

## 1 . A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE

A day in the life of... has been specially written for intermediate students of English as a second language, and each story contains passages in dialogue which are suitable for acting out in class.

Words and expressions that may present difficulty are asterisked in the text and listed in a glossary at the end of each story. There is a wide range of exercise material and answers are provided at the end of the book.

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There was absolutely no doubt that Henry Orpington liked politics. He talked about politics all the time. All the members of his family were pleased, therefore, when Henry was \*adopted as the \*prospective parliamentary candidate for the \*constituency in which they were living. One year later the date of the general election was announced by the Prime Minister. Throughout the election \*campaign Henry's wife and his two teenage daughters worked night and day for him and he finally won a seat in the \*House of Commons by a very large majority. Every day of the campaign was a \*challenge, but there was one day in particular that Henry would never forget. That was the day he thought he was going to be \*blown up by a bomb.

On a Friday morning at the beginning of the campaign, the phone rang in the Orpingtons' house at six-thirty in the morning. Henry got out of bed and ran down the stairs. He wondered who could possibly be ringing at that early hour in the morning.

**Henry** Hello.  
**Man's voice** Is that Mr. Henry Orpington, the parliamentary candidate?  
**Henry** Yes, speaking.  
**Man's voice** Oh, good morning. I want to warn you about a bomb....  
**Henry** A bomb? Where? Hello! We've been cut off.  
\*Operator! Operator! Operator!

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It was no good. \*The line had gone dead. As calmly as he could Henry went upstairs to tell his wife the alarming news. They decided to get dressed at once and take the two girls to their aunt's house. Henry informed the police but asked them to keep the news from \*the press. At half past eight Henry was in conference with his \*election agent, Andrew Higgins, at party \*headquarters.

**Andrew** If you want my opinion, I suggest you \*cancel all your \*engagements for today and wait until the police \*get to the bottom of the matter.

**Henry** Certainly not! I'm not going to let myself be scared by some stupid \*crank.

**Andrew** What did the man sound like? Did you recognize his voice?

**Henry** No, I was half asleep. His voice wasn't familiar but he sounded quite pleasant. He didn't seem to be \*threatening me.

**Andrew** That makes \*the whole business even more \*sinister. Look here, Henry, one day won't make all that much difference. I'll tell people that you've lost your voice or something.

**Henry** No, I'm going to \*carry on as usual. Think of the advantage it would give my \*opponents if I were out of the campaign even for one day.

**Andrew** If you say so. But I'd like to make it clear that \*I'm dead against it.

Henry Orpington's first engagement that day was an, open-air meeting on a large \*housing estate at ten o'clock. As most of the men were out at work, his audience consisted mainly of women and young children. Andrew Higgins \*kept a close watch on the platform from which Henry was making his speech, while several \*plainclothes policemen \*mingled\*inconspicuously with the crowd.

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There was very little \*reaction to Henry's speech, except from one or two \*hecklers at the back who kept on asking what Henry's party intended to do about the \*rising price of fruit and vegetables. After the speech he shook hands with some of the women. One of them lifted up a baby for him to kiss, but the sight of Henry's beard must have frightened it because it began to \*scream its head off.

At eleven o'clock he \*paid a brief visit to a \*public house on the estate. Henry couldn't offer to buy anyone a drink because he knew very well that his opponents would consider that to be \*bribery. So he let one of his supporters buy him a drink instead.

At lunch time he went to his sister's house to see his wife and daughters. They had spent the morning addressing envelopes for the leaflets he was sending out. His sister, Vera, thoroughly \*disapproved of his \*involvement in politics.

**Vera** Now I hope you can see the danger of \*getting mixed up in politics, Henry. You and the family will probably all be blown up.

**Henry** Don't \*exaggerate, Vera. I'm sure it's just a \*hoax.

**Vera** I only hope you're right. What other meetings have you got today?

**Henry** I shall be calling at houses in Midhampton this afternoon, and then there's a big meeting tonight in the field behind Thompson's farm.

**Vera** There you are, then. No doubt one of those stupid farmers has got a \*pile of bombs hidden in a \*haystack..

**Henry** Oh, Vera, really!

There was a large crowd in the field when Henry arrived at eight o'clock for what was perhaps the biggest meeting of the whole campaign. His constituency was

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\*largely a farming \*community and the most important local \*issue concerned the \*subsidies that the new government would be paying to the farmers. After a hard day's work, hundreds of farmers and farm labourers had come to the field to hear what Henry had to say.

**Henry** Ladies and gentlemen, I \*appreciate the anxiety you must all feel about this question of subsidies. I too have been a farmer and I know the difficulties you are experiencing, and so ...

**Heckler** ... and so you've decided to become an M.P. and get rich!

**Henry** No, my friend. I want to give the farmers a voice in the House of Commons.

**Heckler** I don't believe a word of it!

**Henry** You've got a strong voice, I'll admit. But London's two hundred miles away and I don't think your voice will \*carry that far. That's why I want to speak on your behalf.

The crowd remained \*good-natured for the first part of his speech and Henry was feeling pleased with himself. And then, suddenly, \*half a dozen \*tractors \*roared onto the field.

"Do you like tomatoes?" shouted one of the tractor drivers. Henry hesitated for a moment and then replied: "Yes, I like them very much." "Well, we can't sell them at a profit," said the tractor driver, "because the \*imported ones are too cheap. So rather than let them \*go to waste, you can have them!"

It was then that Henry noticed that the tractors were loaded with boxes of tomatoes, which the farmers started to throw at him. Unfortunately for Henry, two of them hit him full in the face. He realized that he had to say something quickly to \*win the crowd over to his side. "Thank you for your generous gift, but I really prefer them in sandwiches. And now let's get on with the meeting."

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The crowd started to cheer and Henry managed to finish his speech without further interruptions. In the meantime the police had made a thorough search of Henry's house and \*assured him that there were no hidden bombs. He went back to his sister's house to collect his family.

**Vera** I've got some supper ready. I'm sure you must be \*starving.

**Henry** You shouldn't have \*bothered. We can all go back home now. The police have searched the house thoroughly and they found nothing at all.

**Vera** Well, at least stay and eat the nice \*salad I've made.

**Henry** All right, Vera. Just so long as there are no tomatoes in it!

After supper, Henry and his family went home. Later that evening the phone rang.

