nice hat, please.'

The sales lady brought her a lot of hats, and Mrs. Hay put them all on one after another. Then after half an hour, she said, 'Yes, this one is good. Please send it to my address.' She gave the sales lady a card.

'Yes, madam,' the sales lady answered, 'but this is your hat. You came into the shop with it.'

1. Was Frances Hay old, or young?
2. Did she like hats?
3. Did she buy one every year?
4. What did she say to the saleslady in a hat shop?
5. What did the saleslady bring her then?
6. Did Mrs. Hay put them all on?
7. What did she say to the saleslady after half an hour?
8. And what did the saleslady answer?

Level 2A



1

It was two weeks before Christmas, and Mrs Smith was very busy. She bought a lot of Christmas cards to send to her friends and to her husband's friends, and put them on the table in the living-room. Then, when her husband came home from work, she said to him, 'Here are the Christmas cards for our friends, and here are some stamps, a pen and our book of addresses. Will you please write the cards while I am cooking the dinner?'

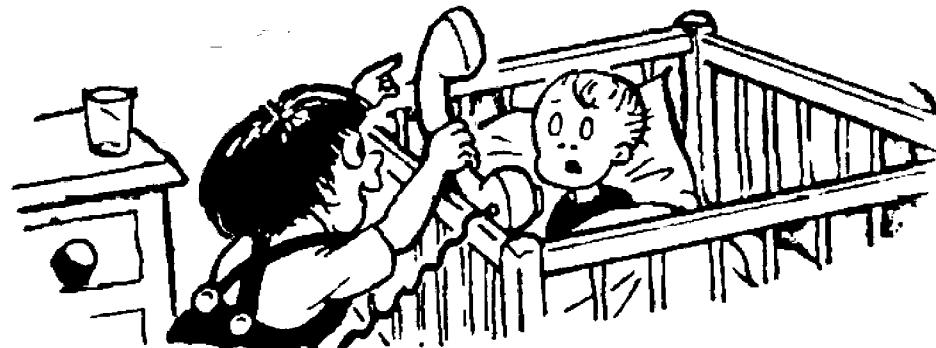
Mr Smith did not say anything, but walked out of the living-room and went to his study. Mrs Smith was very angry with him, but did not say anything either.

Then a minute later he came back with a box full of Christmas cards. All of them had addresses and stamps on them.

'These are from last year,' he said. 'I forgot to post them.'

**When was Mrs Smith very busy ?
What did she do ?
Why did she buy the cards ?
Where did she put them ?
What did she say to her husband ?**

**What did Mr Smith say ?
What did he do ?
How did Mrs Smith feel ?
What did she say ?
What did Mr Smith do a minute later ?
What did he say ?**



Mrs Jones was waiting for an important telephone call, but she had no bread in the house, so she left the baby at home and said to his five-year-old brother, 'I am going to the shops, Jimmy, and I will be back in a few minutes.'

While she was out, the telephone rang, and Jimmy answered. 'Hallo,' said a man, 'is your mother there?'

'No,' answered Jimmy.

'Well, when she comes back, say to her, "Mr Baker telephoned".'

'What?'

'Mr Baker. Write it down. B-A-K-E-R.'

'How do you make a B?'

'How do I make . . . ? Listen, little boy, is there anybody else with you? Any brothers or sisters?'

'My brother Billy is here.'

'Good, I want to talk to him, please.'

'All right.' Jimmy took the telephone to the baby's bed and gave it to Billy. When their mother came back, she asked, 'Did anyone telephone?'

'Yes,' said Jimmy, 'a man. But he only wanted to talk to Billy.'

**What was Mrs Jones waiting
for?**

Why did she go out ?

**What did she do with the baby
when she went out ?**

What did she say to Jimmy ?

How old was he ?

**What happened while she
was out ?**

What did Jimmy do ?

What did the man say ?

What did Jimmy answer ?

What did the man say then ?

What did Jimmy say ?

What was the man's answer ?

What did Jimmy ask him then ?

What did the man say then ?

What did Jimmy answer ?

What did the man say ?

What did Jimmy say ?

What did he do ?

**What did Jimmy's mother do
when she came home ?**

What did Jimmy answer ?



3

Nasreddin* had an old shed. It had no windows, so it was very dark, and it was full of old things.

One day Nasreddin went into this shed to get a ladder, but slipped on something and fell against a big garden fork. The fork hit him on the head and knocked him down. Then it fell on top of him and hit him hard on the left leg. The ends of the fork then went into his long beard. He fought with the fork fiercely, and at last threw it off him, jumped up and ran out of the shed. He was very angry. He had an old sword under his bed, and he now ran and got this. Then he ran back to the shed, opened the door suddenly and shouted in a terrible voice, 'All right, come out and fight, you and all the other forks in the world! I'm not afraid of you!'

* Pronounced /nʌsred'di:n/ (*nuss*, to rhyme with *bus*; *red*; *deen*, to rhyme with *seen*
The stress is on the last syllable).

**What did Nasreddin have ?
What was it like inside ?
Why was it dark ?
What happened one day ?
Why did Nasreddin go into
the shed ?
What did he do inside the
shed ?
What did the fork do ?**

**What did it do after that ?
What did the ends of the fork
do ?
What did Nasreddin do ?
How did he feel ?
What did he have under his
bed ?
What did he do now ?
What did he shout ?**



4

A man always went to the same bar at the same time every day and asked for two glasses of beer. He drank them and then asked for two more.

One day the man behind the bar said to him, 'Why do you always ask for two glasses of beer? Why don't you get one big glass instead?'

The man answered, 'Because I do not like to drink alone. I drink with my friend.'

But a few days later the man came in and asked only for one beer.

'Oh,' said the barman, 'has your friend died?'

'Oh, no,' said the man. 'He is very well. This beer is for him. But I have stopped drinking beer. My doctor doesn't want me to drink any more because it is dangerous for me.'

**What did the man in this story do every day?
What did he ask for?
What did he do then?
What did the man behind the bar say one day?
What did the man answer?**

**What happened a few days later?
What did the man ask for this time?
What did the barman ask?
What did the man answer?**



5

Old Mr Black loved shooting bears, but his eyes were not good any more. Several times he nearly shot people instead of bears, so his friends were always very careful when they went out shooting with him.

One day a young friend of his wanted to have a joke, so he got a big piece of white paper and wrote on it in very big letters 'I AM NOT A BEAR'. Then he tied it to his back and went off. His friends saw it and laughed a lot.

But it did not save him. After a few minutes Mr Black shot at him and knocked his hat off.

The young man was frightened and angry. 'Didn't you see this piece of paper?' he shouted to Mr Black. 'Yes, I did,' said Mr Black. Then he went nearer, looked carefully at the paper and said, 'Oh, I am very sorry. I did not see the word NOT.'

What did Mr Black love ?

What was the matter with him ?

What happened several times ?

**What did his friends do when
they went out shooting with
him ?**

**What did one of his young
friends want to do one day ?**

What did he do ?

**What did he write on the
piece of paper ?**

What did he do then ?

What did his friends do ?

What happened then ?

**Did the paper save the young
man ?**

How did he feel ?

What did he shout ?

What did Mr Black do ?

What did he say ?



6

Mrs Brown's old grandfather lived with her and her husband. Every morning he went for a walk in the park and came home at half past twelve for his lunch.

But one morning a police car stopped outside Mrs Brown's house at twelve o'clock, and two policemen helped Mr Brown to get out. One of them said to Mrs Brown, 'The poor old gentleman lost his way in the park and telephoned us for help, so we sent a car to bring him home.' Mrs Brown was very surprised, but she thanked the policemen and they left.

'But, Grandfather,' she then said, 'you have been to that park nearly every day for twenty years. How did you lose your way there?'

The old man smiled, closed one eye and said, 'I didn't quite lose my way. I just got tired and I didn't want to walk home!'

Who lived with Mr and Mrs Brown ?

What did he do every morning ?

When did he come home ?

What did he come home for ?

What happened one morning ?

At what time did it happen ?

What did the two policemen do ?

What did one of them say to Mrs Brown ?

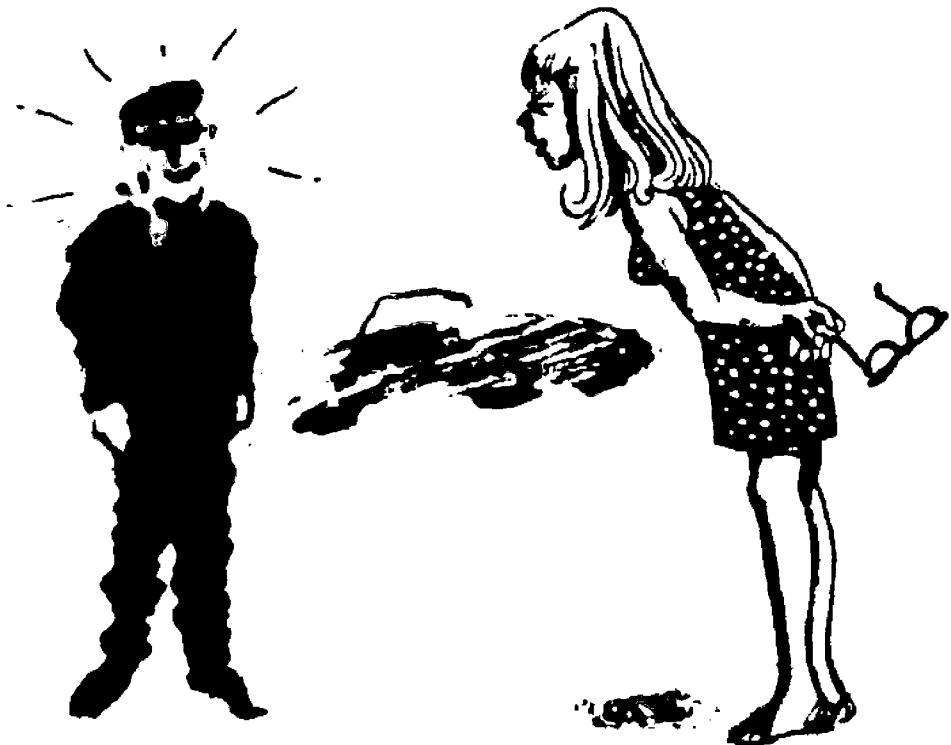
How did Mrs Brown feel ?

What did she do ?

What did she say to her grandfather ?

What did the old man do ?

What did he say ?



7

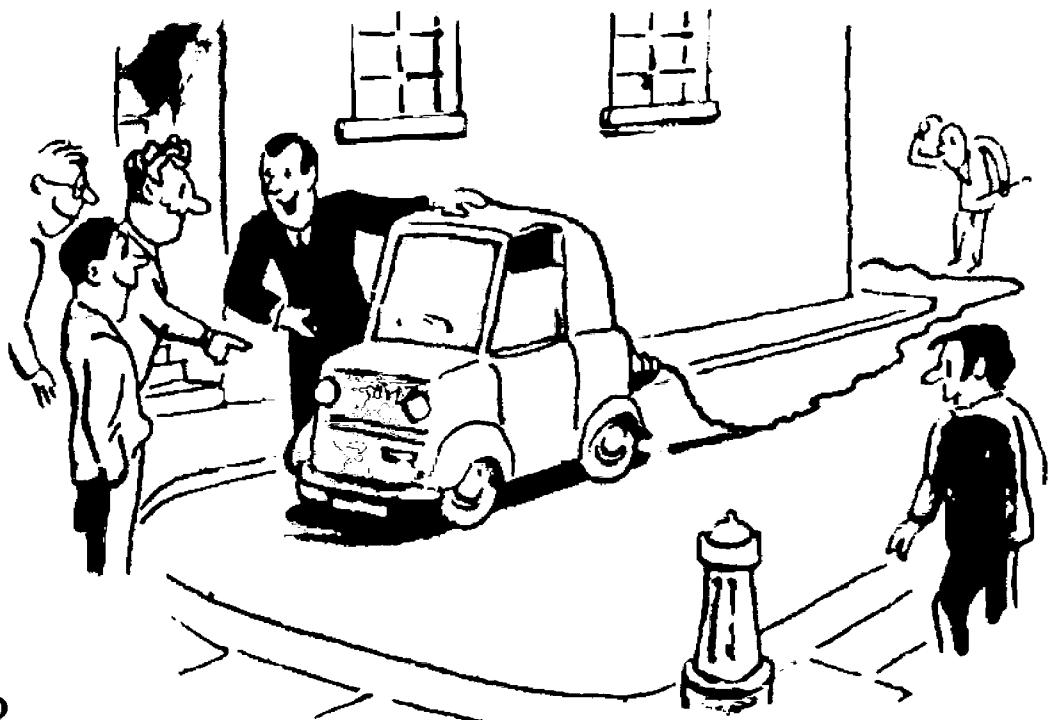
Helen's eyes were not very good, so she usually wore glasses. But when she was seventeen and she began to go out with a *young* man, she never wore her glasses when she was with him. When he came to the door to take her out, she took her glasses off, and when she came home again and he left, she put them on.

One day her mother said to her, 'But Helen, why do you never wear your glasses when you are with Jim? He takes you to beautiful places in his car, but you don't see anything.'

'Well, Mother,' said Helen, 'I look prettier to Jim when I am not wearing my glasses- and he looks better to me too!'

**What did Helen usually wear ?
Why did she do this ?
What did she begin to do when
she was seventeen ?
What did she do when she was
with the young man ?
Why did the young man come
to the door ?**

**What did Helen do then ?
What did she do when she came
home ?
What did her mother say to her
one day ?
What did Helen answer ?**



8

A man was trying to build an electric motor-car. He worked in an office in the town during most of the week, but on Saturdays and Sundays he stayed at home in the *country* and worked on his electric car. Every Monday he told his friends at the office about his work on the car, but his news about it was never very good. Then at last one Monday morning he came to the office and said to his friends, 'I have done it! I have driven from my home to here by electricity!'

His friends were all very glad. 'How much did it cost to get here by electricity?' they asked.

'Three hundred and two pounds,' he answered. 'Two pounds for the electricity, and three hundred pounds for the electric wires from my house to the car.'

**What was the man in this story
trying to do ?**

**What did he do most of the
week ?**

**What did he do on Saturdays
and Sundays ?**

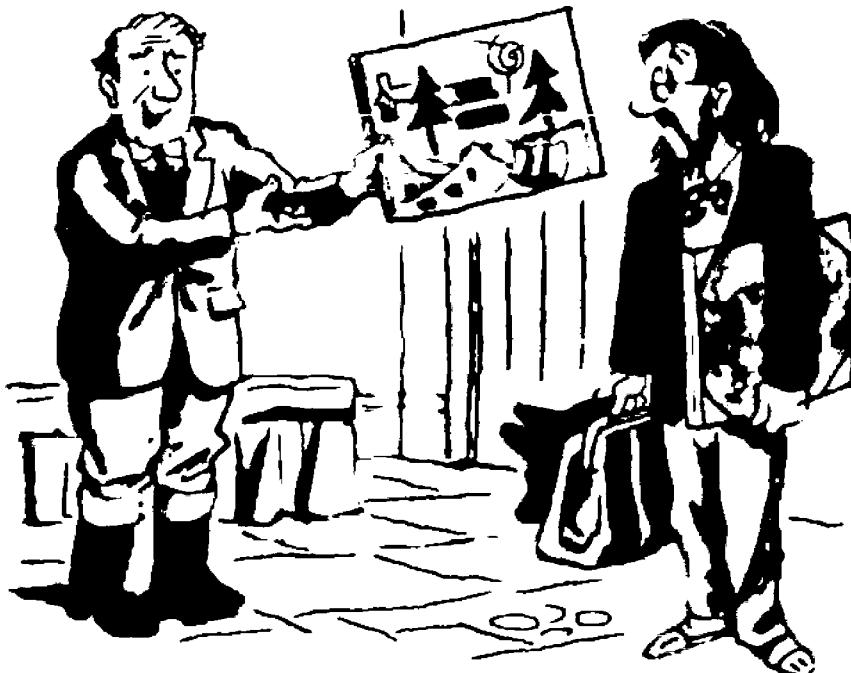
What did he do every Monday ?

**What was his news about the
car like ?**

**What happened at last one
Monday morning ?**

**How did his friends feel ?
What did they say ?**

What did the man answer ?



9

An artist went to a beautiful part of the country for a holiday, and stayed with a farmer. Every day he went out with his paints and his brushes and painted from morning to evening, and then when it got dark, he went back to the farm and had a good dinner before he went to bed.

At the end of his holiday he wanted to pay the farmer, but the farmer said, 'No, I do not want money—but give me one of your pictures. What is money? In a week it will all be finished, but your painting will still be here.'

The artist was very pleased and thanked the farmer for saying such kind things about his paintings.

The farmer smiled and answered, 'It is not that. I have a son in London. He wants to become an artist. When he comes here next month, I will show him your picture, and then he will not want to be an artist any more, I think.'

**Where did the artist go for
his holiday ?**

Where did he stay ?

What did he do every day ?

**What did he do when it got
dark ?**

**What did the farmer say when
the artist wanted to pay him ?**

**What did the painter thank the
farmer for ?**

**Why did the farmer want the
artist's painting ?**

**Did the farmer want his son to
become an artist ?**



10

Mr Jones was very angry with his wife, and she was very angry with her husband. For several days they did not speak to each other at all. One evening Mr Jones was very tired when he came back from work, so he went to bed soon after dinner. Of course, he did not say anything to Mrs Jones before he went upstairs. Mrs Jones washed the dinner things and then did some sewing. When she went up to bed much later than her husband, she found a piece of paper on the small table near her bed. On it were the words, 'Mother.—Wake me up at 7 a.m.—Father.'

When Mr Jones woke up the next morning, it was nearly 8 a.m.—and on the small table near his bed he saw another piece of paper. He took it and read these words: 'Father.—Wake up. It is 7 a.m.—Mother.'

Why did Mr and Mrs Jones not speak to each other for several days ?

Why did Mr Jones go to bed soon after dinner ?

Did he speak to his wife before he went upstairs ?

What did Mrs Jones do after dinner ?

**When did she go to bed ?
What did she find when she went to bed ?**

Where did she find it ?

What did she read ?

At what time did Mr Jones wake up the next morning ?

What did he see when he woke up ?

What did he read ?

Why did Mr Jones not wake up at 7 a.m. ?



11

The lights were red, so the old man stopped his car and waited for them to change to green. While he was waiting, a police car came up behind him, hit his car hard in the back and stopped.

There were two policemen in the police car, and they were very surprised and glad when the old man got out of his car and walked towards them without any trouble after such an accident. He was over 70 years old.

The old man came to the door of the police car, smiled kindly, and said, 'Tell me, young man, how do you stop this car when the lights are red and I am not here ?'

Why did the old man stop his car ?

What did he wait for ?

What happened while he was waiting ?

What people were there in the police car ?

What did the old man do ?

How did the policemen feel about it ?

Why were they surprised ?

How old was the man ?

What did he do then ?

What did he say ?



12

Mrs Williams loved flowers and had a small but beautiful garden. In the summer, her roses were always the best in her street. One summer afternoon her bell rang, and when she went to the front door, she saw a small boy outside. He was about seven years old, and was holding a big bunch of beautiful roses in his hand.

'I am selling roses,' he said. 'Do you want any? They are quite cheap. Five pence for a big bunch. They are fresh. I picked them this afternoon.'

'My boy,' Mrs Williams answered, 'I pick roses whenever I want, and don't pay anything for them, because I have lots in my garden.'

'Oh, no, you haven't,' said the small boy. 'There aren't any roses in your garden—because they are here in my hand!'

What did Mrs Williams love ?

What did she have ?

What were her roses like in the summer ?

What happened one summer afternoon ?

What did Mrs Williams do then ?

What did she see ?

Where did she see this boy ?

How old was he ?

What was he holding ?

What did he say to Mrs Williams ?

What did Mrs Williams answer ?

What did the small boy say then ?

Why weren't there any roses in Mrs Williams's garden ?



13

A woman was having some trouble with her heart, so she went to see the doctor. He was a new doctor, and did not know her, so he first asked some questions, and one of them was, 'How old are you?'

'Well,' she answered, 'I don't remember, doctor, but I will try to think.' She thought for a minute and then said, 'Yes, I remember now, doctor! When I married, I was eighteen years old, and my husband was thirty. Now my husband is sixty, I know; and that is twice thirty. So I am twice eighteen. That is thirty-six, isn't it?'

Where did the woman in this story go ?

Why did she go there ?

Why did the doctor not know her ?

What did he do first ?

What was one of his questions ?

What did the woman answer ?

What did she do then ?

What did she say after that ?

How old was the woman *really* ?



14

One day Mrs Jones went shopping. When her husband came home in the evening, she began to tell him about a beautiful cotton dress. 'I saw it in a shop this morning,' she said, 'and ...'

'And you want to buy it,' said her husband. 'How much does it cost?'

'Fifteen pounds.'

'Fifteen pounds for a cotton dress? That is too much!'

But every evening, when Mr Jones came back from work, his wife continued to speak only about the dress, and at last, after a week, he said, 'Oh, buy the dress! Here is the money!' She was very happy.

But the next evening, when Mr Jones came home and asked, 'Have you got the famous dress?' she said, 'No.'

'Why not?' he said.

'Well, it was still in the window of the shop after a week so I thought, "Nobody else wants this dress, so I don't want it either".'

What did Mrs Jones do one day ?

When did her husband come home ?

What did Mrs Jones do when he came home ?

What did she say to him ?

What did he answer ?

What did she say ?

What did Mr Jones say then ?

What happened every evening after that ?

What happened after a week ?

What did Mr Jones ask the next evening ?

What did Mrs Jones answer ?

What did her husband say then ?

What was her answer ?



15

One day a lady walked into a hat shop. The shopkeeper smiled and said, 'Good afternoon, madam.'

'Good afternoon,' the lady answered. 'There is a green hat with red flowers and blue leaves on it in your window. Will you please take it out of there.'

'Yes, madam,' the shopkeeper said. 'I will be very pleased to do that for you.' Usually ladies looked at a lot of hats before they chose one, and the shopkeeper got very tired. 'Good', he thought, 'I will sell this hat very quickly—and it has been in my window for a very long time.'

'Do you want it in a box, madam,' he asked, 'or will you wear it?'

'Oh, I don't want it,' she answered. 'I only wanted you to take it out of your window. I pass your shop every day, and I hate to see the ugly thing there!'

**What happened one day ?
What did the shopkeeper do ?
What did he say ?
What did the lady answer ?
What did the shopkeeper say
then ?**

**What usually happened in the
shop ?
What did the shopkeeper think ?
What did he say to the lady ?
What was her answer ?**



16

Nasreddin had a shed behind his house. It had no lights in it. One night he went out to the shed to get his ladder, and lost his ring there. He left the ladder, went out into the street and began to look around.

One of his friends saw him in the street outside his house, and said to him, 'Hullo, Nasreddin. What are you looking for?'

'My ring,' answered Nasreddin. 'It fell off my finger. It is a silver ring with a red stone in it.'

'Oh, yes,' said his friend. 'I remember it. I will help you to look for it. Where did you lose it?'

'In my shed.'

'But why don't you look for it there?'

'Don't be stupid! It is quite dark in my shed, so how will I find my ring there? Here there is light from the lamps in the street.'

**What did Nasreddin have
behind his house ?**

What was his shed like ?

What did he do one night ?

Why did he do this ?

What happened ?

What did Nasreddin do then ?

Who saw him in the street ?

What did this person say ?

What was Nasreddin's answer ?

What did his friend say then ?

What did Nasreddin answer ?

What did his friend say now ?

What did Nasreddin say to him ?



17

Mrs Andrews had a young cat, and it was the cat's first winter. One evening it was outside when it began to snow heavily. Mrs Andrews looked everywhere and shouted its name, but she did not find it, so she telephoned the police and said, 'I have lost a small black cat. Has anybody found one?'

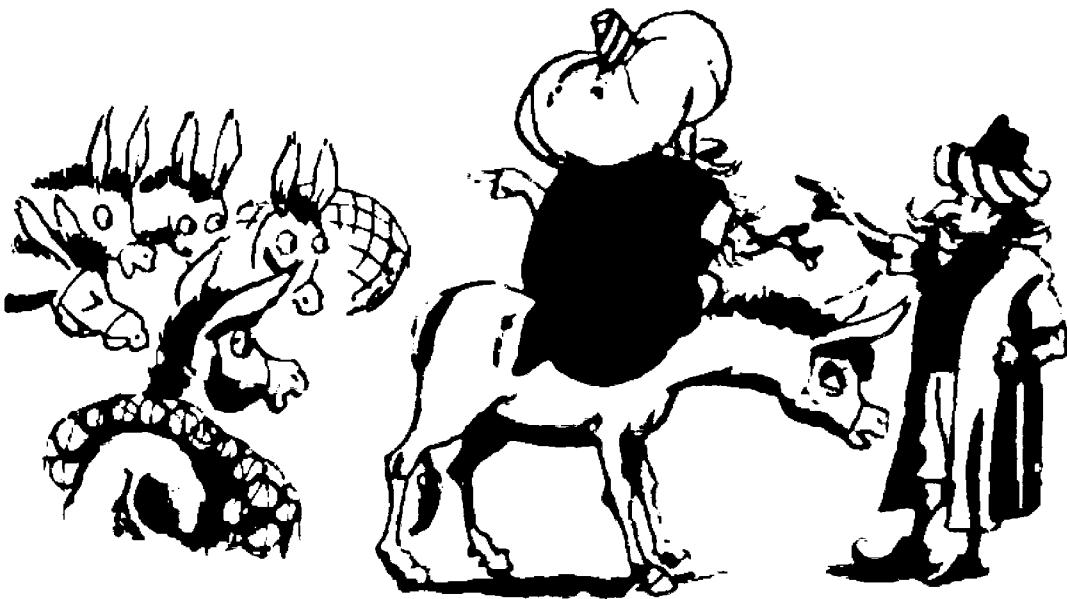
'No, madam,' said the policeman at the other end. 'But cats are really very strong animals. They sometimes live for days in the snow, and when it melts or somebody finds them, they are quite all right.'

Mrs Andrews felt happier when she heard this. 'And', she said, 'our cat is very clever. She almost talks.'

The policeman was getting rather tired. 'Well then,' he said, 'why don't you put your telephone down? Perhaps she is trying to telephone you now.'

**What had Mrs Andrews got ?
Was it the cat's first, second,
or third winter ?
What happened one evening ?
Where was the cat when this
happened ?
What did Mrs Andrews do ?
Did she find the cat ?
What did she do then ?
What did she say ?**

**What was the policeman's
answer ?
How did Mrs Andrews feel
after that ?
What did she say ?
How was the policeman feeling
now ?
What did he say to Mrs
Andrews ?**



18

One morning Nasreddin left his house with six donkeys to go to the market. After a time, he got tired and got on to one of them. He counted the donkeys, and there were only five, so he got off and went to look for the sixth. He looked and looked but did not find it, so he went back to the donkeys and counted them again. This time there were six, so he got on to one of them again and they all started.

After a few minutes he counted the donkeys again, and again there were only five! While he was counting again a friend of his passed, and Nasreddin said to him, 'I left my house with six donkeys; then I had five; then I had six again; and now I have only five! Look! One, two, three, four, five.'

'But, Nasreddin,' said his friend, 'You are sitting on a donkey too! That is the sixth! And you are the seventh!'

What did Nasreddin do one morning ?

How many donkeys did he have with him ?

What happened after a time ?

What did Nasreddin do then ?

How many donkeys did he count ?

What did he do then ?

Did he find the donkey ?

What did he do then ?

How many donkeys were there this time ?

What happened then ?

What did Nasreddin do after a few minutes ?

How many donkeys did he count this time ?

Who passed just then ?

What did Nasreddin say to him ?

What did his friend answer ?



19

One of Nasreddin's friends loved money very much, and never gave anything to anybody. Soon he became rich.

One day, he was walking near the river with his friends when he slipped and fell in. His friends ran to help him and one of them knelt on the ground, held out his hand and said, 'Give me your hand, and I will pull you out!' The rich man's head went under the water and then came up again, but he did not give his friend his hand. Again another of his friends tried, but again the same thing happened.

Then Nasreddin said, 'Take my hand and I will pull you out!' The rich man took his hand, and Nasreddin pulled him out of the water.

'You don't know our friend very well,' he said to the others. "When you say "Give" to him, he does nothing; but when you say "Take", he takes!"

What was Nasreddin's friend like ?

What happened to him soon ?

What happened one day ?

What was Nasreddin's friend doing when this happened ?

What did the rich man's friends do ?

What did one of them do ?

What did he say ?

What happened then ?

What did another friend do ?

What happened ?

What did Nasreddin say then ?

What did the rich man do ?

What did Nasreddin do ?

What did he say ?



20

One day Nasreddin bought a donkey in the market; but while he was taking it home, two thieves followed him. One of them took the rope from the donkey's neck and tied it round his friend's neck. Then he went away with the donkey.

When Nasreddin *got* home, he turned and saw the young man. He was very surprised. 'Where is my donkey?' he said angrily.

'I am very sorry,' said the thief, 'but once I said some very bad things to my mother, and she changed me into a donkey. But because a good man bought me, I am now a man again! Thank you!'

Nasreddin untied the man and said, 'Go! And never say bad things to your mother again!'

The next day, Nasreddin saw the same donkey in the market again! The other thief was selling it.

Nasreddin went to it and said into its ear, 'Young man, some people will never learn!'

What did Nasreddin do one day ?

Who followed him ?

When did they do this ?

What did one of the men do ?

What did he do then ?

What did Nasreddin do when he got home ?

How did he feel ?

What did he say ?

How did he say this ?

What did the thief answer ?

What did Nasreddin do then ?

What did he say ?

What happened the next day ?

Why was the donkey in the market ?

What did Nasreddin do then ?

What did he say ?



21

Nasreddin wanted to buy some new clothes, so he went to a shop. First he asked for some trousers and put them on, but then he took them off and gave them back to the shopkeeper and said, 'No, give me a coat instead of these.'

The man gave him a coat, and said, 'This one costs the same as the trousers.' Nasreddin took the coat and walked out of the shop with it. The shopkeeper ran after him and said, 'You have not paid for that coat!'

'But I gave you the trousers for the coat,' said Nasreddin. 'They cost the same as the coat, didn't they?'

'Yes,' said the shopkeeper, 'But you didn't pay for the trousers either!'

'Of course I didn't!' answered Nasreddin. 'I did not take them. I am not stupid! Nobody gives things back and then pays for them!'

**What did Nasreddin want
to do ?**

Where did he go ?

What did he do there first ?

What did he do then ?

What did he say ?

What did the shopkeeper do ?

What did he say ?
What did Nasreddin do then ?

What did the shopkeeper do ?

What did he say ?

What was Nasreddin's answer ?

What did the shopkeeper say ?

What did Nasreddin say then ?



22

One day, the boys of Nasreddin's village said to him, 'You have a nice, fat sheep. Will you invite us to a party to eat it with you?'

Nasreddin did not want the boys to eat his sheep, so he said, 'It is not fat enough yet.'

'But have you not heard?' they said. 'The world is going to end tomorrow, so the sheep will never get fat!'

Nasreddin was getting tired of this, so he said, 'All right, boys, we will have a picnic tomorrow, and eat the sheep.'

So the next morning they all went to the river, the boys took off their clothes and jumped into the water, and Nasreddin killed the sheep.

When the boys came out, their clothes were not there.

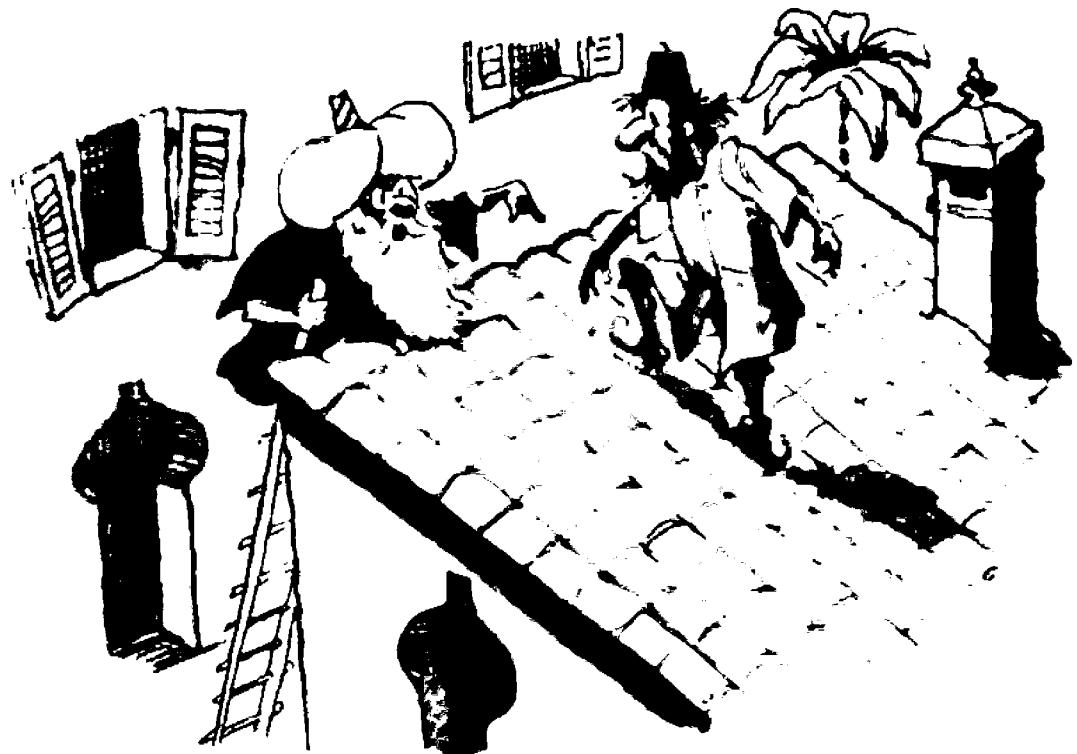
'Where are our clothes, Nasreddin?' they asked.

'Oh,' he answered, 'I made the fire to cook the sheep with your clothes. You will not need them again. The world is going to end today, don't you remember?'

**What did the boys of
Nasreddin's village say to
him ?**

**What did Nasreddin not want ?
What did he say to the boys ?
What did they answer ?
How did Nasreddin feel
about this ?**

**What did he say ?
What happened the next
morning ?
What did the boys do ?
What did Nasreddin do ?
What happened when the boys
came out of the water ?
What did they say ?
What did Nasreddin answer ?**



23

Whenever it rained, water came through Nasreddin's roof, so one day he got his ladder, climbed up on to the roof and began to mend it. It was quite difficult and dangerous work.

While he was up there, he suddenly saw an old man in the street. This man was waving to him. He wanted Nasreddin to come down. Nasreddin thought, 'What has happened? What news has this man got for me?' So he climbed down the ladder quickly. Several times he slipped and nearly broke his neck. When he got to the bottom, the old man said, 'I am a poor man. Please give me some money.'

Nasreddin was very angry, but he said, 'Come up.' He helped the old man to climb up the ladder and on to the roof. Then he said to him, 'I am a poor man too. I have no money for you. And now go down alone. I will not help you.'

What happened whenever it rained ?

What did Nasreddin do ?

What was this work like ?

Whom did he see in the street ?

When did he see this person ?

What did Nasreddin think ?

What did he do ?

What happened while he was doing this ?

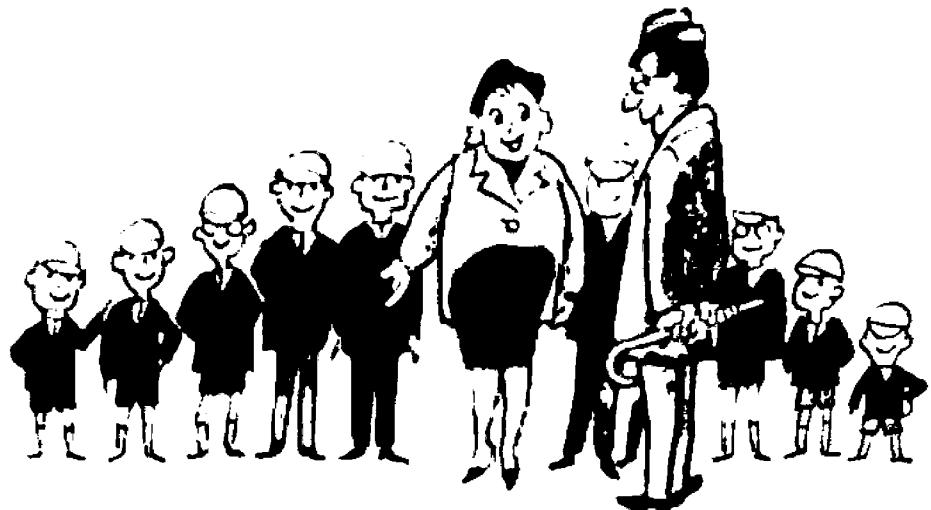
What did the old man say when Nasreddin got to the bottom ?

How did Nasreddin feel ?

What did he say ?

What did he do ?

What did he say when they were on the roof ?



24

One day Mr Robinson saw a lady in the street with ten children. He was very surprised because all the children were wearing the same clothes—white caps, dark blue coats and grey trousers.

'Are all those children yours?' he asked the mother.

'Yes, they are,' she answered.

'Do you always dress them in the same clothes?' asked Mr Robinson.

'Yes,' answered the mother. 'When we had only four children, we dressed them in the same clothes because we did not want to lose any of them. It was easy to see our children when they were among other children, because they were all wearing the same clothes. And now, when we have ten, we dress them like this because we do not want to take other children home too by mistake. When there are other children among ours, it is easy to see them, because their clothes are different.'

**What did Mr Robinson see
one morning?**

Where did he see this?

How did he feel about it?

Why did he feel like this?

What did he say?

What did the lady answer?

**What did Mr Robinson say
then?**

What was the lady's answer?

**Why did she dress her children
like that when she had four?**

**Why did she dress them like
that when she had ten?**



25

Mr and Mrs Brown lived in a small house near London with their child. Sometimes Mr Brown came back from work very late, when his wife and the child were asleep, and then he opened the front door of his house with his key and came in very quietly.

But one night when he was coming home late, he lost his key, **so** when he reached his house, he rang the bell. Nothing happened. He rang it again. Again nothing happened—nobody moved inside the house. Mr Brown knocked at the bedroom window, he spoke to his wife, he shouted, but she did **not** wake up. At last he stopped and thought for a few seconds. Then he began to speak like a small child. 'Mother!' he said, 'I want to go to the lavatory!' He spoke quite quietly but at once Mrs Brown woke up. Then he spoke to her, and she opened the door for him.

Where did Mr and Mrs Brown live ?

How many children did they have ?

What happened sometimes ?

What were his wife and child doing when this happened ?

What did Mr Brown do then ?

How did he come in ?

What happened one night ?

When did this happen ?

What did Mr Brown do when he reached his house ?

What happened ?

What did Mr Brown do then ?

What happened this time ?

What did Mr Brown do then ?