**Henry** Hello.

**Man's voice** Oh, Mr. Orpington. I've been trying to reach you all day. This is Paul Harris. I called you this morning.

**Henry** You did indeed! I think you owe me an explanation.

**Harris** Yes, I do. When I phoned you this morning \*I was cut off. It was a bad line or something.

**Henry** Well, what about the bomb?

**Harris** The bomb? \*What on earth do you mean?

**Henry** That's what I'd like to know. You said, "I want to warn you about a bomb."

**Harris** Oh, dear! I'm afraid there's been a \*misunderstanding. I didn't have time to finish my sentence. You see, I'm a farmer and I \*overheard some of the other farmers planning to break up your meeting.

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**Henry** I still fail to see what all this has got to do with a bomb.  
**Harris** Well, if we hadn't been cut off I was going to warn you about a \*bombardment of tomatoes!

NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

**parliamentary candidate** man or woman standing for election to parliament as an M.P. (Member of Parliament)  
**adopted** *here means* chosen  
**prospective** future  
**constituency** district represented by one M.P. The people in this district are called "constituents"  
**campaign** planned course of action; here refers to the time (about three weeks) just before an election  
**House of Commons** one of the two Houses of Parliament (the other is the House of Lords)  
**challenge** a test of one's ability  
**blow up** kill in an explosion  
**operator** the telephonist at the telephone exchange  
**the line had gone dead** the connection had been broken  
**the press** the newspapers, newspaper reporters  
**election agent** the person who manages the campaign for a parliamentary candidate  
**headquarters** main office  
**cancel** call off, do not attend  
**engagements** appointments  
**get to the bottom of the matter** find out the truth about it  
**crank** someone with strange ideas

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**threaten** try to frighten  
**the whole business** the situation  
**sinister** strange and frightening  
**carry on** continue  
**opponents** those who are against you (here refers to members of the other political parties)  
**I'm dead against it** I'm completely against it  
**housing estate** an area with houses of the same type and usually built by the same builder  
**keep a close watch on** watch carefully  
**plainclothes policemen** policemen wearing civilian(ordinary) clothes  
**mingled** mixed  
**inconspicuously** so as not to be noticed  
**reaction** showing of feelings for or against  
**hecklers** people who interrupt a speaker (usually political)  
**rising** increasing  
**scream its head off** scream very loudly  
**paid a brief visit to** visited for a short time  
**public house** a place where wine, beer and spirits can be bought and drunk  
**bribery** money or goods given to someone to win his support  
**disapproved of** did not approve of  
**involvement in** mixing in  
**getting mixed up in** becoming involved in  
**exaggerate** say that something is more important etc. than it really is  
**hoax** (pronounced like jokes) joke  
**pile** heap, number of  
**haystack** large pile of hay  
**largely** mainly  
**community** district and its people  
**issue** question or problem for discussion  
**subsidies** help in the form of money from the government

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**appreciate** here means understand  
**carry** here means travel, i.e. be heard in London  
**good-natured** friendly  
**half a dozen** six (twelve to a dozen)  
**tractor** vehicle used on a farm for pulling things  
**roared** made a loud noise; here came in with a loud noise imported  
bought from another country  
**go to waste** be wasted  
**win the crowd over to his side** win the support of the crowd  
**assured him** made him certain  
**starving** very hungry  
**bothered** taken the trouble  
**salad** dish of fresh vegetables  
**I was cut off** my telephone connection with you was broken  
**What on earth...?** a strong way of saying "What...?"  
**misunderstanding** mistake due to something not being understood  
**overhear** hear something without the speaker knowing  
**bombardment** in the military sense, with heavy guns; here with  
tomatoes

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

A. Comprehension questions

1. Which constituency was Henry Orpington adopted for?
2. What sort of majority did he get?
3. Who is Andrew Higgins?
4. Does Andrew want Henry to continue with his engagements after the bomb threat?

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5. Why did Henry's audience at the housing estate consist mainly of women and children?
6. Why did the baby scream its head off when Henry tried to kiss it?
7. What had Henry's wife and daughters been doing all morning?
8. What was the most important election issue for the farmers?
9. Why couldn't the farmers sell their tomatoes at a profit?
10. How did Paul Harris know about the bombardment of tomatoes?

B. Change the following sentences into the passive:

Example:

The constituency adopted Henry as the candidate.  
*Henry was adopted as the candidate for the constituency.*

1. The Prime Minister announced the date of the general election.
2. He thought a bomb was going to blow him up.
3. They've cut us off.
4. They kept the news from the press.
5. I'm not going to let some stupid crank scare me.
6. Henry's beard must have frightened the baby.
7. Two of the tomatoes hit him in the face.
8. If they hadn't cut us off.

C. Use the following words to complete the sentences below:

bribery	hoax
scream	starving
crank	cut off
cancel	teenage

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1. I have two small sons and three \_\_\_\_\_ daughters.
2. The operator has \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ all my engagements.
4. He has very strange ideas. I think he's a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When the baby saw Henry's beard, it began to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If Henry bought someone a drink it would be considered \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Henry thought that the telephone call about the bomb was just a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I haven't eaten all day. I'm \_\_\_\_\_.

D. The following sentences come from the conversation between Andrew and Henry. Change them into indirect (reported) speech.

Start like this:

1. Andrew suggested that Henry cancel all his arrangements for that day.

Now you do it.

1. **Andrew** I suggest you cancel all your engagements for today.
2. **Henry** I'm not going to let myself be scared by some stupid crank.
3. **Andrew** What did the man sound like? Did you recognize his voice?
4. **Henry** No, I was half asleep. He didn't seem to be threatening me.
5. **Andrew** That makes the whole business even more sinister.
6. **Andrew** Henry, one day won't make all that much difference. I'll tell people you've lost your voice.
7. **Henry** I'm going to carry on as usual.
8. **Andrew** I'd like to make it clear that I'm dead against it.

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Erika Weiss had corresponded with Peter Jarvis for nearly three years, but they only met for the first time last month at London airport. Erika had come from Germany to work for a year in her firm's London office. When she first arrived, she went to stay at a \*hostel, but she wasn't happy there. She decided to look for a flat of her own, but as she didn't know her way around London, and couldn't understand the advertisements for flats in the newspapers, she went to see Peter and to ask his advice.

**Erika** I must find a flat of my own. I don't like living in the hostel, Peter. \*There's no privacy, the food is horrible and \*I have to be in by eleven o'clock.