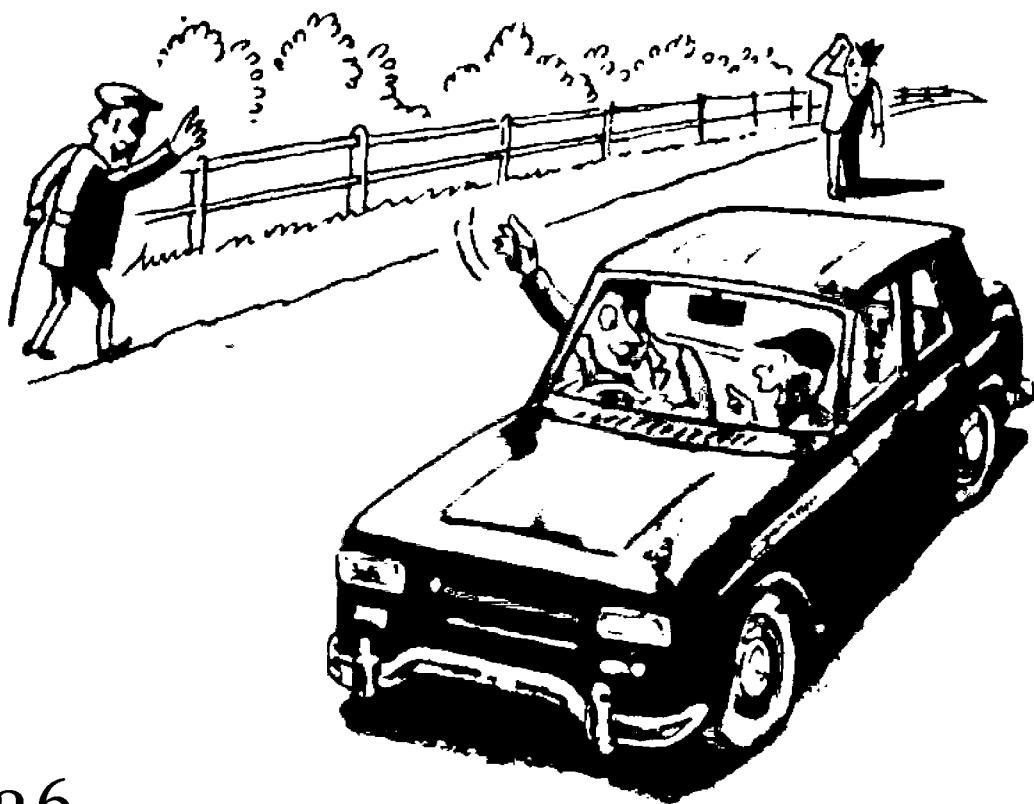
What did his wife do ?

What did Mr Brown do then ?

How did Mr Brown wake his wife ?

What did he do then ?

What did she do ?



26

Peter's uncle lived in the country. Once Peter went to stay with him for a few weeks. Whenever they went for a walk or for a drive in the car and they passed somebody, his uncle waved. Peter was surprised, and said, 'Uncle George, you know everybody here. Where did you meet them all?'

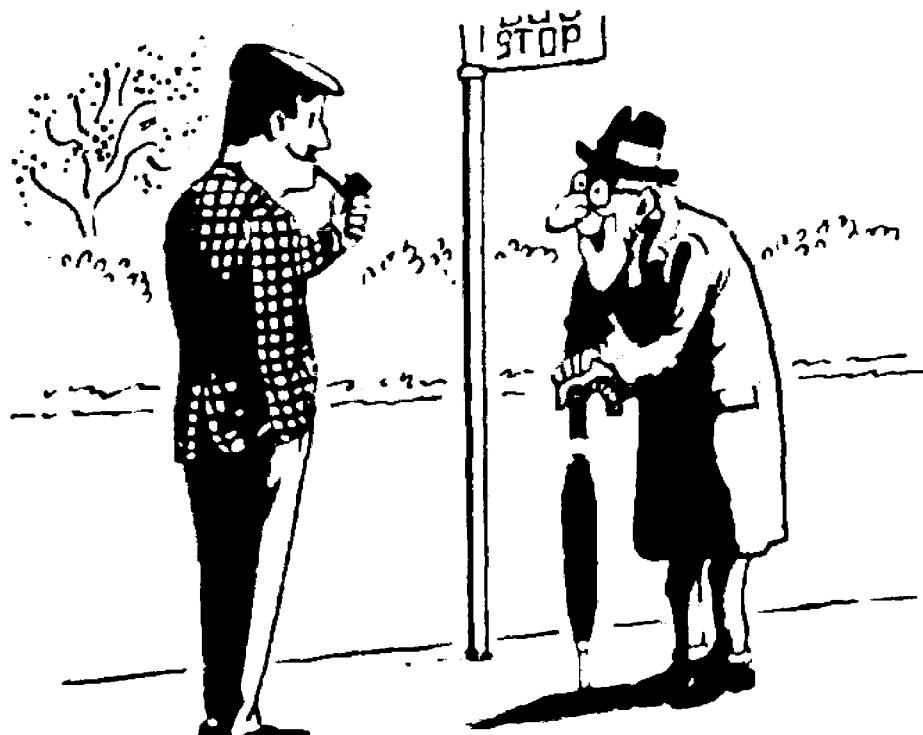
'I don't know all these people,' said his uncle.

'Then why do you wave to them?' asked Peter.

'Well, Peter,' answered his uncle, 'when I wave to someone and he knows me, he is pleased. He continues his journey with a happier heart. But when I wave to someone and he doesn't know me, he is surprised and says to himself, "Who is that man? Why did he wave to me?" So he has something to think about during the rest of his journey, and that makes his journey seem shorter. So I make everybody happy.'

**Where did Peter's uncle live ?
What did Peter once do ?
What happened ?
What did Peter feel about
this ?**

**What did he say ?
What did his uncle answer ?
What did Peter ask him then ?
What was his uncle's answer ?**



27

It was a beautiful spring morning. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, and the sun was warm but not too hot, so Mr Andrews was surprised when he saw an old gentleman at the bus-stop with a big, strong black umbrella in his hand.

Mr Andrews said to him, 'Are we going to have rain today, do you think?'

'No', said the old gentleman, 'I don't think so.'

'Then are you carrying the umbrella to keep the sun off you?'

'No, the sun is not very hot in spring.'

Mr Andrews looked at the big umbrella again, and the gentleman said, 'I am an old man, and my legs are not very strong, so I really need a walking-stick. But when I carry a walking-stick, people say, "Look at that poor old man", and I don't like that. When I carry an umbrella in fine weather, people only say, "Look at that stupid man".'

What was the weather like ?

What did Mr Andrews see ?

How did he feel about this ?

Why did he feel like this ?

What did Mr Andrews say ?

What did the old gentleman answer ?

What did Mr Andrews say then ?

What was the old gentleman's answer ?

What did Mr Andrews do then ?

What did the old gentleman say ?



28

Many years ago, an English family were living in China. One evening an important Chinese officer came to visit them. It got later and later, and he still did not go, so his hostess invited him to have dinner with them. But she had very little food in the house, so she quickly went to the kitchen and spoke to her Chinese cook. He said, 'It is all right. You will have a very good dinner.'

When they all sat down to eat, the lady was very surprised, because there was a lot of very good food on the table.

After the dinner, the hostess ran to the kitchen and said to the cook, 'How did you make such a good meal in half an hour?'

'I did not make it, madam,' he said. 'I sent one of the servants to the Chinese officer's house, and he brought back the Chinese officer's dinner.'

When did this story happen ?

Where were the English family living ?

What happened one evening ?

What did the hostess do ?

Why did she do this ?

Why did she go to the kitchen ?

What did the cook say ?

What did the English family and the Chinese officer do then ?

How did the lady feel ?

Why did she feel like this ?

What did she do after the dinner ?

What did she say to the cook ?

What was his answer ?



29

One day Nasreddin went to a big dinner party. He was wearing old clothes, and when he came in, nobody looked at him and nobody gave him a seat at a table. So Nasreddin went home, put on his best clothes, and then went back to the party. The host at once got up and came to meet him. He took him to the best table, gave him a good seat, and offered him the best dishes.

Nasreddin put his coat in the food and said, 'Eat, coat!'

The other guests were very surprised and said, 'What are you doing?'

Nasreddin answered, 'I was inviting my coat to eat. When I was wearing my old clothes, nobody looked at me or offered me food or drink. Then I went home and came back in these clothes, and you gave me the best food and drink. So you gave me these things for my clothes, not for myself.'

What did Nasreddin do one day ?

What was he wearing ?

What happened when he came in ?

What did Nasreddin do then ?

What happened when he went back to the party ?

What did Nasreddin do then ?

What did he say ?

How did the other guests feel ?

What did they say ?

What was Nasreddin's answer ?



30

Nasreddin wanted a big pot for a party, so he borrowed one from a neighbour. After the party he took it back with another small pot inside.

'Your pot had a baby while it was with us,' he said.

Of course, the neighbour was very pleased, and when Nasreddin came to borrow the big pot again for another party, he lent it to him very gladly.

This time Nasreddin did not bring the pot back, so after a few days the man went to Nasreddin's house.

'What has happened to my big pot?' he asked. 'Why have you not brought it back yet?'

'Oh, the big pot?' said Nasreddin. 'It died while it was with us.'

'Died?' said the neighbour angrily. 'But pots do not die!'

'Why do you say that?' answered Nasreddin. 'When I said, "The pot has had a baby", you did not say, "Pots do not have babies", did you?'

What did Nasreddin want ?

What did he want it for ?

What did he do ?

What did he do after the party ?

What did he say ?

How did his neighbour feel ?

**What did Nasreddin do after
that in the story ?**

What did his neighbour do ?

**What happened to the pot this
time ?**

**What did the neighbour do
then ?**

What did he say to Nasreddin ?

What was Nasreddin's answer ?

**What did the neighbour say
then ?**

How did he say it ?

What did Nasreddin answer ?



31

One day Nasreddin's donkey was ill, so he borrowed a horse from an officer. It was a big, strong animal, and usually nobody rode it except the officer. It tried to throw Nasreddin off, but he stayed on it. Then it suddenly began to run away with him. He tried to turn it towards his house, and he tried to stop it, but it continued to run the opposite way.

One of Nasreddin's friends was working in his field and saw him riding very fast towards this friend's house. He thought, 'Why is Nasreddin riding so fast? Perhaps he has some bad news. Perhaps he is riding to my house to give me *some bad news!*'

He was frightened and shouted to Nasreddin, 'Nasreddin! Nasreddin! What is the matter? Where are you going?'

'I don't know!' Nasreddin shouted back. 'This stupid animal hasn't told me!'

**What was the matter with
Nasreddin's donkey one
day ?**

**What did he do ?
What was the horse like ?
Who usually rode it ?
What did it try to do ?
What did Nasreddin do ?
What did the horse do then ?**

**What did Nasreddin do ?
What did the horse do ?
Who saw Nasreddin ?
What was this person doing ?
What did he think ?
How did he feel ?
What did he shout ?
What did Nasreddin shout
back ?**



32

Every Saturday, Nasreddin went to the market to buy food and other things. He put them in a big basket, but he was old and weak, so he always paid another man to carry the basket home for him. But one Saturday, while he was walking home in front of the man with the basket, the man ran away with it.

The next Saturday, when Nasreddin went to the market again, a friend of his said, 'Look, there he is! That man stole your things last week!'

Nasreddin at once hid behind a shop, and stayed there until the man left the market.

His friend was very surprised. 'Why did you do that?' he asked.

'Well,' said Nasreddin, 'that man was carrying my basket when he left me a week ago. He will want me to pay him for seven days' work, and that will cost me more than a basket full of things!'

**What did Nasreddin do
every Saturday?**

Why did he do this?

**What did he do with the
things?**

What did he do then?

Why did he do this?

What happened one Saturday?

**What was Nasreddin doing
when this happened?**

**What did Nasreddin do the
next Saturday?**

What did a friend of his say?

What did Nasreddin do?

When did he come out?

**How did his friend feel about
this?**

What did he say?

What was Nasreddin's answer?



33

Once, when Nasreddin was a boy, his mother went out for a picnic. Before she went, she said to him, 'Nasreddin, while I am away, stay near the door, and watch it all the time.' She said this because there were a lot of thieves in their town.

Nasreddin sat down beside the door. After an hour one of his uncles came. He said to Nasreddin, 'Where is your mother?'

'At a picnic,' he answered.

'Well,' said the uncle, 'we are going to visit your house this evening. Go and tell her!'

His uncle then went away, and Nasreddin began to think. 'Mother said, "Watch the door all the time!" and Uncle said, "Go and tell her"!'

He thought and thought, then at last, he pulled the door down, put it on his back and went to his mother with it!

**When did this story happen ?
What did Nasreddin's mother do ?
What did she say to him ?
When did she say it ?
Why did she say this ?
What did Nasreddin do ?**

**What happened after an hour ?
What did Nasreddin's uncle say ?
What did Nasreddin answer ?
What did his uncle say then ?
What did Nasreddin do then ?
What did he think ?
What did he do at last ?**



34

Nasreddin was sitting by a window in his house one day in the middle of winter, when he heard women outside crying. He put his head out of the window, and saw a lot of people coming towards his house. They were carrying a dead man, and the women were crying, 'Oh, why are you leaving us to go to a place without light and without a fire and without food? It will be dark there, and you will be cold and hungry. Nobody will look after you, nobody will be kind to you, and nobody will love you there!'

'My God!' said Nasreddin to his wife. 'They are talking about our house. They are bringing the dead man here! Quick, lock the door! Don't let him in!'

**What was Nasreddin doing at
the beginning of this story ?**

**When was this ?
What did he hear ?
What did he do then ?
What did he see ?**

**What were the people doing ?
What were the women doing ?**

**What were they saying ?
What did Nasreddin say ?
Whom did he say this to ?**



35

One day when Nasreddin was travelling, he came to a village. The people there said to him, 'We have had no rain for three months, and we have no water. Our corn is dying. Please help us! Pray for rain!'

Nasreddin wanted to help these poor people, so he asked for a bucket of water. There was very little water in the village, but each family gave a little, and they filled a bucket and gave it to Nasreddin.

Then Nasreddin took off his shirt and began to wash it. The people were surprised and angry. 'That water was for our children to drink, and you are washing your shirt in it!'

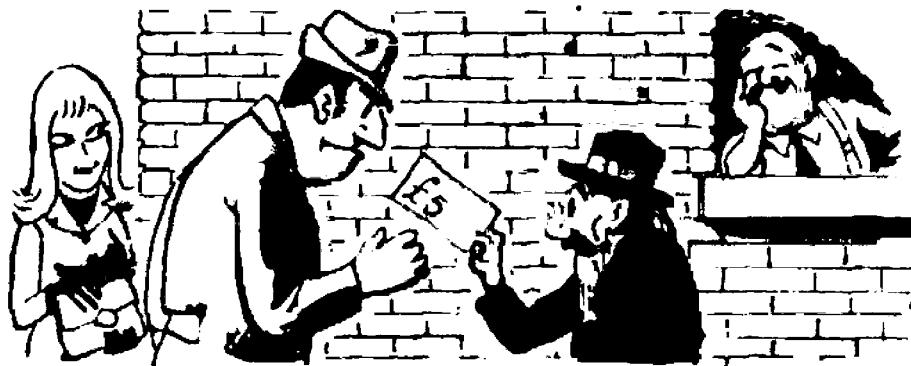
But Nasreddin said, 'Wait!' He hung the shirt up to dry, and at once it began to rain.

'I have only one shirt,' he said to the surprised people, 'and when I wash it and hang it up to dry, it always rains.'

**What was Nasreddin doing at
the beginning of this story ?
What happened one day ?
Who spoke to him ?
What did they say ?
What did Nasreddin want to
do ?
What did he ask for ?
What did the people do ?
Was this easy for them ?**

**Why ?
What did Nasreddin do then ?
How did the people feel ?
What did they say ?
What did Nasreddin answer ?
What happened then ?
How did the people feel ?
What did Nasreddin say to
them ?**

36



Three people were walking along a street, first a big man, then a pretty woman, and then an old gentleman. The first two went round a corner. Suddenly the gentleman saw a piece of paper on the ground. He picked it up. It was five pounds. A few seconds later, the young woman came back. She was crying. 'I have dropped five pounds,' she said.

'Don't cry', said the gentleman. 'Here it is.' The young woman thanked him and went away. After a few seconds, the big man came back. He was looking for something. Suddenly a window opened and a small man looked out. 'I saw five pounds fall from your pocket,' he said, 'but that man gave it to a young woman.' The big man was very angry. The gentleman was frightened and gave him another five pounds. When he had gone, the young woman came back to get her one pound sixty-seven pence, and the small man came out to get his.

What people were walking along the street at the beginning of this story ?

What did the first two do ?

What happened then ?

What did the old gentleman do ?

What was the piece of paper ?

What happened then ?

What was the young woman doing ?

What did she say ?

What did the old gentleman say ?

What did the young woman do ?

What happened then ?

What was the big man doing ?

What happened after that ?

What did the man at the window say ?

How did the big man feel ?

How did the old gentleman feel ?

What did he do ?

What happened when the old gentleman went away ?

How much did the young woman get ?

What were these three people ?



37

Nasreddin liked fish very much, and when he had enough money, he bought some for his dinner when he went to the market, and took it home. But when hi? wife saw the fish, she always said to herself, 'Good! Now I will invite my friends to lunch and we will eat this fish. They like fish very much.'

So when Nasreddin came home in the evening after his work, the fish was never there, and his wife always said, 'Oh, your cat ate it! She is a very bad animal!' And she gave Nasreddin soup and rice for his dinner.

But one evening when this happened, Nasreddin became very angry. He took the cat and his wife to the shop near his house and weighed the cat carefully. Then he turned to his wife and said, 'My fish weighed two kilos. This cat weighs two kilos too. My fish is here, you say. Then where is my cat?'

What did Nasreddin like very much ?

When did he buy some of this ?

What did he buy it for ?

What did he do with it then ?

What did his wife say to herself when she saw it ?

What happened when Nasreddin came home ?

What did his wife always say ?

What did she give Nasreddin for his dinner ?

How did Nasreddin feel one evening when this happened ?

What did he do ?

What did he say to his wife then ?



38

One day when Nasreddin was having a bath, he began to sing. The bathroom was small and had a stone floor, so his song was very beautiful, he thought.

'Oh,' he said, 'I sing very well. I will sing to other people too, and perhaps I will become a famous singer, and everybody in the world will want to hear me.'

So after his bath Nasreddin went up on to the flat roof of the house and began to sing his song very loudly. But he did not like it very much when he sang it there.

A man was walking across the square in front of the house, and when he heard Nasreddin, he said, 'What are you doing? You are making a terrible noise. Nobody wants to hear it.'

'Oh, you think so, do you?' answered Nasreddin. 'Well, I really sing very beautifully. Come to my bathroom and you will hear me.'

When did Nasreddin begin to sing?

What was the bathroom like?

How did the song seem to Nasreddin?

What did he say?

What did Nasreddin do after his bath?

What did he think of his song now?

Who spoke to Nasreddin?

What was this person doing?

What did he say to Nasreddin?

What did Nasreddin answer?



39

The police in the big city were looking for a thief. At last they caught him. But while they were taking photographs of him—from the front, from the left, from the right, with a hat, without a hat—he suddenly attacked the policemen and ran off. They tried to catch him, but he got away.

Then a week later the telephone rang in the police-station, and somebody said, 'You are looking for Bill Cross, aren't you?'

'Yes.'

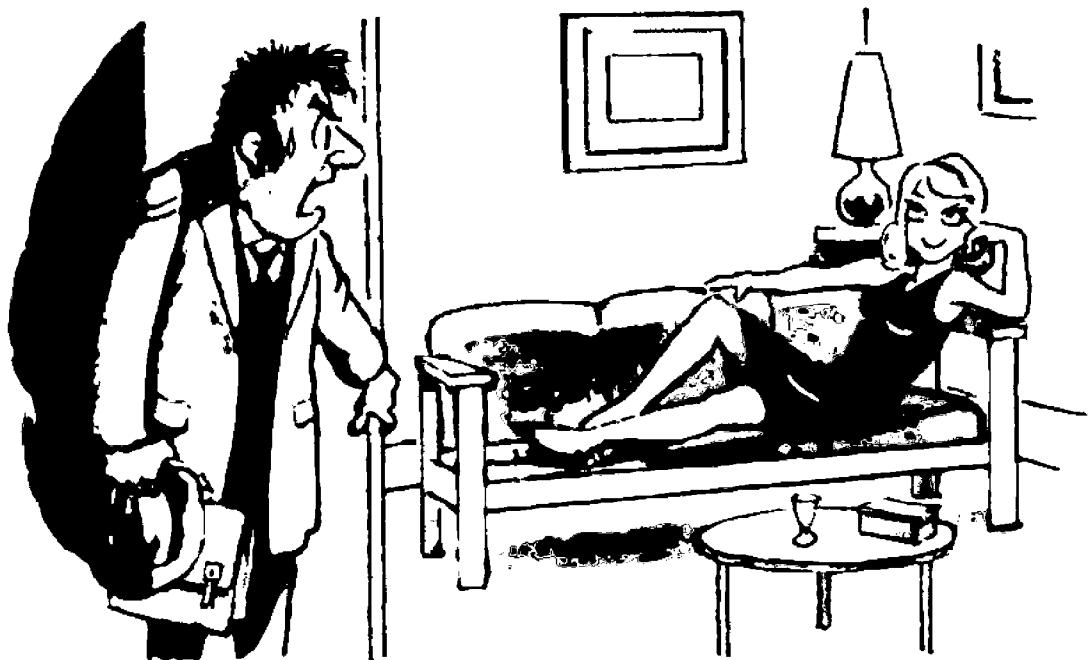
'Well, he left here for Waterbridge an hour ago.'

Waterbridge was a small town 150 kilometres from the city. The city police at once sent four different photographs of the thief to the police **in** Waterbridge.

Less than twelve hours later they got a telephone call from the police in Waterbridge. 'We have caught three of the men,' they said happily, 'and we will catch the fourth this evening, we think'.

**Where were the police ?
What were they doing ?
What happened at last ?
What did the man do ?
When did he do this ?
What did the police do ?
What happened ?
What happened a week later ?
What did someone say over
the telephone ?**

**What did the police answer ?
What did the man say then ?
Where and what was Water-
bridge ?
What did the city police do ?
What happened less than twelve
hours later ?
What did the police in Water-
bridge say ?**



40

Mrs Jones was still cleaning the house when her husband came back from work. She was wearing dirty, old clothes and no stockings, her hair was not tidy, she had dust on her face, and she looked dirty and tired. Her husband looked at her and said, 'Is this what I come home to after a hard day's work?'

Mrs Jones's neighbour, Mrs Smith, was there. When she heard Mr Jones's words, she quickly said goodbye and ran back to her house. Then she washed, brushed and combed her hair carefully, put on her best dress and her prettiest stockings, painted her face, and waited for her husband to come home.

When he arrived, he was hot and tired. He walked slowly into the house, saw his wife and stopped. Then he shouted angrily, 'And where are *you* going this evening?'

What was Mrs Jones doing ?

**What happened while she
was doing this ?**

What was Mrs Jones wearing ?

What did her hair look like ?

What did her face look like ?

What did Mrs Jones look like ?

What did her husband say ?

Who was there too ?

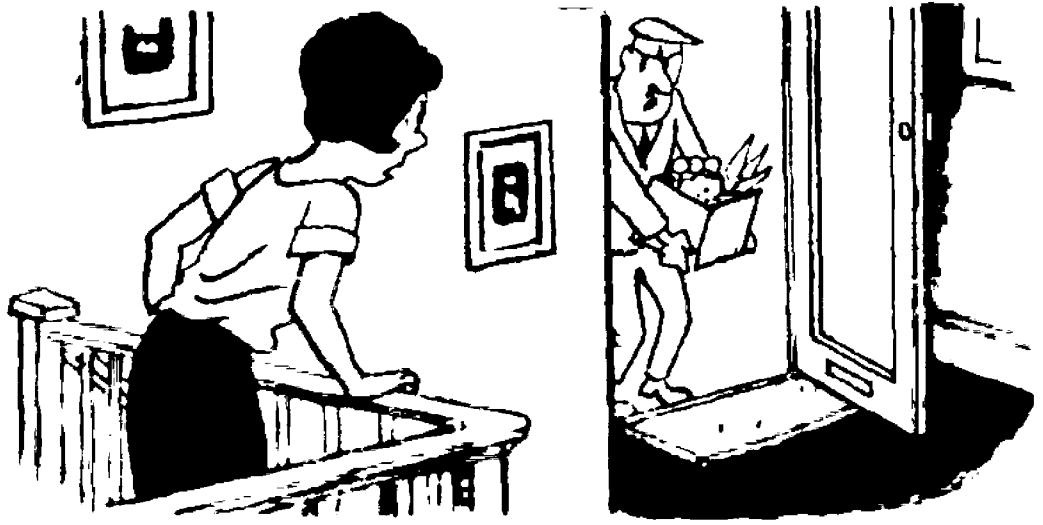
**What did Mrs Smith do when
she heard Mr Jones's words ?**

**How was her husband when he
arrived ?**

What did he do ?

What did he shout ?

How did he shout this ?



41

Billy was four years old, and he was a very bad boy. Every-day after lunch his mother took him to his bedroom and put him on his bed to rest for an hour, but Billy never slept and usually he made a lot of noise and got off his bed every few minutes.

One afternoon, Billy's mother put him on his bed and then went to her bedroom to do some sewing. After ten minutes, she heard a noise so she went to Billy's room. He was not there, but his trousers were lying on his bed.

She looked in the other rooms upstairs, but he was not there either, so she went to the top of the stairs and shouted down angrily, 'Are you running about down there without your trousers?'

'No, madam,' answered a man's voice. 'I have brought your vegetables—and I am *wearing* my trousers.'

**How old was Billy ?
What kind of boy was he ?
What happened every day ?
When did it happen ?
Why did Billy's mother put
him on his bed ?
What did Billy do then ?
What happened one
afternoon ?
Why did Billy's mother go
to her bedroom ?
What happened after ten
minutes ?**

**What did Billy's mother do
then ?
What did she see in Billy's
room ?
What did she do then ?
What did she see ?
What did she do after that ?
What did she shout ?
How did she shout this ?
Who answered ?
What did he say ?**



42

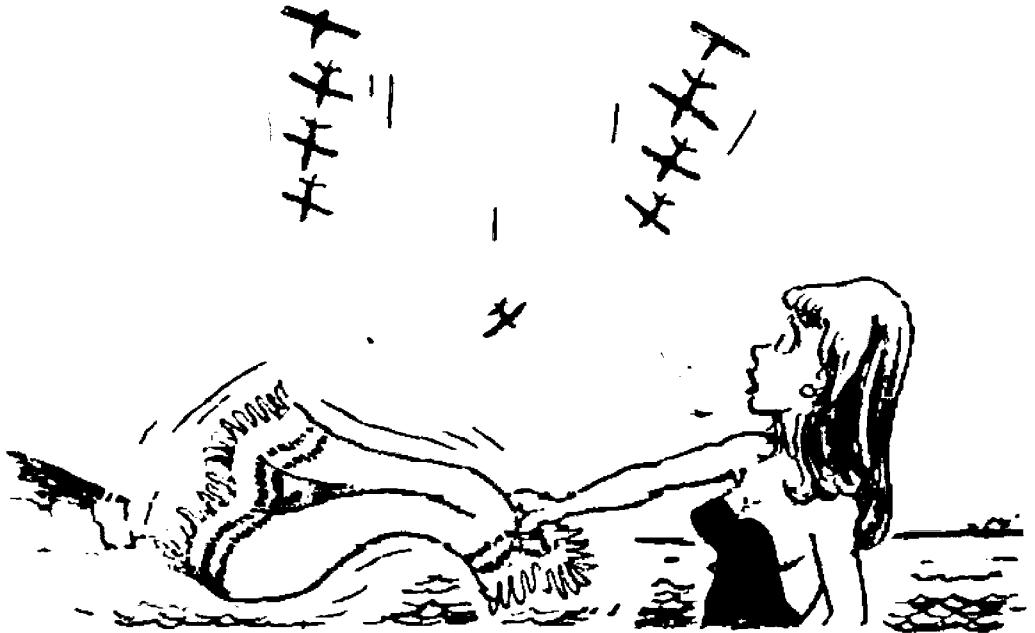
An old lady in an aeroplane had a blanket over her head and she did not want to take it off. The air hostess spoke to her, but the old lady said, 'I have never been in an aeroplane before, and I am frightened. I am going to keep this blanket over my head until we are back on the ground again!'

Then the captain came. He said 'Madam, I am the captain of this aeroplane. The weather is fine, there are no clouds in the sky, and everything is going very well.' But she continued to hide.

So the captain turned and started to go back. Then the old lady looked out from under the blanket with one eye and said, 'I am sorry, young man, but I don't like aeroplanes and I am never going to fly again. But I'll say one thing,' she continued kindly, 'you and your wife keep your aeroplane very clean!'

**Where was the old lady ?
What was she doing at the
beginning of this story ?
Who spoke to her ?
What did the old lady say ?
Who came then ?**

**What did this person say ?
What did the old lady do ?
What did the captain do ?
What did the old lady do then ?
What did she say ?**



43

A young air force officer had a very beautiful wife. Early each morning he left his house and went to the airport, and an hour later his wife always left the house too, with a big white towel, and went for a walk on the beach.

Her husband always flew over every morning, and when she saw his aeroplane, she held the white towel high above her head. When her husband saw it, he made either the left wing or the right wing of his aeroplane go down. The left wing meant, 'I will be busy tonight and won't be home.' The right wing meant, 'In eight hours I will be holding you in my arms.'

One morning he flew over with eight other aeroplanes, and his left wing went down. Before his wife had time to feel sad about this, all the other aeroplanes flew over, and each of them turned its right wing down.

Who are the two people at the beginning of this story ?

When did the man in this story leave his house ?

Where did he go ?

When did his wife leave the house ?

What did she take with her ?

Where did she go ?

What happened every morning after that ?

What did the officer's wife do ?

When did she do it ?

What did her husband do then ?

When did he do this ?

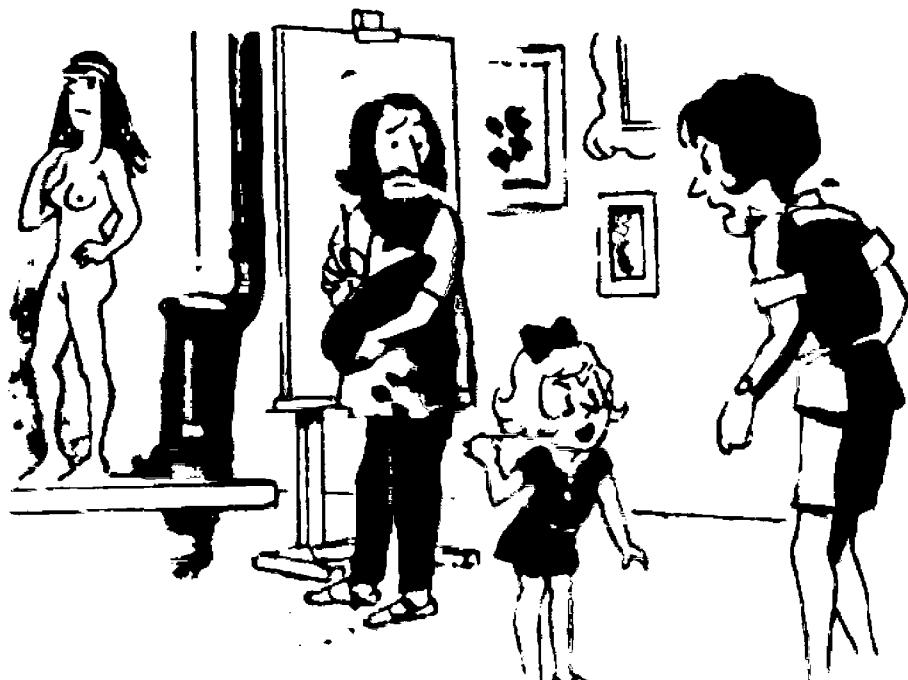
What did the left wing mean ?

What did the right wing mean ?

What happened one morning ?

Which wing went down ?

What did the other aeroplanes do ?



44

An artist had a small daughter. Sometimes he painted women without any clothes on, and he and his wife always tried to keep the small girl out when he was doing this. 'She is too young to understand,' they said.

But one day, when the artist was painting a woman with no clothes on, he forgot to lock the door, and the little girl suddenly ran into the room. Her mother ran up the stairs after her, but when she got to the top, the little girl was already in the room and looking at the woman. Both her parents waited for her to speak.

For a few seconds the little girl said nothing, but then she ran to her mother and said angrily, 'Why do you let her go about without shoes and socks on when you don't let me?'

What was the small girl's father ?

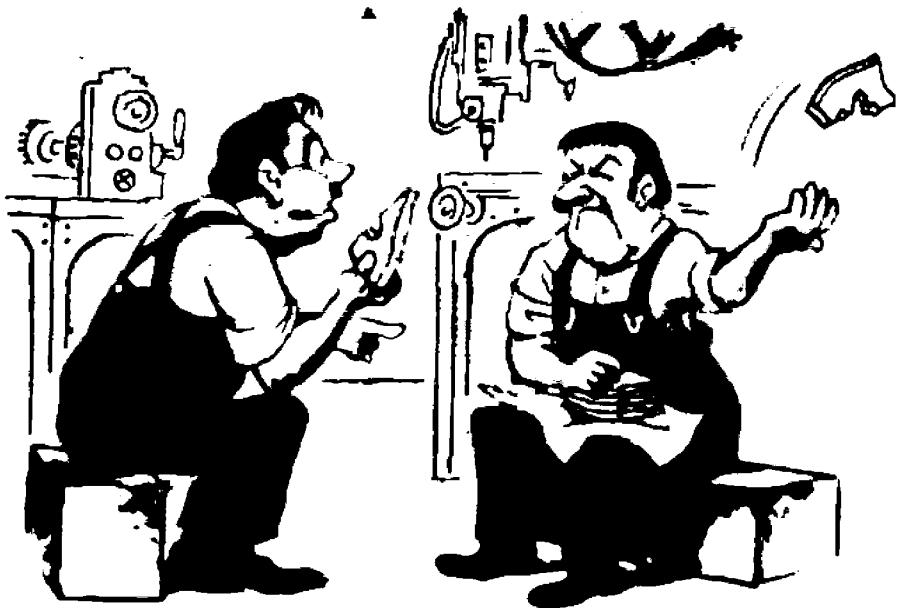
**What did he sometimes do ?
What did he and his wife do then ?**

**What did they say ?
What happened one day ?
When did it happen ?**

What did the small girl's mother do ?

What was the girl doing when her mother got to the top of the stairs ?

**What did her parents do ?
What did the little girl do ?
What did she say ?
How did she feel about this ?**



45

It was a small factory, and there was nowhere to eat near it, so the workmen took food from their homes and ate it in the factory at midday.

One of the workmen always had fish sandwiches. Every day he took one of them out of his bag, bit it, and then threw all the sandwiches angrily away.

At last, one day one of the workmen said to him, 'But, Bill, don't you like fish sandwiches?'

'No,' said Bill, 'I hate them.'

'Then why does your wife make them for you every day? There are lots of other nice things for sandwiches. Tell your wife, and she will make other sandwiches.'

'It isn't as easy as that,' answered Bill. 'I haven't got a wife. I make the sandwiches myself.'

**Where did the workmen in
the story work ?**

**What did they take to the
factory ?**

Why did they do this ?

**When and where did they eat
their food ?**

**What did one of the workmen
always have ?**

What did he do every day ?

How did he feel ?

**What did another workman say
to him one day ?**

What did Bill answer ?

**What did the other workman
say then ?**

What was Bill's answer to this ?



46

Mrs Brown had a small garden behind her house, and in the spring she planted some vegetables in it. She looked after them very carefully, and when the summer came, they looked very nice.

One evening Mrs Brown looked at her vegetables and said, 'Tomorrow I am going to pick them, and then we can eat them.'

But early the next morning, her son ran into the kitchen and shouted, 'Mother, Mother! Come quickly! Our neighbour's ducks are in the garden and they are eating our vegetables!'

Mrs Brown ran out, but it was too late! All the vegetables were finished! Mrs Brown cried, and her neighbour was very sorry, but that was the end of the vegetables.

Then a few days before Christmas, the neighbour brought Mrs Brown a parcel. In it was a beautiful, fat duck, and on it was a piece of paper with the words, 'Enjoy your vegetables!'

**What did Mrs Brown have ?
Where did she have it ?
What did she do there ?
When did she do it ?
What did she do then ?
What happened in the
summer ?
What did Mrs Brown do one
evening ?
What did she say ?
What happened early the next
morning ?**

**What did Mrs Brown's son
shout ?
What did Mrs Brown do ?
What happened to the vege-
tables ?
How did Mrs Brown's neigh-
bour feel ?
What happened a few days
before Christmas ?
What was in the parcel ?
What were the words on the
piece of paper ?**



47

The ladies' club always had a meeting every Friday afternoon and someone came to talk to them about important things. After that, they had tea and asked questions.

One Friday, a gentleman came and talked to the club about food. 'There is not enough food in the world for everybody,' he said. 'More than half the people in the world are hungry. And when they get more food, they have more babies, so they never stop being hungry. Somewhere in the world, a woman is having a baby every minute, day and night. What are we going to do about it?' He waited for a few seconds before he continued, but before he began to speak again, one of the ladies said, 'Well, why don't we find that woman and *stop* her?'

What happened every Friday afternoon ?

What happened at the meeting ?

What happened after that ?

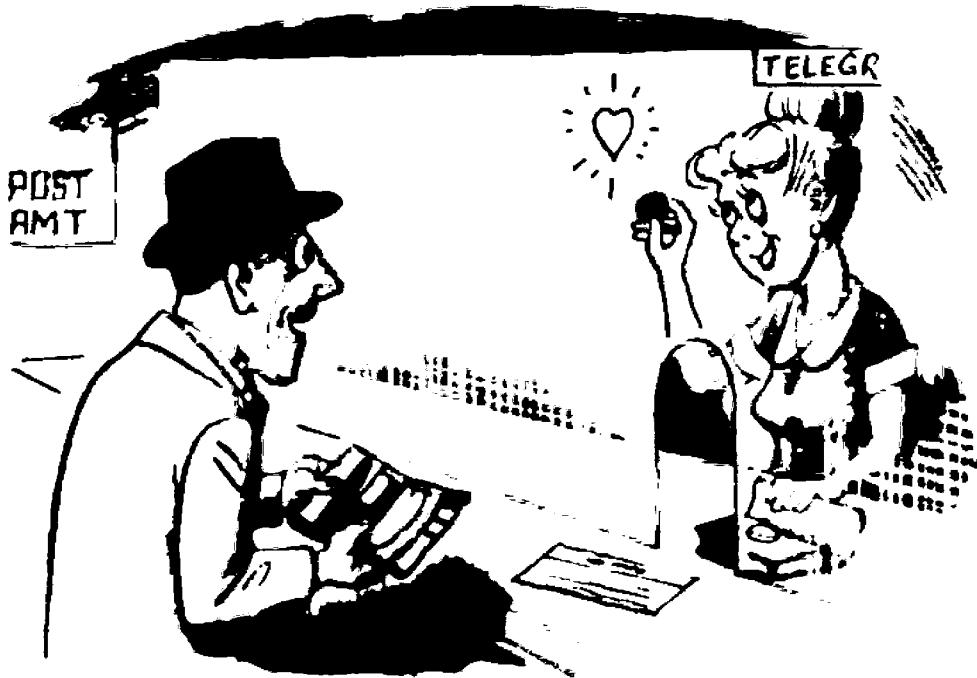
What happened one Friday ?

What did the man say ?

What question did he ask ?

What did he do then ?

What did one of the ladies say ?



48

A man had some work to do in Switzerland, so he said good-bye to his wife at the airport, got into an aeroplane and left. After ten days, his work in Switzerland was finished, so he bought a ticket for his journey back home, and then went to the post-office to send a telegram to his wife. He wrote the telegram, gave it to the clerk and said, 'How much will this cost?'

She told him, and he counted his Swiss money. He had not got quite enough.

'Take the word "love" off my telegram,' he said, 'and then I will have enough money to pay for it.'

'No,' the girl said. She opened her handbag, took the money for the word 'love' out of it and said, 'For the word "love", I will pay the money. Wives need that word from their husbands.'

Why did the man in this story go to Switzerland ?

What did he do at the airport ?

What happened after ten days ?

What did he do then ?

Why did he go to the post-office ?

What did he do there ?

What did he say to the clerk ?

What did she do ?

What did the man do then ?

Had he got enough money ?

What did he say then ?

What did the girl say ?

What did she do ?

What did she say then ?



49

Mrs Jones's telephone number was 3463, and the number of the cinema in her town was 3464, so people often made a mistake and telephoned her when they wanted the cinema.

One evening the telephone bell rang and Mrs Jones answered it. A tired man said, 'At what time does your last film begin?'

'I am sorry,' said Mrs Jones, 'but you have the wrong number. This is not the cinema.'

'Oh, it began twenty minutes ago?' said the man. 'I am sorry about that. Goodbye.'

Mrs Jones was very surprised, so she told her husband. He laughed and said, 'The man's wife wanted to go to the cinema, but he was feeling tired, so he telephoned the cinema. His wife heard him, but she didn't hear *you*. Now they will stay at home this evening, and the husband will be happy!'

**What did people often do in
this story ?**

Why did they do this ?

What happened one evening ?

What did Mrs Jones do ?

**Who spoke to her on the
telephone ?**

What did he say ?

What did Mrs Jones answer ?

What did the man say then ?

How did Mrs Jones feel ?

What did she do ?

What did her husband do ?

What did he say ?



50

It was a few days before Christmas, so when the office closed at half past five, most of the young men and typists stayed and had a party. They ate and drank, danced and sang songs, and nobody wanted to go home. But Joe had a wife at home, and lived quite a long way from the city. Every few minutes he looked at his watch, and at last, when it was very late, he began to leave.

'Joe!' shouted his friends. 'Are you leaving? Why don't you stay and enjoy the party?'

'I am not leaving,' said Joe. 'I am only going down to the station to miss the last train back home. I will be back here in a few minutes.'

When did this story happen ?

**What happened at half past
five ?**

What happened after that ?

What did the people do ?

What did they not want to do ?

Where did Joe live ?

What did he have at home ?

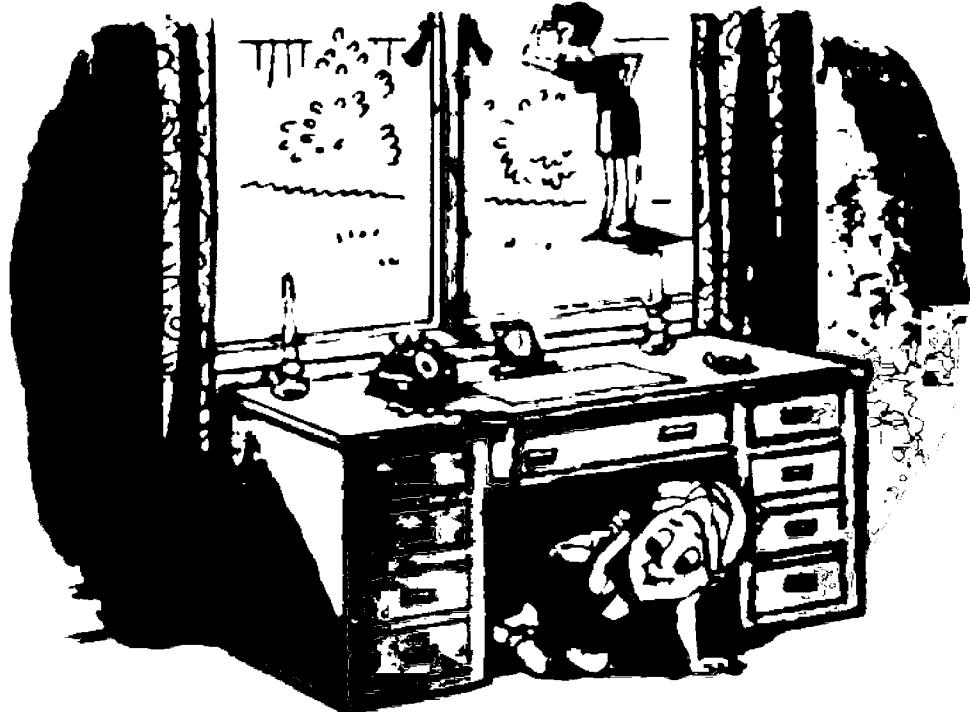
**What did he do every few
minutes ?**

What did he do at last ?

When did he do this ?

What did his friends shout ?

What was Joe's answer ?



51

Mr Jones and Mr Brown worked in the same office. One day Mr Jones said to Mr Brown, 'We are going to have a small party at our house next Wednesday evening. Will you and your wife come?'

Mr Brown said, 'Thank you very much. That is very kind of you. We are free that evening, I think, but I will telephone my wife and ask her. Perhaps she wants to go somewhere that evening.' So Mr Brown went to the other room and telephoned. When he came back, he looked very surprised.

'What is the matter?' said Mr Jones. 'Did you speak to your wife?'

'No,' answered Mr Brown. 'She wasn't there. My small son answered the telephone. I said to him, "Is your mother there, David?" and he answered, "No, she is not in the house". "Where is she then?" I asked. "She is somewhere outside". "What is she doing?" "She is looking for me".'

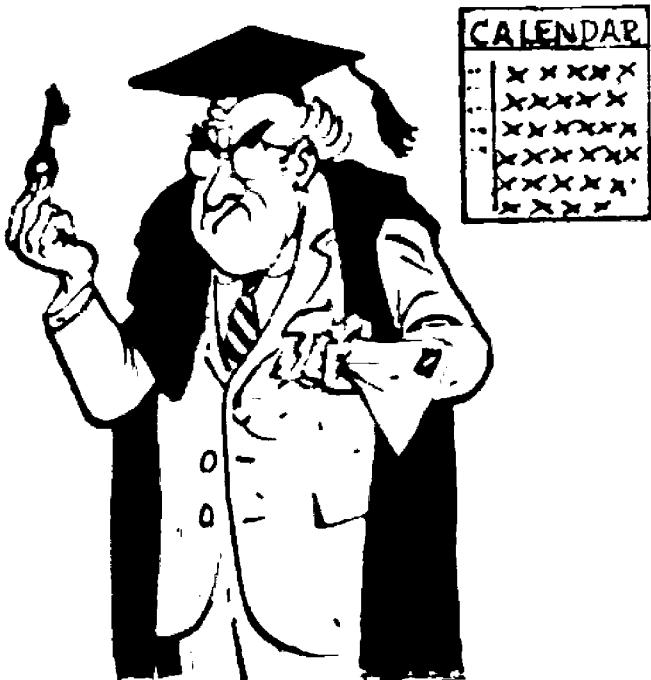
**Where did Mr Jones and
Mr Brown work ?**

**What did Mr Jones say to
Mr Brown one day ?**

What did Mr Brown answer ?

**What did he do then ?
How did he look when he came
back ?**

**What did Mr Jones say to him ?
What was Mr Brown's answer ?**



52

When you have a post-office box, the postman does not bring letters to you, but *you* go to the post-office and get your letters and parcels from your box. The box is locked, and you have the key, so the letters are quite safe.

One day, the headmaster of a school wrote to the post-office and asked for a post-office box for his school. He soon got an answer. It said, 'We will give you a post-box in one month.'

Three months later, the headmaster wrote to the post-office again and said, 'Why haven't we got a post-office box yet?'

This was the answer from the post-office:

'Dear Sir,

We gave you a post-office box two months ago and wrote to you then to tell you. Here is the key to your box. You will find our letter to you in it.'

**What happens when you have
a post-office box ?**

**Why are the letters safe when
they are in a post-office
box ?**

What happened one day ?

What happened then ?

What was the answer ?

**What happened three months
later ?**

**What was the answer from the
post-office ?**



53

One night there was a heavy snowstorm, and in the morning Mr Smith's garden was full of deep snow. Mr Smith wanted to take his car out, so he paid a man to clean the path from his garage to his gate. He said to this man, 'Don't throw any snow on that side, because it will damage the bushes in my garden; and don't throw any on the other side, because it will break my fence. And don't throw any into the street, or the police will be angry.' Then Mr Smith went out.

When he came back, the path was clean and the snow from it was not on the bushes, or the fence, or the street. Mr Smith was very pleased—until he opened the garage to get his car out! The garage was full to the top with all the snow from the path, and his car was somewhere under it all!

What happened one night ?

**What was Mr Smith's garden
like in the morning ?**

What did he do then ?

Why did he do this ?

What did he say to the man ?

What did he do then ?

**What did he see when he came
back ?**

How did he feel ?

**For how long did he feel like
this ?**

What was the garage like ?

Where was the car ?



54

At the beginning of the First World War, John Robinson was a soldier in the army. He went to France with a lot of other soldiers, and lived in a cold, wet, muddy camp. The rain came into his tent, there was mud and water on the floor, and the food was not good.

Then he became an officer and went to work in the army in Paris. He lived very pleasantly there in a warm house, had very good food, and enjoyed himself.

After some months, he met one of his old friends from the camp.

'You made a big mistake when you left our camp,' said this friend.

'Oh?' said John Robinson. 'Why?'

'Well,' said the soldier, 'the week after you left, they put wood floors in our tents!'

When did this story happen ?

What was John Robinson ?

Where did he go ?

Whom did he go with ?

Where did he live ?

What was the camp like ?

What was John's tent like ?

How was the food at the camp ?

What happened then ?

Where did he go ?

How did he live there ?

Where did he live ?

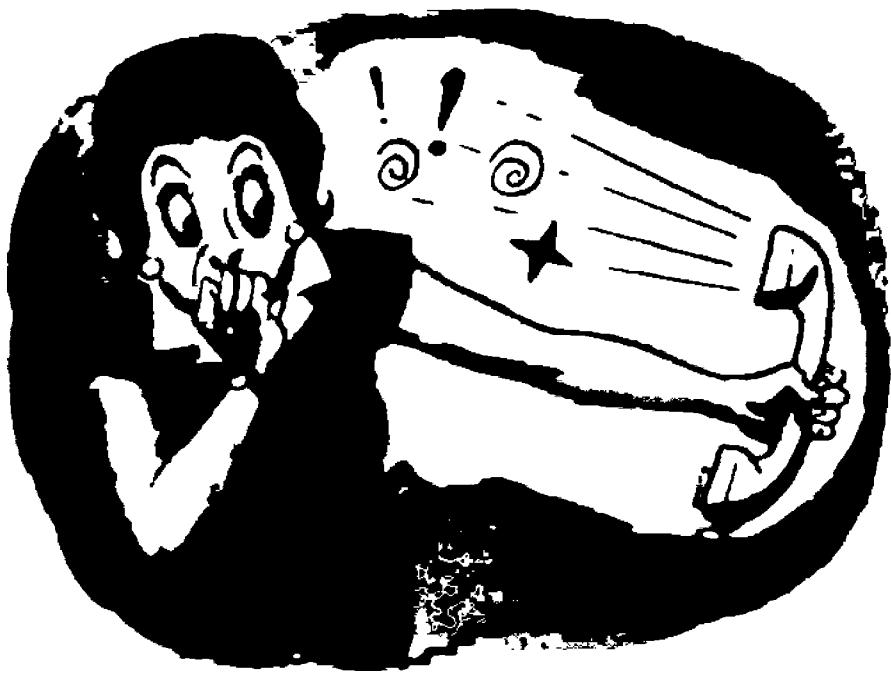
How did he like it ?

**What happened after some
months ?**

What did his friend say ?

**What did John Robinson
answer ?**

What did his friend say then ?



55

Mr Andrews had a new telephone number. Before he got it, it was the number of a shop. The shop now had a new number, but a lot of women did not know this, so they still telephoned the old one.

At first, Mr and Mrs Andrews always said, 'We are sorry. You have the wrong number. The shop has a new one now.'

But women still continued to telephone them to ask for things, so after some time, Mr and Mrs Andrews began to answer them like this:

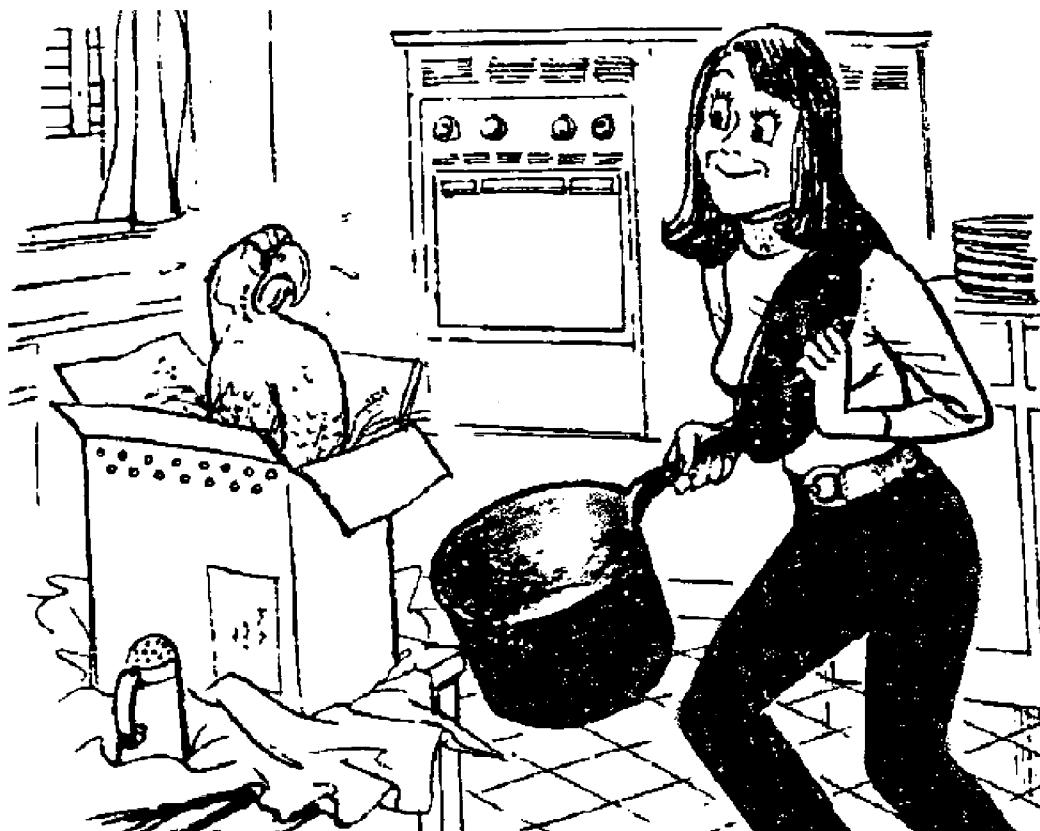
'Good morning, madam. What do you want us to send you today?' They thought, 'Perhaps they will stop telephoning us when they don't get their things. But this did not help Mr and Mrs Andrews, because now women began to telephone them more and more, and say angrily, 'Where are my things? They have not come yet! Why haven't you sent them yet?'

**What did Mr Andrews have ?
What was it before he got it ?
What happened then ?
Why did it happen ?
What did Mr and Mrs
Andrews always do at first ?
What happened after that ?**

**What did Mr and Mrs Andrews
do after some time ?
Why did they do this ?
Did this help Mr and Mrs
Andrews ?
Why ?**

Level 2B

1



Jack was a young sailor. He lived in England, but he was often away with his ship.

One summer he came back from a long voyage and found new neighbours near his mother's house. They had a pretty daughter, and Jack soon loved her very much.

He said to her, 'My next voyage will begin in a few days' time, Gloria. I love you, and I'll marry you when I come back. I'll think about you all the time, and I'll write to you and send you a present from every port.'

Jack's first port was Freetown in Africa, and he sent Gloria a parrot from there. It spoke five languages.

When Jack's ship reached Australia, there was a letter from Gloria. It said, 'Thank you for the parrot, Jack. It tasted much better than a chicken.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Jack make long voyages?
2. Where did Gloria live?
3. Why did Jack think about Gloria all the time?
4. Where did Jack send Gloria the parrot from?
5. Where did Jack get Gloria's letter about the parrot?
6. What did Gloria do to the parrot?

B. Which words in the story on page 4 mean the opposite of:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. short | 4. old | 7. worse |
| 2. last | 3. little | |
| 3. ugly | 6. winter | |

C. Write this story. Put one word in each empty place. You will find all the correct words in the story on page 4.

Freetown is a in West Africa. Jack and another from his ship went into a shop there and saw a beautiful bird. It was a red and grey and it 'Hullo,' to them. Jack said to his friend, 'I'm going it to Gloria. She's the daughter of my mother's It will be a nice for her.' Then Jack and his friend a restaurant and ate and fried potatoes there. They very good.

2



Fanny and Ethel worked in the same office, and, they were neighbours at home. Fanny was rather a careless girl, and he often lost things. Then she usually went to Ethel to borrow more from her.

Ethel was a kind girl, but she sometimes got tired of lending things to her friend.

One Saturday afternoon Fanny knocked at Ethel's front door, and when Ethel came to open it, Fanny said to her, 'Oh, hullo, Ethel. Please lend me a bag. I've lost mine. I'm going to the shops, and I feel very stupid when I haven't got anything in my hand when I go out in the street.'

Ethel laughed and answered, 'Well, Fanny, go down to the end of the garden. You'll find a nice wheelbarrow in the shed there. Take that when you go down to the shops. Then you'll have something in *both* of your hands.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Fanny often lose things?
2. Why did Ethel lend things to Fanny?
3. Why didn't Fanny want to go to the shops without a bag?
4. Why didn't Ethel lend her a bag?
5. What did she want Fanny to take to the shops?
6. Did Fanny take it, do you think?

B. Which of these sentences are true? Write the correct ones down.

1. Ethel often borrowed things.
2. Fanny often borrowed things.
3. Ethel often lent things to Fanny.
4. Fanny often lent things to Ethel.
5. One day Ethel lost her bag.
6. One day Fanny lost her bag.
7. Fanny liked carrying something in her hand.
8. Fanny did not like carrying things.
9. There was a shed at the end of Ethel's garden.
10. There was a shed at the end of Fanny's garden.

C. Write this story, but do not put pictures: put words.

Ethel's house is in a small  . It has a small  at the back, and there is a  in it. Ethel keeps her  there. Ethel is a clever  . She works in a  . This is Ethel. She is at the  of her house, and she's got a  in her left  , because she is going to the  .

3



Dave married, and when his new wife saw the clothes in his cupboard, she said, 'Dave, you have only got one good shirt. The others are very old, and they've got holes in them. I'm going to buy you a new one this afternoon.'

Dave liked his old shirts, but he loved his wife too, so he said, 'All right, Beryl, but please don't throw any of the old ones away.'

Dave went to work, and when he came back in the evening, Beryl said to him, 'Look, Dave, I've bought you a nice shirt. Here it is. Put it on.'

Dave put the shirt on, and then he said, 'Look at the sleeves, Beryl. They're too long.'

'That's all right,' Beryl answered. 'They'll get shorter when I wash the shirt.'

Then Dave said, 'But the neck's too small.'

'That's all right,' Beryl answered. 'It'll get bigger when you wear the shirt, Dave.'

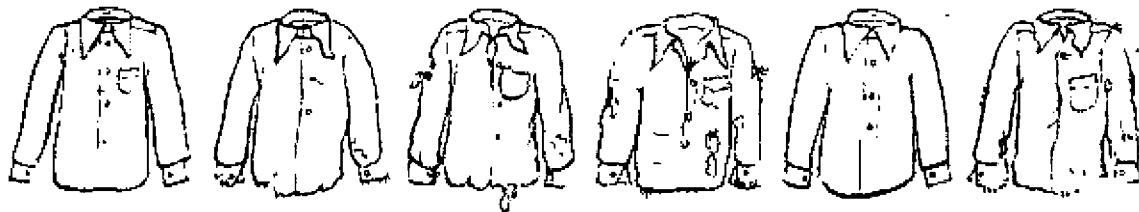
A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Beryl want to buy Dave a new shirt?
2. Why didn't Dave want his wife to throw any of his old shirts away?
3. Why didn't Dave like the sleeves of his new shirt?
4. What did Beryl say about the sleeves?
5. Why didn't Dave like the collar of the shirt?
6. What did Beryl say about the collar?

B. *Opposites*. Write these sentences. Put one word in each empty place.

1. New clothes do not have holes in them, but . . . ones sometimes do.
2. Sleeves don't get . . . when you wash them. They get shorter.
3. Good shirts are not cheap. They are
4. The neck of Dave's shirt wasn't too big. It was too
5. Dave loved his old shirts, but he . . . his new one.

C. Choose the right sentence for each picture and write it down.



1. a. None of these shirts has got holes in it.
b. Some of these shirts have got holes in them.
c. All of these shirts have got holes in them.
2. a. The sleeves are too long,
and the collar is too small.
b. The sleeves are too short,
and the collar is too small.
c. The sleeves are too short,
and the collar is too big.
d. The sleeves are too long,
and the collar is too big.





Mrs. Williams lived in a small street in London, and now she had a new neighbour. Her name was Mrs. Briggs, and she talked a lot about her expensive furniture, her beautiful carpets and her new kitchen.

'Do you know,' she said to Mrs. Williams one day, 'I've got a new dishwasher. It washes the plates and glasses and knives and forks beautifully.'

'Oh?' Mrs. Williams answered. 'And does it dry them and put them in the cupboard too?'

Mrs. Briggs was surprised. 'Well,' she answered, 'the things in the machine are dry after an hour, but it doesn't put them away, of course.'

'I've had a dishwasher for twelve and a half years,' Mrs. Williams said.

'Oh?' Mrs. Briggs answered. 'And does *yours* put the things in the cupboard when it has washed them?' She laughed nastily.

'Yes, he does,' Mrs. Williams answered. 'He dries the dishes and puts them away.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Where did Mrs. Briggs live?
2. Why was Mrs. Briggs surprised?
3. Did Mrs. Briggs's dishwasher dry the plates and other things?
4. Did it put them away?
5. Did Mrs. Williams's dishwasher put the things in the cupboard?
6. Who was Mrs. Williams's dishwasher?

B. Write these sentences. Put one of these words in each empty place:

an *any* *no* *none* *some*

1. Mrs. Briggs was rich, but Mrs. Williams was not. Mrs. Briggs had . . . beautiful carpets, but Mrs. Williams didn't have
2. Mrs. Briggs had . . . expensive furniture, but Mrs. Williams had
3. Mrs. Briggs had . . . expensive dishwasher, but Mrs. Williams did not have . . . machines in her kitchen.
4. Mrs. Briggs had . . . nice roses in her garden, but Mrs. Williams had . . . flowers in hers.
5. Mrs. Briggs had . . . big trees in her garden too, but Mrs. Williams had

C. Write this story. Put one of these words in each empty place:

he *him* *his* *her* *it* *its* *she*

Mrs. Williams had a good baby: . . . never cried, and . . . clothes were always clean. Mrs. Briggs was very surprised and said, 'When my daughter was small, I gave . . . lots of food, but . . . cried a lot, and . . . clothes were always dirty. Why is your baby so different? How do you do . . . ?'

'Well,' answered Mrs. Williams, 'my first child was a boy. I always gave . . . a lot of food, . . . got very fat, and . . . stomach was always full. He cried a lot and was dirty. Now I give my new baby much less, and . . . is happy and clean.'

5



One day a man went to see his doctor and said to him, 'I've swallowed a horse, doctor, and I feel very ill.'

The doctor thought for a few seconds and then said, 'All right, Mr. Lloyd, I'll help you. Please lie down on this bed.'

The doctor's nurse gave the man an injection, the man went to sleep, and the doctor went out quickly to look for a horse in the town.

After half an hour he found one, borrowed it and took it into his office, so when Mr. Lloyd woke up, it was there in front of him.

'Here's the horse, Mr. Lloyd,' the doctor said. 'I've taken it out of your stomach, and it won't give you any more trouble now.'

At first Mr. Lloyd was happy, but then he looked at the horse again and said, 'But, doctor, my horse was white, and this one's brown!'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Did the doctor think, "This man has really swallowed a horse"?
2. Why did the nurse give the man an injection?
3. What did the doctor do when he went out?
4. What did Mr. Lloyd see when he woke up?
5. Why was Mr. Lloyd not happy when he looked at the horse more carefully?

B. Which words in the story on page 12 mean:

- | | | |
|------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. sick | 3. visit | 5. discovered |
| 2. pleased | 4. fast | |

C. Put the number of the correct sentence under the correct picture.



1. The nurse gave Mr. Lloyd an injection.
2. The doctor went out into the street.
3. Mr. Lloyd said, 'I feel very ill.'
4. Mr. Lloyd woke up.
5. Mr. Lloyd came into the doctor's office.
6. Mr. Lloyd went to sleep.

6



A history teacher was talking to his class about the ancient Romans.

'They were very strong, brave people, and they were good soldiers,' he said.

'They always wanted to have strong bodies, so they played a lot of games.'

'Did they like swimming?' one of the girls asked. 'That makes people's bodies strong.' She was very good at swimming.

'Oh, yes, some of them swam a lot,' the teacher answered. Then he told them a story about one famous Roman.

'There was a big, wide river in the middle of Rome,' he said. 'It was the Tiber, and this man swam across it three times every day before breakfast.'

The girl laughed when she heard this.

'Why are you laughing?' the teacher asked her angrily. 'Have I said anything funny?'

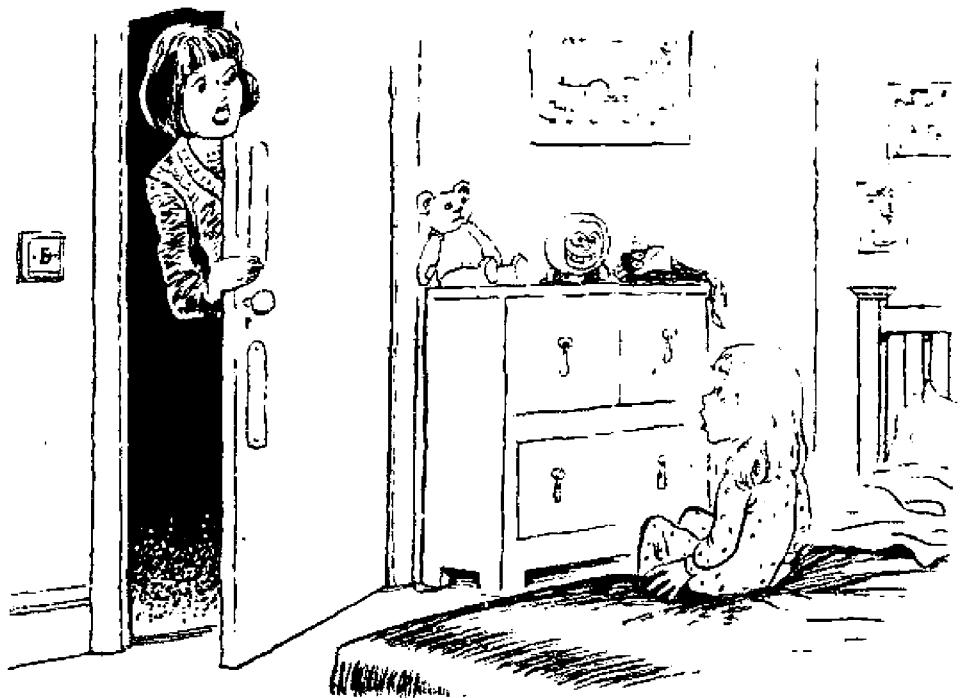
'Well, sir,' the girl answered, 'Why didn't he swim across the river four times, to get back to his clothes again?'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did the ancient Romans play a lot of games?
2. Why was one of the girls interested in swimming?
3. Who swam across the Tiber before breakfast?
4. Why was the teacher angry?
5. Why did the girl laugh?

B. Which of the answers to these questions are right? Write the correct ones.

1. What did the teacher in this story teach?
 - a. Swimming.
 - b. Games.
 - c. History.
2. When the teacher said, 'Some of them swam a lot', who was he talking about?
 - a. The Romans.
 - b. The girls in his class.
 - c. Strong people.
3. Why did the girl laugh?
 - a. Because the Roman swam before breakfast.
 - b. Because the Roman did not finish swimming near his clothes.
 - c. Because the teacher was angry.



Betty Brown was five years old, and her mother wanted her to begin going to school, because she wanted to start working in an office again.

A month before the beginning of the school year Mrs. Brown began telling Betty about school. 'It's very nice,' she said. 'You'll play games and paint pictures and sing songs.'

Mrs. Brown began doing these things with Betty. Betty liked the games and the painting and the singing very much, but she always wanted to be near her mother, so Mrs. Brown was rather afraid and thought, 'What will she do when I leave her at school?'

But on the first day at school Betty was very good. She did not cry, and she was happy.

On the second morning Mrs. Brown said, 'Put your clothes on, Betty. I'm going to take you to school in half an hour's time.'

'School?' Betty said. 'But I've *been* to school!'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Mrs. Brown want to send her daughter to school?
2. What did Mrs. Brown do to make Betty like school?
3. Why was Mrs. Brown afraid?
4. Did Betty like school when she went there?
5. Why was Betty surprised when her mother said, 'I'm going to take you to school in half an hour's time on the second morning?
(Because she thought, '...')

B. What words in the story on page 16 mean the opposite of:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. nasty | 4. young | 7. far from |
| 2. bad | 3. after | |
| 3. sad | 6. little | |

C. Write this story. Put one of these words in each empty place:

do does doing make makes making

Our children don't ... much homework, but they ... a lot of work in school. My son George likes ... furniture and things like that more than ... lessons. He sometimes ... nice chairs out of old boxes in his class. He and his friends ... a lot of noise while they are working, of course.

George is good at sport: he ... the high jump very well. Such sport ... children a lot of good, I think. Don't you?



One morning Mrs. Perry said to her husband, 'Jack, there's a meeting of our ladies' club at Mrs. Young's house at lunch time today, and I want to go to it. I'll leave you some food for your lunch. Is that all right?'

'Oh, yes,' her husband answered, 'that's quite all right. What are you going to leave for my lunch?'

'This tin of fish,' Mrs. Perry said. 'And there are some cold, boiled potatoes and some beans here, too.'

'Good,' Mr. Perry answered. 'I'll have a good lunch.'

So Mrs. Perry went to her meeting. All the ladies had lunch at Mrs. Young's house, and at three o'clock Mrs. Perry came home.

'Was your fish nice, Jack?' she asked.

'Yes, but my feet are hurting,' he answered.

'Why are they hurting?' Mrs. Perry asked.

'Well, the words on the tin were, "Open tin and stand in hot water for five minutes".'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why didn't Mrs. Perry want to cook her husband's lunch?
2. What did she leave him for his lunch?
3. Did Mr. Perry enjoy his lunch?
4. What was the matter with his feet?
5. What mistake did Mr. Perry make when he read the words on the tin?

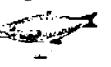
B. Which of these sentences are true? Write the correct ones down.

1. Mrs. Perry wanted to belong to a ladies' club.
2. Mrs. Perry belonged to a ladies' club.
3. Mrs. Perry did not cook her husband's lunch that day.
4. Mrs. Perry cooked the lunch for her husband that day.
5. Mrs. Perry had lunch with several ladies.
6. Mrs. Perry had lunch with Mrs. Young only.
7. Mr. Perry didn't like his lunch.
8. Mr. Perry liked his lunch.
9. Mr. Perry put the tin of fish in hot water.
10. Mr. Perry put his feet in hot water.

C. Write this story, but do not put pictures: put words.

Some  are in the kitchen of a big .

They are making lunch for a  of their club. One

lady has got some big , of . Another is

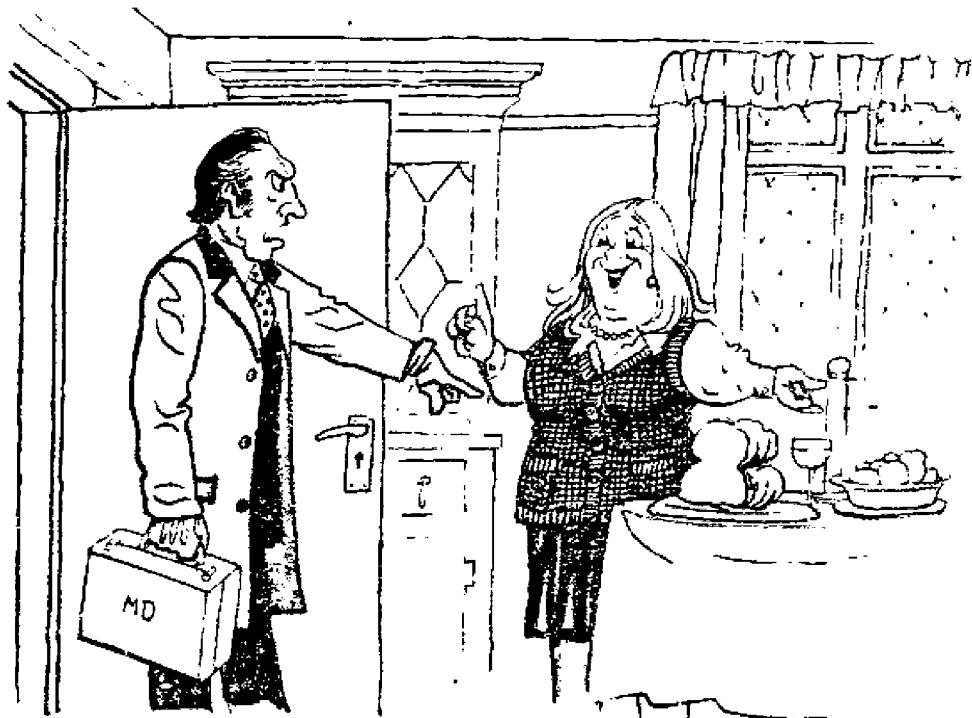
putting some  in , and the third is

cutting some  into pieces. The ladies of the club

like nice  . What is *that* lady doing? Oh, she is sitting

down, because her  are tired.

9



Miss Green was very fat. She weighed 100 kilos, and she was getting heavier every month, so she went to see her doctor.

He said, 'You need a diet, Miss Green, and I've got a good one here.' He gave her a small book and said, 'Read this carefully and eat the things on page 11 every day. Then come back and see me in two weeks' time.'

Miss Green came again two weeks later, but she wasn't thinner: she was fatter. The doctor was surprised and said, 'Are you eating the things on page 11 of the small book?'

'Yes, doctor,' she answered.

The next day the doctor visited Miss Green during her dinner. She was very surprised to see him.

'Miss Green,' he said, 'Why are you eating potatoes and bread? They aren't in your diet.'

'But, doctor,' Miss Green answered, 'I ate my diet at lunch time. This is my dinner.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Miss Green go to see her doctor?
2. How did the doctor try to help her?
3. Did she get thinner?
4. Did she eat the things on page 11 of the book?
5. Why didn't she get thinner?

10



Rose left school when she was seventeen years old and went to a college for a year to learn to type. She passed her examinations quite well and then went to look for work. She was still living with her parents.

A lot of people were looking for typists at that time, so it was not difficult to find interesting work. Rose went to several offices, and then chose one of them. It was near her parents' house. She thought, 'I'll walk there every morning. I won't need to go by bus.'

She went to the office again and said to the manager, 'I want to work here, but what will you pay me?'

'We'll pay you £27 now,' the manager answered, 'and £30 after three months.'

Rose thought for a few seconds before she answered. Then she said, 'All right, then I'll start in three months' time.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why was it easy to find interesting work?
2. Why did Rose want to work in an office near her parents' house?

3. Why did Rose go to one office again?
4. Whom did she talk to there?
5. Why did she want to start working there in three months' time?

B. Put one, two or three words in each of the empty places in these sentences:

1. Rose 60%

Sally 70%

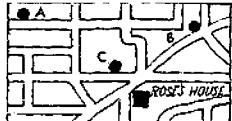
Judy 90%

Rose passed her examinations well. Sally passed them . . . ; and Judy passed them

$$2. \begin{array}{r} 73456 \\ \times 38 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad 1432^2 \times 245^2 \quad \frac{\sqrt[3]{543}}{\sqrt{126}}$$

The sum on the left is difficult. The one in the middle is

The one on the right is

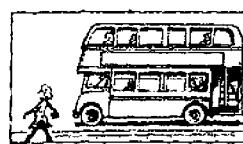
- 3.
- 
- Office A is quite near Rose's house, but Office B is . . . , and Office C is

C. Choose the right sentence for each picture. Write it down.

1. a. Rose is working in an office.
 b. Rose is studying in her college.
 c. Rose is doing an examination.



2. a. Rose is getting on a bus.
 b. Rose is getting off a bus.
 c. Rose is going past a bus.



3. a. Rose is talking to the manager.
 b. Rose is typing a letter for the manager.
 c. Rose is giving the manager a letter.



11



Mr. Day was a teacher at a school in a big city in the north of England. He usually went to France or Germany for a few weeks during his summer holidays, and he spoke French and German quite well.

But one year Mr. Day said to one of his friends, 'I'm going to have a holiday in Athens. But I don't speak Greek, so I'll go to evening classes and have Greek lessons for a month before I go.'

He studied very hard for a month, and then his holidays began and he went to Greece.

When he came back a few weeks later, his friend said to him, 'Did you have any trouble with your Greek when you were in Athens, Dick?'

'No, I didn't have any trouble with it,' answered Mr. Day. 'But the Greeks did!'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Where did Mr. Day usually spend some time during his holidays?
2. Why did he want to have Greek lessons?
3. Where did he go to learn Greek?
4. How long did he stay in Greece?
5. How much did his Greek help him while he was in Greece?

B. Which of the answers to these questions are right? Write them down.

1. Why did Mr. Day have Greek lessons?
 - a. Because he liked evening classes.
 - b. Because he wanted to visit Greece.
 - c. Because he did not like French and German.
2. How long did Mr. Day stay in Greece?
 - a. A month.
 - b. A few weeks.
 - c. One year.
3. What did the Greeks have trouble with?
 - a. Mr. Day's Greek.
 - b. Mr. Day's friend.
 - c. Mr. Day's holiday.

12



Mr. Pearce liked shooting ducks very much. Whenever he had a free day, he went out shooting with his friends.

But one summer he said to himself, 'I've never been to the mountains. My holidays are going to begin soon, so I'm going to go to the mountains and shoot deer. They're more interesting than ducks, I think.'

So when his holidays began, Mr. Pearce went to the station, bought his ticket and was soon in the mountains.

He got out at a small station and walked through fields and forests for a few kilometres. Then he saw a farmer in a field. 'Good morning,' Mr. Pearce said to him. 'Are there any deer here?'

'Well,' answered the farmer slowly, 'there was one last year, but all the gentlemen from the town came and shot at it, and it's gone somewhere else now, I think.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. What sport did Mr. Pearce enjoy most?
2. Why did he want to go to the mountains?
3. How did he go to the mountains?
4. Whom did he speak to there?
5. Why did the deer go away from that place?

B. *Opposites.* Write these sentences. Put one word in each empty place.

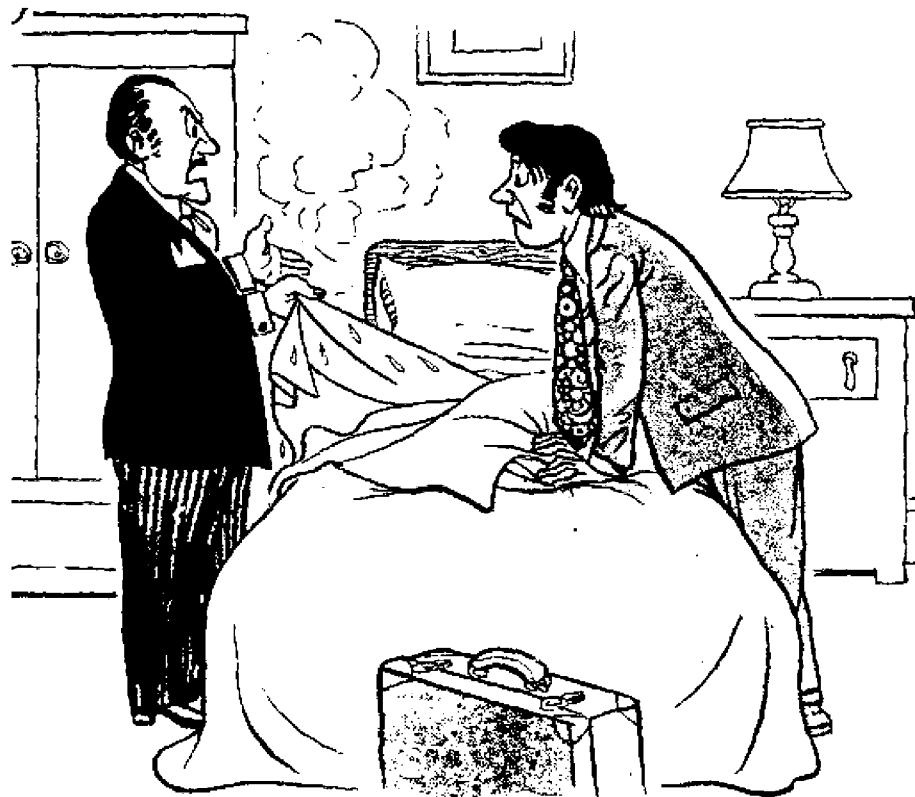
1. Mr. Pearce wasn't free last week. He was very
2. His holidays began on the 15th of June, and they on the 29th.
3. The farmer did not speak he spoke slowly.
4. When the gentlemen from the town shot at the deer, they never hit it: they always it.
5. Mr. Pearce has often shot ducks, but he has shot a deer.