**Peter** How can I help?

**Erika** can't understand the advertisements.

**Peter** Well, let's have a look at one.

**Erika** This one, for example. Whatever does it mean?

**Peter** Let me see. "Charm s/c furn gdn flt, dbl bedim, lge lnge, kit, bath, cent htg, £20 pw."

**Erika** Now please translate it for me.

**Peter** That's no good for you.

**Erika** It may not be, but I want to know what it means.

**Peter** It means, "A charming \*self-contained furnished garden flat with a double bedroom, large \*lounge, kitchen and bathroom, with central heating, at twenty pounds a week.

**Erika** Yes. I see. That's too big and too expensive for me. How am I going to find what I want?

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- Peter** Tomorrow's Saturday and we've both got \*the day off. I suggest we spend the whole day looking for a flat. If we're lucky, we might find something for you to move into next week. All right?
- Erika** That sounds lovely. I hope I can find a flat as nice as yours.
- Peter** That won't be easy.
- Erika** You mean this wasn't the first flat you looked at?
- Peter** You must be joking! I've only been here for two months. You should have seen the terrible flat I had before. And it was hard enough to get that. Finding a flat in London is very difficult. To start with you've got to buy the first edition of one of the London newspapers, and after you've read the \*accommodation advertisements you've got to run to the nearest telephone so that you are the first person to \*ring up.
- Erika** But what if it says, "ring after six."?
- Peter** Oh, you mustn't take any notice of that. I've missed lots of flats by taking that too seriously. You must ring up at once and \*keep your fingers crossed that there's someone at home to answer the phone. If the owner answers, you mustn't sound too\*eager.
- Erika** What do you mean?
- Peter** You've got to give him, or her, the impression that\*you don't really mind if you get the flat or not. You must sound as if you've got \*dozens of other flats to consider.
- Erika** But there aren't dozens of other flats.
- Peter** Of course not. But if you sound too eager the owner will think you're having difficulty in finding a flat, and then he'll think there's something wrong with you.

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- Erika** I suppose you're right.
- Peter** Of course I am. It's like a game. You pretend you don't really want a flat at all, and the owner pretends he doesn't really want to \*let his flat. He says, "It's ten pounds a week you know," as if he doesn't think you have enough money, so you say you didn't realize there was no private bath and you're not interested after all.
- When you've collected a list of addresses to visit, you \*set off. You get to the street where the first flat is and pass the most beautiful houses you've ever seen. This is perfect, you think. A flat in a house like this for only ten pounds a week! And then, as you get nearer to the number you're looking for, you notice that the character of the street is changing. The houses are dirty, the doors are unpainted, windows are broken. And of course the house you're looking for is the worst of all. You want to turn round and go home, but the owner is already at the door. He takes you up to see the flat, and although you can see what's there for yourself he points to everything in the room. "There's the bed," he says, "and there's the table." In the end you tell him that you've got another flat to look at and that you'll \*let him know. After seeing a lot of places like this you begin to think you'll never find a \*reasonable flat. I even thought about going to a hostel like yours.
- Erika** Oh, no! If other hostels are like mine you wouldn't have liked it at all. This sounds terrible, Peter. Are you sure you still want to help me tomorrow?
- Peter** Yes, of course I do. I just want you to know what it's going to be like.

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- Erika** I'm getting \*a pretty good ideal Tell me how you got the terrible flat you had before this one.
- Peter** I got it through an \*agency. I paid a small \*fee to the agency and they gave me three addresses. I went to the first address and a charming grey-haired lady opened the door. She showed me a self-contained flat on the ground floor. It was nicely decorated, clean and cheap. I told her I'd take it and paid her a month's \*rent in advance.
- Erika** But I thought you didn't like it. It sounds fine.
- Peter** Wait a minute.
- Erika** Sorry. Go on.
- Peter** I moved in on a Sunday night. I was woken up the next morning at half past seven.
- Erika** What woke you up?
- Peter** \*Road drills and \*bulldozers! There was one little thing the landlady hadn't told me: they were going to build a \*motorway right outside my window!

## NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- flat hunter** someone looking for a flat (two or three rooms on the same floor)
- hostel** a building in which young people (usually students) can live cheaply
- there's no privacy** you cannot be alone
- I have to be in** I must be back in the hostel
- self-contained** with its own bath room and lavatory
- lounge** sitting room, living room
- the day off** the day free, i.e. you do not have to go to work
- accommodation** houses, flats, rooms : somewhere to live
- ring up** telephone

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- keep your fingers crossed** a superstition; this is meant to bring good luck
- eager** keen, enthusiastic
- you don't really mind** it's not important to you
- dozens** many, a lot (twelve to a dozen)
- let** offer for rent (you often see signs saying FLAT TO LET)
- set off** start a journey
- let him know** tell him later
- reasonable** sensible, moderate
- a pretty good idea** quite a good idea, a fairly good idea
- agency** here means a firm that collects details of flats and passes them on to the flat hunters for a commission, usually the equivalent of a week's rent
- fee** payment
- rent** payment for use of a building usually paid by the week or the month
- road drills** machines for breaking up the road surface
- bulldozers** vehicles that move earth in large quantities
- motorway** high-speed road with limited access

## QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

- A.** Comprehension questions
1. Where did Peter and Erika meet for the first time?
  2. What is Erika's nationality?
  3. Why didn't Erika like the hostel?
  4. What is the meaning of "Charm s/c furn gdn fit"?
  5. What does Peter mean when he says that on Saturday they both have "the day off"?
  6. What's the first thing you do if you want to find a flat?
  7. How did Peter get his first flat?



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8. What did Peter pay the owner before moving in?
9. What woke Peter up at half past seven?
10. What were they going to build outside Peter's window?

**B.** Change the following sentences into the simple past:

1. She doesn't know her way around London.
2. I can't understand the advertisements.
3. Whatever does it mean?
4. That's too expensive for me.
5. You take things too seriously.
7. I pay her a month's rent in advance.
8. Is it nicely decorated?

**C.** Change the following into sentences beginning /, you, etc. *should have* .....

**Example:**

You didn't see the flat I had before.

*You should have seen the flat I had before.*

1. He didn't meet her at London airport.
2. She didn't stay at a hostel.
3. She wasn't in by eleven o'clock.
4. I didn't have the day off yesterday.
5. We didn't look for a flat.
6. They didn't find a flat.
7. I didn't ring him up.
8. I didn't answer the phone.