C. Put the number of the correct sentence under the correct picture.



1. Mr. Pearce got into a train.
2. 'The deer has gone away.'
3. Mr. Pearce met a farmer.
4. Mr. Pearce often shot ducks.
5. Mr. Pearce was in the mountains now.
6. Mr. Pearce got out again.

13



Mr. Leonard was twenty-three years old and not very rich. He was not married and he lived in two rooms in a small house in a city.

Every summer, Mr. Leonard went down to the sea for a holiday. He stayed in small, cheap hotels, but he always wanted to have a clean, tidy room. He hated dirty places.

One summer a friend of his said, 'Go to the Tower Hotel in Whitesea. I went there last year, and it was very nice and clean.'

So Mr. Leonard went to the Tower Hotel in Whitesea. But there was a different manager that year.

The new manager took Mr. Leonard to his room. The room looked quite nice and clean, but Mr. Leonard said to the manager, 'Are the sheets on the bed clean?'

'Yes, of course they are!' he answered angrily. 'We washed them this morning. Feel them. They're still damp.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Mr. Leonard stay in cheap hotels?
2. What kinds of rooms did Mr. Leonard not like?
3. Who gave Mr. Leonard the name of the Tower Hotel?
4. Why was the new manager angry?
5. Where were the damp sheets?

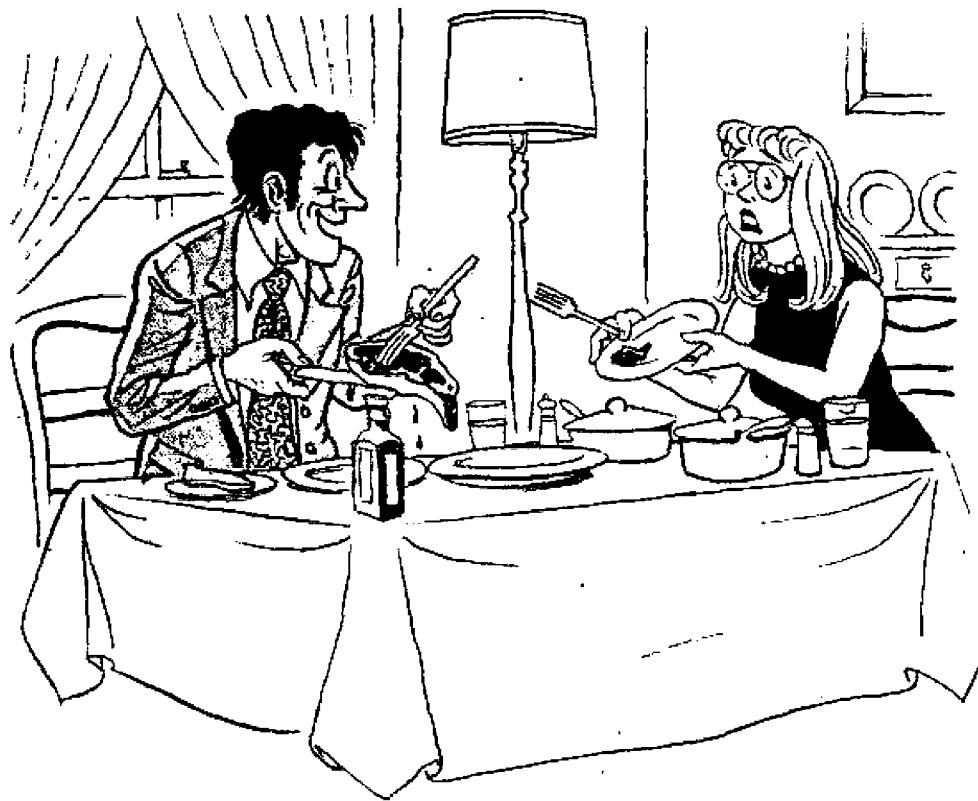
B. Which of these sentences are true? Write them down.

1. Mr. Leonard did not have a wife.
2. Mr. Leonard's wife was quite young.
3. Mr. Leonard went to cheap hotels because they were usually clean.
4. Mr. Leonard went to cheap hotels because he did not have much money.
5. Mr. Leonard's friend liked the Tower Hotel.
6. Mr. Leonard's friend did not like the Tower Hotel much.
7. The sheets on Mr. Leonard's bed were not very clean.
8. The sheets on Mr. Leonard's bed were clean.
9. His sheets were not dry.
10. His sheets were quite dry.

C. Write this story. Put a word in each empty place. You will find all the correct words in the story on page 28.

Mr. Jones went to the sea for a holiday one . . . , and he . . . in a cheap . . . , because he was not a . . . man. At 7 a.m. on the first morning a woman came and said, 'Please get up.' Mr. Jones . . . getting up early, so he said, 'I don't want to yet. I am still . . . tired.' The woman went away, but at 8 a.m. a ... one came and said to Mr. Jones, 'Mr. Jones, please get up. We need the . . . from your bed.' Mr. Jones still . . . to sleep, so he answered . . . , 'Why?' 'Because breakfast is starting,' answered the woman, 'and we need to put them on our tables. They're our table-cloths too.'

14



Two years after Tom and Elizabeth married, they went to live in a small flat in a big city. They were both quite young: Tom was twenty-six and Elizabeth was twenty-two. Tom worked in a bank, and Elizabeth worked in a big office.

Elizabeth always cooked the dinner when they got home, and when they had meat, Tom always cut it up when they sat down to eat.

While Tom was cutting the meat up one evening, Elizabeth said to him, 'When we were first married, Tom, you always gave me the bigger piece of meat when you cut it, and you kept the smaller one for yourself. Now you do the opposite: you give me the smaller piece and keep the bigger one for yourself. Why do you do that? Don't you love me any more?'

Her husband laughed and answered, 'Oh, no, Elizabeth. It isn't that! It's because you've learned to cook now!'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Who cooks in Tom's house?
2. What work does Tom do during meals?
3. What did Tom always do when he and Elizabeth first married?
4. What does he do now?
5. Why has he changed?

B. Which words in the story on page 30 mean:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. arrived | 3. into pieces | 5. made |
| 2. like very much | 4. became husband and wife | |

C. Write this story, but do not put pictures: put words.

This



is near a big



. Hundreds of

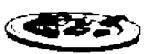
people work in it. They bring



in,



it into small



it, and then put

it in tins. One woman worked here for ten years, and then she



a man from her



One day he

said to her, 'Why do we never



a tin of meat from

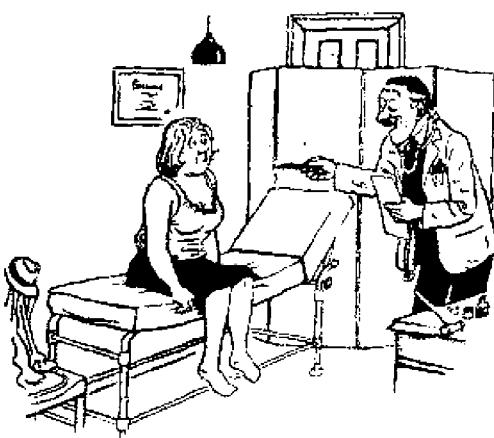
your factory?' She



and answered, 'I see enough

of it while I'm working!'

15



Mrs. Jenkins went to see her doctor one day, because her heart was giving her trouble.

The doctor listened to her heart carefully and did a few other things. Then he said, 'Well, Mrs. Jenkins, stop smoking, and then you'll soon be quite all right again.'

'But doctor,' answered Mrs. Jenkins quickly, 'I've never smoked. I don't like smoking.'

'Oh, well,' said the doctor, 'then don't drink any more alcohol.'

'But I don't drink alcohol,' answered Mrs. Jenkins at once.

'Stop drinking tea and coffee then,' the doctor said to her.

'I only drink water,' answered Mrs. Jenkins. 'I don't like tea or coffee.'

The doctor thought for a few seconds and then said, 'Well, . . . er . . . do you like fried potatoes?'

'Yes, I like them very much,' answered Mrs. Jenkins.

'All right, then stop eating those,' said the doctor as he got up to say goodbye to Mrs. Jenkins.

A. Answer these questions.

1. What was Mrs. Jenkins having trouble with?
2. Why did Mrs. Jenkins not smoke?
3. What did Mrs. Jenkins drink?
4. What did she like eating?
5. What did the doctor want her to do?

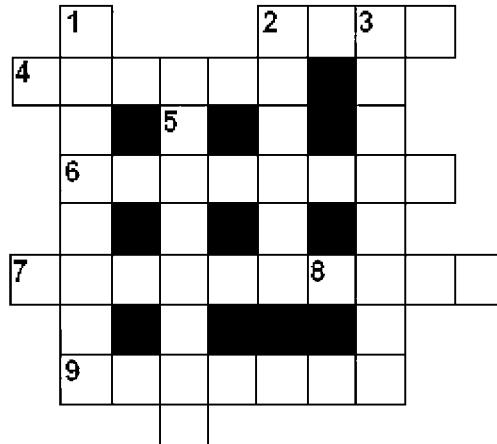
B. Do this puzzle.

Across:

2. The doctor sent Mrs. Jenkins a . . . for £2.
4. Mrs. Jenkins never drank tea or
6. The doctor said, ‘. . . , then stop eating fried potatoes.’ (two words)
7. Not I, not you, and not anyone else.
8. Mrs. Jenkins said, ‘I . . . fried potatoes.’
9. I’ve never smoked. I don’t like

Down:

1. Mrs. Jenkins liked fried . . . very much.

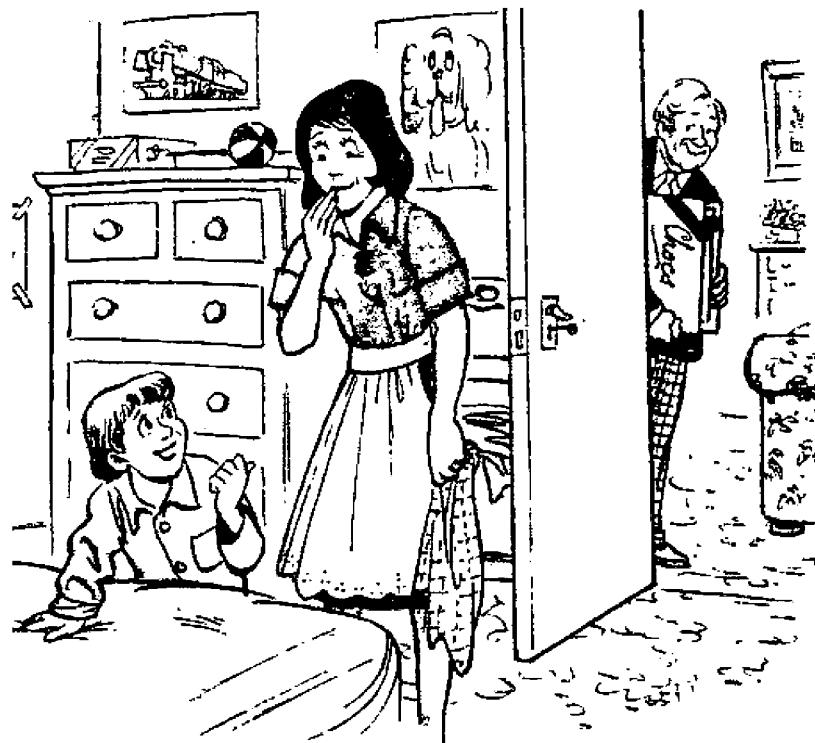


2. This is the opposite of ‘stop’.
3. A man burned his finger while he was . . . a cigarette with a match.
5. Mrs. Jenkins never drank this.

C. Write this story. Choose the correct words (to . . . or -ing):

When Helen finished $\begin{cases} \text{to work} \\ \text{working} \end{cases}$ in Iran, she came back to England $\begin{cases} \text{to work} \\ \text{working} \end{cases}$ in a bank. She wanted a car, so I offered to $\begin{cases} \text{to teach} \\ \text{teaching} \end{cases}$ her $\begin{cases} \text{to drive} \\ \text{driving} \end{cases}$. She enjoyed $\begin{cases} \text{to learn} \\ \text{learning} \end{cases}$ very much, and she learned $\begin{cases} \text{to drive} \\ \text{driving} \end{cases}$ well, very quickly. Of course, she sometimes forgot $\begin{cases} \text{to put} \\ \text{putting} \end{cases}$ her hand out when she wanted $\begin{cases} \text{to turn} \\ \text{turning} \end{cases}$, and she did not always remember $\begin{cases} \text{to get} \\ \text{getting} \end{cases}$ petrol when she needed it, but she soon stopped $\begin{cases} \text{to make} \\ \text{making} \end{cases}$ mistakes, and when she went $\begin{cases} \text{to take} \\ \text{taking} \end{cases}$ her test*, she passed easily.

16



John liked chocolates very much, but his mother never gave him any, because they were bad for his teeth, she thought. But John had a very nice grandfather. The old man loved his grandson very much, and sometimes he brought John chocolates when he came to visit him. Then his mother let him eat them, because she wanted to make the old man happy.

One evening, a few days before John's seventh birthday, he was saying his prayers in his bedroom before he went to bed. 'Please, God,' he shouted, 'make them give me a big box of chocolates for my birthday on Saturday.'

His mother was in the kitchen, but she heard the small boy shouting and went into his bedroom quickly.

'Why are you shouting, John?' she asked her son. 'God can hear you when you talk quietly.'

'I know,' answered the clever boy with a smile, 'but Grandfather's in the next room, and he can't.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why didn't John get any chocolates from his mother?
2. Why did his grandfather give him chocolates?
3. Who did John really mean when he said 'them' while he was saying his prayers?
4. Why did John's mother go into his bedroom quickly?
5. What did John want his grandfather to do on Saturday?

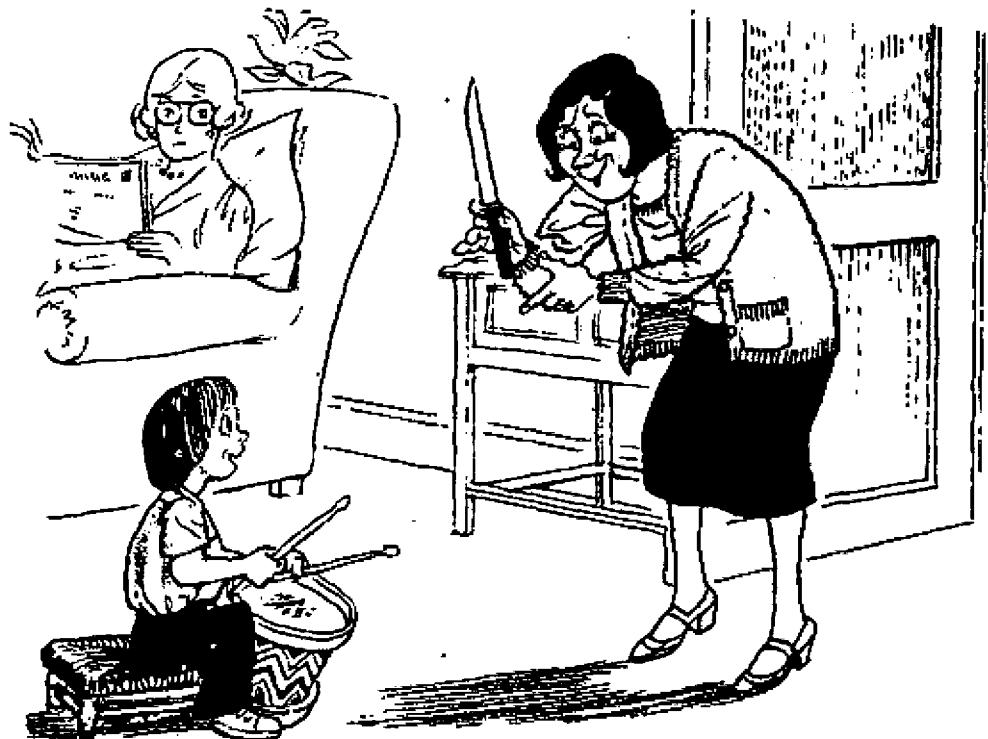
B. *Opposites.* What words in the story on page 34 mean the opposite of:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. good | 4. always | 7. stupid |
| 2. small | 5. hated | |
| 3. loudly | 6. slowly | |

C. Put the number of the correct sentence under the correct picture.



1. John said his prayers.
2. His mother ran into his bedroom.
3. John's mother did not want to spoil his teeth.
4. John's grandfather gave him some chocolates.
5. He shouted loudly.
6. John smiled and said, 'Grandfather can't hear me well.'



It was Jimmy's birthday, and he was five years old. He got quite a lot of nice birthday presents from his family, and one of them was a beautiful big drum.

'Who gave him that thing?' Jimmy's father said when he saw it.

'His grandfather did,' answered Jimmy's mother.

'Oh,' said his father.

Of course, Jimmy liked his drum very much. He made a terrible noise with it, but his mother did not mind. His father was working during the day, and Jimmy was in bed when he got home in the evening, so he did not hear the noise.

But one of the neighbours did not like the noise at all, so one morning a few days later, she took a sharp knife and went to Jimmy's house while he was hitting his drum. She said to him, 'Hello, Jimmy. Do you know, there's something very nice inside your drum. Here's a knife. Open the drum and let's find it.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. When did Jimmy get the drum?
2. Whom did he get it from?
3. Why didn't his father hear it?
4. Why did the neighbour really want Jimmy to cut the drum open?
5. What did she say to Jimmy to make him cut it open?

B. Write these sentences. Put one of these in each empty place:

a lot *a lot of* *many* *much*

'How . . . did Jimmy's drum cost?'

'Oh, it didn't cost . . . ; but his toy horse cost quite'

'How . . . other birthday presents did he get?'

'He got quite . . . nice things.'

'Did he get . . . other toys?'

'Oh, yes, he got quite And he got . . . chocolate, but not . . . sweets.'

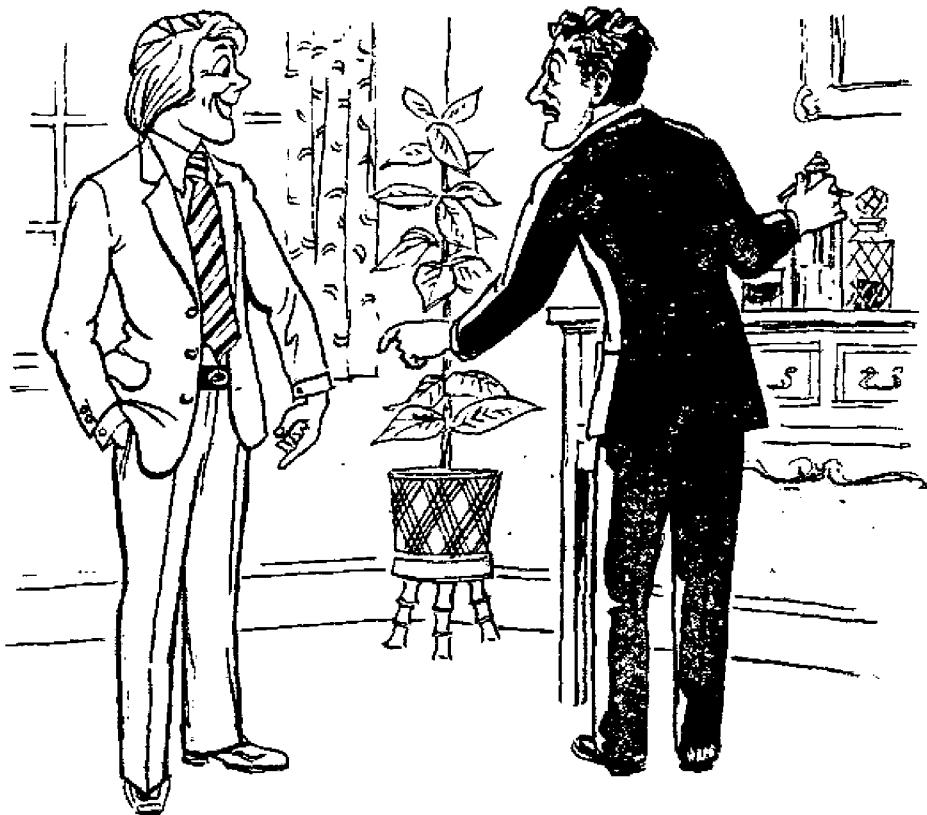
'Did he get . . . chocolate from his parents?'

'No, he didn't get any from them.'

C. Which of the answers to these questions are right? Write the correct ones down:

1. Who gave Jimmy the drum?
 - a. His father.
 - b. His grandfather.
 - c. His mother.
2. Why did Jimmy's father not stop him making a noise with the drum?
 - a. Because he didn't mind.
 - b. Because he wasn't at home then.
 - c. Because Jimmy only played it in the evening.
3. What did Jimmy's neighbour really want him to do?
 - a. To spoil his drum.
 - b. To find something nice in his drum.
 - c. To make a noise on his drum with a knife.

18



When Tom Howard was seventeen years old he was as tall as his father, so he began to borrow Mr. Howard's clothes when he wanted to go out with his friends in the evening.

Mr. Howard did not like this, and he always got very angry when he found his son wearing any of his things.

One evening when Tom came downstairs to go out, his father stopped him in the hall. He looked at Tom's clothes very carefully.

Then he said angrily, 'Isn't that one of my ties, Tom?'

'Yes, Father, it is,' answered Tom.

'And that shirt's mine too, isn't it?' his father continued.

'Yes, that's yours too,' answered Tom.

'And you're wearing my belt!' said Mr. Howard.

'Yes, I am, Father,' answered Tom. 'You don't want your trousers to fall down, do you?'

A. Answer these questions.

1. When did Tom begin to borrow his father's clothes?
2. When did he put them on?
3. What did Tom's father do when he borrowed his clothes?
4. Which of his father's clothes was Tom wearing in this story?

B. *Opposites.* Write these sentences. Put one word in each empty place.

1. Tom was not a . . . boy. He was a tall boy.
2. Mr. Howard was not . . . when Tom borrowed his clothes: he was angry.
3. Mr. Howard did not . . . his clothes to Tom; but Tom borrowed them.
4. Tom didn't borrow his father's oldest clothes. He borrowed his . . . ones.
5. Tom did not want his father's trousers to fall down: he wanted them to . . .

C. Choose the right sentence for each picture. Write it down.

1. a. Joe is as tall as his father.
b. Joe is less tall than his father.
c. Joe is taller than his father.



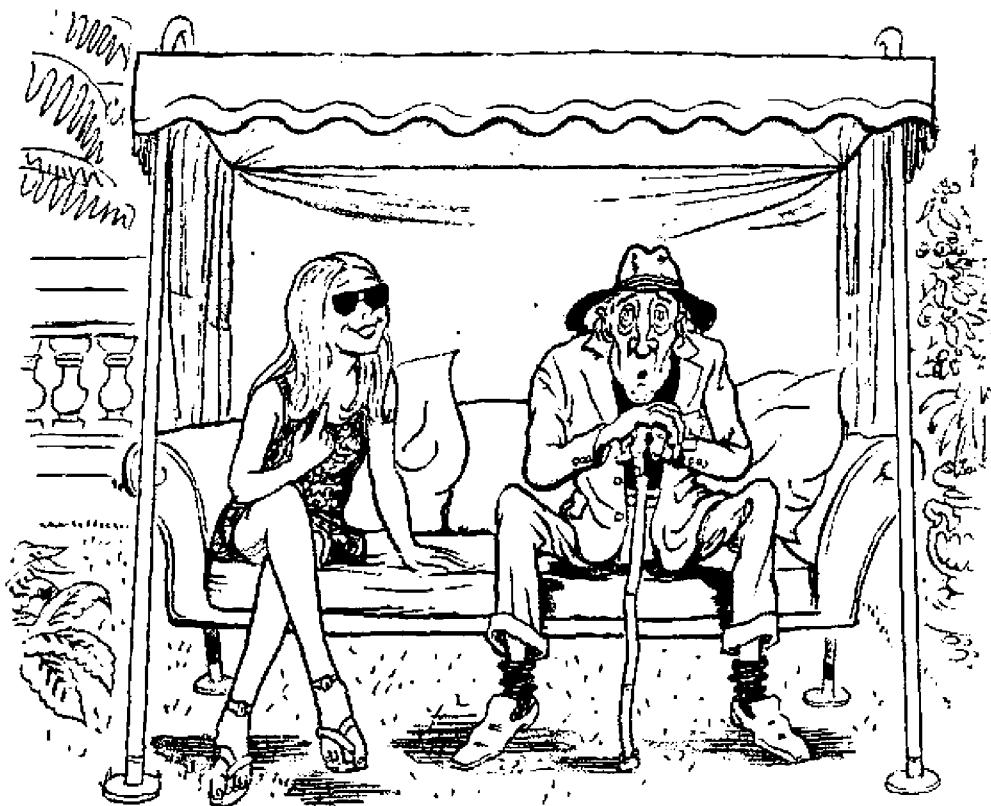
2. a. Tom is going upstairs.
b. Tom is coming upstairs.
c. Tom is coming downstairs.



3. a. Tom is wearing a belt.
b. Tom isn't wearing a belt.
c. Tom's belt has broken.



19



Mr. Yates was nearly ninety, so it was often difficult for him to remember things, but he still liked travelling very much, so he and his wife went to Spain every year. One summer when they were there, they went to visit some friends. These people had two young daughters.

One afternoon Mr. Yates was talking to one of the girls in the garden after lunch. 'You and your sister were ill when my wife and I were here last year, weren't you?' he said to her.

'Yes, we were,' answered the girl. 'We were very ill.'

The old man said nothing for a minute, because he was thinking. Then at last he said, 'Oh, yes, I remember now! One of you died. Which one of you was it, you or your sister?'

The girl answered, 'It was me.'

'Oh? I'm very sorry to hear it,' said the old man.

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Mr. Yates not remember things very well?
2. Where did his friends live?
3. Who were ill when Mr. and Mrs. Yates visited Spain another time?
4. Who really died then?
5. Was the girl having a joke with Mr. Yates?

B. Which words in the story on page 40 mean:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|
| 1. almost | 3. sad | 5. stopped living |
| 2. not forget | 4. hard | |

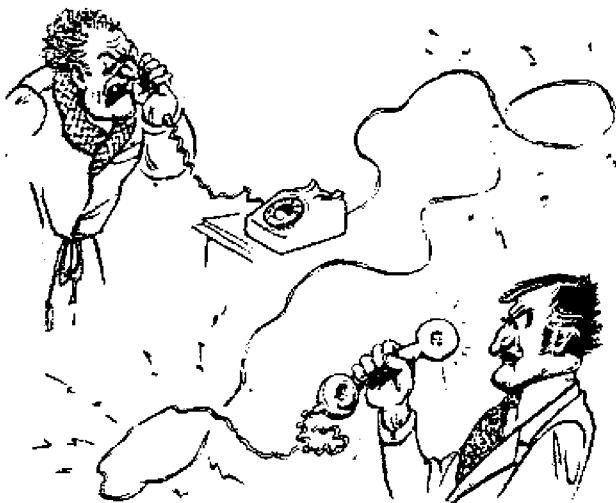
C. Write this story. Put one word in each empty place. You will find all the correct words in the story on page 40.

Mr. and Mrs. Yates lived together for 52 years, and then she became very After a month she . . . , and Mr. Yates was alone. It was . . . for him to live in a big house without anybody else, so he married again. His new . . . was much younger than he was, and she liked . . . to foreign countries, so they began to go to Africa every . . . , in the winter. Mrs. Yates had a younger . . . , and she usually went with them too. Everybody thought, ‘Those girls are that old man’s . . . ’

One day in Kenya a man said to him, ‘Do you . . . me? I was your neighbour in Southampton.’

Mr. Yates did not answer for a few seconds, because he was Then he said, ‘Oh, yes! That’s right! I married your daughter, didn’t I?’

20



Mr. Knott was a teacher. He taught in a big school in London. He lived a long way from the school, so he was usually quite tired when he got home. At nine o'clock one evening, when he was in bed, the telephone bell rang in the hall of his small house, so he went downstairs, picked up the telephone and said, "This is Whitebridge 3165. Who's speaking, please?"

"Watt," a man answered.

"What's your name, please?" said Mr. Knott.

"Watt's my name," was the answer.

"Yes, I asked you that. What's your name?" Mr. Knott said again.

"I told you. Watt's my name," said the other man. "Are you Jack Smith?"

"No, I'm Knott," answered Mr. Knott.

"Will you give me your name, please?" said Mr. Watt.

"Will Knott," answered Mr. Knott.

Both Mr. Watt and Mr. Will Knott put their telephones down angrily and thought, "That was a rude, stupid man!"

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why was Mr. Knott usually tired in the evenings?
2. Why did he get up and go downstairs when he was already in bed?
3. Who telephoned him?

4. Whom did Mr. Watt want to speak to?
5. When Mr. Knott said, 'Will Knott,' what did Mr. Watt think?
(He thought, '...')

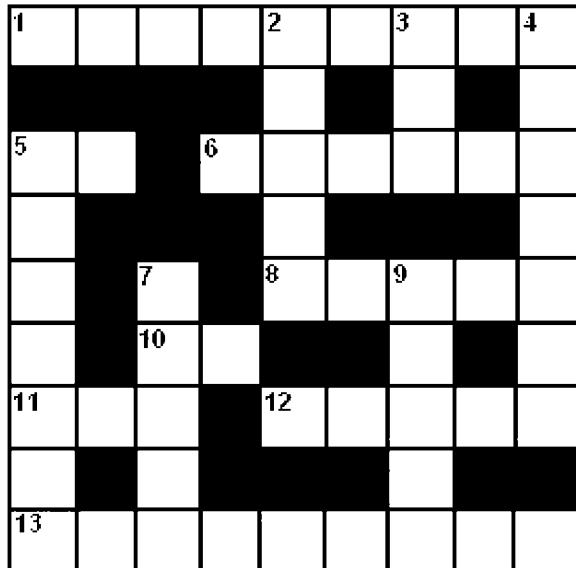
B. Do this puzzle.

Across:

1. The name of the teacher in this story is (two words).
5. 'Whom did Mr. Knott speak . . . on the telephone?' 'Mr. Watt.'
6. Perhaps Mr. Knott went to the . . . on Saturday evenings to see a film.
8. Trees and other plants grow in . . .
10. Not yes.
11. Both men in this story . . . angry when they did not understand each other.
12. Less polite.
13. Mr. Knott went downstairs because the . . . rang.

Down:

2. We cut fruit up with this.
3. In how many schools did Mr. Knott work? 'In . . .'



4. Mr. Knott was a
5. Mr. Watt . . . , 'That was a rude, stupid man!'
7. Mr. Watt waited . . . someone answered the telephone, and then he spoke.
9. Perhaps Mr. Knott listened to the news on the . . . before he went to bed.

C. Write this story. Put *the* or nothing in each empty place.

George and Dorothy go to . . . school by . . . bus in . . . morning, but they usually come home in . . . 5.15 train. George is Dorothy's brother. He doesn't like school: when he is at . . . home, he listens to . . . radio or plays . . . trumpet, and then he is happy. On . . . Monday morning he sometimes says, 'I have a terrible pain in . . . stomach,' and he does not go to . . . school with Dorothy. His father and mother are already at . . . work, so they do not know. They go to . . . work very early. Dorothy plays . . . tennis a lot. When she leaves school, she wants to go into . . . army.

21



Carol Roberts left school when she was seventeen and then thought, 'What's going to happen now? I want to marry a nice, young man and have children, but no nice, young men have asked me yet. Will I meet one soon, and will he want to marry me?'

She spoke to her best friend about these questions, and her best friend said.

'Go and ask a fortune-teller. Perhaps she'll give you the answers.'

So Carol went to see a fortune-teller. The fortune-teller said to her, 'I'll give you answers to two questions. It'll cost you five pounds.'

Carol was surprised. She thought for some time, but at last she paid the money. Then she said to the fortune-teller, 'Isn't that very expensive for only two questions?'

'Yes, it is,' answered the fortune-teller. 'And now what's your second question?'

A. Answer these questions.

1. What did Carol want to do after she left school?
2. What questions did she want to ask the fortune-teller?
3. Why was Carol surprised?
4. How much money did she give the fortune-teller?
5. How did she spend half that money?

B. Put one, two or three words in each of the empty places in these sentences.

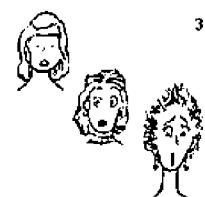
1. Bill is young. Peter is
Joe is



2. The first fortune-teller is friendly,
the second one is . . . , and
the third is



3. The girl on the left is surprised.
The one in the middle is
And the one on the right is



C. Write this story, but do not put pictures: put words.

This is a teacher in a . The small

in his classes are very good at mathematics. When

he asks them about , they know

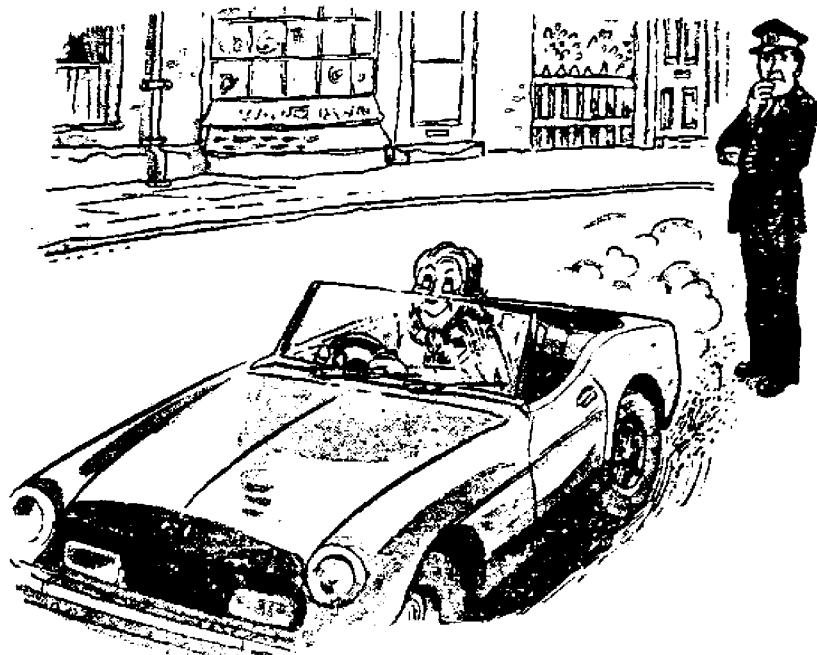
all the . He says, 'One hundred are

840 French francs today. Oranges one franc

twenty each. How many will I get for one pound? Quick! ' And he

is not when they all answer, 'Seven, sir! They're

rather , aren't they?'



Jack had a small, red car, and he liked driving it very fast. This was all right when he was out in the country, but in towns and big villages driving fast is dangerous, so there is always a speed limit. In Jack's country it was fifty kilometres an hour. Jack often drove faster than that through towns.

One day Jack was driving his small, red car through a town when a very young policeman stopped him and said, 'You were driving at more than fifty kilometres an hour, sir. Please give me your name and address.'

Jack looked at the young policeman carefully for a few seconds and then said to him, 'But I started my journey less than an hour ago!'

The policeman was new to this work and did not know the answer to Jack's excuse. He thought for a few seconds and then let Jack go.

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why is there a speed limit in towns and big villages?
2. How fast did Jack sometimes drive through towns?
3. Why did the young policeman stop Jack?
4. What was Jack's excuse? (He said, '...')
5. Why did the policeman let Jack go?

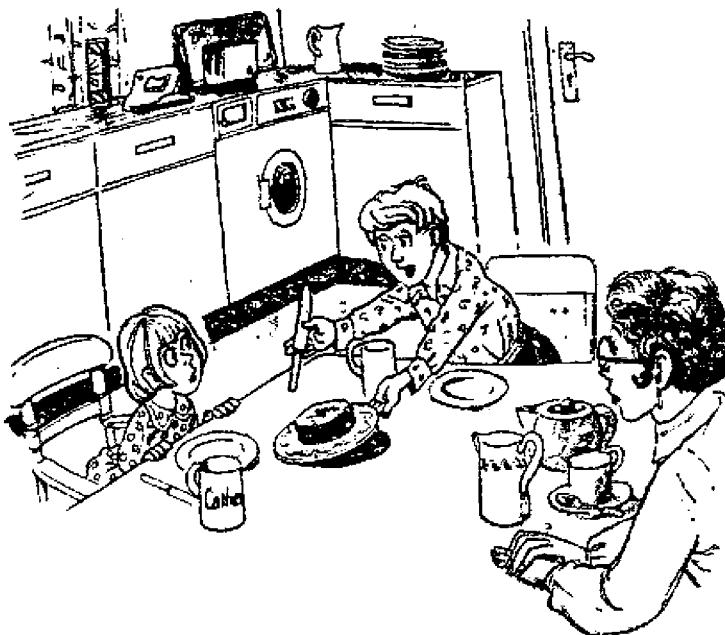
B. *Opposites*. What words in the story on page 46 mean the opposite of:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. slowly | 4. more | 7. safe |
| 2. wrong | 5. big | |
| 3. carelessly | 6. slower | |

C. Which of these sentences are true? Write them down.

1. There was no speed limit outside towns and big villages.
2. The speed limit outside towns and big villages was 50 kilometers an hour.
3. Jack often drove faster than 50 kilometers an hour in towns.
4. Jack often drove faster than the speed limit.
5. The policeman wanted Jack's name and address.
6. Jack wanted the policeman's name and address.
7. Jack's excuse was a good one.
8. Jack's excuse was a bad one.
9. The policeman let Jack go because he thought, 'Perhaps that's a good excuse.'
10. The policeman let Jack go because he was new at that work.

23



Dick was seven years old, and his sister, Catherine, was five. One day their mother took them to their aunt's house to play while she went to the big city to buy some new clothes.

The children played for an hour, and then at half past four their aunt took Dick into the kitchen. She gave him a nice cake and a knife and said to him, 'Now here's a knife, Dick. Cut this cake in half and give one of the pieces to your sister, but remember to do it like a gentleman.'

'Like a gentleman?' Dick asked. 'How do gentlemen do it? They always give the bigger piece to the other person,' answered his aunt at once.

'Oh,' said Dick. He thought about this for a few seconds. Then he took the cake to his sister and said to her, 'Cut this cake in half, Catherine.'

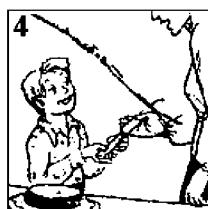
A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did the children's mother leave them at their aunt's house?
2. What did Dick's aunt want him to do with the cake?
3. What do gentlemen do when there are two pieces of cake?
4. Which piece did Dick's aunt want him to give Catherine?
5. What did Dick do with the cake?

B. Which of the answers to these questions are right? Write the questions and the correct answers down.

1. Which child was younger?
 - a. Catherine was.
 - b. Dick was.
2. Who wanted Dick to cut the cake?
 - a. A gentleman.
 - b. His aunt.
 - c. Catherine.
3. Why did Dick take the cake to Catherine?
 - a. Because he wasn't hungry.
 - b. Because he wanted to be like a gentleman.
 - c. Because he wanted the bigger piece.

C. Put the number of the correct sentence under the correct picture.



1. Dick went to Catherine with the cake.
2. Dick's aunt showed him a cake.
3. Dick went into the kitchen with his aunt.
4. Dick said, 'Cut this cake in half.'
5. The children's mother left them with their aunt.
6. His aunt gave him a knife.



A small boy and his father were having a walk in the country when it suddenly began to rain very hard. They did not have their umbrellas with them, and there was nowhere to hide from the rain, so they were soon very wet, and the small boy did not feel very happy.

For a long time while they were walking home through the rain, the boy was thinking. Then at last he turned to his father and said to him, 'Why does it rain, Father? It isn't very nice, is it?'

'No, it isn't very nice, but it's very useful, Tom,' answered his father. 'It rains to make the fruit and the vegetables grow for us, and to make the grass grow for the cows and sheep.'

Tom thought about this for a few seconds, and then he said, 'Then, why does it rain on the road too, Father?'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Where were the small boy and his father when it began to rain?
2. Why did they get wet?
3. Why didn't the small boy feel happy?
4. How is rain useful?
5. Was Tom happy with his father's answer?

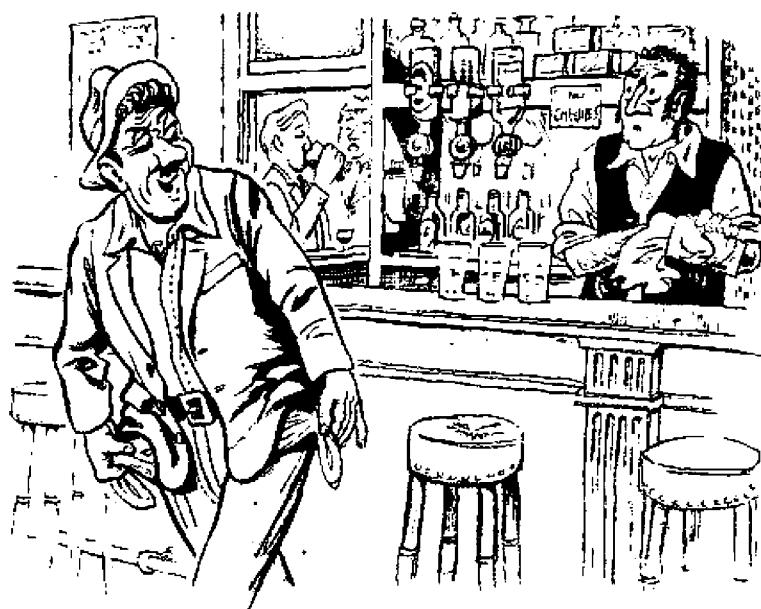
B. *Opposites.* Write these sentences. Put one word in each empty place.

1. The small boy did not like being wet: he preferred to be
2. The boy did not think for a . . . time: he thought for a long time.
3. He thought, 'Rain isn't nice. It's'
4. But rain isn't . . . : it's very useful.
5. The boy was not . . . : he was clever.

C. Write this story. Put one word in each empty place. You will find all the correct words in the story on page 50.

A lady and a . . . girl were getting very wet, because they were walking in the . . . and they were not wearing coats or carrying The girl did not like being . . . , so she did not feel Then they saw a star between two clouds. 'Do you know,' the lady . . . , 'that star's much bigger than our world.' The small girl . . . about that for a few . . . , and then she . . . to the lady and answered, 'Well, why doesn't it keep the rain off us then?'

25



A man went into a bar, sat down, called the barman and said to him, 'Give me a drink before the trouble starts.'

The barman was busy with other people, so he did not say anything, but he gave the man the drink, and the man drank it quickly. Then he put his glass down, called the barman again and said to him, 'Give me another one before the trouble starts.'

Again the barman was too busy to say anything, so he gave the man his drink and went away. The man drank that too, and then again he called the barman and said to him, 'One more drink before the trouble starts, please.'

This time the barman was not very busy, so when he brought the man his third drink, he said to him, 'What trouble are you talking about?'

The man answered, 'I haven't got any money.'

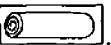
A. Answer these questions.

1. Why didn't the barman ask any questions when he gave the man his first two drinks?
2. How many drinks did the barman bring the man?

3. How did the man drink his first drink?
4. Why did the barman have time to ask the man a question when he brought him his third drink?
5. What was the man's trouble?

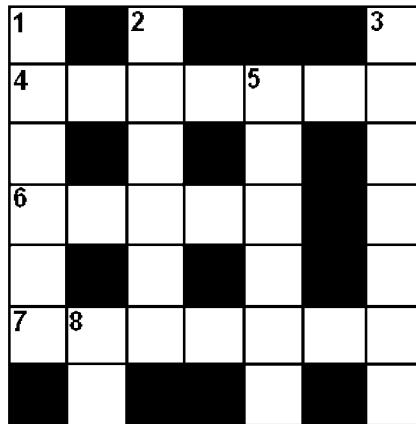
B. Do this puzzle.

Across:

4. The man wanted a drink before this started.
6. Before he cleans the floor, the barman ... up the carpets like this: 
7. We usually find expensive bars in important ... in a city.

Down:

1. The trouble in a bar ... when a man doesn't pay for his drinks.
2. The barman caught the man by the ...of his coat and threw him out.
3. Least shallow.
5. When the man asked for his first two drinks, the barman was...than he was when he asked for his third one.
8. The first two times, the barman was too busy to talk ...the man.



C. Choose the right sentence for each picture. Write it down.

1. a. This lady is in a bar.
b. This lady is in a restaurant.
c. This lady is in a hotel.
2. a. This man is calling the barman.
b. This man is calling the waiter.
c. This man is calling the servant.
3. a. This barman is very busy.
b. This barman is not very busy.



26



A man and his wife had a small bar near a station. The bar often stayed open until after midnight, because people came to drink there while they were waiting for trains.

At two o'clock one morning, one man was still sitting at a table in the small bar. He was asleep. The barman's wife wanted to go to bed. She looked into the bar several times, and each time the man was still there. Then at last she went to her husband and said to him, 'You've woken that man six times now, George, but he isn't drinking anything. Why haven't you sent him away? It's very late.'

'Oh, no, I don't want to send him away,' answered her husband with a smile. 'You see, whenever I wake him up, he asks for his bill, and when I bring it to him he pays it. Then he goes to sleep again.'

A. Answer these questions.

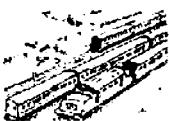
1. Why did people come to drink in the bar after midnight?
2. Why did the barman's wife want him to send the man at the table away?
3. What was he doing at 2 a.m.?
4. Did her husband send the man away?
5. Why did he let him stay?

B. Which words in the story on page 54 mean:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 12 o'clock at night | 4. more than two |
| 2. sleeping | 5. from his sleep |
| 3. place for drinking | |

C. Write this story, but do not put pictures: put words.

On some



in England, there is a



Passengers go there to have a



and to talk to the



. There are no



. People stand at the

bar, drink, pay their



and then get out when they

reach their



.

At



one night a woman was cleaning an empty

train when she found a man in the bar. He was



,

and there was a beautiful



on his face. The woman

put the man's bag under his head and let him sleep.



Two friends were camping together. Their names were Jim and Tim. Tim was very lazy. The first evening of their holiday, Jim said to Tim, 'Here's some money. Go and buy some meat.'

'I'm too tired,' answered Tim. 'You go.' So Jim went to buy the meat.

When he came back, he said to Tim, 'Now, here's the meat. Please cook it.' But Tim answered, 'No, I'm not good at cooking. You do it.' So Jim cooked the meat.

Then Jim said to Tim, 'Cut the bread,' but Tim answered, 'I don't want to,' so Jim cut the bread.

Then he said to Tim, 'Go and get some water, please.'

'No, I don't want to get my clothes dirty,' Tim answered, so Jim got the water.

At last Jim said, 'The meal's ready. Come and eat it.'

'Well, I'll do that,' answered Tim. 'I don't like saying "No" all the time.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. What was Tim's excuse for not buying the meat?
2. What was his excuse for not cooking it?
3. What was his excuse for not cutting the bread?
4. What was his excuse for not getting the water?
5. What *did* he do when Jim asked him to eat?

B. Write this story. Put one of these in each empty place:

it was there was there were they were

Jim and Tim were friends, and . . . camping. . . . September . . . raining, and . . . quite a lot of water on the roads, so Tim didn't want to go and buy the meat.

. . . cold outside the tent, and . . . no chairs to sit on, so Tim didn't want to go out and cook the meat.

. . . a lot of mud near the river, and . . . quite deep, so Tim didn't want to go and get the water.

. . . a knife in the tent, and . . . quite sharp, but Tim was too lazy to cut the bread.

C. Which of these sentences are true? Write them down.

1. Jim did all the work in this story.
2. Tim did all the work in this story.
3. Tim did not buy the meat because he did not have any money.
4. Tim did not buy the meat because he was tired.
5. Jim cooked the meat because Tim was not good at cooking.
6. Jim cooked the meat because Tim was a lazy boy.
7. Tim got his clothes dirty when he went to get some water.
8. Tim did not get his clothes dirty because he did not go to get the water.
9. Tim was not too tired to eat.
10. Tim was too tired to eat.



One morning a man was crossing a narrow bridge when he saw a fisherman on the shady bank of the deep, smooth river under him, so he stopped to watch him quietly.

After a few minutes, the fisherman pulled his line in. There was a big, fat Fish at the end of it.

The fisherman took it off the hook and threw it back into the water. Then he put his hook and line in again. After a few more minutes he caught another big fish. Again he threw it back into the river. Then, the third time, he caught a small fish. He put it into his basket and started to get ready to go. The man on the bridge was very surprised, so he spoke to the fisherman. He said, 'Why did you throw those beautiful, big fish back into the water, and keep only that small one?'

The fisherman looked up and answered, 'Small frying-pan.'

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did the first man in this story stop on the bridge?
2. What did the fisherman do when he caught the first fish?
3. What did he do when he caught the second?
4. What did he do when he caught the third?
5. Why didn't he keep the first two fish?

B. *Opposites.* What words in the story on page 58 mean the opposite of:

- | | | |
|------------|----------|------------|
| 1. thin | 4. rough | 7. noisily |
| 2. ugly | 5. wide | |
| 3. shallow | 6. sunny | |

C. Put the number of the correct sentence under the correct picture.



1. The fisherman caught a small fish.
2. A fisherman was fishing in the river.
3. The fisherman threw the big fish into the water.
4. The fisherman had a small frying-pan.
5. A man was on a bridge.
6. The fisherman caught a big fish.



When the Americans were getting ready to send their first men to the moon, an old Irishman was watching them on television in the bar of a hotel.

There was an Englishman in the bar too, and he said to the Irishman, ‘The Americans are very clever, aren’t they? They’re going to send some men to the moon. It’s a very long way from our world.’

‘Oh, that’s nothing,’ the Irishman answered quickly. ‘The Irish are going to send some men to the sun in a few months’ time. That’s much farther away than the moon, you know.’

The Englishman was very surprised when he heard this. ‘Oh, yes, it is,’ he said, ‘but the sun’s too hot for people to go to.’

The Irishman laughed and answered, ‘Well, the Irish aren’t stupid, you know. We won’t go to the sun during the day, of course. We’ll go there during the night.’

A. Answer these questions.

1. Who were in the bar of the hotel?
2. What was the Irishman watching on television?
3. What did the Irish want to do?
4. Why was the Englishman surprised?
5. Is the sun really cool during the night?

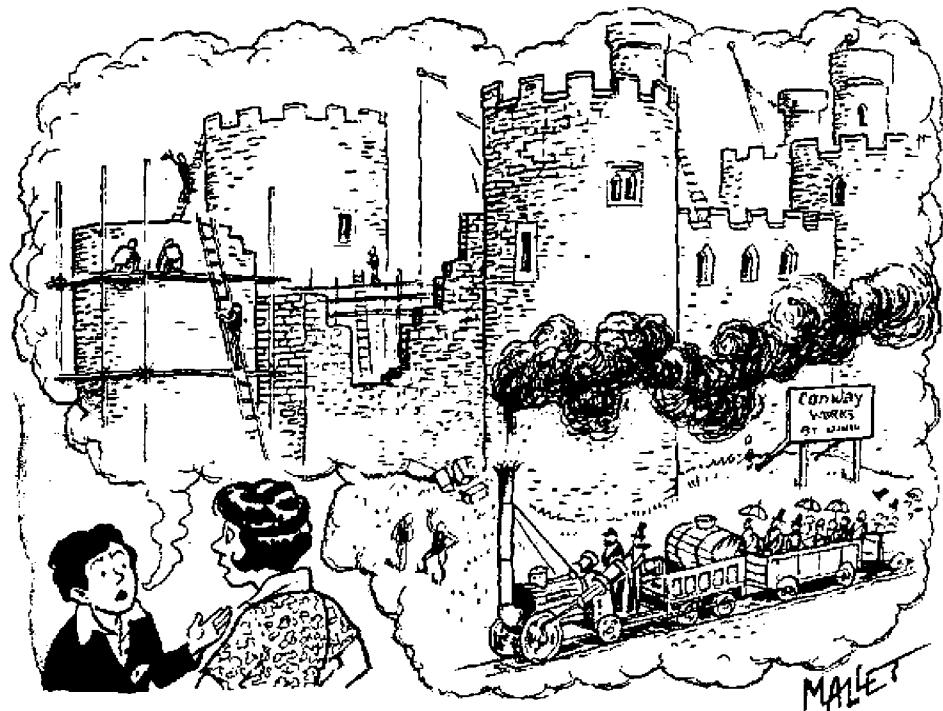
B. *Opposites*. Write these sentences. Put one word in each empty place.

1. The Irishman in this story was not . . . : he was old.
2. The Irishman did not speak He spoke quickly.
3. The sun is not . . . than the moon: it is farther away.
4. The sun isn't It is very hot.
5. The Irishman said, 'The Irish aren't stupid: they're'

C. Write this story. Put one of these words in each empty place.

at in on

Pat lived . . . a farm . . . a small village . . . Ireland. He always got up very early . . . the morning to work . . . the fields or to milk the cows. He always had breakfast . . . the kitchen . . . 7 a.m. after that. It was still dark then . . . winter. His wife cooked the breakfast . . . a big stove. She did not buy much . . . the shops, but sometimes she went to the town . . . foot or . . . the bus to get a few things. She was born . . . that town, so she always stopped . . . several houses, knocked . . . their doors and talked to her old friends.



Dave's class at school were studying English history, and one day their teacher said to them, 'Well, boys, on Friday we're all going to get on a bus and go to Conway. There's a beautiful castle there, and we're going to visit it.' The boys were very happy when they heard this.

'Now, has anybody got any questions?' the teacher asked.

'How old is the castle, sir?' Dave asked.

'It's about seven hundred years old, Dave,' the teacher answered.

'What's the name of the castle, sir?' another boy asked.

'Conway Castle,' the teacher said.

On Friday the boys came to school at 9 o'clock and got into the bus. They visited Conway Castle, and then they came back and went home.

'Well,' Dave's mother said to him when he got home, 'Did you like the castle, Dave?'

'Not very much,' Dave answered. 'The stupid people built it too near the railway.'

A. Answer these questions.

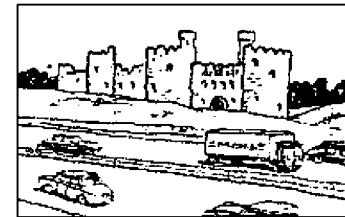
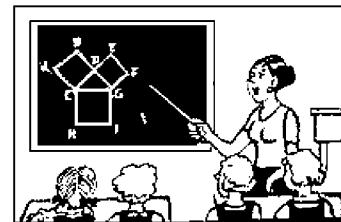
1. Why did the boys go to Conway Castle?
2. Who did they go with?
3. When was the castle built?
4. Did Dave enjoy visiting the castle?
5. Why didn't he like it?

B. Which of the answers to these questions are right? Write the questions and the correct answers down.

1. Why were the boys happy?
 - a. Because they liked Conway Castle.
 - b. Because they liked getting away from their lessons.
 - c. Because they liked asking questions.
2. How did the boys go to Conway Castle?
 - a. By bus.
 - b. On foot.
 - c. By train.
3. Why was the castle near the railway?
 - a. Because people built the railway near the castle.
 - b. Because people built the castle near the railway.

C. Choose the right sentence for each picture. Write it down.

1. a. These girls are studying history.
b. These girls are studying mathematics.
c. These girls are studying English.
2. a. This castle has got a lot of towers
b. This castle hasn't got any towers.
c. This castle has got a lot of chimneys.
3. a. This castle is very near a railway.
b. This castle is not very near a railway.



Level 3



1

Ali, who was working a long way from home, wanted to send a letter to his wife, but he could neither read nor write, and he had to work all day, so he could only look for somebody to write his letter late at night. At last he found the house of a letter-writer whose name was Nasreddin.

Nasreddin was already in bed. 'It is late,' he said. 'What do you want?' 'I want you to write a letter to my wife,' said Ali. Nasreddin was not pleased. He thought for a few seconds and then said, 'Has the letter got to go far?'

'What does that matter?' answered Ali.

'Well, my writing is so strange that only I can read it, and if I have to travel a long way to read your letter to your wife, it will cost you a lot of money.'

Ali went away quickly.

What was Ali doing?

Where was he?

What did he want to do?

Why couldn't he write the letter himself?

When did he look for somebody to write his letter?

Whom did he find?

What was Nasreddin doing?

What did Ali say to Nasreddin?

How did Nasreddin feel when Ali spoke to him?

What did Nasreddin then ask Ali?

What did Ali reply?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did Ali then do?



2

An old man died and left his son a lot of money. But the son was a foolish young man, and he quickly spent all the money, so that soon he had nothing left. Of course, when that happened, all his friends left him. When he was quite poor and alone, he went to see Nasreddin, who was a kind, clever old man and often helped people when they had troubles.

'My money has finished and my friends have gone,' said the young man. 'What will happen to me now?'

'Don't worry, young man,' answered Nasreddin. 'Everything will soon be all right again. Wait, and you will soon feel much happier.'

The young man was very glad. 'Am I going to get rich again then?' he asked Nasreddin.

'No, I didn't mean that,' said the old man. 'I meant that you would soon get used to being poor and to having no friends.'

How did the young man get his
money?

What kind of man was he?

What happened to the money?

What did the young man's
friends then do?

What did the young man do
after that?

Why did he go to Nasreddin?

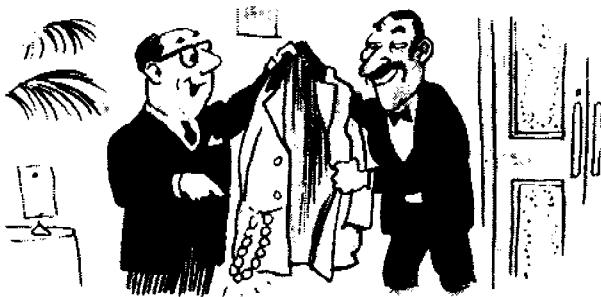
What did the young man say to
Nasreddin?

What did Nasreddin answer?

How did the young man feel
then?

What did he ask Nasreddin?

What was Nasreddin's answer?



3

When Mr Jones went to a restaurant one day, he left his coat near the door. There was nothing in the pockets of the coat when he left it, so he was very surprised when he took his coat after his meal and found the pockets full of jewellery!

There was a waiter near the door, so Mr Jones said to him, 'Somebody has made a mistake. He has put some jewellery in my coat. Take it, and when he comes back, give it to him.' The waiter took it and went away. Suddenly another man came in with a coat just like Mr Jones's. 'I am sorry,' said this man. 'I made a mistake. I took your coat and you have got mine. Please give me my coat and jewellery.' Mr Jones answered, 'I gave the jewellery to the waiter. He will give it to you.'

Mr Jones called the manager of the restaurant; but the manager said, 'We have no waiters here. We only have waitresses.' 'You gave the jewellery to a thief!' shouted the other man. 'I shall call the police!' Mr Jones was frightened and paid the man a lot of money for the jewellery.

Where did Mr Jones go one day?

What did he do with his coat?

Was there anything in the pockets of the coat when Mr Jones left it?

What happened when he took the coat after his meal?

Whom did he see near the door?

What did Mr Jones say to him?

What did the waiter do then?

What happened after that?

What was the man wearing?

What did he say to Mr Jones?

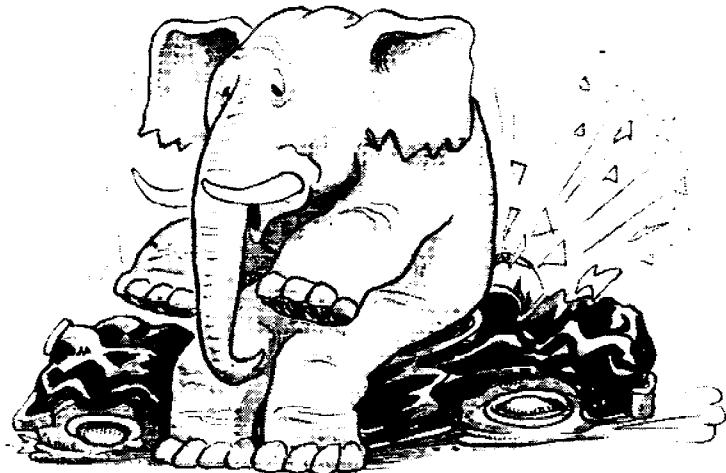
What did Mr Jones answer?

What did Mr Jones do then?

What did the manager of the restaurant say?

What did the man shout then?

What did Mr Jones do?



4

A man was travelling abroad in a small red car. One day he left the car and went shopping. When he came back, its roof was badly damaged. Some boys told him that an elephant had damaged it. The man did not believe them, but they took him to a circus which was near there. The owner of the elephant said, 'I am very sorry! My elephant has a big, round, red chair. He thought that your car was his chair, and he sat on it!' Then he gave the man a letter, in which he said that he was sorry and that he would pay for all the damage.

When the man got back to his own country, the customs officers would not believe his story. They said, 'You sold your new car while you were abroad and bought this old one!'

It was only when the man showed them the letter from the circus man that they believed him.

What was the man doing at the beginning of the story?

Where did he leave his car?

Why did he leave it there?

What did he see when he came back?

What did the boys say?

Where did they take him?

What did the owner of the elephant say?

Why had the elephant sat on the car?

What did the owner of the elephant do then?

What did he write in his letter?

What happened when the man returned to his own country?

What did the customs men say?

How did the man make them believe him?



5

Nasreddin was cutting a branch off a tree in his garden. While he was sawing, another man passed in the street. He stopped and said, 'Excuse me, but if you continue to saw that branch like that, you will fall down with it.' He said this because Nasreddin was sitting on the branch and cutting it at a place between himself and the trunk of the tree.

Nasreddin said nothing. He thought, 'This is some foolish person who has no work to do and goes about telling other people what to do and what not to do.'

The man continued on his way.

Of course, after a few minutes, the branch fell and Nasreddin fell with it.

'My God!' he cried. 'That man knows the future!' and he ran after him to ask how long he was going to live. But the man had gone.

What was Nasreddin doing at
the beginning of this story?
Who passed in the street?
What did the man say?
Why did he say this?
What did Nasreddin say?
What did he think?
What did the other man do

then?
What happened after a few
minutes?
What did Nasreddin say then?
What did he do?
Why did he do this?
Did he find the man?
Why (not)?



6

It was half-past eight in the morning. The telephone bell rang and Mary went to answer it.

'Hullo, who's that?' she asked.

'It's me - Peter.'

Peter was a friend of Mary's eight-year-old brother, Johnny.

'Oh, hullo, Peter. What do you want?' said Mary. 'Can I speak to Johnny?'

'No,' said Mary, 'you can't speak to him now. He is busy. He is getting ready for school. He is eating his breakfast. Grandmother is combing his hair. Sister is under the table, putting his shoes on. Mother is getting his books and putting them in his school bag. Goodbye, I've got to go now. I have to hold the door open. The school bus is coming.'

What time was it at the beginning of this story?

What happened at that time?

What did Mary do?

What did she say?

What was the answer?

Who was Peter?

What did Mary ask Peter?

What did he answer?

What did Mary then say?

What was Johnny doing?

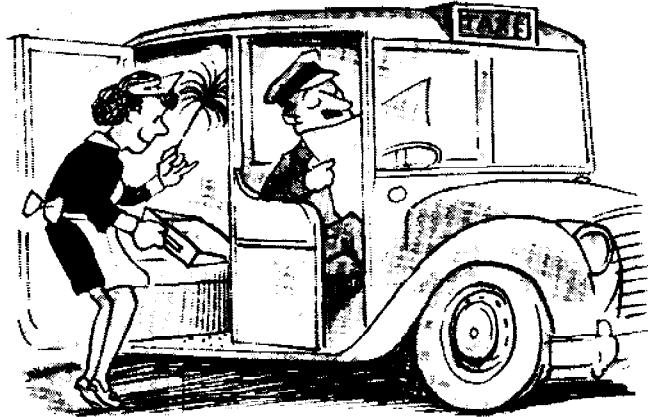
What was his grandmother doing?

What was his other sister doing?

What was his mother doing?

Why did Mary say goodbye?

Why did she have to go?



7

Two rich ladies were sharing a taxi and talking about the high cost of going anywhere by taxi.

One of the ladies said, 'Taxis are terribly expensive these days. The owners get a lot of money for nothing.'

'Yes,' said the other lady, 'and the drivers get such big tips that they soon become rich. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.'

One of the ladies was smoking a cigarette. After a minute or two she said to the other lady, 'Can you see an ashtray in this taxi? There isn't one on my side!'

'No,' said the other, 'there isn't one on this side either. Driver! Where is the ashtray in this taxi? Why haven't you got one?'

The driver, who had heard everything the ladies had said, answered, 'Oh, just drop the ashes on the carpet - I have a servant who comes in and cleans three days in the week!'

What were the two rich ladies doing?

What were they talking about?

What did one of them say?

What did the other one say?

What was one of the ladies doing?

What did she say to the other lady?

What did the other lady answer?

What did she say to the driver?

What did he answer?

Why did he answer in this way?



8

Nasreddin put two big baskets of grapes on his donkey and went to market. At midday it was very hot, so he stopped in the shade of a big tree. There were several other men there, and all of them had donkeys and baskets of grapes too. After their lunch they went to sleep. After some time, Nasreddin began to take grapes out of the other men's baskets and to put them in his.

Suddenly one of the men woke up and saw him. 'What are you doing?' he said angrily.

'Oh,' said Nasreddin, 'don't worry about me. I am half mad, and I do a lot of strange things.'

'Oh, really?' said the other man. 'Then why don't you sometimes take grapes out of your baskets and put them in somebody else's baskets?'

'You did not understand me,' said Nasreddin. 'I said that I was half mad, not quite mad.'

What did Nasreddin put on his
donkey?

Where did he then go?

When did he stop?

Why did he stop?

Where did he stop?

What did he see there?

What did the men have?

What did they do after lunch?

What did Nasreddin do then?

What happened then?

What did the man say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the man say then?

What was Nasreddin's answer?



9

There was a big garden near Nasreddin's house, and it had a lot of fruit trees in it. One day Nasreddin saw some beautiful apples on one of them. He went home and got a ladder, put it against the high wall of the garden and climbed up. Then he pulled the ladder up, put it down on the other side, and climbed down into the garden. Just then a gardener came round a corner and saw him.

'What are you doing here?' he shouted.

Nasreddin thought quickly and then said, 'I am selling my ladder.'

'Selling your ladder? In somebody else's garden? Do you think I believe such a stupid story?' said the gardener and came towards Nasreddin with a stick.

'It is my ladder,' said Nasreddin, 'and I can sell it where I like. You needn't buy it if you don't want to.' And he took his ladder and climbed over the wall again.

What was there near
Nasreddin's house?

What did it have in it?

What did Nasreddin see one
day?

What did he do then?

What did he do with the ladder?

How did he get into the garden?

What happened then?

What did the gardener shout?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the gardener say then?

What did he do?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did he do?



10

Nasreddin woke up in the middle of the night and saw something white in his garden. It seemed to be moving towards the house.

'That is a thief!' he thought, and he took his gun and shot at him.

Then he went back to bed, because he was too frightened to go out of the house in the dark.

The next morning Nasreddin went out and saw one of his white shirts hanging on the clothes-line in the garden. His wife had washed it the day before and hung it out to dry. Now it had a bullet-hole right through the middle of it.

'My God,' said Nasreddin, 'I was lucky last night. If I had been wearing that shirt, the bullet would have killed me!' And he called his neighbours together and asked them to thank God for saving him.

When did Nasreddin wake up?

What did he see?

Where did he see it?

What did he think?

What did he do?

Why did he go back to bed after
that?

What did he see the next
morning?

Where was it?

Why was it there?

What was the matter with it?

What did Nasreddin say then?

What did he do?

What did he ask his neighbours?

Why was Nasreddin silly?



11

A judge was working in his room one day when a neighbour ran in and said, 'If one man's cow kills another's, is the owner of the first cow responsible?'

'It depends,' answered the judge.

'Well,' said the man, 'your cow has killed mine.'

'Oh,' answered the judge. 'Everyone knows that a cow cannot think like a man, so a cow is not responsible, and that means that its owner is not responsible either.'

'I am sorry, Judge,' said the man. 'I made a mistake. I meant that my cow killed yours.'

The judge thought for a few seconds and then said, 'When I think about it more carefully, this case is not as easy as I thought at first.' And then he turned to his clerk and said, 'Please bring me that big black book from the shelf behind you.'

What was the judge doing at the beginning of the story?

Who ran in?

What did this man say?

What did the judge answer?

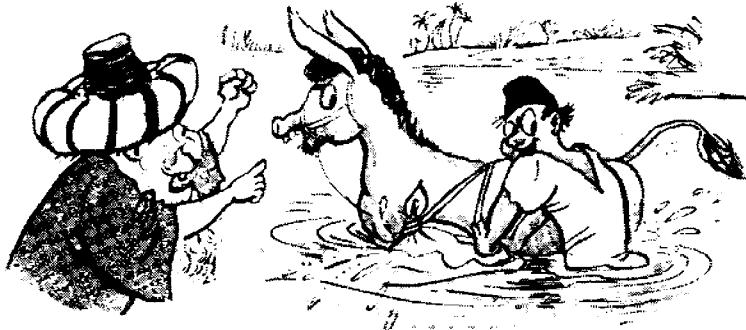
What did the man say then?

What did the judge answer?

What did the man say?

What did the judge do then?

What did he say?



12

When Nasreddin was a boy, he never did what he was told, so his father always told him to do the opposite of what he wanted him to do.

One day, when the two were bringing sacks of flour home on their donkeys, they had to cross a shallow river. When they were in the middle of it, one of the sacks on Nasreddin's donkey began to slip, so his father said, 'That sack is nearly in the water! Press down hard on it!'

His father of course expected that he would do the opposite, but this time Nasreddin did what his father had told him to do. He pressed down on the sack and it went under the water. Of course, the flour was lost.

'What have you done, Nasreddin?' his father shouted angrily.

'Well, Father', said Nasreddin, 'this time I thought that I would do just what you told me, to show you how stupid your orders always are.'

What was Nasreddin like when
he was a boy?

What did his father do?

What were Nasreddin and his
father doing at the beginning
of this story?

What did they have to do?

What happened in the middle of
the river?

What did Nasreddin's father
then say?

What did he expect?

What did Nasreddin do?

What happened then?

How did Nasreddin's father
feel?

What did he say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

Why did Nasreddin do what his
father had told him to do that
time?



13

Nasreddin had lost his donkey. He was going about looking for it everywhere, and while he was looking, he was singing gaily.

One of his neighbours saw him and said, 'Hullo, Nasreddin. What are you doing?'

'I am looking for my donkey,' answered Nasreddin. 'Don't you know where it is?' asked the neighbour. 'No, I don't.'

'Then why are you singing so gaily? Usually when somebody loses something, he is sad.'

'Yes, that is quite true,' answered Nasreddin. 'But you see, I am not yet sure that my donkey is lost. My last hope is that it is behind that hill over there. If you wait a little, you will hear how I will cry and complain if it is not there!'

What had happened to Nasreddin?

What was he doing at the beginning of this story?

What was he doing while he was doing this?

Who saw him?

What did this man say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the neighbour say then?

What was Nasreddin's answer?

What did the neighbour say then?

What did Nasreddin answer?



14

One winter Nasreddin had very little money. His crops had been very bad that year, and he had to live very cheaply. He gave his donkey less food, and when after two days the donkey looked just the same, he said to himself, 'The donkey was used to eating a lot. Now he is quickly getting used to eating less; and soon he will get used to living on almost nothing.'

Each day Nasreddin gave the donkey a little less food, until it was hardly eating anything.

Then one day, when the donkey was going to market with a load of wood on its back, it suddenly died. 'How unlucky I am,' said Nasreddin. 'Just when my donkey had got used to eating hardly anything, it came to the end of its days in this world.'

What was the matter with Nasreddin one winter?

Why had this happened?

What did he have to do?

What did he do to his donkey?

What happened after two days?

What did Nasreddin then say to himself?

What did he do each day after that?

What was the donkey doing in the end?

What happened to the donkey?

When did it happen?

What did Nasreddin say?



15

Nasreddin's wife was very ill, and at last she died. After a few months, Nasreddin married again. His new wife was a widow.

Exactly seven days after he married her, she had a baby.

Nasreddin at once hurried away to the market and bought some paper, some pencils, some pens and some children's books. Then he hurried back home again with these things and put them beside the baby. His new wife was surprised. 'What are you doing?' she said. 'The baby won't be able to use those things for a long time. Why are you in such a hurry?'

Nasreddin answered, 'You are quite wrong, my dear. Our baby is not an ordinary baby. It came in seven days instead of nine months, so it will certainly be ready to learn to read and write in a few weeks from now.'

What happened to Nasreddin's
first wife?

What did Nasreddin do?

When did he do this?

What was his new wife?

What happened to his new wife
then?

When did it happen?

What did Nasreddin do at once?

What did he buy?

What did he do with these
things?

How did his wife feel?

What did she say to Nasreddin?

What did he answer?



16

One of Nasreddin's neighbours had been abroad for many years, and during that time he had travelled in many strange places. When he came back home after many years, his old friends and neighbours listened to the old man's stories about foreign countries and strange people, and found them very interesting.

'Do you know,' the old man said, 'in one country which I visited where the climate is very hot all the year, nobody wears any clothes at all!'

Nasreddin loved a joke, so he said at once, 'Oh, is that so? Then how do you know whether somebody is a man or a woman in that country?'

Where had Nasreddin's neighbour been?

How long had he been there?

What had he done during that time?

What happened when he came home?

What did they think of his stories?

What did the old man say about one country?

What did Nasreddin then ask?

Why did he ask this?



17

Some of Nasreddin's old friends were talking about the young people in their town. They all agreed that old people were wiser than young people. Then one of the old men said, 'But young men are stronger than old men.'

All of them agreed that this was true, except Nasreddin. He said, 'No. I am as strong now as when I was a young man.'

'What do you mean?' said his friends. 'How is that possible? Explain yourself!'

'Well,' said Nasreddin, 'in one corner of my field there is a rock. When I was a young man I used to try to move it, but I couldn't because I was not strong enough. I am an old man now, and when I try to move it, I still cannot.'

Who were talking at the beginning of this story?

What were they talking about?

What did they all agree?

What did one of the old men say then?

What did the others do?

Who did not agree?

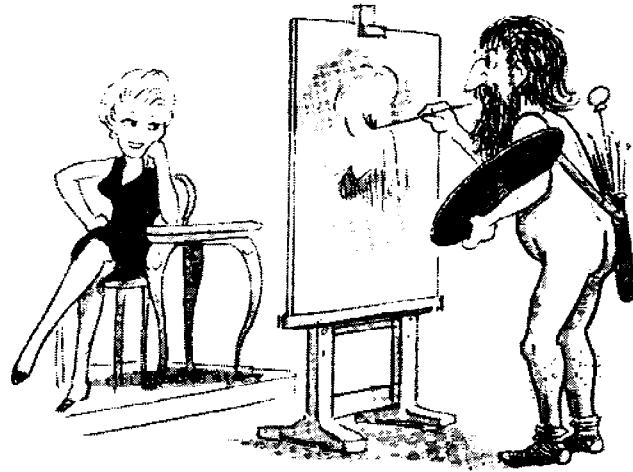
What did he say?

What did his friends say then?

What did Nasreddin answer?

Why did he think that he was as strong as when he was a young man?

What mistake was he making when he thought this?



18

One day a beautiful young lady went to a famous artist and said, 'I want you to paint a picture of me. How much will it cost?'

'Five hundred pounds,' said the artist.

'Oh?' said the lady. 'That is a lot of money.' Then she thought that, as she had a very beautiful body, the artist might be happy to paint her picture more cheaply if she wore no clothes while he was painting it. So she said, 'And how much will it cost if you paint me without any clothes on?'

The artist thought for a moment. 'One thousand pounds,' he then said. 'But I shall have to keep my socks on, because my feet get cold; and I shall have to wear something to put my brushes in.'

Who are the two people in this
story?

What did the lady do?

What did she say?

What did she ask?

What did the artist answer?

What did the lady say then?

What did she think?

What did she say then?

Did the artist answer at once?

What did he say then?

What mistake did the artist
make?



19

Henry and Mary had just got married, and everybody was enjoying their wedding party. There was plenty to eat and plenty to drink, and everybody was getting very merry, when a very thin, very young man came into the room. He looked at Mary sadly and accusingly, walked slowly towards her, kissed her lovingly and said, 'Why did you do it?'

Then he walked to the door and disappeared.

Nobody had ever seen the young man before - not even Mary.

What had just happened at the beginning of this story?

What was everybody doing?

What was there at the party?

What was happening to the people?

Who came into the room then?

What did he do?

What did he say to Mary?

What did he do then?

Did anybody know who he was?

Why not?



20

The Second World War had begun, and John wanted to join the army, but he was only 16 years old, and boys were allowed to join only if they were over 18. So when the army doctor examined him, he said that he was 18.

But John's brother had joined the army a few days before, and the same doctor had examined him too. This doctor remembered the older boy's family name, so when he saw John's papers, he was surprised.

'How old are you?' he said.

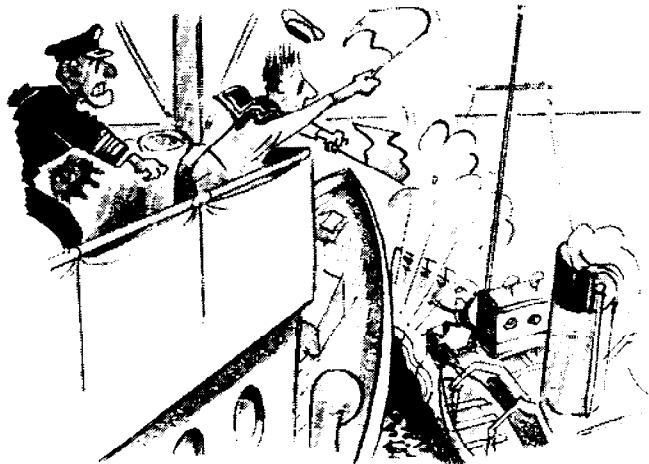
'Eighteen, sir,' said John.

'But your brother was eighteen, too,' said the doctor. 'Are you twins?'

'Oh, no, sir,' said John, and his face went red. 'My brother is five months older than I am.'

What did John want to do?
When did he want to do it?
How old was he?
At what age were boys allowed
to join the army?
What did the army doctor do to
him?
What did John say to him?
What had happened a few days
before?

Who had examined John's
brother?
Why was the doctor surprised?
What did he say to John?
What did John answer?
What did the doctor say then?
What did John answer?
How did the doctor know that
John was lying?



21

One day a big ship hit a smaller ship while they were both going from England to America. The smaller ship was badly damaged, and had to be taken back to England, where a judge had to decide who was to blame for the accident.

Several of the people who had seen the big ship hit the smaller one said that, a few seconds before the accident, the big ship had sent a signal to the smaller one. The judge was puzzled by this, so he said, 'Who sent this signal?'

A young signalman came forward and said, 'I did, sir.'

'Oh?' said the judge. 'And what signal did you send to the other ship?'

The young signalman's face went red as he answered, 'Good luck on your voyage.'

What happened one day in this story?

Where were the ships going?

What happened to the smaller ship?

Where did it go?

What happened then?

What did several people say?

Who were these people?

How did the judge feel about what these people said?

What did he say?

Who answered?

What did this man say?

What did the judge then say to him?

What did he answer?

What happened to his face?



22

Mr Jones was very fond of climbing mountains, so one year he went to Switzerland for his holidays. After he had climbed some easy mountains, he decided one day to climb a more difficult one; but he did not want to go up it alone, so he found a good Swiss guide, who had often climbed that mountain.

At first it was not a difficult climb, but then they came to a place which was not so easy. The guide stopped, turned round and warned Mr Jones. 'Be careful here,' he said. 'This is a dangerous place. You can easily fall, and if you do, you will fall straight down a very long way. But,' he continued calmly, 'if you do fall here, don't forget to look to the right while you are going down. There is a quite extraordinarily beautiful view there - much more beautiful than the one you can see from here.'