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**D.** Use the gerund (-ing form) instead of the infinitive (base form) in the following sentences:

**Example:**

It's difficult to find a flat in London.

*Finding a flat in London is difficult.*

1. It's bad for you to smoke.
2. It takes a long time to read all the accommodation advertisements.
3. It can be very pleasant to stay at a hostel.
4. The best way is to get a flat through an agency.
5. It costs a lot of money to build a motorway.
6. It's difficult to translate from English into German.
7. It's easy to get the day off.
8. It's better to pay in advance.

**3 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT TEACHER**

My name is Henry Robinson and I'm a student teacher. A very important part of the training course is "teaching practice"; that's when a student teacher goes to a school and teaches for several weeks. This can be a \*frightening experience, so I was very glad that I was able to do my teaching practice in a school just outside Edinburgh, four hundred miles from my home in London. My \*college supervisor came to the school once a week to see how I was \*getting on, but apart from him no one else knew how well or how badly I was doing.

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On my first morning the \*headmaster called me into his study.

**Headmaster** Now don't forget, Robinson; if there's any boy you can't \*manage just come and see me.

**Henry** Thank you very much, sL". \*As a matter of fact, there was just...

**Headmaster** Come to my study any time you have a problem you want to talk about.

**Henry** Yes, sir, I will. If I could ...

**Headmaster** I well remember when I did my first teaching Practice.

**Henry** I wonder if I...

**Headmaster** Now in those days, \* mind you, life was much harder.

**Henry** Excuse me, sir, but...

**Headmaster** And as for the \*pay - but I'm talking too much. I'm sorry. Did you want to ask me a question?

**Henry** Yes, sir.

**Headmaster** Well, look, I'm rather busy at the moment, and I expect you want to get started. Come and see me again tomorrow morning. Good luck!

**Henry** Thank you very much, sir.

I think the headmaster was afraid I was going to ask him whether I could just watch for the first week and start the actual teaching the following week. If so, he was quite right. I was feeling very nervous as I walked to the classroom.

I was introduced to my class of thirty boys by their classroom teacher. "Right, \*lads, now listen to me," he said. "I don't want any trouble while the student teacher is taking you. Is that clear?" The boys nodded. They all looked very \*innocent, but I could remember the way we had treated student teachers when I was at

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school. As the teacher left the room \*he drew me to one side. "\*Watch out for the \*Welsh boy," he whispered. "Philip Jones. Back row, red hair."

That first lesson was a disaster. The boys behaved very badly and refused to listen to what I was saying. They talked \*incessantly and threw things at each other while I was trying to write on the blackboard. To my surprise the only boy who sat and listened politely was Jones. \*Occasionally he even told the other boys to be quiet. When the bell rang for \*break, he came up to me. "Break lasts for fifteen minutes, sir," he said. In the \*staff room one of the teachers came up to me and asked me how Jones had behaved. "Oh," I said, "he was all right. It was the other..." But I wasn't able to finish my sentence.

**Teacher** Didn't he throw things at you?

**Henry** No, he didn't.

**Teacher** Didn't he pretend to be ill?

**Henry** No.

**Teacher** \*I bet he put his tongue out at you, didn't he?

**Henry** No, not once.

**Teacher** But surely he was rude in some way?

**Henry** No, he wasn't rude at all.

**Teacher** Did he fall down on the floor and pretend that someone had hit him?

**Henry** No, he didn't.

**Teacher** Perhaps he isn't feeling well.

**Henry** He looked perfectly well to me.

**Teacher** Are you absolutely sure he didn't do anything?

**Henry** Yes, quite sure.

**Teacher** Extraordinary! You've performed a \*miracle!

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The rest of the day was as bad as the first lesson, though for one brief moment I thought I had them under control. Suddenly they all stopped talking and there was complete silence. I was delighted, until I turned round and saw the headmaster watching us through the window.

As I was walking back to the staff room after the last lesson, I heard footsteps behind me. It was Jones.

**Jones** I'm glad I caught you, sir.

**Henry** Oh, why?

**Jones** I wanted to thank you for the lessons.

**Henry** That's very kind of you, Jones.

**Jones** Not at all sir. It's nice to have you as our teacher.

**Henry** \*Are you pulling my leg?

**Jones** No, sir.

**Henry** I don't believe you.

**Jones** It's true, sir. Really it is.

**Henry** \*There's something that's been puzzling me, Jones.

**Jones** What's that, sir?

**Henry** Why is it that you have behaved so well when all the other teachers think you're the worst boy in the class?

**Jones** Oh, that's easy, sir. You see, I'm Welsh, you're English, and we're both in Scotland.

**Henry** No, Jones, I don't see at all. Please explain.

**Jones** Well, sir, it's what my father says.

**Henry** Go on.

**Jones** He says that we foreigners must \*stick together, sir.

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## NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

**frightening** causing fear

**college supervisor** teacher at a teacher training college who supervises the student teachers during teaching practice

**getting on** doing, progressing

**headmaster** head teacher of a school

**manage** deal with, cope with

**as a matter of fact** to tell the truth

**mind you** remember

**pay** salary

**lads** boys

**innocent** good, harmless

**he drew me to one side** he took me to one side (i.e. so the boys couldn't hear what he was saying)

**watch out for** be careful of

**Welsh** from Wales

**incessantly** without stopping, all the time

**occasionally** at times

**break** free time between lessons

**staff room** private room for the teachers

**I bet** here means I am certain

**miracle** something unbelievable

**Are you pulling my leg?** Are you making a joke at my expense?

**There's something that's been puzzling me** There's something I don't understand

**stick together** take the same side, be allies

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT TEACHER**

**QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES**

**A.** Comprehension questions

1. Where did Henry Robinson do his teaching practice?
2. How often did Henry's college supervisor visit him?
3. What did Henry want to ask the headmaster?
4. What country does Philip Jones come from?
5. Where was Philip Jones sitting?
6. What did the boys do while Henry was trying to teach them?
7. How did the boys know it was time for break?
8. Why did the boys all stop talking?
9. Why was Henry puzzled by Jones's behaviour?
10. What does Philip Jones's father say?

**B.** Give short answers, both affirmative and negative, to the following questions:

**Example:**

Did you want to ask me a question?  
*Yes, I did.*  
*No, I didn't.*

1. Is that clear?
2. Has Philip Jones got red hair?
3. Did he throw things at you?
4. Does he pretend to be ill?
5. Has he been ill?
6. Were the boys talking all the time?
7. But surely he was rude in some way?
8. Are you pulling my leg?