What was Mr Jones very fond
of?

Where did he go?

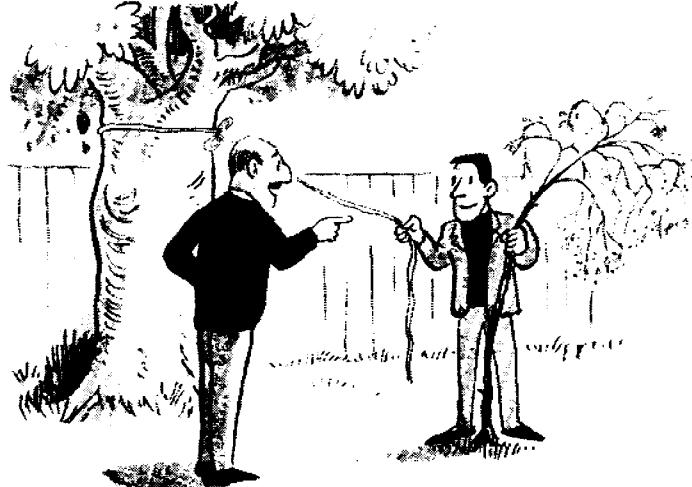
What did he do first there?

What did he decide after that?

What didn't he want to do?

What did he do then?

What had the guide done?
How was the climb at first?
What happened then?
What did the guide do?
What did he say to Mr Jones?
What did he tell him to do if he
fell?



23

A young father was visiting an older neighbour. They were standing in the older man's garden and talking about children. The young man said, 'How strict should parents be with their children?'

The older man pointed to a string between a big, strong tree and a thin, young one.

'Please untie that string,' he said. The young man untied it, and the young tree bent over to one side.

'Now tie it again, please,' said the older man. 'But first pull the string tight so that the young tree is straight again.'

The young man did this. Then the older man said, 'There. It is the same with children. You must be strict with them, but sometimes you must untie the string to see how they are getting on.

If they are not yet able to stand alone, you must tie the string tight again. But when you find that they are ready to stand alone, you can take the string away.'

What was the young father doing at the beginning of this story?

Where were the men standing?

What were they talking about?

What did the young man ask?

What did the old man do?

What did he ask the young man to do?

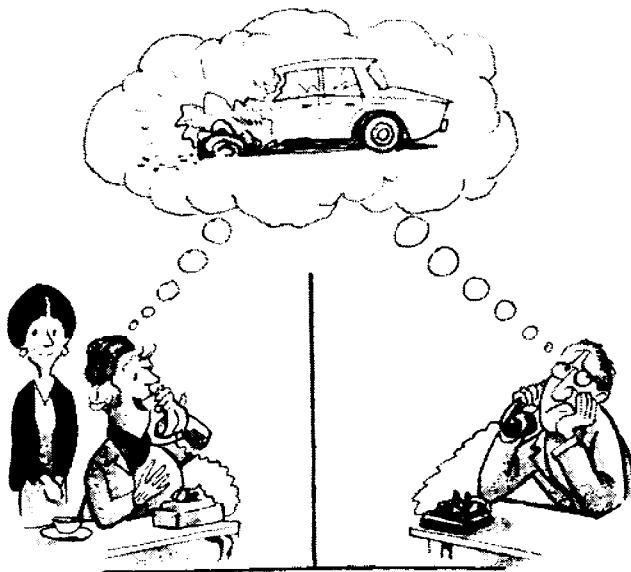
What did the young man do?

What happened then?

What did the old man say after that?

What did the young man do?

What did the old man say then?



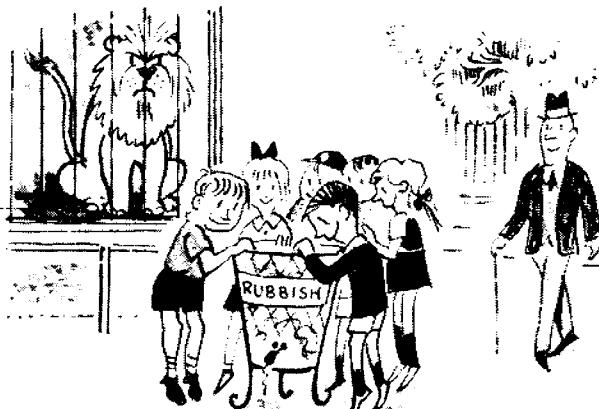
24

Mrs Smith was looking out of her window, when she saw a truck and a big car hit each other. She ran out to help. There was only one man in the truck and one woman in the car, and neither of them was hurt, but the car was damaged.

The lady looked very white and her hands were shaking, so Mrs Smith invited her into her house and gave her some tea. She was a pleasant woman of about 50 years old. She drank the tea and soon looked much better. Then she said to Mrs Smith, 'Have you got a telephone, please? I would like to telephone my husband. We have a kind of custom whenever I have an accident with the car, I telephone him.'

What was Mrs Smith doing at
the beginning of this story?
What did she see?
What did she do?
Why did she do this?
Who was there in the truck?
Who was there in the car?
What happened to them?
What happened to the car?
What did Mrs Smith do?

Why did she do this?
What did she do in the house?
What was the lady like?
What did she do?
How did she look after a short
time?
What did she say then to Mrs
Smith?
Why did she want to telephone
her husband?



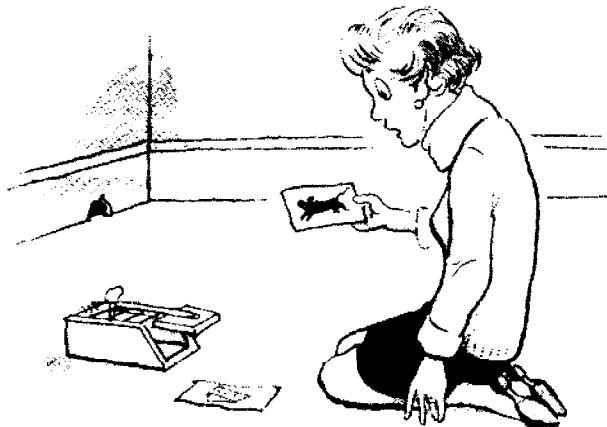
25

The zoo had big baskets for rubbish, where people who bought ice-creams and other things could throw the papers from them. One Saturday afternoon Mr Brown was walking near the cages where the lions and tigers were kept. Usually there were a lot of people round these cages on a Saturday afternoon, but that day there was nobody there. Mr Brown was surprised. But he was even more surprised when he saw a crowd around the rubbish basket near the lions' cage.

He went towards the crowd. Most of them were children. He looked over their heads and saw - a little mouse, which was running about among the pieces of paper in the basket and looking for bits of food. It was only a few centimetres from the children, but it was not afraid - and the children were more interested in this small, common mouse than in the lions and tigers.

What did the zoo have?
Where did it have these things?
What did people do with these things?
What was Mr Brown doing one Saturday afternoon?
What did he usually see there on a Saturday afternoon?
Why was he surprised?
What made him even more surprised?

What did he do?
What were most of the people in the crowd?
What did Mr Brown do then?
What did he see?
What was this animal doing?
Was it frightened?
How did the children feel?



26

One day a lady saw a mouse running across her kitchen floor. She was very afraid of mice, so she ran out of the house, got in a bus and went down to the shops. There she bought a mouse-trap. The shopkeeper said to her, 'Put some cheese in it, and you will soon catch that mouse.'

The lady went home with her mouse-trap, but when she looked in her cupboard, she could not find any cheese in it. She did not want to go back to the shops, because it was very late, so she cut a picture of some cheese out of a magazine and put that in the trap.

Surprisingly, the picture of the cheese was quite successful! When the lady came down to the kitchen the next morning, there was a picture of a mouse in the trap beside the picture of the cheese!

What did the lady see at the beginning of this story?
Where did she see it?
Why did she run out of the house?
Where did she go?
How did she go there?
What did she do when she got there?
Who spoke to her there?

What did he say to her?
What did the lady do then?
Where did she look?
What was she looking for?
Did she find it?
Why didn't she go back to the shops?
What did she do then?
What happened the next morning?



27

When Nasreddin's first wife died, he married again. His second wife was much younger than he was and they often quarrelled. One evening when Nasreddin came home very late, his wife said to him, 'I cooked your dinner two hours ago. It is quite spoiled now.' She was so angry that she gave him a push, and as she was strong, and he was old and weak, he fell down the stairs.

One of Nasreddin's neighbours, who was always eager to know what was happening in everybody else's house, was listening, and when she heard the noise that Nasreddin made when he fell down the stairs, she came to his front door and knocked.

'What has happened?' she said.

'My coat fell down the stairs,' he answered.

'But a coat would not make so much noise!' the neighbour said.

'Of course it would,' answered Nasreddin, 'if I was inside it!'

What happened when
Nasreddin's first wife died?

What was his second wife like?

What did he and his second
wife often do?

What did Nasreddin do one
night?

What did his wife say?

How did she feel?

What did she do?

What happened then?

Why was she able to push him
over?

Who was listening?

Why was she listening?

What did she do?

When did she do this?

What did she say?

What did Nasreddin answer?

What did the woman say then?

What was Nasreddin's answer?



28

One of Nasreddin's rich neighbours gave a big party one evening, but he forgot to invite him. Nasreddin waited and waited, but no invitation came, so at last, when the party had already begun, he took a piece of paper, folded it, put it in an envelope and took it to his neighbour's house.

'I have a very important letter for the host,' he said to the servants at the door. The servants took him into the big room where everybody was eating. Nasreddin gave the letter to his rich neighbour and at once sat down and began to fill his mouth with food.

The host looked at the envelope, but there was nothing on it, so he said, 'Are you sure that this letter is for me? There is no address on it.'

'Oh, yes,' said Nasreddin, 'and there is no writing inside it either - because it was prepared in a hurry.'

What happened one evening?

What did the man forget to do?

What did Nasreddin do at first?

What did he do then?

What did he say?

Whom did he say this to?

What did the servants do?

What was everybody doing?

What did Nasreddin do?

What did he do then?

What did the host do?

What was there on the envelope?

What did the host say to Nasreddin?

What did Nasreddin answer?



29

One evening there was a big dance at the hotel in our town. One of the guests at the dance was a man of about forty who thought he was so handsome that every girl who saw him would fall in love with him. At the beginning of one of the dances, he saw a pretty young woman who was standing beside an older lady at the edge of the dance-floor. He went up to the girl and asked her to dance. She had seen him dancing before, so she knew that he was a good dancer, and as she too liked dancing, she accepted.

After they had danced several dances together, the man led her into the garden and said, 'Do you tell your mother everything that you do?'

'Of course not,' she answered sweetly. 'She does not mind what I do now. But my husband always wants to know!'

What happened one evening in
this story?

Where was it?

How old was the man in the
story?

What did he think?

Whom did he see?

When did he see her?

Where was she when he saw
her?

Who was with her?

What did the man do?

What did the girl do?

Why did she do this?

What sort of a dancer was the
man?

How did the girl know this?

What did the man do near the
end of the story?

When did he do this?

What did he say to the girl?

What did she answer?



30

John liked to wear his hair very long. Some of his friends thought that it looked like a girl's hair, but they never made jokes about it, because John was a big, strong young man, and he did not think jokes about his hair funny.

John always went to the barber's twice a month to have his hair cut and washed, and one day the barber said to him, 'Now why don't you let me cut most of this hair off and make your head tidy? Nobody would recognize you if I did that, I am sure.'

John said nothing for a few seconds, and then he said, 'Perhaps you are right - but I am sure that nobody would recognize you either if you did that to my hair.'

What did John like?

What did some of his friends think?

Why did they never make jokes about his hair?

How often did John go to the barber's?

Why did he go there?

What did the barber say to him one day?

Did John answer at once?

What did he say?

Why would nobody recognize the barber?



31

On Saturday mornings our cinema shows films for children. One such morning an old man took his grandchildren to the cinema. At the door there was a list of the prices of tickets, but he could not see any price for tickets for adults for Saturday mornings. The only price which was shown for that time was for children's tickets, so he asked the lady who was selling the tickets how much it was for adults.

'Adults!' she said. 'No, we don't have prices for tickets for adults for our Saturday morning films. Any adult who is brave enough to go in there to see films like that - and with all those children - can go in free!'

What happens on Saturday mornings in this story?

What happened one Saturday morning?

What was there at the door?

What could the old man not see?

What could he see?

What did he do then?

What did the lady answer?

Why could adults go in free?



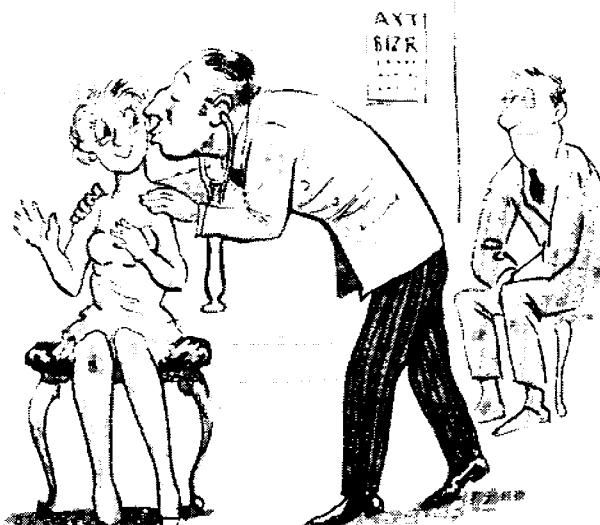
32

A small talking dog was a big success when it came to our theatre. It told jokes, sang songs and did a lot of other funny things on the stage.

But while it was singing one of its songs, a bigger dog came into the theatre, stopped, listened for a few moments and then ran up and jumped on to the stage. The small talking dog tried to get away, but the bigger dog caught it by the skin of its neck and carried it off the stage. Just as the two animals were disappearing behind the curtains at the side of the stage, the small talking dog said, 'I am sorry about this, everybody! This is my mother. She doesn't want me to be an actor. She wants me to become a doctor.'

What kind of animal is this story about?
Why was it a big success?
Where was it a big success?
What did it do there?
Where did it do these things?
What happened then?
When did it happen?

What did the small dog do?
What did the bigger dog do?
What did the small dog say?
When did it say this?
Who was the bigger dog?
Why did she carry the smaller dog away?



33

Mrs Robinson always seemed to be ill and unhappy. She often had painful headaches, and medicines did not seem to make her any better, so at last her husband took her to a good doctor.

The doctor examined her carefully and asked her a lot of questions. Then he suddenly put his arms around her and gave her a big kiss. Mrs Robinson at once looked better and happier.

'You see?' said the doctor to her husband. 'That is all she needs. I suggest that she has the same thing every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday,' and he smiled.

'Well,' said Mr Robinson, 'I can bring her on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but not on Saturdays, because I always go sailing on that day.'

How was Mrs Robinson?
What did she often have?
What did medicines do for her?
What did her husband do?
What did the doctor do?
What did he then do suddenly?

What happened to Mrs Robinson then?
What did the doctor say?
What did he suggest?
What did Mr Robinson answer?
What mistake did Mr Robinson make?



34

A pretty, well-dressed young lady stopped a taxi in a big square, and said to the driver, 'Do you see that young man at the other side of this square?'

'Yes,' said the taxi-driver. The young man was standing outside a restaurant and looking impatiently at his watch every few seconds.

'Take me over there,' said the young lady.

There were a lot of cars and buses and trucks in the square, so the taxi-driver asked, 'Are you afraid to cross the street?'

'Oh, no!' said the young lady. 'But I am three-quarters of an hour late. I said that I would meet that young man for lunch at one o'clock, and it is now a quarter to two. If I arrive in a taxi, it will at least seem as if I have tried not to be too late.'

What did the lady in this story
look like?

What did she do at the
beginning of the story?

Where did she do it?

What did she say?

Whom did she say it to?

What did he answer?

Whom did he see?

Where was this person?

What was he doing?

What did the young lady tell the
driver to do then?

What did the driver say?

Why did he say this?

What did the lady answer?

Why did she want to arrive in a
taxi?



35

Mr Robinson worked in an office. Every morning he had breakfast with his wife at half-past seven, read his newspaper, drank a cup of coffee and then left his house at 8 o'clock to go to catch his train to town.

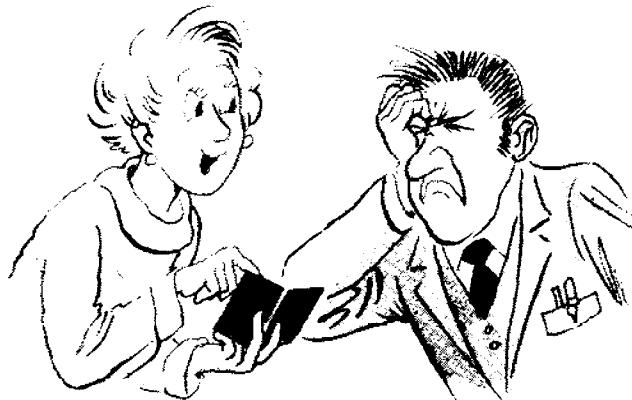
One morning he was still sitting comfortably at the breakfast table and reading his newspaper at five minutes past eight. He did not seem to be in a hurry and asked his wife for another cup of coffee.

'Another cup?' she asked. 'But aren't you going to the office today? Have you got a holiday?'

'The office?' he said and looked up from his newspaper very surprised. 'I thought that I was at the office!'

Where did Mr Robinson work?
What did he do every morning?
At what time did he do it?
What did he do then?
When did he leave his house?
Where did he go then?
Why did he go there?
What happened one morning?

What time was it?
Was he late?
Was he in a hurry?
What did he ask his wife for?
What did she say?
What did he answer?
How did he feel?



36

Mr Black gave his wife money every Friday evening, but she always spent it before the next Wednesday, so that for the next three days she had none.

Every Tuesday evening Mr Black asked her, 'But what did you spend all that money on?' and she always answered, 'I don't know.'

One Friday Mr Black brought home an exercise book and a pencil and gave them to his wife with her money. 'Now look!' he said to her. 'When you get money from me, write it down on this page, and on the opposite page write down what happens to the money.'

When Mr Black came home the next Tuesday, his wife came to him and showed him the book. 'I have done what you told me,' she said happily. On one page she had written 'Friday, 28th June. I got £ 18 from John'; and on the opposite page, 'Tuesday, 2nd July. I have spent it all.'

What did Mr Black do every Friday evening?

What happened then?

What was the result?

What did Mr Black do every Tuesday evening?

What did his wife answer?

What did Mr Black do one Friday?

What did he say to his wife?

What happened the next Tuesday?

What did his wife say?

What had she written in the book?

What mistake had she made?



37

A letter to a magazine: 'Dear Sirs,

Last year I saw an article in your magazine (I think it was in your magazine, but I am not sure) which interested me very much, but I have forgotten what it was. I wrote the name of the article and the magazine in my notebook after I had read it, but I have lost the notebook. I have also lost the magazine which the article was in.

Will you please send me another copy of the magazine, if it was your magazine? Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully,

David Williams.'

What did Mr Williams see last
year?

Where did he see it?

Was he sure?

What did he think of the article?

What was the article?

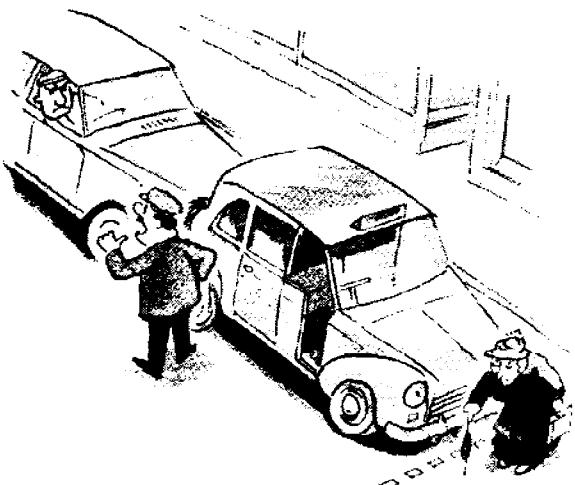
What did Mr Williams do after
he had read the article?

What happened then?

What else did he lose?

What was Mr Williams asking
for in his letter?

What do you think the person
who got Mr Williams's letter
would do?



38

The lights were red, so my taxi had to stop. When they changed to green again, an old lady was slowly crossing the street in front of the taxi, so of course the driver waited. But as soon as the driver of the car behind saw the green light, he began to blow his horn.

My taxi-driver calmly opened his door, got out, pointed to the driver's seat which he had just left, and said to the man who was blowing the horn, 'Sir, you get into my taxi and drive over her. I always feel so uncomfortable when I drive over old ladies.'

What happened at the beginning
of this story?

Why did the taxi stop?

What happened then?

Why did the driver wait?

What happened then?

Why did the other driver blow
his horn?

What did the taxi-driver do
then?

What did he say?



39

A man was mending a street lamp when he saw a pretty young woman and three children get into a car which was in the garden of a house near him. He saw that the car had a flat tyre and tried to warn the woman, but it was too late - she was already driving the car out of the garden and into the busy street. When she had got there, she stopped the car at the side of the street, got out and looked at the flat tyre. The children stayed in the car. Very soon another car stopped, and the driver offered to help her. The young woman accepted his offer, and the man changed the tyre for her.

When she had thanked him and he had gone, she drove the car back into the garden, got out with the children and went back to her work in the house - with clean hands.

What was the man doing at the beginning of this story?

What did he see?

Where was the car?

What was the matter with the car?

What did the man want to do?

Why couldn't he do it?

What did the lady do?

What did she do when she got into the street?

What did the children do?

What happened very soon?

What did the other driver say?

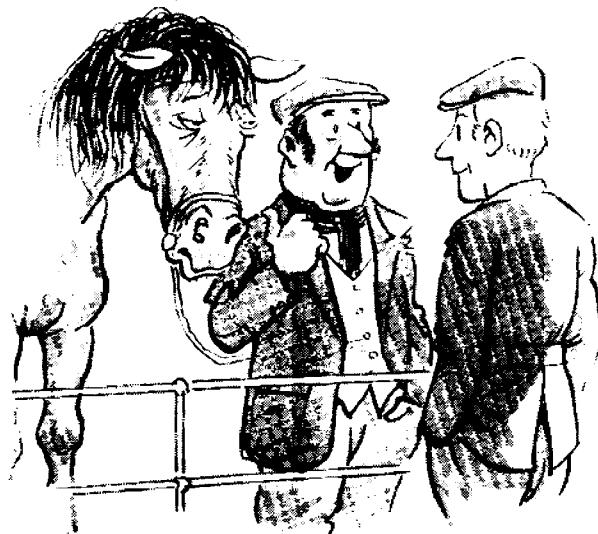
What did the young woman do?

What did the man do then?

What did the lady do after that?

Why were her hands clean?

Why had she driven the car out into the road?



40

A man wanted to sell his old horse, so he took him to the market. Because the horse was old, nobody wanted to buy him, but at last a young man stopped in front of him and said, 'How old is he?'

'He is twenty-one years old,' said the older man.

'How long have you had him?'

'I have had him for nearly nineteen years.'

'And what is his name?'

'I don't know. But I call him Tom.'

Where did the old man go?

What did he take with him?

Why?

Why didn't anybody want to
buy the horse?

What happened at last?

What did the young man say?

What did the other man answer?

What did the young man say
then?

What was the other man's
answer?

What was the young man's next
question?

What did the other man answer?



41

A man heard that a certain government department wanted a clerk, so he wrote and asked for the position. But while he was waiting for an answer, a friend of his introduced him to the head of the department, who at once gave him the job.

Several months later, while the man was working in the department, he got a letter which had been sent on to him from his old address. This letter said:

'Dear Sir,

We are sorry to have to tell you that we cannot offer you work in this department because we do not think that you would be able to do the job successfully.

Yours faithfully,'

The man laughed, but when he looked at the letter more carefully, he saw that he had signed it himself!

What did the man hear at the beginning of this story?

What did he do?

What happened then?

How did he get the job?

What happened several months later?

What was the man doing at that time?

How did the letter get to him?

What did the letter say?

What did the man do?

Why did he do this?

What did he do then?

What did he see?



42

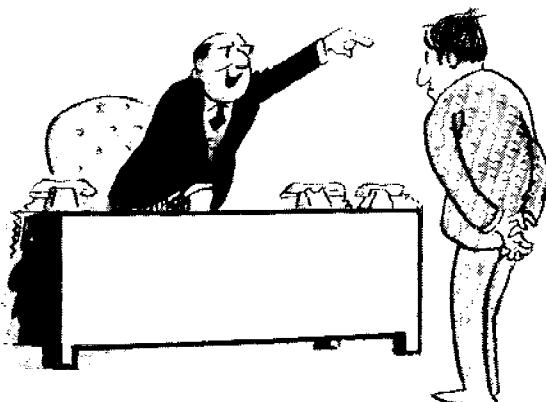
Tom was only seven years old, so when he went off to camp with a lot of other small boys one summer, his mother thought that he might be unhappy, and arranged for all his aunts and his grandmother and all his other relatives to write to him, so that he would get a letter every day while he was away from home.

Well, of course he did not write to anybody while he was at the camp. A few days after he came back home, his mother saw him looking at some papers and asked him what they were.

'Oh,' he said, 'they are the letters I got while I was at the camp. I did not have time to look at them while I was there.'

How old was Tom?
Where did he go?
When did he go there?
Whom did he go with?
What did his mother think?
What did she do?
What was the result?
What did Tom not do while he

was away from home?
What did his mother see a few
days after he came home?
What did she ask Tom?
What did Tom answer?
What mistake had Tom's mother
made?



43

George had worked for the Bank of Ruritania for ten years and was still only a clerk. He was not satisfied with his position and wanted to find something better, but he also did not want to lose his position in the bank before he had got another one, so he prepared a letter about himself, with the words 'HELP! I AM A PRISONER OF THE BANK OF RURITANIA!' in big letters across the top, and sent it to several big companies, asking them for a job.

A few days later, one of these letters came into the hands of George's chief at the bank. Someone had given it to him at his club.

The next morning, George's chief asked him to come into his room and said, 'George, I have some very good news for you. The Bank of Ruritania is setting you free!'

Where did George work?
How long had he worked there?
What was his position?
What did he think about it?
What did he want to do?
What did he not want to happen?
So what did he do?
What did he put across the top of his letter?
Where did he send it?
Why did he send it?

What happened a few days later?
How did George's chief get the letter?
What happened the next morning?
What did George's chief say to him?
Do you think that George was pleased?
Why?



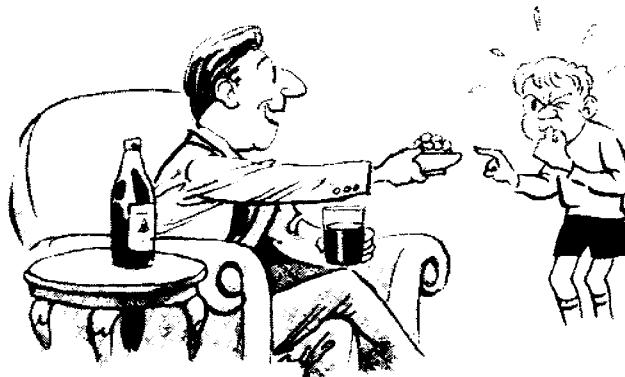
44

A beautiful and very successful actress was the star of a new musical show. Her home was in the country, but she did not want to have to go back there every night, so she rented an expensive flat in the centre of the city, bought some beautiful furniture and hired a man to paint the rooms in new colours.

It was very difficult to get tickets for her show, because everybody wanted to see it, so she decided to give the painter two of the best seats. She hoped that this would make him work better and more willingly for her. He took the tickets without saying anything, and she heard no more about them until the end of the month, when she got the painter's bill. At the bottom of it were the words: 'Four hours watching Miss Hall sing and dance: £3,' with this note: 'After 5 p.m. I get fifteen shillings an hour instead of ten shillings.'

What was the lady in this story?
What work was she doing at
this time?
Where was her home?
What kind of place did she rent?
Why did she rent it?
What did she do then?
Why was it difficult to get seats
for her show?
What did she decide to do?

What did she hope?
What did the painter do?
What happened at the end of the
month?
How much did the painter get
an hour before 5 p.m.?
How much did he get after 5
p.m.?
What mistake had the actress
made?



45

Olives are about the same size as grapes, but they taste very different. Some are bitter, some are sour, and some are very salty. Men and women eat them with drinks before a meal, but children usually do not like them at all.

Mr Grey was drinking beer and eating olives when his small son Tommy came in. He saw that his father liked the olives very much, so he said, 'May I have one, Father?'

'Yes,' answered his father. 'Take one and try it.'

Tommy took one. He thought it tasted terrible.

He watched his father take another and eat it. He could see that he was enjoying it, so Tommy tried another olive -but that was just as terrible as the first.

'You are taking all the good ones,' he cried, 'and leaving the bad ones for me!'

How big are olives?

Do they taste the same as
grapes?

What do they taste like?

Who eats them?

When do they eat them?

What do children usually think
of them?

What was Mr Grey doing?

What happened then?

What did Tommy see?

What did he say?

What did Mr Grey answer?

What did Tommy do?

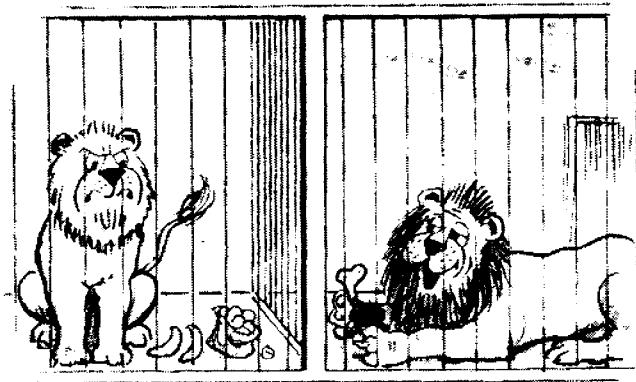
What did he think of the olive?

What did Tommy do then?

Why did he try another olive?

What did he think of that one?

What did he say then?



46

A young lion came to a small zoo in Europe. In the next cage was a tired, old lion, which did nothing except lie about and sleep. 'Lions ought not to behave like that!' the young lion said to himself, so he roared at all the visitors and tried to break the bars of the cage.

At three o'clock a man brought a big piece of meat and put it in the old lion's cage. Then he put a bag of nuts and two bananas in the young lion's cage.

The young lion was very surprised. 'I don't understand this,' he said to the old lion. 'I behave like a real lion, while you lie there and do nothing, and look what happens!'

'Well, you see,' said the old lion kindly, 'this is a small zoo. They haven't got enough money for two lions, so in their books you are here as a monkey.'

What happened to the young lion at the beginning of this story?

Where was the zoo?

What was there in the next cage?

What did the old lion do?

What did the young lion say to

himself?

What did he do?

What happened at three o'clock?

What did the man do then?

How did the young lion feel?

What did he say?

What did the old lion answer?



47

Very few people were coming to eat at the White Rose Restaurant, and its owner did not know what to do. The food in his restaurant was cheap and good, but nobody seemed to want to eat there.

Then he did something that changed all that, and in a few weeks his restaurant was always full of men with their lady friends. Whenever a gentleman came in with a lady, a smiling waiter gave each of them a beautiful menu. The menus looked exactly the same on the outside, but there was an important difference inside. The menu that the waiter gave to the man gave the correct price for each dish and each bottle of wine, while the menu that he gave to the lady gave a much higher price! So when the man calmly ordered dish after dish and wine after wine, the lady thought he was much more generous than he really was!

What was happening at the White Rose Restaurant at the beginning of this story?

What did its owner think?

What was the food in his restaurant like?

Why was the restaurant not successful?

What happened then?

What was the restaurant like in a few weeks?

What happened when a man and a woman came into the restaurant?

What did the menus look like?

How were they different?

What did the man do?

How did the lady feel?

Why did she feel like this?



48

Until a few years ago, only boys could become students at the University of Ruritania. Then the University decided to allow girls in. But one of the lecturers, Dr Goller, was not at all pleased. He had not wanted to let girl students in.

Dr Goller always used to begin his lectures with the word, 'Gentlemen!' What would he do now? Well, when girl students came to his lectures for the first time, he continued to begin with the word, 'Gentlemen!' For him, the girls were just not there.

Then one day there was only one boy in his class among a lot of girls. For a moment, Dr Goller did not know what to do. Then he began, 'Sir!'

Finally a terrible day came when there were no boys in his class. He came into the room, looked at the sea of girls, said, 'Oh, nobody's here today!', turned and went out without giving his lecture.

What happened at the
University of Ruritania until a
few years ago?

What happened then?

What was Dr Goller?

How did he feel?

Why did he feel like this?

How had Dr Goller begun his
lectures before this time?

How did he begin them now?

Why did he do this?

What happened one day?

What did Dr Goller do?

What happened finally?

What did Dr Goller do then?



49

During the last war, most of the men were fighting or working in factories, so it was very difficult to find men to do other work. The headmaster of a school wanted a gardener, but the only person he was able to get was an old retired farmer.

The old man worked so hard in the school garden that the headmaster became worried. He thought that the old man might get ill or die if he continued like that, so he suggested to him that he should work more slowly and rest more. But the old man continued to work as before. At last the headmaster went to the man's wife and asked her to speak to her husband.

'All right,' she answered, 'but I don't think it will do any good. You see, he has worked for himself all his life, never for anybody else, so he has just never learnt to work slowly.'

What happened during the last war?

What was the result?

What did the headmaster in this story want?

Whom was he able to get?

Why did the headmaster become worried?

What did he think?

What did he do?

What did the old man do then?

What did the headmaster do at last?

What did the old man's wife say?

Why was the old man not able to work slowly?



50

An old lady who lived in a village went into town one Saturday, and after she had bought fruit and vegetables in the market for herself and for a friend who was ill, she went into a shop which sold glasses. She tried one pair of glasses, and then another pair and another, but none of them seemed to be right. The shopkeeper was a very patient man, and after some time he said to the old lady, 'Now, don't worry, madam. Everything will be all right in the end. It isn't easy to get just the right glasses, you know.'

'No, it isn't,' answered the old lady. 'And it is even more difficult when you are shopping for a friend.'

Where did the old lady in this story live?

Where did she go?

When did she go there?

What did she do there first?

Where did she do this?

Whom did she buy things for?

Where did she go then?

What did she do there?

What was the matter with the glasses?

What was the shopkeeper like?

What did he say to the old lady?

What did she answer?

Why was it so difficult for her to choose the right glasses?



51

A rich man and his wife went into a shop to buy a bracelet. Neither of them was very young. They looked at a lot of beautiful bracelets, and after half an hour there were two which they liked very much, but they had not yet been able to choose between them. One of them was very expensive, and the other was quite a lot cheaper.

Of course, the shopkeeper wanted to sell them the more expensive one, because then he would get more money from them, so he said to the lady, 'Oh, go on. Spend his money. If you don't, he will only spend it on his second wife.'

For several seconds nobody said a word, and then the lady said angrily, 'I am his second wife!'

Who went into the shop in this story?

Why did they go in there?

How old were they?

What did they do in the shop?

What happened after half an hour?

What were the two bracelets

like?

What did the shopkeeper want?

Why did he want this?

What did he say to the lady?

Did she answer at once?

What did she say?

How did she feel?



52

The air hostess was in the small kitchen at the back of the aeroplane preparing the trays for lunch when a little old lady came and spoke to her. 'Could you please tell me,' she asked, 'where the ladies' lavatory is in this aeroplane?'

'Yes, madam,' said the air hostess and smiled. 'It is right at the other end of the aeroplane - at the front.'

The little old lady went too far. She walked all the way to the front of the aeroplane, opened the door in front of her, and saw the captain of the aeroplane and the other officers. They were all busy at their work and did not see her. She went out again, shut the door and returned to the air hostess.

'Oh, didn't you find it, madam?' the girl asked her.

'Yes, I did,' said the little old lady. 'But there are four men in the ladies' lavatory watching television.'

What were the two women in
this story?

Where was the air hostess at the
beginning of the story?

What was she doing?

What happened while she was
doing this?

What did the old lady say?

What did the air hostess say?

What did the old lady do then?

What mistake did she make?

What did she see?

What were the men doing?

What did the old lady do then?

What did the air hostess say?

What did the old lady answer?

Who were the four men?

Why did the old lady think they
were watching television?



53

The soldiers had been marching up and down in the square for an hour while their officer shouted orders, and they were all tired, hot and unhappy.

They were marching towards a big building, when they suddenly realized that the officer had not left himself enough time to give the order to turn round or to stop, so they were going to march straight into the wall. The soldiers smiled happily as each of those in the front line decided at the same time to walk straight ahead. There was a loud noise as they hit the wall one after another.

But before any of them had time to smile again, the officer shouted, 'If you men had been in a really straight line, I would have heard only one sound when you hit that wall!'

How did the soldiers feel at the beginning of this story?

Why did they feel like that?

What had the officer been doing?

What did the soldiers suddenly realize?

What were they doing when they realized this?

What were they going to do?

What did the soldiers do then?

How did they feel?

What did some of them decide to do?

Which of them decided to do this?

What happened next?

What did the officer hear?

What did he shout?

How quickly did he shout this?

Were the soldiers in a straight line?

How do you know?



54

Mrs Williams is very proud of her house because it is always clean and tidy. But one day, while she was sweeping the carpets, she saw a little mouse run across her dining-room floor! She had always told other people that mice are found only in dirty houses, so she was terribly ashamed when she saw a mouse in her own house. She quickly called her daughter and said to her, 'A terrible thing has happened! I saw a mouse in our dining-room a few minutes ago. We must catch it at once! Go down to the village shop and buy a mouse-trap - but, whatever you do, don't tell anybody what it is for!'

How does Mrs Williams feel about her house?

Why?

What happened one day?

What was she doing when this happened?

What had she always told other people before this time?

How did she feel now?

Why did she feel like this?

What did she do then?

What did she say?

What did she tell her daughter to do?

What did she tell her not to do?

Why?

Why was Mrs Williams being silly when she said this?

Level 4



1

As one approaches *some* crossroads, one comes to a sign which says that drivers have to stop when they come to the main road ahead. At other crossroads, drivers have to go slow, but they do not actually have to stop (unless, of course, there is something coming along the main road); and at still others, they do not have either to stop or to go slow, because they are themselves on the main road.

Mr Williams, who was always a very careful driver, was driving home from work one evening when he came to a crossroads. It had a 'Slow' sign, so he slowed down when he came to the main road, looked both ways to see that nothing was coming, and then drove across without stopping completely.

At once he heard a police whistle, so he pulled in to the side of the road and stopped. A policeman walked over to him with a notebook and pencil in his hand and said, 'You didn't stop at that crossing.'

'But the sign there doesn't say "Stop",' answered Mr Williams. 'It just says "Slow", and I *did* go slow.'

The policeman looked around him, and a look of surprise came over his face. Then he put his notebook and pencil away, scratched his head and said, 'Well, I'll be blowed! I am in the wrong street!'

2

Before the last war, officers in the navy had a lot more freedom when their ship was in port than they have nowadays. They were expected to lead a busy social life, and to take an active part in sport ashore. It was therefore rather difficult for them to find time to do all their other duties.

Usually, all the officers in a ship used to have a regular meeting together once a week to receive orders from their captain, make reports and discuss any business that had to be discussed, such as who should represent the ship in the next football match.

One such meeting was being held on board a ship one day, and after the regular business had been completed, the time came to discuss the date of the next meeting. Friday of the next week was suggested, and so was Monday of the week after, but both of them interfered with somebody's arrangements for the weekend, and in the end it was generally agreed that the meeting

should be held on Wednesday, as this would be the least likely day to interfere with anybody's convenience, since it was right in the middle of the week.

As the officers were leaving, however, one of them was heard to say, 'Wednesday is the *worst* day, because it interferes with *two* weekends!'

3

Mr and Mrs Williams had always spent their summer holidays in England in the past, in a small boarding-house at the seaside. One year, however, Mr Williams made a lot of money in his business, so they decided to go to Rome and stay at a really good hotel while they went around and saw the sights of that famous city.

They flew to Rome, and arrived at their hotel late one evening. They expected that they would have to go to bed hungry, because in the boarding-houses they had been used to in the past, no meals were served after seven o'clock in the evening. They were therefore surprised when the clerk who received them in the hall of the hotel asked them whether they would be taking dinner there that night.

'Are you still serving dinner then?' asked Mrs Williams.

'Yes, certainly, madam,' answered the clerk. 'We serve it until half-past nine.'

'What are the times of meals then?' asked Mr Williams.

'Well, sir,' answered the clerk, 'we serve breakfast from seven to half-past eleven in the morning, lunch from twelve to three in the afternoon, tea from four to five, and dinner from six to half-past nine.'

'But that hardly leaves any time for us to see the sights of Rome!' said Mrs Williams in a disappointed voice.



4

Mrs Black was having a lot of trouble with her skin, so she went to her doctor about it. He could not find anything wrong with her, however, so he sent her to the local hospital for some tests. The hospital, of course, sent the results of the tests direct to Mrs Black's doctor, and the next morning he telephoned her to give her a list of the things that he thought she should not eat, as any of them might be the cause of her skin trouble.

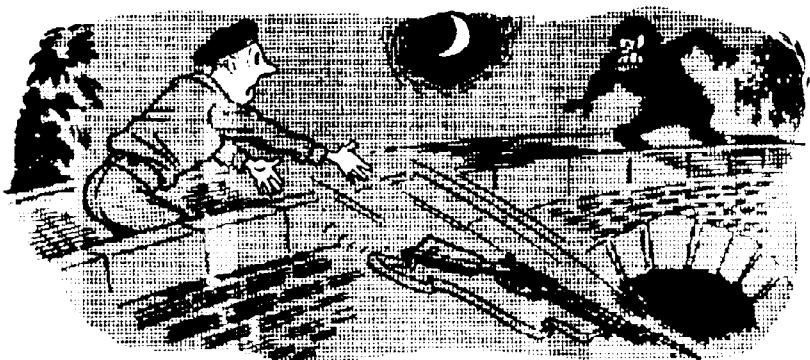
Mrs Black carefully wrote all the things down on a piece of paper, which she then left beside the telephone while she went out to a ladies' meeting.

When she got back home two hours later, she found her husband waiting for her. He had a big basket full of packages beside him, and when he saw her, he said, 'Hullo, dear. I have done all your shopping for you.'

'Done all my shopping?' she asked in surprise. 'But how did you know what I wanted?'

'Well, when I got home, I found your shopping list beside the telephone,' answered her husband, 'so I went down to the shops and bought everything you had written down.'

Of course, Mrs Black had to tell him that he had bought all the things the doctor did not allow her to eat!



5

Some young soldiers who had recently joined the army were being trained in modern ways of fighting, and one of the things they were shown was how an unarmed man could trick an armed enemy and take his weapon away from him. First one of their two instructors took a knife away from the other, using only his bare hands; and then he took a rifle away from him in the same way.

After the lesson, and before they went on to train the young soldiers to do these things themselves, the two instructors asked them a number of questions to see how well they had understood what they had been shown. One of the questions was this: 'Well, you now know what an unarmed man can do against a man with a rifle. Imagine that you are guarding a bridge at night, and that you have a rifle. Suddenly you see an unarmed enemy soldier coming towards you. What will you do?'

The young soldier who had to answer this question thought carefully for a few seconds before he answered, and then said, 'Well, after what I have just seen, I think that the first thing I would do would be to get rid of my rifle as quickly as I could so that the unarmed enemy soldier couldn't take it from me and kill me with it!'



6

A certain poet had written a play, and arrangements were being made to perform it. Of course, the poet was asked to give his advice on the scenery, the lighting, and all the other things that help to make a play successful, and he proved to be a very difficult man to please, as he had his own very definite ideas of how each scene should look.

In one of the scenes in the play, it was necessary to produce the effect of a wonderful sunset, which the young lovers watched together before singing one of their great love songs.

The theatre electricians worked very hard to produce this sunset effect. They tried out all kinds of arrangements and combinations of lights—red lights, orange lights, yellow lights, blue lights, lights from above, lights from behind, lights from the front, lights from the sides—but nothing satisfied the poet, until suddenly he saw exactly the effect that he had been dreaming of producing ever since he had written his play.

'That's it!' he shouted excitedly to the electricians behind the stage. 'That's just right! Keep it exactly like that!'

'I'm sorry, sir,' answered the chief electrician, 'but we can't keep it like this.'

'Why ever not?' asked the poet angrily.

'Because the theatre is on fire, sir,' answered the chief electrician. '*That's* what's producing the effect you can see now!'

7

Nasreddin never seemed to have enough money to pay his bills, so he always owed money to the shopkeepers in his town. Most of them were patient, understanding men and did not speak to him very often about the money that he owed them, but there was one who was not at all patient, and who was also very fond of money. Whenever this man saw Nasreddin, he reminded him of the money that he had not yet paid him, and he very often did this in front of Nasreddin's best friends, which made Nasreddin feel very uncomfortable, as he did not want his friends to know that he was so poor.

One day, therefore, Nasreddin decided to teach the shopkeeper a lesson.

The next time that the man stopped him in the street and began to shame him publicly about his debt to him, Nasreddin said, 'Wait a minute. How much money do I in fact owe you?'

'You owe me exactly one hundred and twenty-two liras,' answered the shopkeeper.

'Well,' said Nasreddin, 'if I paid you forty liras this month, another forty next month, and forty more the month after that, how much would I still owe you?'

'You would then owe me two liras, of course,' answered the shopkeeper.

'Well, aren't you ashamed of yourself,' Nasreddin said, 'giving me all this trouble for only two liras?'



8

Mrs Baker's sister was ill. She had someone to look after her from Monday to Friday, but not at the weekend, so every Friday evening Mrs Baker used to go off to spend the weekend with her at her home in a neighbouring town. But as Mr Baker could not cook, she had arranged for *his* sister to come over and spend the weekend looking after him at their home.

This meant that Mr Baker had quite a busy time when he came home from work on Friday evenings. First he had to drive home from the railway station. Then he had to drive his wife to the station to catch her train. And then he had to wait until his sister's train arrived, so as to take her to his house.

Of course, on Sunday evening he had to drive his sister to the station to catch her train back home, and then wait for his wife's train, so as to bring *her* home.

One Sunday evening he had seen his sister off on her train and was waiting for his wife's arrival when a porter, who had often seen him at the station, came over and spoke to him.

'You are having a lot of fun,' he said. 'But one day one of those women is going to catch you with the other, and then you will be in real trouble!'



9

A gay young man, who earned his living as a drummer in a band, had just married, and he and his wife were looking for somewhere to live. They saw a lot of places, but there was always something that one of them did not like about them. At last, however, they found a block of new flats which both of them really liked. However, there was still the problem of whether they should take one of the ground-floor flats, which had a small garden, or one of the upstairs ones.

At last they decided on a first-floor flat—not too low down and not too high up—and moved in. After they had bought furniture, carpets, curtains, and all the rest, they gave a big party to celebrate the setting up of their first home together.

It was a gay and noisy party, as all the host's friends from the band came and played their instruments. The guests danced, sang and practised on their host's drums.

Soon after one a.m. the telephone rang. The hostess went to answer it in the hall, and after she had finished, came back with a happy smile on her face and said to her husband, 'That was the man who has just moved into the flat downstairs telephoning, dear. I am so glad we decided not to choose it. He says it is terribly noisy down there.'

10

Just after the last war, people were very willing to give money to help those who had suffered from it. But not everyone who collected money was honest. The newspapers were full of stories of people who had been cheated by men who went from house to house saying that they were collecting for soldiers who had been seriously wounded in the war, or for people who had lost their homes, or for some other noble cause, while all the time they were putting the money they collected into their own pockets instead of using it for the purposes they claimed to be collecting it for.

One day Mr Smith came back with another story of this kind. He told his wife that a group of people had collected thousands of dollars for the widow of the Unknown Soldier. Then someone had written to the papers about it, and they had written articles to warn other people. Mr Smith

said that he and his friends at the office had had a good laugh about the story when they had read it in the newspaper.

'Can you imagine anyone being so stupid as to believe that story and give money for the widow of the Unknown Soldier?' he asked his wife.

She looked puzzled at first, but then her face brightened. 'Oh, yes! I see now!' she answered. 'Of course, the *government* pays the widow of the Unknown Soldier!'



11

Mr and Mrs Davies had left their Christmas shopping very late. There were only a few days more before Christmas, and of course the shops and streets were terribly crowded, but they had to get presents for their family and friends, so they started out early one morning for the big city, and spent several tiring hours buying the things they wanted in the big shops.

By lunch-time, Mr Davies was loaded down with parcels of all shapes and sizes. He could hardly see where he was going as he and his wife left the last shop on their way to the railway station and home. Outside the shop they had to cross a busy street, made even busier than usual by the thousands of people who had come by car to do their last-minute Christmas shopping.

Mr and Mrs Davies had to wait for the traffic lights to change, but as Mr Davies could not see in front of him properly, he gradually moved forward into the road without realizing it. Mrs Davies saw this and became worried. Several times she urged her husband to come back off the road, but without success. He could not hear her because of the noise of the traffic.

Finally she shouted in a voice that could be heard clearly above all the noise, 'Henry! If you intend to stand in that dangerous position a moment longer, give *me* the parcels!'



12

Most of Nasreddin's neighbours were pleasant people, who were always ready to help each other when they were in trouble; but there was one woman who lived in his street who was disliked by everybody because she was always interfering in other people's business, and because she was always borrowing things from people and then forgetting to give them back.

Early one morning, Nasreddin heard a knock at his front door, and, when he opened it, found this woman outside.

'Good morning, Nasreddin,' she said. 'I have to take some things to my sister's house in the town today, and I have not got a donkey, as you know. Will you lend me yours? I will bring it back this evening.'

'I am sorry,' answered Nasreddin. 'If my donkey was here, I would of course lend it to you very willingly, but it is not.'

'Oh?' said the woman. 'It was here last night, because I saw it behind your house. Where is it now?'

'My wife took it into town early this morning,' answered Nasreddin.

Just then the donkey brayed loudly.

'You are not telling the truth, Nasreddin!' the woman said angrily. 'I can hear your donkey. You should be ashamed of yourself, telling lies to a neighbour!'

'You are the one who should be ashamed, not me!' shouted Nasreddin. 'Is it good manners to believe a donkey's word rather than that of one of one's neighbours?'



13

Nasreddin had to preach in the mosque every Friday, but he did not like this duty at all, and was always looking for ways to avoid it. One Friday he had a good idea. When he went up to begin to preach to the people in the

mosque, he said to them, 'Do you know what I am going to talk to you about?'

They were surprised and answered, 'No, we do not.'

Then Nasreddin said, 'Well, if you do not know anything about such an important matter, it is a waste of time for me to talk to you about it.' And he went down again without preaching to the people.

The next Friday, he again asked the question, 'Do you know what I am going to talk to you about today?'

This time the people thought that they had learnt their lesson, so they all said, 'Yes, we do.'

Then Nasreddin said to them, 'Well, it is a waste of time to tell people things that they already know.' And again he went down without preaching to the people.

The third Friday, Nasreddin again said, 'Do you know what I am going to preach to you about today?', but this time some people answered, 'Yes,' and some answered, 'No.'

'Well,' said Nasreddin, 'if some of you know, and some of you do not, those that *do* can tell those that do not,' and again he went down without saying another word.

14

Late one night, Nasreddin was woken up by a terrible noise in the street outside his house. It sounded as if a terrible fight was going on, and as Nasreddin loved nothing better than to watch a fight in the street, he opened his window and looked out. He saw two young men fighting just outside his front door, but when they saw him watching them, they went round the corner of the house and continued to shout at each other and to hit each other there.

Nasreddin did not want to miss anything, so he ran down and opened his front door, but, as it was a cold night, he wrapped himself in a blanket before he went out.

He walked to the corner of his house and looked round it. The two men were still shouting and struggling. Nasreddin went closer to them, both to see the fight better and to try to find out what the men were fighting about. But as soon as he was within easy reach of the men, they stopped fighting, attacked him, seized his blanket and ran away into the darkness with it.

Nasreddin was too old to run after them, so he could do nothing but go sadly back to bed without his blanket.

'Well,' said his wife. 'What were they fighting about?'

'It seems that they were fighting about my blanket,' answered Nasreddin, 'because as soon as they got it, their quarrel ended.'



15

Mr and Mrs Jones's flat was full of suitcases, trunks and packed-up furniture. The two of them were busy with pencils and paper, checking their lists of luggage, when there was a ring at the door. Mrs Jones went to open it, and saw a well-dressed middle-aged lady outside. The lady said that she lived in the flat beside theirs, and that she had come to welcome them to their new home.

The Joneses invited her in, after apologizing for the state of the flat.

'Oh, please don't stand on ceremony with me,' she answered. 'Do you know, in some parts of this town neighbours are not at all friendly. There are some streets—and even some blocks of flats—where people don't know their neighbours—not even their next-door ones. But in this block of flats, everybody is friends with everybody else. We are one big, happy family. I am sure that you will be very happy here.'

The well-dressed lady got a shock when she came to visit the flat the next time, because she found a quite different man and woman in it. Mr and Mrs Jones had not had the courage to tell her that they were not the *new* owners of the flat, who were due to move in the next day, but the *old* owners, who had lived beside her for two years without her ever having visited them or even noticed their existence.

16

Mr Brown was at the theatre. He had got his ticket at the last moment, so he had not been able to choose his seat. He now found that he was in the middle of a group of American ladies, some of them middle-aged and some quite old. They obviously all knew each other well, as, before the curtain went up on the play they had come to see, they all talked and joked a lot together.

The lady sitting on Mr Brown's left, who was about sixty years old, seemed to be the happiest and the most amusing of the American group, and after the first act of the play, she apologized to him for the noisiness of her friends. He answered that he was very glad to see American ladies so obviously enjoying their visit to England, and so they got into conversation. Mr Brown's neighbour explained what they were doing there.

'You know, I have known these ladies all my life,' she said. 'We all grew up together back in our home town in the United States. They have all lost their husbands, and call themselves the Merry Widows. It is a sort of club, you know. They go abroad every summer for a month or two and have a lot of fun. They always go everywhere together. I have wanted to join their club for a long time, but I didn't qualify for membership until the spring of this year.'

17



Mr and Mrs Brown were going abroad for their holiday. They had a dog called Blackie which they were very fond of, but they could not take him abroad with them, so they looked for a good place to leave him while they were away, and at last found a place which looked after dogs very well while their owners were away. They took Blackie there just before they left for their holiday, and sadly said goodbye to him.

At the end of their holiday, they got back to England very late at night, and as they thought that the place where Blackie was staying might be closed at that late hour, they decided to wait until the next morning before going to get him.

So the next morning Mr Brown got into his car and drove off happily to collect Blackie.

When he reached home with the dog, he said to his wife, 'Do you know, dear, I don't think Blackie can have enjoyed his stay at that place very much. He barked all the way home in the car as if he wanted to tell me something.'

Mrs Brown looked at the dog carefully and then answered, 'You are quite right, dear. He was certainly trying to tell you something. But he wasn't trying to tell you that he hadn't enjoyed his stay at that place. He was only trying to tell you that you were bringing the wrong dog home. This isn't Blackie!'

18



Nasreddin sat drinking coffee and talking with some of his old friends. One of the things they discussed was the difference between one person's sense of values and another's. After some minutes, one of Nasreddin's friends said to him, 'Well, Nasreddin, you are a wise man, but you have said nothing on this subject yet. What do *you* consider to be the most valuable thing in the world?'

Nasreddin answered without hesitation, 'I consider advice the most valuable thing in the world.'

His friends thought about this for a few moments, and then one of them asked him, 'And what do you consider the most worthless thing in the world?'

Again Nasreddin replied without hesitating for a moment, 'I consider advice the most worthless thing in the world.'

'Really!' said one of his friends. 'You must be joking, Nasreddin! A minute ago you said that advice is the most *valuable* thing in the world, and now you say that it is the most *worthless* thing in the world! How can it be both the most valuable and the most worthless?'

'Well,' answered Nasreddin, 'if you think about the matter carefully, you will see that I am not joking, and that I am quite right. When you give somebody good advice, and he takes it, advice is the most valuable thing in the world. But when you give a person advice and he does not take it, it is the most worthless thing in the world.'

19



Mrs Jones was over eighty, but she still drove her old car like a woman half her age. She loved driving very fast, and boasted of the fact that she had never, in her thirty-five years of driving, been punished for a driving offence.

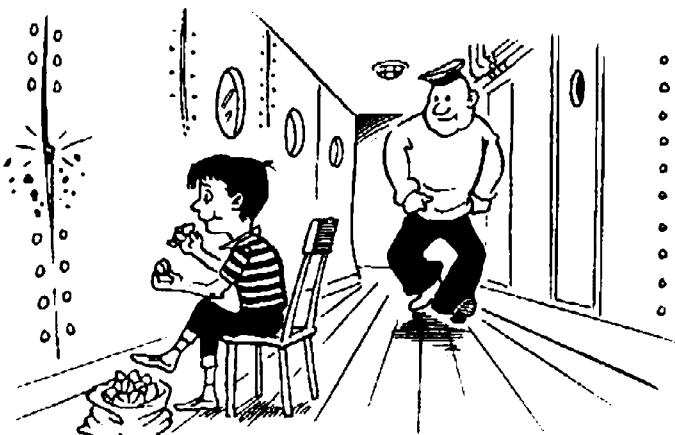
Then one day she nearly lost her record. A police car followed her, and the policemen in it saw her pass a red light without stopping.

When Mrs Jones came before the judge, he looked at her severely and said that she was too old to drive a car, and that the reason why she had not stopped at the red light was most probably that her eyes had become weak with old age, so that she had simply not seen it.

When the judge had finished what he was saying, Mrs Jones opened the big handbag she was carrying and took out her sewing. Without saying a word, she chose a needle with a very small eye, and threaded it at her first attempt.

When she had successfully done this, she took the thread out of the needle again and handed both the needle and the thread to the judge, saying, 'Now it is your turn. I suppose *you* drive a car, and that you have no doubts about your own eyesight.'

The judge took the needle and tried to thread it. After half a dozen attempts, he had still not succeeded. The case against Mrs Jones was dismissed, and her record remained unbroken.



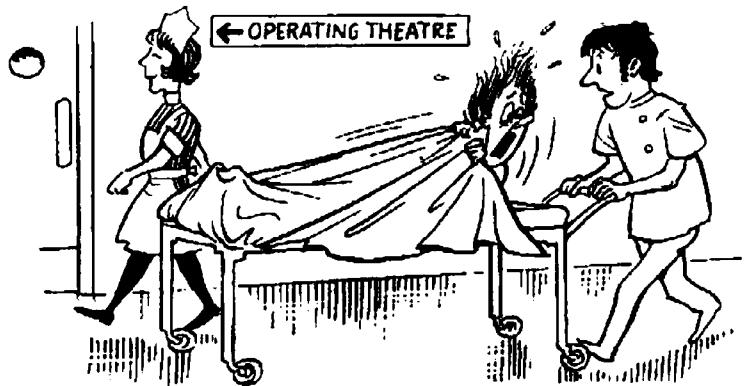
20

When a big ship is in very rough sea, it has to be able to bend a little, otherwise it may break in two. If one end of the ship is on the top of one huge wave, and the other end is on the top of another, with the middle of the ship hanging in between; or if one huge wave comes up under the middle of the ship, leaving the two ends hanging, the ship's own weight will break its back if it is quite stiff.

To make a big ship elastic enough to avoid this danger, it has joints where the sections of the ship come together above the water-line, and these joints open and shut slightly as the waves lift one section of the ship or another. This is enough to save the ship from breaking into pieces.

One day a sailor was walking along a passage-way in a big ship during a storm when he was surprised to see a boy sitting comfortably in a chair at the end of the passage-way, which was opposite one of the ship's joints. The boy had a bag of nuts beside him, and every time the ship was lifted by a wave and the joint opened, he put a nut in it. As the ship came down again, the joint closed and cracked the nut, gently but firmly. The boy then took it out and put the next one in as the joint opened again.

21



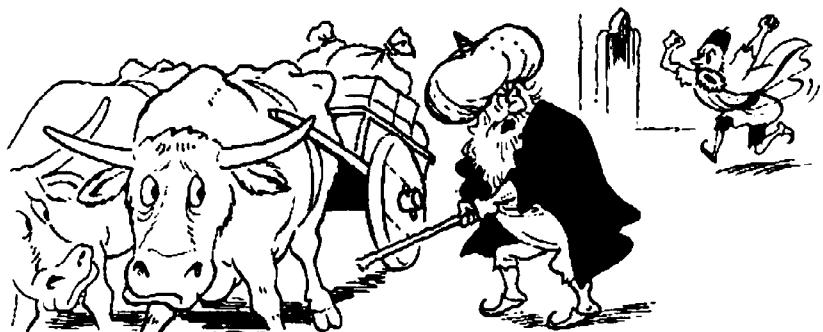
Dick was a clever boy, but his parents were poor, so he had to work in his spare time and during his holidays to pay for his education. In spite of this, he managed to get to the university, but it was so expensive to study there that during the holidays he found it necessary to get two jobs at the same time so as to earn enough money to pay for his studies.

One summer he managed to get a job in a butcher's shop during the day-time, and another in a hospital at night. In the shop, he learnt to cut meat up quite nicely, so the butcher often left him to do all the serving while he went into a room behind the shop to do the accounts. In the hospital, on the other hand, he was, of course, allowed to do only the simplest jobs, like helping to lift people and to carry them from one part of the hospital to another. Both at the butcher's shop and at the hospital, Dick had to wear white clothes.

One evening at the hospital, Dick had to help to carry a woman from her bed to the place where she was to have an operation. The woman was already feeling frightened at the thought of the operation before he came to get her, but when she saw Dick, that finished her.

'No! No!' she cried. 'Not my butcher! I won't be operated on by my butcher!' and fainted away.

22



Nasreddin was a poor man, so he tried to grow as many vegetables as he could in his own garden, so that he would not have to buy so many in the market.

One evening he heard a noise in his garden and looked out of the window. A white ox had got into the garden and was eating his vegetables. Nasreddin

at once took his stick, ran out and chased the ox, but he was too old to catch it. When he got back to his garden, he found that the ox had ruined most of his precious vegetables.

The next morning, while he was walking in the street near his house, he saw a cart with two white oxen which looked very much like the one that had eaten his vegetables. He was carrying his stick with him, so he at once began to beat the two oxen with it. As neither of them looked more like the ox that had eaten his vegetables than the other, he beat both of them equally hard.

The owner of the ox-cart was drinking coffee in a nearby coffee-house. When he saw what Nasreddin was doing to his animals, he ran out and shouted, 'What are you doing? What have those poor animals done to you for you to beat them like that?'

'You keep out of this!' Nasreddin shouted back. 'This is a matter between me and one of these two oxen. *He* knows very well why I am beating him!'

23

The war had begun, and George had joined the air force. He wanted to be a pilot, and after some months he managed to get to the air force training school, where they taught pilots to fly.

There, the first thing that new students had to do was to be taken up in a plane by an experienced pilot, to give them some idea of what it felt like. Even those who had travelled as passengers in commercial airline planes before found it strange to be in the cockpit of a small fighter plane, and most of the new students felt nervous.

The officer who had to take the students up for their first flight allowed them to fly the plane for a few seconds if they wanted to and if they were not too frightened to try, but he was always ready to take over as soon as the plane started to do dangerous things.

George was one of those who took over the controls of the plane when he went up in it for the first time, and after the officer had taken them from him again, George thought that he had better ask a few questions to show how interested he was and how much he wanted to learn to fly. There were a number of instruments in front of him, so he chose one and asked the officer what it was.

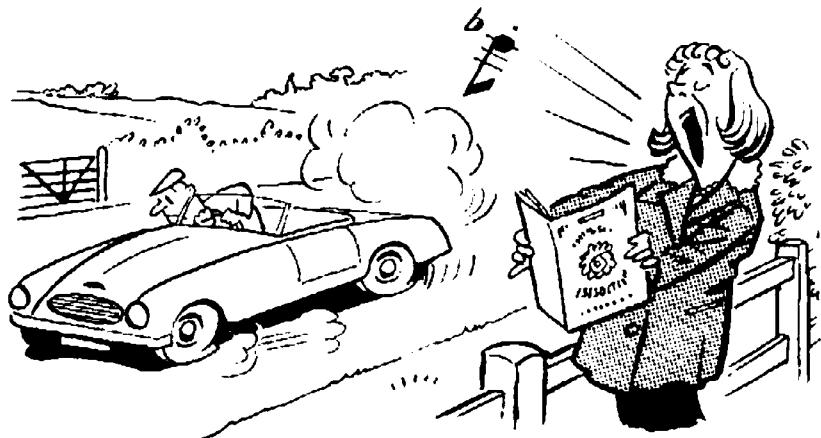
The officer looked at him strangely for a moment and then answered, 'That—is the clock.'

24

Mr Robinson had to travel somewhere on business, and as he was in a hurry, he decided to go by air. He liked sitting beside a window when he was flying, so when he got on to the plane, he looked for a window seat. He found that all of them had already been taken except for one. There was a soldier sitting in the seat beside this one, and Mr Robinson was surprised that he had not taken the one by the window; but, anyhow, he at once went towards it.

When he reached it, however, he saw that there was a notice on it. It was written in ink and said, 'This seat is reserved for proper load balance. Thank you.' Mr Robinson had never seen such a notice in a plane before, but he thought that the plane must be carrying something particularly heavy in its baggage room which made it necessary to have the passengers properly balanced, so he walked on and found another empty seat, not beside a window, to sit in.

Two or three other people tried to sit in the window seat beside the soldier, but they too read the notice and went on. Then, when the plane was nearly full, a very beautiful girl stepped into the plane. The soldier, who was watching the passengers coming in, quickly took the notice off the seat beside him—and in this way succeeded in having the company of the girl during the whole of the trip.



25

Mrs Jones was very fond of singing. She had a good voice, except that some of her high notes tended to sound like a gate which someone had forgotten to oil. Mrs Jones was very conscious of this weakness, and took every opportunity she could find to practise these high notes. As she lived in a small house, where she could not practise without disturbing the rest of the family, she usually went for long walks along the country roads whenever she had time, and practised her high notes there. Whenever she heard a car or a person coming along the road, she stopped and waited until she could no longer be heard before she started practising again, because she was a shy person, and because she was sensitive about those high notes.

One afternoon, however, a fast, open car came up behind her so silently

and so fast that she did not hear it until it was only a few metres from her. She was singing some of her highest and most difficult notes at the time, and as the car passed her, she saw an anxious expression suddenly come over its driver's face. He put his brakes on violently, and as soon as the car stopped, jumped out and began to examine all his tyres carefully.

Mrs Jones did not dare to tell him what the noise he had heard had really been, so he got back into his car and drove off as puzzled as he had been when he stopped.

26



April 1st is a day on which, in some countries, people try to play tricks on others. If one succeeds in tricking somebody, one laughs and says, 'April Fool!', and then the person who has been tricked usually laughs too.

One April 1st, a country bus was going along a winding road when it slowed down and stopped. The driver anxiously turned switches and pressed buttons, but nothing happened. Then he turned to the passengers with a worried look on his face and said, 'This poor bus is getting old. It isn't going as well as it used to. There's only one thing to do if we want to get home today. I shall count three, and on the word 'three', I want you all to lean forward suddenly as hard as you can. That should get the bus started again, but if it doesn't, I am afraid there is nothing else I can do. Now, all of you lean back as far as you can in your seats and get ready.'

The passengers all obediently pressed back against their seats and waited anxiously.

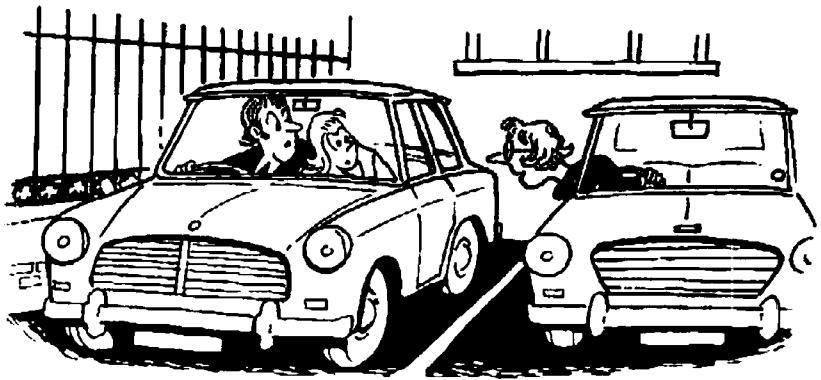
Then the driver turned to his front and asked, 'Are you ready?'

The passengers hardly had enough breath to answer, 'Yes.'

'One! Two! *Three!*' counted the driver. The passengers all swung forward suddenly—and the bus started up at a great rate.

The passengers breathed more easily and began to smile with relief. But their smiles turned to surprised and then delighted laughter when the driver merrily cried, 'April Fool!'

27



The women's college had a very small car-park, and as several of the teachers and students, and many of the students' boy-friends, had cars, it was often difficult to find a place to park. The head of the college, whose name was Miss Baker, therefore had a special place in the car-park for her own small car. There were white lines round it, and it had a notice saying, 'Reserved for Head of College'.

One evening, however, when Miss Baker got back to the College a few minutes before the time by which all students had to be in, she found another car in her parking space. There were two people in it, one of her girl-students and a young man. Miss Baker knew that the young man would have to leave very soon, so she decided to ask him to move his car a bit, so that she could park hers in the proper place for the night before going to bed.

As the young man's car was close to the railings, Miss Baker had to drive up beside it on the other side, where the girl was sitting. She therefore came up on this side, opened her own window and tapped her horn lightly to draw attention to the fact that she was there. The girl, who had her head on the boy's shoulder, looked around in surprise. She was even more surprised when she heard Miss Baker say, 'Excuse me, but may I change places with you?'

28



The soldiers had just arrived in France. None of them could speak any French, except Harry, who boasted that he knew the language very well. The other soldiers did not really believe him, because they knew that he was always boasting about something, and that what he said about himself was seldom true.

For some days, the soldiers were all kept in camp, so they had no need or opportunity to speak any French. But then the day came when they were allowed to leave for the weekend.

'Now we can see whether you really speak French or not,' they said to Harry.

'All right,' Harry answered. 'Come with me, and I will show you.'

About ten minutes after they had left the camp, they saw a pretty girl of about twenty on the other side of the road. They would all have liked to speak to her, but of course none of them knew any French except (perhaps) Harry.

'Now is your chance to show us whether you can really speak French, Harry,' said one of his friends. 'Go and speak to that girl.'

'All right,' Harry answered, and he crossed the road, smiled, bowed politely to the girl and started to speak to her. He had said only a few sentences when the girl's face turned red and she smacked his face angrily and walked off.

Harry crossed the road to his friends again, his face all smiles, and said, 'There you are! I told you I could speak French, didn't I?'



29

When sailors are allowed ashore after a long time at sea, they sometimes get drunk and cause trouble. For this reason, the navy always has naval police in big ports. When sailors cause trouble, the naval police come and deal with them.

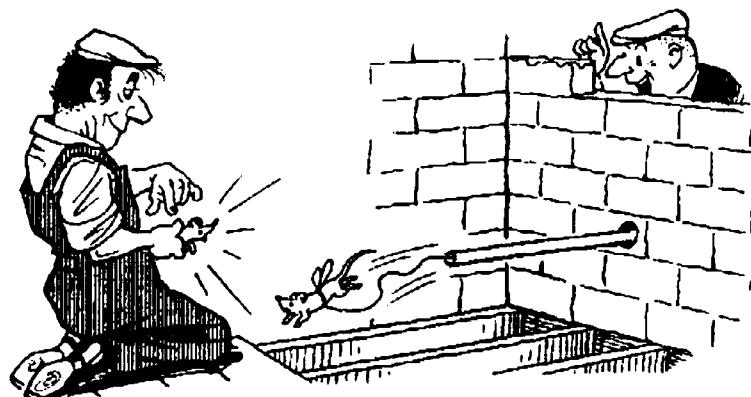
One day, the naval police in one big seaport received an urgent telephone call from a bar in the town. The barman said that a big sailor had got drunk and was breaking the furniture in the bar. The petty officer¹ who was in charge of the naval police guard that evening said that he would come immediately.

Now, petty officers who had to go and deal with sailors who were violently drunk usually chose the biggest naval policeman they could find to go with them. But this particular petty officer did not do this. Instead, he chose the smallest and weakest-looking man he could find to go to the bar with him and arrest the sailor who was breaking the furniture.

¹ 'Petty officer' is a rank in the Navy. It is above a sailor, but below a full officer.

Another petty officer who happened to be there was surprised when he saw the petty officer of the guard choose this small man, so he said to him, 'Why don't you take a big man with you? You may have to fight the sailor who is drunk.'

'Yes, you are quite right,' answered the petty officer of the guard. 'That is exactly why I am taking this small man. If you saw two policemen coming to arrest you, and one of them was much smaller than the other, which one would *you* attack?'



30

The manager of a small building company was very surprised to get a bill for two white mice which one of his workmen had bought. He sent for the workman and asked him why he had had the bill sent to the company.

'Well,' the workman answered, 'you remember the house we were repairing in Newbridge last week, don't you? One of the things we had to do there was to put in some new electric wiring. Well, in one place we had to pass some wires through a pipe thirty feet long and about an inch across, which was built into solid stone and had four big bends in it. None of us could think how to do this until I had a good idea. I went to a shop and bought two white mice, one of them male and the other female. Then I tied a thread to the body of the male mouse and put him into the pipe at one end, while Bill held the female mouse at the other end and pressed her gently to make her squeak. When the male mouse heard the female mouse's squeaks, he rushed along the pipe to help her. I suppose he was a gentleman even though he was only a mouse. Anyway, as he ran through the pipe, he pulled the thread behind him. It was then quite easy for us to tie one end of the thread to the electric wires and pull them through the pipe.'

The manager paid the bill for the white mice.

31



Nasreddin was friendly with most of his neighbours, but there was one woman who lived in his street whom he had always disliked. She was too interested in other people's business, and too ready to talk about it with others. And she was always borrowing things from her neighbours and then forgetting to return them.

This woman knew that Nasreddin had a new rope in his shed, and one day she came to his door and asked to borrow it.

'Well,' said Nasreddin, 'before I lend you my rope, I must know what you want it for.'

'One of our neighbours is cutting a big branch off the tree in my garden,' she answered, 'and he needs the rope to pull it down with, so that it does not fall on my roof.'

'Hasn't he got a rope himself?' asked Nasreddin.

'No, he hasn't,' the woman answered rudely. 'Do you think I would have come here to get yours if he had had one?'

Nasreddin said nothing, but went into his house. The woman heard him talking to his wife, and a moment later he came out again. 'I am sorry,' he said to the woman, 'but I cannot lend you the rope just now. My wife is spreading flour on it.'

'Spreading flour on it?' the woman cried. 'But how can anyone spread flour on a rope? Are you trying to make a fool out of me?'

'Certainly not!' answered Nasreddin. 'It is quite easy to spread flour on my rope when I do not wish to lend it to somebody.'

32

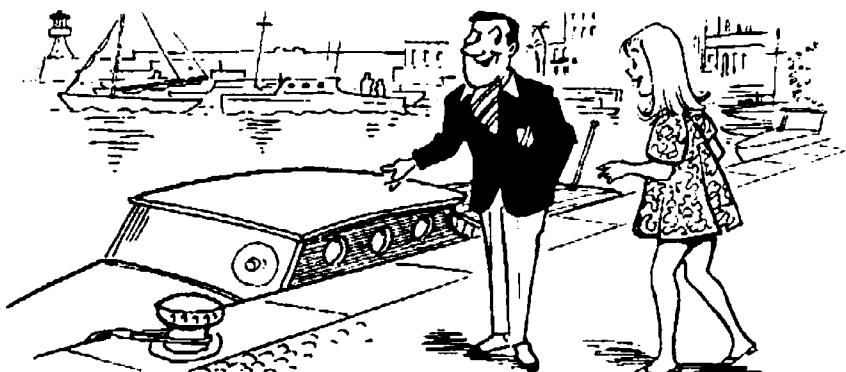
It was Saturday, so Mr Smith did not have to go to work. It had snowed heavily the night before, and Mr Smith's young son Bobby had a new sledge, which he was very eager to try out. There was a good slope in a park not far from the Smiths' house, which children often used for their sledges, so Mr Smith agreed to take Bobby there in the car. They put the sledge in and went off.

When they reached the park, they found that there were already a lot of

boys there with their sledges. They were sliding down the slope at great speed, and then pulling their sledges up again for another go.

After a few minutes Mr Smith noticed that there was one poorly-dressed little boy there who did not have a sledge. This boy had flattened out an old cardboard box, and was sliding down the slope on that. Mr Smith felt very sorry for this poor boy, and determined to ask Bobby to lend him his sledge a few times.

But before he could catch Bobby to speak to him, he was surprised—and delighted—to notice that several of the older boys in the park were lending the poor boy their sledges. Mr Smith watched them carefully—and suddenly realized that the bigger boys were not doing this because they felt sorry for the poor boy, but because they enjoyed riding on his cardboard box more than on their expensive sledges. They were actually waiting impatiently for a turn on the flattened cardboard box!



33

Jack was young, rich, and fond of girls. He hardly ever did any work, and spent most of his time enjoying himself.

One summer he bought a big motor-boat. As soon as it was ready to go to sea, he telephoned to one of the girls he had met somewhere, and invited her for a trip in his new motor-boat. It was the first of many successful invitations of this kind.

The way Jack used to invite a girl for a trip in his boat was like this: he would begin by saying, 'Hullo, Laura (or whatever the girl's name was). I have just bought a beautiful new motor-boat, and I would like to take you out for a trip in it.'

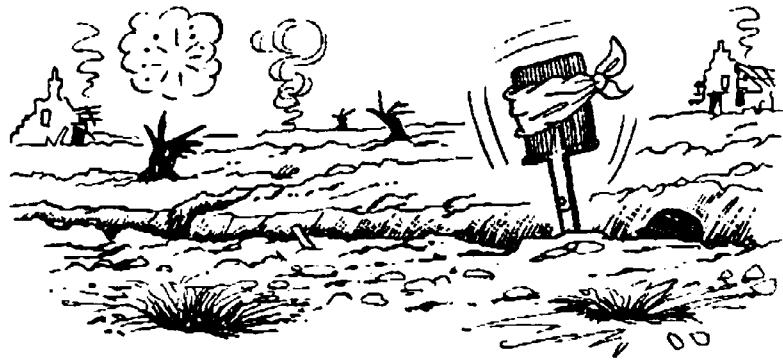
The girl's answer was usually cautious, because everybody in that part of the country knew Jack's reputation with girls. She would say something like this: 'Oh, really? That's nice. What name have you given to the boat?'

Jack would then answer, 'Well, Laura, I have named it after you.'

Of course, the girl would feel very proud that Jack had chosen *her* name for the boat out of the names of all his many girl-friends, and she would think that Jack must really love her. She would therefore be quite willing to accept his invitation to go for a trip in his motor-boat.

It would not be until she got down to the harbour and actually saw the boat that she would understand how cleverly Jack had tricked her. Because there in neat gold letters on the boat she would see its name—'After You'.

34



Night had come. There had been a big battle that day, and our army had taken the enemy's front line and then advanced half a mile beyond it. We were now in a trench which the enemy had dug as a last line of defence, and we could hear them digging themselves a new trench from which to face us in the morning. They dug in the stony soil all night, and by the morning we could see only the tops of their caps and their spades as they threw the earth out.

In our trench, several of our soldiers spent the time after daylight had come shooting at the enemy caps and spades to see if they could hit any of them.

One of the enemy soldiers, who seemed to be a sportsman, joined in our game. He would suddenly put his spade up, keep it there for a few seconds to see whether one of us could hit it, and then pull it down quickly again. Next time he would put it up in rather a different place. A number of our soldiers shot at it whenever it came up, but none of them seemed to succeed in hitting it.

Then there came a time when the spade remained down for much longer than usual. We thought that the soldier might have been stopped from playing this game by an officer, or that he might have gone off for a meal or something. But just when we thought that we would not see his spade again, it came up once more, for the last time—very slowly, and with a bandage tied around it.