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ....**

**C.** Give commands (the imperative) in response to the following instructions:

**Example:**

Tell Jones not to talk so much.  
*Don't talk so much, Jones or Jones, don't talk so much.*

1. Tell Robinson to come and see you after the lesson.
2. Tell him not to come to your study before ten o'clock.
3. Tell Henry to watch out for the Welsh boy.
4. Tell Jones not to throw things at you.
5. Tell him not to pretend to be ill.

Now use the polite form with *please*.

6. Tell Jones to explain.
7. Tell Robinson not to talk about his problems in the staff room.
8. Tell the boys to listen to you.

**D.** Change the following statements into questions by adding the appropriate tag:

**Example:**

I bet he put his tongue out at you.  
*I bet he put his tongue out at you, didn't he?*

1. He was very rude.
2. He didn't do anything.
3. He looked perfectly well.
4. He didn't fall down on the floor.
5. You're not feeling well.
6. You're pulling my leg.
7. I'm late.
8. We foreigners must stick together.

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLICEMAN

Paul Williams is a policeman and he is very happy in his job. He thinks it's useful and interesting. He has been a policeman for ten years and now he's a sergeant, but he often thinks of his first two years in the \* force and laughs at some of the things that happened to him.

For the first two years of his career a policeman is "on probation"; in other words, his superior officers watch his progress \*closely to see whether he's going to be a suitable police officer. After his first nine months in the force, Paul was thinking of \*giving up. He just couldn't get used to the hours he had to work: \*early turn from six till two, late turn from two till ten, or, worst of all, night shift from ten till six. But the work was sometimes exciting. The most exciting day of Paul's two years of probation was a hot day in the middle of May. At one forty-five in the afternoon Paul was sitting round a table with his colleagues, waiting for his orders. Sergeant Hawkins gave Paul his orders last because the men were \*dealt with in \*alphabetical order. \*"Hawkeye", as the men called him, was a grandfather and treated all the young policemen as boys.

**Sgt. Hawkins** I think I'll give you a change, Williams.

**Paul** Thank you, sergeant.

**Sgt. Hawkins** As you probably know, there have been a lot of \*petty thefts from houses in Faversham Street \*over the last few months.

**Paul** That's the street where I was born.

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ...

**Sgt. Hawkins** Is it? Good. Well, you're to keep an eye on the street this afternoon and report by phone if you see anything suspicious. Understand?

**Paul** Yes, sergeant.

Paul was told to wear \*civilian clothes so that he would not be noticed. He decided to watch from the gardens opposite Faversham Street so that he could walk about \*without attracting attention.

At the end of each hour he phoned the police station to report to Sergeant Hawkins. At the end of four hours he had eaten six ice-creams, smoked twenty cigarettes, and walked round the park about fifty times. He was beginning to \*get very bored. At six o'clock he was \*relieved by another police officer so that he could go and get something to eat.

It was nearly half past eight before anything happened. It was beginning to get dark and he could just see three rather suspicious looking men talking near some \*bushes at the far end of the park. Paul decided to wait and see what happened next. A few minutes later one of the men walked quietly from the bushes towards the road. Still Paul waited. The man looked around, opened the front gate of number 21 Faversham Street and walked round to the back of the house. Paul decided it was time to do something. Using \*a short cut that he'd known as a boy, he got to the back of the house just in time to see the man trying to climb through the windows. This is it, thought Paul. He saw himself being "congratulated by the chief constable and even being praised by old Hawkeye. He stepped forward.

**Paul** May I ask what you are doing?

**Man** Go away, you fool.

**Paul** I'm a police officer.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLICEMAN

**Man** Good luck to you!  
**Paul** And here is my \*identification.  
**Man** Look, I'm afraid there's been a mistake.  
**Paul** You were about to \*break into this house.  
**Man** I can explain.  
**Paul** I'm going to arrest you . . .  
**Man** No, listen. Let me explain.  
**Paul** . . . and take you to the police station.  
**Man** We're . . .  
**Paul** You are not obliged to say anything unless ...  
**Man** ... doing this. ...  
**Paul** ... you wish to do so but. ...  
**Man** ... because we have to.  
**Paul** ... what you do say will be written down ...  
**Man** We're trying to ...  
**Paul** ... and given in \*evidence against you.  
**Man** But we're not real burglars!  
**Paul** I'm not satisfied with your explanation.  
**Man** You haven't given me a chance to explain.  
**Paul** You \*were about to break into this house. I'm going to arrest -  
**Man** Oh, \*for goodness' sake! Don't go through all that again. I'll come along with you and explain to someone at the police station.

Paul had a feeling that he'd seen the man somewhere before. Perhaps he was a well-known criminal! But at that moment the other two men appeared. When Paul saw that they came to speak to him so willingly, he began to think he had made a mistake. Imagine Paul's surprise when they explained that they were television actors and that the man Paul had arrested was a well-known television director. They were using the house to \*rehearse a scene for a new TV series. Paul didn't know what to say.

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**1st actor** Don't worry about it. You were only doing your job.  
**Paul** I really am terribly sorry.  
**Director** \*Nevermind. We were only rehearsing.  
**1st actor** Hey, what's that man doing over there?  
**2nd actor** He's nothing to do with our series!

Paul and the others ran towards a man who was trying to open a window in one of the houses. After a brief \*struggle they \*overpowered him. Paul telephoned the police station and five minutes later Sergeant Hawkins arrived in a police car. He congratulated Paul \*warmly on his first arrest.

**Sgt. Hawkins** \*We'll make a policeman of you yet, Williams.  
**Paul** Thank you, sergeant.  
**Sgt. Hawkins** By the way, have you got a TV set?  
**Paul** Yes, sergeant. Why?  
**Sgt. Hawkins** Well, if you \*switch on at 8.30 tomorrow you can watch the weekly detective \*serial.  
**Paul** Why, sergeant?  
**Sgt. Hawkins** Oh, I just thought you might like to see these friends of yours again.  
**Paul** You recognized them?  
**Sgt. Hawkins** They don't call me Hawkeye for nothing, you know! But don't worry. I can keep a secret. I'll see that you get all the \*credit.

## NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

**force** short for police force  
**closely** with great attention  
**give up** stop doing something, admit defeat. Here means leaving the police force

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**early turn** early duty or shift  
**deal with** attend to  
**alphabetical order** i.e. A first, B second, etc.  
**"Hawkeye"** friendly name (nickname) given to someone who notices everything. We often say that such a person has "eyes like a hawk."  
**petty thefts** small things stolen  
**over** during  
**civilian clothes** ordinary clothes, not his policeman's uniform  
**without attracting attention** without being noticed  
**get bored** lose interest (because nothing is happening)  
**relieved** replaced (by another policeman)  
**bushes** small trees  
**a short cut** a way that shortens the distance  
**congratulated** praised  
**identification** document proving you are who you say you are  
**break into** enter (a house) by force without permission  
**evidence** proof  
**be about to** be on the point of  
**for goodness' sake!** exclamation of annoyance or surprise  
**rehearse** practise  
**never mind** don't worry  
**struggle** fight  
**overpower** restrain by force, make someone submit by physical force  
**warmly** enthusiastically  
**We'll make a policeman of you yet** We think you will eventually become a good policeman  
**switch on** turn on (the TV)  
**serial** programme in several episodes  
**They don't call me Hawkeye for nothing** This is one of the reasons why people call me Hawkeye  
**credit** thanks, praise

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLICEMAN

A. Comprehension questions

1. How long has Paul Williams been a policeman?
2. Why did Paul think of giving up after nine months?
3. Why was Paul the last one to receive his orders?
4. How does Paul know Faversham Street?
5. Why did Paul wear civilian clothes?
6. What explanation did the man give for breaking into the house?
7. What was he, in fact?
8. What were the three men doing?
9. What was the real burglar doing?
10. Did Sergeant Hawkins arrive on foot?

B. Use *since*, *for* and *ago* to complete the following sentences:

1. Paul has been a policeman \_\_\_\_\_ ten years.
2. He has been a policeman \_\_\_\_\_ 1962.
3. He joined the police force ten years \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He has been waiting for his orders \_\_\_\_\_ three o'clock.
5. He went to the park two hours \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He has been there \_\_\_\_\_ five o'clock.
7. He has been there \_\_\_\_\_ two hours.
8. He lived in Faversham Street twenty years \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Change the following sentences into the passive:

Example:

The men robbed the house.  
*The house was robbed by the men.*

1. The chief constable was congratulating him.
2. He dealt with the men in alphabetical order.
3. The sergeant told Paul to wear civilian clothes.

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4. They won't notice you.
5. Another police officer relieved him.
6. I'll write down what you say.
7. The four men overpowered the burglar.
8. They call me "Hawkeye."

D. Change the verb into the continuous (-ing) form:

1. Paul thought of giving up.
2. Paul sat round a table with his colleagues.
3. I've eaten an ice-cream.
4. It began to get dark.
5. The men walked quietly towards the road.
6. They tried to open one of the windows.
7. The burglars broke into a house.
8. Paul does his job well.

#### 5 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STATELY HOME OWNER

The Pelham-Smiths are no longer as rich as they once were. At one time they owned a large house in London, an estate in Scotland and Pelham Manor, a seventeenth-century house standing in sixty acres of its own grounds near Gloucester. Now only Pelham Manor remains in the family. The present owner, Sir John Pelham-Smith, inherited Pelham Manor on the death of his father five years ago. Sir John was immediately \*faced with a \*bill for \*death duties which he was unable to pay. He did not want to sell Pelham Manor, so he made an arrangement with the

#### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STATELY HOME OWNER

government to pay the bill over a number of years. Now he and his family live in one wing of the Manor and the rest of the house is open to the public. Sir John hopes to be able to pay the death duties from the entrance fees. Large old houses like Pelham Manor are known as stately homes, especially when their owners find it necessary to open them to the public. Being a stately home owner is not easy, but Sir John thinks it is worth the effort to keep Pelham Manor in the family.

One day Sir John thought he had found the answer to some of his difficulties, but things didn't quite \*turn out as he expected. That morning, as always, he got up at six o'clock to make his daily tour of the house and grounds. Everything seemed to be in order. Then, after breakfast, he talked to the estate manager, Cedric Hoskins, who was an old friend of the family. Cedric looked \*glum. "The accounts for this \*quarter don't look at all good," he said. "We may have to raise the entrance \*fee." "But that will only discourage people from coming. Few enough come as it is," said Sir John. "But personally I'm very hopeful about this American contract. If it \*comes off, well be all right."

"Well, that depends on how things go this afternoon," Cedric reminded him. "The agent for Americo-British Tours, a Mr. Schulman, is coming with a party of American tourists and he has promised to let us know by tonight whether or not he wants to sign the contract."

The American tourists, fifty of them, were coming that afternoon for a trial visit. If it was a success, Americo-British Tours would sign a contract guaranteeing to bring large numbers of American visitors to Pelham Manor each week. This would give Sir John a steady \*income, but first he had to impress Mr. Schulman and his party. The gates opened at ten o'clock. Sir John took parties



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round himself and knew the history of each room by heart. At half past ten he started the first tour with thirty schoolchildren and their teachers. By the time they reached the art gallery, the children were beginning to look bored.

**Sir John** This is an unusual painting of one of the Pelham-Smith family in the eighteenth century. If you look closely at the bottom righthand corner you can just see a small picture of the artist's wife and child. And next to that -

**Boy** Please, sir, can I ask a question?

**Teacher** Be quiet, Brian. Wait until the lecture is over.

**Sir John** That's all right. I'll try to answer his question.

**Boy** Were the Pelham-Smiths ever \*short of money?

**Sir John** Yes, indeed they were. The family fortunes varied a great deal. But why do you ask?

**Boy** It's that picture over there in the corner.

**Sir John** Oh, yes! 'The lady with dog'. One of my favourite paintings.

**Boy** Was she a Pelham-Smith?

**Sir John** Oh, yes. That's Lady Laura Pelham-Smith.

**Boy** Well, her husband can't have had much money. She hasn't got any clothes on!

Sir John wasn't sure whether this question was entirely innocent, but it would make an interesting \*anecdote to add to his repertoire.

After lunch Sir John called the entire staff into his study: the cook, the gardener, the security guard and the \*odd-job man. They were not much good at their jobs, but at least they \*put up with the poor wages that he was obliged to pay them.