35



George and his friend Peter were fond of deer-hunting, and whenever they had a free day during the deer-hunting season, they took their guns and went off into the forest.

One Saturday they were sitting on a log eating their sandwiches and

drinking their coffee when they saw a man walking through the snow towards them. He was dressed in deer-hunting clothes, but he had no gun with him. When he got nearer, the two friends saw that he was following a deer's track in the snow. They were both very surprised to see a man tracking a deer without a gun, so when he reached them, they stopped him and asked him whether anything was wrong and whether they could help him. The man sat down beside them, accepted a cup of coffee and told them his story.

Like them, he had gone out deer-hunting that morning with a friend. They had seen a deer with very big horns, and had followed it for some time. Then he had fired at it, and it had fallen just where it stood. He and his friend had run over to examine it, and he had said to his friend, 'This deer's horns will make a wonderful rack for my guns when I get it home.' He had then arranged his gun in the deer's horns and stepped back a few yards to see exactly how they would look as a gun rack on the wall of his study. He had been admiring the effect when the deer had suddenly jumped up, shaken itself and raced away, carrying his gun firmly stuck in its horns.

36

In many seaside towns there are telescopes on the sea-front so that people who want to look at the view or at ships on the sea can do so more easily. You have to put a coin in before you can use the telescope, and after a few minutes you have to put in another coin if you want to continue using it.

One day Mr Brown was on holiday in a seaside town which had telescopes like this, and he was walking along the sea-front when he saw two sailors looking through one. First one was looking, and then the other, and they were taking turns to put in another coin from time to time.

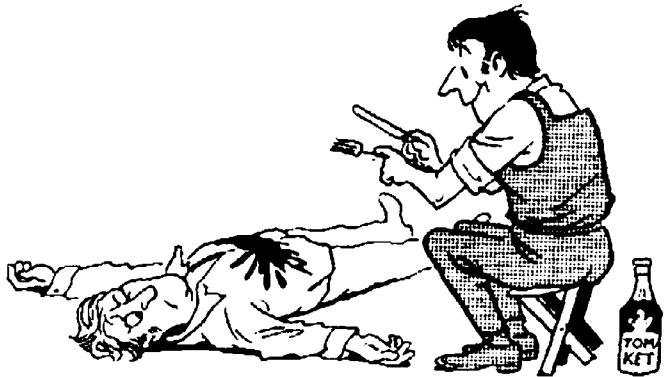
Mr Brown was rather surprised to see sailors using the telescope, because he thought that they would have had enough of looking at the sea while they were on their ship. Then he thought that they might perhaps be looking for their own ship on the sea, but that seemed improbable to him. How could sailors not know where their ship was?

Then Mr Brown suddenly realized that they were not looking at the sea at all. The telescope was pointed at the beach, and they were looking along it slowly and carefully. Mr Brown wondered whether they had lost something.

Suddenly the sailors left the telescope and went off at a fast rate, so Mr Brown stopped wondering and continued his walk.

It was not until half an hour later that he found out what the two sailors had been searching for with the telescope. He met them again, each with a very pretty girl on his arm.

37



Mary was very fond of television, so when she met a young man who worked for a television company, she was very interested and asked him a lot of questions. She discovered that he had also worked for a film company, so she asked him whether there was any difference between film work and television work.

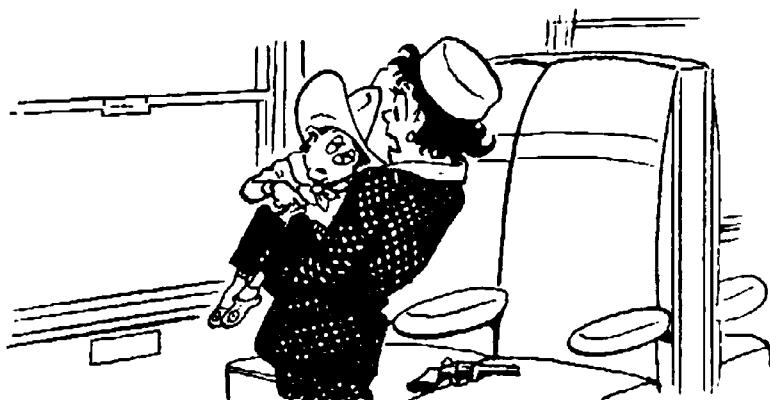
'Well,' answered the young man, 'there is one *very* big difference. If someone makes a mistake while a film is being made, it is, of course, possible to stop and do the scene again. In fact, one can do it over and over again a lot of times. Mistakes waste time, money and film, but the audiences who see the film when it is finished don't know that anything went wrong. In a live television show, on the other hand, the audience can see any mistakes that are made.'

'I can tell you a story about that. One day, a live television show was going on, and one of the actors was supposed to have been shot. He fell to the ground, and the camera moved somewhere else to allow time for me to run out with a bottle of tomato sauce to pour on to him to look like blood. But unfortunately the camera turned back to him before I had finished, and the audience saw me pouring the sauce on to the man.'

'Oh, how terrible!' Mary said. 'And what did you do?'

'Well,' answered the young man, 'our television director is a very strict man. If anyone makes a mistake, he dismisses him at once. So what could I do? I just had to pretend that this was part of the story, and eat the man.'

38



Johnny was four years old, and his favourite game was cowboys and Indians. He had a cowboy suit and a belt with two guns, and spent most of his time pretending to be fighting Indians.

One day his mother took him in a train for the first time. Of course, he

wore his cowboy suit and carried his two guns. He had seen a film of an attack by Red Indians on a train in the Wild West, so his mother was not surprised when he began playing at cowboys and Indians in the train. But when he wanted to open the window wide so that he could shoot out of it, she thought this too dangerous, and allowed him to have it open only at the top, so that he could shoot out of it if he stood up, but could not fall out.

He was playing happily, hiding behind the curtain, suddenly stepping forward, firing a shot out of the window and then quickly stepping back again, when he suddenly gave a cry, fell back on to the seat, and lay there with his chin resting on his chest and his arms hanging loosely beside him. Of course, his mother was frightened. She thought that something from outside the train must have hit him as he stood at the window. She shook the child gently, but he made no movement, and his eyes rolled in his head.

His mother was now very worried indeed. She picked Johnny up in her arms to go and find help; but just then he lifted one of his arms with great effort, pointed to his chest and said in a weak whisper, 'Pull the arrow out, will you?'



39

The science teacher believed very strongly in practical work as a means of teaching science effectively, and she wanted her pupils' parents to see how well their children were learning by her methods. She therefore arranged for all the parents to come and see the results of one of the children's experiments on a Saturday evening, when all of them were free.

The children had been studying the growth of plants, and they had planted four pots of beans a few weeks before. They had put poor soil in one pot, to see what effect this would have on the growth of the beans in it, and good soil in the other three pots. Then they had put one of the pots in the dark for several days, and had given a third pot no water for the same length of time.

At the end of the lesson on Friday afternoon, the teacher put little notices on the four pots: 'The beans in this pot were planted in poor soil.' 'This pot has been kept in the dark for four days.' 'These beans have had no water for four days.' 'These beans have had good soil, plenty of light and regular water.' Then the teacher went home.

When she arrived on Saturday evening, half an hour before the parents were due to come, she found this note beside the pots: 'We read your notes to the school servant and thought we would help him, so we watered all the plants, changed the earth in the one with poor soil, and left the light on above the one that had been left in the dark for four days. We hope that the plants will now grow better.'

'Your friends,
'The Boy Scouts.'

40

King Frederick the Great of Prussia had a very fine army, and none of the soldiers in it were finer than his Giant Guards, who were all extremely tall men. It was difficult to find enough soldiers for these Guards, as there were not many men who were tall enough.

Frederick had made it a rule that no soldiers who did not speak German could be admitted to the Giant Guards, and this made the work of the officers who had to find men for them even more difficult. When they had to choose between accepting or refusing a really tall man who knew no German, the officers used to accept him, and then teach him enough German to be able to answer if the King questioned him.

Frederick sometimes used to visit the men who were on guard around his castle at night to see that they were doing their job properly, and it was his habit to ask each new one that he saw three questions: 'How old are you?' 'How long have you been in my army?' and 'Are you satisfied with your food and your conditions?' The officers of the Giant Guards therefore used to teach new soldiers who did not know German the answers to these three questions.

One day, however, the King asked a new soldier the questions in a different order. He began with, 'How long have you been in my army?' The young soldier immediately answered, 'Twenty-two years, Your Majesty.' Frederick was very surprised. 'How old are you then?' he asked the soldier. 'Six months, Your Majesty,' came the answer. At this Frederick became angry. 'Am I a fool, or are you one?' he asked. 'Both, Your Majesty,' the soldier answered politely.

41

At the time when Bill and Rose married, neither of them had much money, so they were unable to buy a house or flat. For the first few years of their married life, they therefore lived in rented flats. Then Bill's father died and left him some money, so they bought a house. When they moved into it for

the first time, one of Bill's best friends sent him a bottle of wine as a present to celebrate his entry into the first house he had owned.

Bill and Rose had a lot of work to do getting their things unpacked, arranging the furniture, getting curtains and all the rest, so they forgot about the bottle of wine. In fact, they put it away in a cupboard without even unpacking it.

Bill and Rose already had two children when they moved into their new house, and a few months later, the third was born. When Rose came home from the hospital with the baby, Bill invited some friends round to celebrate its arrival, and they had a wonderful party, with plenty to eat and to drink.

After the party had been going on for some time, however, Bill found that the wine was finished. Luckily, he remembered the bottle which his friend had given him when they had moved into the new house and which was still lying unpacked in a cupboard somewhere in the house. He found it with some difficulty and brought it into the living-room where his guests were sitting. When he had unwrapped the bottle, he saw a card tied to it, so he took it and read it aloud to the others. It said, 'Bill, take good care of this one—it is the first one that is really yours!'



42

Mr Jones woke early one morning, before the sun had risen. It was a beautiful morning, so he went to the window and looked out. He was surprised to see a neatly dressed, middle-aged professor, who worked in the university just up the road from Mr Jones's house, coming from the direction of the town. He had grey hair and thick glasses, and was carrying an umbrella, a morning newspaper and a bag. Mr Jones thought that he must have arrived by the night train and decided to walk to the university instead of taking a taxi.

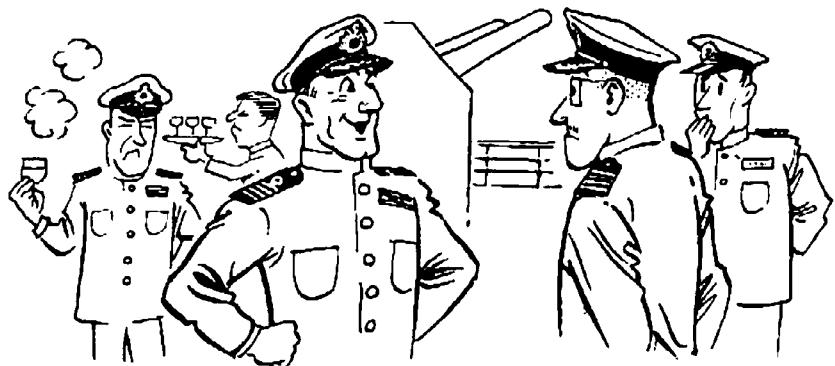
Mr Jones had a big tree in his garden, and the children had tied a long rope to one of its branches, so that they could swing on it.

Mr Jones was surprised to see the professor stop when he saw the rope, and look carefully up and down the road. When he saw that there was nobody in sight, he stepped into the garden (there was no fence), put his umbrella, newspaper, bag and hat neatly on the grass and took hold of the rope. He pulled it hard to see whether it was strong enough to take his weight, then ran as fast as he could and swung into the air on the end of the

rope, his grey hair blowing all around his face. Backwards and forwards he swung, occasionally taking a few more running steps on the grass when the rope began to swing too slowly for him.

At last the professor stopped, straightened his tie, combed his hair carefully, put on his hat, picked up his umbrella, newspaper and bag, and continued on his way to the university, looking as quiet and correct and respectable as one would expect a professor to be.

43

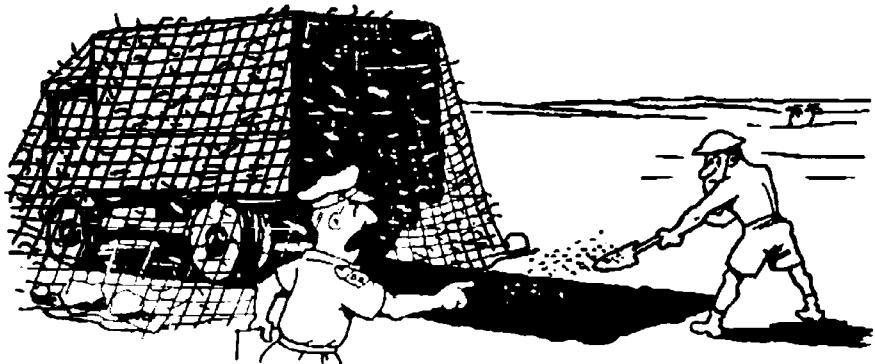


An American warship once paid a visit to a port in a hot country where the British navy had a base, and the captain of the British base invited the officers of the American warship to a party ashore.

Now, Americans like their drinks to have plenty of ice in them, even in a cold climate, but at the time of the warship's visit to the British base, it was generally known that the British hardly ever had ice, even in the hottest countries. The captain of the American ship did not want to have to drink warm drinks at the British party, but it would have been very impolite to refuse the British captain's invitation, so the American captain accepted, but, an hour before the party was due to begin, sent a small boat ashore to his host with several large tins of ice from the warship's refrigerators.

When the American officers went ashore for the party, they were looking forward to having plenty of ice in their drinks. They were therefore very surprised when, on their arrival, they were served drinks with no ice in them at all. They thought that the servants might perhaps not yet have had time to unpack the ice that had been sent from the ship, but the party continued, and still there was no ice. Of course, the American officers were too polite to ask what had happened to the ice that they had sent.

When the party at last came to an end, the American captain thanked his British host for the pleasant party. Then the secret of the ice came out. The British captain thanked the American captain for it and said, 'It allowed me to have the first really cold bath I have had in this place.'



44

The soldiers had just moved to the desert, and as they had never been in such a place before, they had a lot to learn.

As there were no trees or buildings in the desert, it was, of course, very hard to hide their trucks from enemy planes. The soldiers were therefore given training in camouflage, which means ways of covering something so that the enemy cannot see where it is. They were shown how to paint their trucks in irregular patterns with pale green, yellow, and brown paints, and then to cover them with nets to which they had tied small pieces of cloth.

The driver who had the biggest truck went to a lot of trouble to camouflage it. He spent several hours painting it, preparing a net and searching for some heavy rocks with which to hold the net down. When it was all finished, he looked proudly at his work and then went off to have his lunch.

But when he came back to the truck after he had had his meal, he was surprised and worried to see that his camouflage work was completely spoilt by the truck's shadow, which was growing longer and longer as the afternoon advanced. He stood looking at it, not knowing what to do about it.

Soon an officer arrived, and he too saw the shadow, of course.

'Well,' he shouted to the poor driver, 'what are you going to do about it? If an enemy plane comes over, the pilot will at once know that there is a truck there.'

'I know, sir,' answered the soldier.

'Well, don't just stand there doing nothing!' said the officer.

'What shall I do, sir?' asked the poor driver.

'Get your spade and throw some sand over the shadow, of course!' answered the officer.

45

Some boys join the navy when they are quite young, and are then given a course of training as sailors. It is a long course, both on land and at sea, and during it the boys study things like mathematics and science as well as learning to tie knots, fire guns, and do other practical things.

One of the important things they are taught is, of course, how to swim.

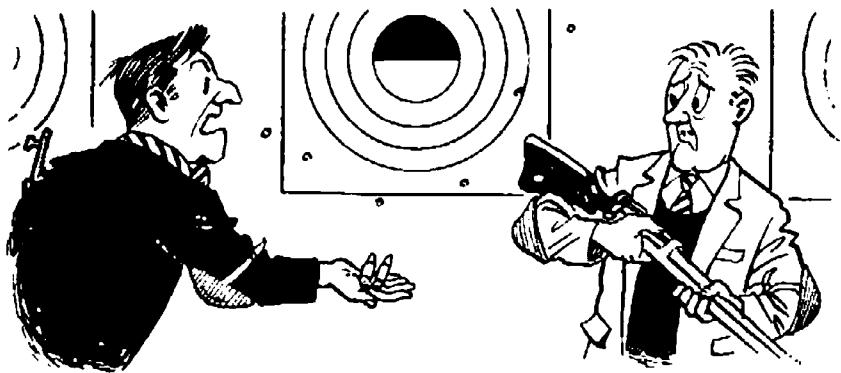
In the old days, many sailors were unable to swim, but nowadays it is rare to find one that cannot.

At one school for sailor boys, the swimming instructor was very good. He had never had a boy whom he had failed to teach to swim by the time the course ended. One year, however, there was one particular boy on the training course who seemed quite unable to learn to swim. The instructor tried giving him extra lessons, he tried throwing him into the pool at the deep end, and he tried holding him up with a rope tied to the end of a fishing-rod while he attempted to swim, but he had no success at all, whatever he did. In the end, as the time drew near when the course was due to end, he had to admit defeat.

One day, he called the boy aside after the swimming lesson and said to him, 'John, I have tried very hard to teach you to swim, but I have failed—for the first time in my life. Now I want to give you a piece of advice. Listen carefully.'

'Yes, sir,' answered the boy.

'Well,' the instructor went on, 'if you are ever in a ship and it sinks, just jump over the side into the sea, go right down to the bottom and run to the shore as fast as you can. That is the only way you will save your life.'



46

Mr Richards was quite good at shooting with a rifle, and he had taken part in several competitions in his small town. He had never actually won a prize, but each time he had done well, and once he had come fourth.

Then he had to go to a big city on business for a month, and as he had nothing much to do in the evenings there, he joined the local rifle club, and spent several pleasant evenings shooting there.

The rifle club had a very good first team, which used to take part in a lot of important shooting competitions. One of these took place while Mr Richards was with them, and of course he went to see it. But one of the members of the club's team suddenly fell ill just before the match, and the captain had to choose somebody else to take his place in a hurry. He had heard that Mr Richards had taken part in several competitions already, and he had seen for himself at the club that, although he was not really up to the standard of the club's first team, he was quite a good shot. He therefore invited him to take the sick man's place.

Mr Richards felt greatly honoured to be asked to shoot for such a good team, but he also felt very nervous, because he was afraid of making a fool of himself and letting down his team.

In fact, he was so nervous that he could not keep his hands from trembling while he was shooting, with the result that he did very badly in the competition. When he took his score card to his captain, he said, 'After seeing my score, I feel like going outside and shooting myself.'

The captain looked at the card for a few seconds and then said, 'Well, you had better take *two* bullets with you if you do that.'

47

The government wanted to put up a big office building in the capital, and had to choose an engineering company to do the work. Several big companies wanted the job, because it would bring them a lot of money if they could get it, but, of course, they could not all have it, so the government had to decide which of them should be the lucky one. They therefore appointed a government official to examine the various companies' offers, decide which were the most suitable, and then advise the Minister of Works which of them to choose.

After some months, the choice was made and work was about to begin when one of the companies which had not been successful complained to the Minister. They said that the official who had been responsible for advising him on the choice of a company to do the work had accepted bribes.

The Minister at once ordered an inquiry into the whole matter, and after a month had proof that the official had indeed taken bribes. He therefore sent for him and asked for an explanation.

The official admitted that he had taken big bribes. 'But,' he said, 'I did not just take one from the company to which I recommended that you should give the work. I took a bribe from each company to favour it in my choice of the one to recommend.'

'Well, then,' said the Minister, 'how did you finally make your choice? Did you choose the one that gave you the biggest bribe?'

'Certainly not, sir!' answered the official, deeply hurt that the Minister should accuse him of such dishonesty. 'I was very careful to take exactly the same bribe from each of the companies that were trying to get the job.'

'Then how did you choose?' asked the Minister.

'As an honest government official,' answered the man, 'I chose the company that I thought would do the work best and most cheaply, of course.'

48



The class teacher thought that hobbies were very important for every child. She encouraged all her pupils to have one, and sometimes arranged for their parents to come and see the work they had done as a result.

One Friday morning the teacher told the class that those of them who had a hobby could have a holiday that afternoon to get the things they had made as parts of their hobbies ready for their parents to see the following afternoon.

So on Friday afternoon, while those of the pupils who had nothing to show did their usual lessons, the lucky ones who had made something were allowed to go home, on condition that they returned before five o'clock to bring what they were going to show, and to arrange it.

When the afternoon lessons began, the teacher was surprised to see that Tommy was not there. He was the laziest boy in the class, and the teacher found it difficult to believe that he had a hobby. However, at a quarter to five, Tommy arrived with a beautiful collection of butterflies in glass cases. After his teacher had admired them and helped him to arrange them on a table in the classroom, she was surprised to see Tommy pick them up again and begin to leave.

'What are you doing, Tommy?' she asked. 'Those things must remain here until tomorrow afternoon. That's when the parents are coming to see them.'

'I know they are coming then,' answered Tommy, 'and I will bring them back tomorrow; but my big brother doesn't want them to be out of our house at night in case they are stolen.'

'But what has it got to do with your big brother?' asked the teacher. 'Aren't the butterflies yours?'

'No,' answered Tommy. 'They belong to him.'

'But Tommy, you are supposed to show your own hobby here, not somebody else's!' said the teacher.

'I know that,' answered Tommy. 'My hobby is watching my brother collecting butterflies.'

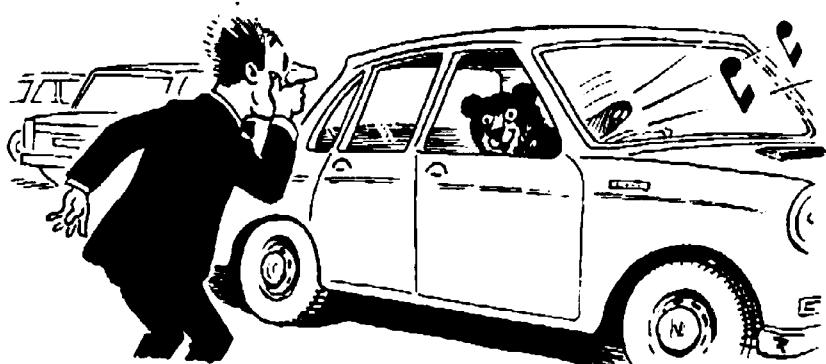
Mr Hall was a rich business man and lived in a big house beside a beautiful river.

Now, this river usually froze over in winter, and one year it did this very early, so that by Christmas time it was covered with really thick ice. One could walk across it easily, and some brave people had even crossed it in motor-cars with chains on their wheels.

The sight of this ice gave Mr Hall an idea. He decided to have a big Christmas party on the ice. He would have all the furniture and carpets in his living-room carried out on to the ice, he would have pretty coloured lights hung all around, and they would have a wonderful party. So he sent out invitations to all his important friends, and on Christmas Day they all began to arrive at his house and then go down on to the ice. They were all in very good spirits and thought that it had been a wonderful idea of Mr Hall's to have a party on the ice, surrounded by the beautiful scenery of that part of the country, but at the same time with all the comforts of armchairs, carpets, servants, good food and plenty of drinks.

The party went on until late at night, and as the last guests said their merry goodbyes, Mr Hall congratulated himself on a very successful party.

He had drunk rather a lot during the day, so he did not wake up very early the next morning. In fact, it was nearly midday before he got up and looked out of the window at the scene of the previous day's party. What he saw there made him wonder whether he was still asleep and dreaming! He closed his eyes, opened them again—but there was no mistake! The ice had broken up during the night or in the early hours of the morning and had carried all his living-room furniture, carpets and coloured lights out to sea with it!



Mr and Mrs Davies were invited to Christmas drinks at a hotel one year. They left their car in the car-park outside and went in. Mr Davies was proud of the fact that he never got drunk, so he was careful not to drink too much, in spite of his host's attempts to press more and more on him.

During the party, Mrs Davies found that she had forgotten to bring a

handkerchief, so she asked her husband to go out to the car and get her one. He did so, but on his way back to the hotel entrance, he heard a car horn blowing in the car-park. Thinking someone might be in trouble, he went over to the car from which the noise was coming. He found a small black bear sitting in the driving-seat and blowing the horn.

When Mr Davies got back to the party, he told several people about the black bear, but of course they did not believe him and thought he was drunk. When he took them out to the car-park to show them that his story was true, he found that the car with the bear in it had gone.

There were so many jokes about Mr Davies's black bear during the following days that he at last put an advertisement in the local paper: 'Will anybody who saw a black bear blowing the horn in a car outside the Central Hotel at about 7 p.m. on Christmas Day please phone . . . ?'

Two days later a Mrs Richards phoned to say that she and her husband had left their pet bear Honeypot in their car outside the Central Hotel for a few minutes that evening, and that it was quite possible that he had been blowing the horn. Mrs Richards did not seem to think there was anything strange about that. 'Honeypot *likes* blowing car horns,' she said, 'and we don't mind as long as we are not actually driving the car.'



51

A famous actor often had to travel by train. Of course, a lot of his fellow-passengers used to recognize him on his journeys, and some of them tried to get into conversation with him, but he was usually feeling tired after acting until late the night before, so he did not encourage them to talk to him.

One day he had just got into the train with all his luggage when a young man came and sat down in the seat opposite him. The young man took out a book and began to read it, while the actor tried to get some sleep in his corner of the carriage.

When he opened his eyes, he found that the young man was looking at him with his mouth open, his book forgotten. The actor shut his eyes and tried to sleep again, but every time he opened them, the young man was looking at him with the same fixed look. At last he gave up the attempt to sleep, took out a newspaper, put it up in front of him and began to read.

After a few moments the young man cleared his throat and spoke. 'I beg your pardon, sir,' he said, 'but haven't I seen you somewhere before?'

The actor did not answer. He did not even put his newspaper down.

The young man said nothing more for several minutes, but then he tried again. 'I beg your pardon, sir,' he said, 'but are you going to San Francisco?'

The actor put his paper down this time, looked at the young man severely without saying a word, and then put the paper up in front of him again.

This time there was an even longer pause before the young man spoke again. Then he said, in a last attempt to start a conversation with the great man, 'I am George P. Anderson of Wilmington, Vermont.'

This time the actor put his paper down and spoke. 'So am I,' he said.

That was the end of the conversation.

52

While Nasreddin was walking home one evening, he met four of his old friends. To be polite, he invited them to come home with him to supper. He was expecting that they would equally politely refuse his invitation, but to his surprise, they quickly accepted and went home with him.

Nasreddin was a poor man, and there was never much food in his house. He knew that there would be very little for supper that night, even for his wife and himself, but he did not know how to get rid of his unwanted guests without being very rude, so he let them come with him as far as his house. But when they were a short distance from his front door, he suddenly rushed forward, opened it, went in, shut it again and then locked it. He found his wife in the kitchen and quickly told her what had happened.

Nasreddin's guests were at first surprised at his unexpected behaviour. Then they thought that he had perhaps gone ahead to make preparations to welcome them into his house. And then, when nothing had yet happened after several minutes, they began to get angry and to bang on the door, calling at the same time for Nasreddin.

After this had gone on for some time, Nasreddin sent his wife to a window to talk to the old men. She told them that Nasreddin was not at home.

'What do you mean, he is not at home, woman?' shouted one of the men. 'We came here a few minutes ago *with* Nasreddin, and we saw him go into the house!'

Nasreddin was now afraid that the noise the old men were making would bring all his neighbours around and that he would be publicly shamed, so he put his head out of the window and said, 'Please, gentlemen, what are you making all this noise about? This house has a back door as well as a front one. Perhaps Nasreddin came in through one and went out through the other.'

53



One day, Nasreddin was walking quietly along the road when somebody gave him a violent blow on the back of the neck. He looked behind him, and saw a young man whom he had never seen before.

'How dare you hit me like that!' shouted Nasreddin.

The young man said he had mistaken Nasreddin for a friend of his and that he thought Nasreddin was making a lot of noise about nothing.

This insult made Nasreddin even angrier, of course, and he at once arranged for the young man to be brought before a judge. There was nothing for the young man to do but to appear before the court.

Now, the judge who heard the case was a friend of the young man's father, and, although he pretended to be quite fair, he was thinking how he could avoid punishing the young man while at the same time not appearing unjust.

Finally he said to Nasreddin, 'I understand your feelings in this matter very well. Would you be satisfied if I let you hit the young man as he hit you?'

Nasreddin said he would not be. The young man had insulted him and should be properly punished.

'Well, then,' said the judge to the young man, 'I order you to pay ten liras to Nasreddin.'

Ten liras was very little for such a crime, but the young man did not have it with him, so the judge allowed him to go and get it.

Nasreddin waited for him to return with the money. He waited an hour, he waited two hours, while the judge attended to other business.

When it was nearly time for the court to close, Nasreddin chose a moment when the judge was especially busy, came up quietly behind him and hit him hard on the back of the neck. Then he said to him, 'I am sorry, but I can't wait any longer. When the young man comes back, tell him that I have passed my right to the ten liras on to you.'

54

It was snowing heavily, and the wind was blowing the snow into great piles against the fences at the sides of the road. In some places the piles were so big that they were beginning to spread right across the road, but as long as cars could keep moving rather fast, they were still managing to get through.

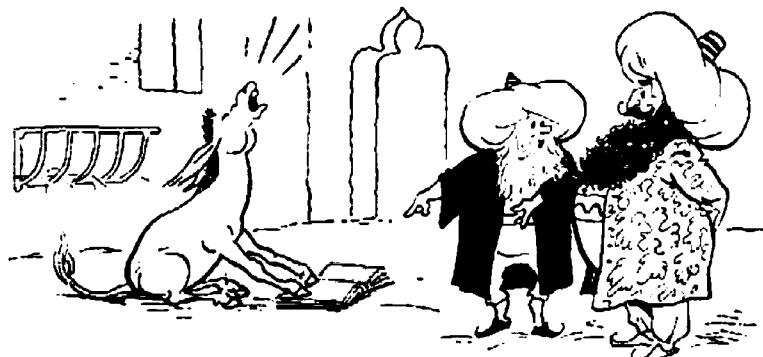
There was one point, however, where there was a sharp bend in the road. There the snow had piled up on both sides, and as cars had to slow down to get round the corner safely, their drivers had to be very skilful to avoid getting stuck.

At last, of course, there was one who was not skilful enough and who let his car stop on the corner. When he tried to start it again, the wheels slipped, and the car finished up deep in the snow and blocking the road.

The next car to reach the corner was in trouble too. The driver had been trying to keep up a good speed to avoid getting stuck, and he did not notice the car blocking the road in front of him until he was almost on top of it. He put his brakes on hard, the wheels of his car locked, and it slid sideways into deep snow.

It was not the last to do this. Car after car came round the corner too fast to stop properly, and finished up in the deep snow at the side of the road. Before long, there were five cars stuck as the snow continued to fall.

At last, a neighbour saw what had happened and telephoned the local garage, which sent a truck to pull the cars out of the snow. The neighbour watched as the garage men pulled them out one by one. When they reached the car which had started all the trouble by getting stuck across the road, the neighbour said to them, 'You aren't going to move that one, are you? That's the one that has brought you all this business today!'



55

One day Nasreddin went to visit King Tamerlane, who took him to see his horses and donkeys, of which he was very proud. Nasreddin naturally wanted to please the King, so he praised each of the animals greatly.

At last they came to a beautiful cream-coloured donkey which Tamerlane had bought the week before.

'What a wonderfully clever animal it looks!' cried Nasreddin. 'I am sure it could learn to read, Your Majesty!'

As soon as he had said this, he regretted his words, but it was too late to take them back any more.

Tamerlane looked at Nasreddin. 'Well, well,' he said after a few moments, 'so you believe that you could teach my donkey to read, do you? Well, you have one month to do so.'

Nasreddin knew what the King would do to him if he did not succeed

in teaching the donkey to read. He took the animal's rope and led it to his own house, feeling very unhappy indeed.

Exactly a month later, he went to see the King again with the donkey and a very big book. He put the book in front of the donkey, and the animal began to turn the pages eagerly with its tongue. When it reached the middle of the book, it stopped and began to bray loud and long.

Tamerlanc roared with laughter and then said to Nasreddin, 'How did you teach it to do this trick?'

Nasreddin took a deep breath of relief and then said, 'Well, Your Majesty, I first put some hay between the first and the second pages, so that the donkey had to turn the first page with his tongue to get the hay. Then the next day, I put the hay between the second and the third pages, so that he had to turn two pages to get the hay. On the third day he had to turn three pages, and so on. Today he brayed because he was angry and disappointed when he did not find any hay in the book at all.'



56

One day some wise men, who were going about the country trying to find answers to some of the great questions of their time, came to Nasreddin's district and asked to see the wisest man in the place. Nasreddin was brought forward, and a big crowd gathered to listen.

The first wise man began by asking, 'Where is the exact centre of the world?'

'It is under my right heel,' answered Nasreddin.

'How can you prove that?' asked the first wise man.

'If you don't believe me,' answered Nasreddin, 'measure and see.'

The first wise man had nothing to answer to that, so the second wise man asked his question.

'How many stars are there in the sky?' he said.

'As many as there are hairs on my donkey,' answered Nasreddin.

'What proof have you got of that?' asked the second wise man.

'If you don't believe me,' answered Nasreddin, 'count the hairs on my donkey and you will see.'

'That is foolish talk,' said the other. 'How can one count the hairs on a donkey?'

'Well,' answered Nasreddin, 'how can one count the stars in the sky? If one is foolish talk, so is the other.' The second wise man was silent.

The third wise man was becoming annoyed with Nasreddin and his answers, so he said, 'You seem to know a lot about your donkey, so can you tell me how many hairs there are in its tail?'

'Yes,' answered Nasreddin. 'There are exactly as many hairs in its tail as there are in your beard.'

'How can you prove that?' said the other.

'I can prove it very easily,' answered Nasreddin. 'You can pull one hair out of my donkey's tail for every one I pull out of your beard. If the hairs on my donkey's tail do not come to an end at exactly the same time as the hairs in your beard, I will admit that I was wrong.'

Of course, the third wise man was not willing to do this, so the crowd declared Nasreddin the winner of the day's arguments.

57



It was a very wide river, with many great curves in it, and in one of these there lived a large number of wild pigs. Nobody could remember how they had got there, but they managed to live through floods, fires, ice and attacks by hunters.

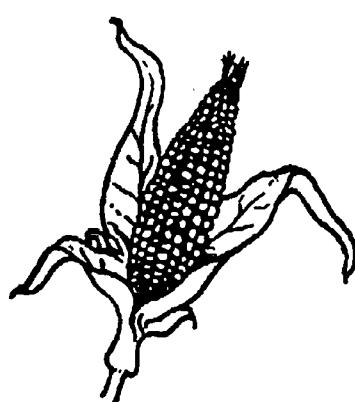
Then one day a stranger came to the nearest village and asked where he could find the wild pigs. Somebody told him, and he went off. He had no weapons with him, and the village people wondered what he was going to do with the pigs.

When he came back a few months later and said that he had caught all the pigs, the villagers were still more surprised, but some of the men agreed to go with him when he asked for help in bringing the pigs out. They wanted to see whether he was telling the truth.

They soon discovered that he was. All the pigs were inside an enclosure which had a fence round it and a gate in one of its sides.

'How did you do it?' they asked the stranger.

'Well, it was quite easy really,' he answered. 'I began by putting out some Indian corn. At first, they would not touch it, but after a few weeks,



Indian Corn

some of the younger pigs began to run out of the bushes, take some of the corn quickly, and then run back. Soon all the pigs were eating the corn I put out. Then I began to build a fence round the corn. At first it was very low, but gradually I built it higher and higher without frightening the pigs away. When I saw that they were waiting for me to bring the corn each day instead of going and searching for their own food as they had done in the past, I built a gate in my fence and shut it one day while they were all eating inside the enclosure. I can catch any animal in the world in the same way if I can get it into the habit of depending on me for its food.'



58

Although Nasreddin was a poor man, he decided one day to take King Tamerlane a roast goose as a present.

Now, Nasreddin had not had much to eat that day, and soon the smell of the roast goose as he carried it to the King became too much for him, so he tore off one of its legs and ate it.

When he came before the King and offered him the goose, Tamerlane at once noticed that one of the legs was missing. Now, he had himself been born with one bad leg, so that he had never been able to walk properly. When he saw that the goose that Nasreddin was offering him had only one leg, he therefore thought that Nasreddin had done this on purpose to remind him of his own leg. Of course, he was very angry, and as he was a man who was not slow to punish those who angered him, Nasreddin was very frightened.

'Where is the goose's other leg?' the King shouted.

'Your Majesty,' answered Nasreddin trembling; 'all the geese in this part of the country have one leg only.'

'So you think I am a fool, do you?' Tamerlane answered.

'Certainly not, Your Majesty,' said Nasreddin. 'If Your Majesty will look out of the window, you will see geese with one leg by the side of your pond.'

Tamerlane looked out of the window, and there the geese were, resting on one leg beside the water. The King at once ordered one of his servants to chase the birds away. The servant took a big stick and threw it at them, and of course, they put down their other legs and ran away.

'There,' said Tamerlane. 'You were lying, Nasreddin. That shows that the geese in this part of the country have two legs, like all other geese.'

'I beg your pardon, Your Majesty,' answered Nasreddin, 'but it doesn't show anything of the kind. If your servant threw a big stick like that at *me*, I might grow *two* more legs myself to help me to run away faster.'



59

A certain hunter had found a piece of forest where there were plenty of animals to hunt. The only trouble was that the place was very difficult to get to.

He returned from his first visit to the place in late autumn, and could not get back until the snows melted in the following spring. Then he went to the pilot of a small plane, who earned his living by carrying hunters over parts of the country where there were no roads and no railways, and asked him to take him back to his favourite piece of forest.

The pilot did not know the place, so the hunter showed it to him on the map. 'But there is nowhere to land there, man!' said the pilot. 'I have flown over that part of the country on my way to other places, and I know that we can't land anywhere between this river and these mountains.'

'I thought you were a wonderful pilot,' said the hunter. 'Some of my friends said you could land a plane on a postage stamp.'

'That's right,' answered the pilot. 'I can land a plane where nobody else can. But I tell you there is nowhere to land in the place you are talking about.'

'And what if I tell you that another pilot *did* land me there last spring?' said the hunter.

'Is that true?' asked the pilot.

'Yes, it is. I swear it.'

Well, this pilot could not let himself be beaten by another, so he agreed to take the hunter.

When they reached the place, the hunter pointed out a small spot without trees in the middle of the forest, with a steep rise at one end. The pilot thought that there was not enough room to land there, but the hunter said that the other pilot had done so the year before, so down went the plane. When it came to the rise, it turned right over onto its back. As the hunter climbed out, he smiled happily and said, 'Yes, that is exactly how the other pilot managed it last time.'

George had stolen some money, but the police had caught him and he had been put in prison. Now his trial was about to begin, and he felt sure that he would be found guilty and sent to prison for a long time.

Then he discovered that an old friend of his was one of the members of the jury at his trial. Of course, he did not tell anybody, but he managed to see his friend secretly one day. He said to him, 'Jim, I know that the jury will find me guilty of having stolen the money. I cannot hope to be found not guilty of taking it—that would be too much to expect. But I should be grateful to you for the rest of my life if you could persuade the other members of the jury to add a strong recommendation for mercy to their statement that they consider me guilty.'

'Well, George,' answered Jim, 'I shall certainly try to do what I can for you as an old friend, but of course I cannot promise anything. The other eleven people on the jury look terribly strong-minded to me.'

George said that he would quite understand if Jim was not able to do anything for him, and thanked him warmly for agreeing to help.

The trial went on, and at last the time came for the jury to decide whether George was guilty or not. It took them five hours, but in the end they found George guilty, with a strong recommendation for mercy.

Of course, George was very pleased, but he did not have a chance to see Jim for some time after the trial. At last, however, Jim visited him in prison, and George thanked him warmly and asked him how he had managed to persuade the other members of the jury to recommend mercy.

'Well, George,' Jim answered, 'as I thought, those eleven men were very difficult to persuade, but I managed it in the end by tiring them out. Do you know, those fools had all wanted to find you not guilty!'