**Sir John** Now I've called you in here this afternoon because a party of American tourists is coming at

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two o'clock. A lot depends on this visit. If they like the place, we shall have more visits. And that'll be good for business.

**Gardener** Are they all millionaires, then?

**Sir John** I wish they were. And by the way, do try not to shout at anyone who walks on the lawn. The people you shouted at last week were very annoyed.

**Gardener** Well, they walked all over the grass just after I'd cut it.

**Sir John** Yes, but politeness is always good for business. As for you, George, you're to keep your eyes open when there are people here. So don't go to sleep, will you?

**Guard** No, sir.

**Sir John** Are you all prepared for the fifty teas, Cook?

**Cook** Oh, yes, Sir John.

**Sir John** Splendid. Well, remember, it will be good for all of us if things go well this afternoon. Thank you.

Sir John couldn't help smiling to himself as they walked out. They were a strange-looking crowd, but they were all very loyal. He wondered what sort of impression they would make on the American tourists.

Sir John changed into his best suit and walked down to the gate to meet Mr. Schulman. The coach had just arrived. Sir John crossed his fingers as he led the group to the entrance hall.

**Sir John** Ladies and gentlemen, may I take this opportunity to welcome you all to Pelham Manor. It is an honour -

**Cook** Sir John!

**Sir John** Not now, Cook. I'm busy. As I was saying, it is an honour for me to show you round. Many people who come here for the -

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**Cook** The John is ready, Sir tea. No, no, the Sir is -  
**Sir John** Go away, Cook! As I was saying, people who come here for the first time often tell me -  
**Cook** Do you think they'll all want tea in their sugar? Oh, dear, I mean -  
**Sir John** Excuse me a minute, please, ladies and gentlemen.

Sir John took Cook's arm and led her out of the hall. He knew what was the matter with her. She kept a bottle of gin in a cupboard and often had a glass or two when she was feeling nervous. He took her to the kitchen and made her sit down. Then he went back to his visitors in the hall.

Nothing seemed to go right that afternoon. The gardener drove the lawn mower too fast round a corner and knocked down one of the guests as he was walking to the chapel. The security guard almost arrested another for picking flowers when he had quite innocently bent down to pick up his handkerchief. And tea, needless to say, was a disaster. Cook had drunk so much gin by four o'clock that the odd-job man had to prepare it for her. Unfortunately he was in such a hurry that he didn't boil the water for the tea, and the sandwiches he made were about two inches thick. The tour ended in the shop where souvenirs were on sale. Mr. Schulman came up to Sir John while the tourists were choosing postcards to send to their friends.

**Mr. Schulman** Very interesting tour, Sir John. Thank you so much for taking us round yourself.  
**Sir John** I must apologize for all the things that went wrong. I suppose there's little chance of your signing the contract now?  
**Mr. Schulman** I'm afraid not. But it's not your fault, Sir John. It's your staff. They're just not good " enough.

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**Sir John** I know what you mean.  
**Mr. Schulman** Well, thank you once again, Sir John. Goodbye and good luck. Oh, I almost forgot: one of my party, a Mr. Milsom would like to talk to you. I don't know what it's about.

Sir John shook hands sadly with Mr. Schulman. Mr. Milsom he remembered, was the man who had almost been arrested for dropping his handkerchief.

**Mr. Milsom** Say, Sir John, where did you find your staff?  
**Sir John** Oh, yes, I really must apologize.  
**Mr. Milsom** Apologize?  
**Sir John** Yes, apologize.  
**Mr. Milsom** Don't look so miserable. They're perfect!  
**Sir John** Perfect? I don't understand.  
**Mr. Milsom** Look, do you want to make some money?  
**Sir John** Of course I do.  
**Mr. Milsom** Well, sign here then.

Later that evening Sir John told his wife that Mr. Milsom, a film director, would be making a film at the Manor, using the staff as actors. And the film, a highly successful comedy called *Panic at Pelham Manor*, made Sir John Pelham-Smith a very rich man indeed.

**NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS**

**faced (with a bill)** confronted  
**bill** the charge for something  
**death duties** taxes on the money and property of someone who has died  
**turn out** happen, prove to be the case

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STATELY HOME OWNER**

**glum** dejected, unhappy

**quarter** period of three months

**fee** price (of entry)

**come off** succeed

**income** money you receive from your work and other sources.

Usually calculated annually, e.g. My income is £2,000 a year.

**short of (money)** not having enough (money)

**anecdote** a short story, usually interesting or amusing

**odd-job man** a person who does different small jobs that do not require great skill

**put up with** tolerate, submit to

**QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES**

**A.** Comprehension questions

1. When did Sir John inherit Pelham Manor?
2. How does Sir John hope to pay death duties?
3. Why did the estate manager look glum?
4. What effect will raising the entrance fee have?
5. How many American tourists were coming?
6. There is a staff of four. What are their jobs?
7. Cook says: "The John is ready, Sir tea." What does she mean to say?
8. What was the man doing who was almost arrested for picking flowers?
9. Why didn't Mr. Schulman sign the contract?
10. Who was Mr. Milsom?

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**B.** Choose the right word to complete the following sentences:

fee	arrested
stands	put up with
bored	anecdote
bottom	sign

1. He told a very interesting \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The staff \_\_\_\_\_ very poor wages.
3. The security guard \_\_\_\_\_ me for picking flowers.
4. The house \_\_\_\_\_ in its own grounds.
5. Mr. Schulman may \_\_\_\_\_ the contract tonight.
6. The children looked \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We may have to raise the entrance \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Look closely at the \_\_\_\_\_ righthand corner.

**C.** Complete these conditional sentences, using the verbs in brackets:

**Example:**

If you \_\_\_\_\_ the flowers, the guard \_\_\_\_\_ you. (pick, stop)  
*If you pick the flowers, the guard will stop you.*

1. If the contract \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ all right. (come off, be)
2. If we \_\_\_\_\_ the entrance fee, people \_\_\_\_\_. (raise, not come)
3. If the weather \_\_\_\_\_ good, we \_\_\_\_\_ tea in the garden. (be, have)
4. If things \_\_\_\_\_ well, Mr. Schulman \_\_\_\_\_ the contract. (go, sign)
5. If you \_\_\_\_\_ closely, you \_\_\_\_\_ see the artist's wife and child. (look, can)

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR**

6. If Mr. Schulman \_\_\_\_\_ the place, we \_\_\_\_\_ a contract.  
(like, get)
7. If you \_\_\_\_\_, people \_\_\_\_\_ annoyed. (shout, become)
8. If we \_\_\_\_\_ a film, we \_\_\_\_\_ the staff as actors.  
(make, use)

**D.** Turn the following sentences into the past simple tense:

1. Only Pelham Manor remains in the family.
2. Sir John does not want to sell it.
3. He thinks it is worth the effort to keep it.
4. Few people come here.
5. Sir John takes the visitors round himself.
6. Are the Pelham-Smiths short of money?
7. It makes an interesting anecdote.
8. We all drink a lot of tea.

**6. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR**

When Major John Hewson \*retired from the army at the age of fifty, he soon found himself \*at a loose end. He had grown used to army discipline and he found civilian life dull and boring. For the first few months he was quite happy in the house that he and his wife had bought\*on his retirement, but he soon began to wish he had something to do. His wife, Mary, also pointed out that his \*pension wasn't sufficient for them to live on and that they needed some extra money. Unfortunately the Major had no

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qualifications, but he did know a lot about motor cars. And so three months later he opened his own school of motoring. He called it the A1 School of Driving. At first the Major thought he would never get more than one or two \*clients, but everything changed on the day that the first of his pupils passed the driving \*test. As usual, the Major rose early, ate his breakfast and was in his office at exactly eight o'clock. The Major was always \*punctual. People in the houses opposite the school checked their watches when he arrived; they knew that the moment he entered his office it was eight o'clock \*precisely. The Major's first job each morning was to go into the garage next door and check the car for oil, water and air. He returned to the office at eight fifteen. He looked at his \*diary and sadly noted that he had no appointments until midday. Nevertheless, he opened the office at nine o'clock as usual. Then he sat down at his desk, lit his pipe and opened the morning newspaper. He knew from many mornings spent in this way that if he read the paper very slowly he would finish it at half past eleven - just in time to get ready for his first client. But he was still reading the front page when the door opened and a middle-aged woman walked in. Mrs. Carruthers had read the advertisement for the A1 School in the local paper and had come for the \*free trial lesson. The Major offered one hour's free \*tuition to anyone; during this time he could judge whether a full course of twenty-five lessons was necessary or whether a short \*refresher course would be sufficient.

**Mrs. Carruthers** I do so like the name of your school. A1 sounds encouraging, and as it's \*run by a colonel I know I shall be \*in safe hands.

**Major** Thank you for the promotion, madam but I am actually a major.

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- Mrs. Carruthers** Oh dear, I'm so sorry. Now is that higher or lower than a colonel? I can never remember.
- Major** Lower. But don't let's worry about that. I think I can fit you in for your free trial lesson now. But first I have to see your \*provisional driving licence. Thank you. Yes, that seems to be \*in order. Tell me, have you ever taken the driving test?
- Mrs. Carruthers** Well, yes, I'm what you might call \*an old hand.
- Major** You'll have to be more precise than that, I'm afraid. Have you taken it once? Twice?
- Mrs. Carruthers** No, my dear captain, a few more times than that.
- Major** Major, madam, \*if you don't mind.
- Mrs. Carruthers** Yes, of course. I'm so sorry. I knew a captain once in the army. Or was it the navy?
- Major** Perhaps you could just tell me how many times you have taken the test.
- Mrs. Carruthers** Let me see. There was the time I had a little accident at a pedestrian crossing. And then there was the time I had a bit of bad luck with the gears. I also remember. ..
- Major** I don't want to hurry you, Mrs. Carruthers, but I'd like to start at ten o'clock.
- Mrs. Carruthers** Yes, of course. Well, let's make a nice round number, shall we?
- Major** Yes, why not?
- Mrs. Carruthers** Put down thirty then, Brigadier.

The Major took Mrs. Carruthers out in his car for the trial lesson. She broke almost every rule in the \*Highway Code and the Major was very glad that his car was fitted

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with \*dual control. When they were safely back in the office he told her she would have to take the full course -partly because she obviously needed it and partly because it was good for business. Mrs. Carruthers agreed to come for a lesson at ten o'clock every Tuesday for the next six months. The Major was not sorry to see her go, particularly as his next pupil was a young man who was learning quickly. He had had only three lessons and already he was driving quite well. At one o'clock the Major went home to lunch.

- Mary** How was business this morning, dear?
- Major** Let's just say \*it had its ups and downs.
- Mary** I see. Haven't you got a pupil taking the test today?
- Major** Yes, Miss Chalmers is taking it this afternoon. She's a \*first-rate driver. I'm sure she'll pass.
- Mary** Do you mean that very \*glamorous girl with the long fair hair?
- Major** I don't know what colour her hair is. All I know is that she's a very \*capable driver.
- Mary** I don't believe you, John.
- Major** I can assure you she's an excellent driver.
- Mary** I'm not talking about her driving. I mean I'm sure you've noticed the colour of her hair.
- Major** Well, maybe it is fair. Anyway, I must hurry now and see that the car's in order.

When the time came for the driving test the Major always asked his pupils to arrive at least half an hour early so that he could \*go over any points that needed attention. Lucy Chalmers arrived at the school at a quarter to two.

- Lucy** Good afternoon, Major. Have you got your fingers crossed?

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ....

- Major** There's no need to do that for you, my dear. I'm sure you'll pass.
- Lucy** I'm very nervous.
- Major** That's only natural. By the way, if I may ask, what's happened to all your long fair hair?
- Lucy** Oh, I'm wearing a short \*wig today. I thought it would look more \*businesslike.
- Major** That's a good idea. Now let me give you a final test on the Highway Code.

The Major and Lucy drove in silence to the centre where she was to be tested and sat in the waiting room. The chief examiner arrived and asked to see Lucy's driving licence; then he made her sign a \*declaration that she was, in fact, Miss Lucy Chalmers. The Major shook hands with Lucy and wished her luck; then she and the examiner left the room to go to the car. The Major watched the first part of the test from the window of the waiting room. As the car drove smoothly away he took out his pipe and sat down to wait for their return.

Lucy passed. The Major was \*delighted at her success. Lucy promised to tell all her friends and relations what a good instructor he was.

The Major's last lesson of the day was a difficult one. Mr. Green was a terrible driver, but unfortunately he didn't realize it. Whenever the Major tried to \*point out a mistake, Mr. Green told him that he knew very well what to do.

- Mr. Green** You worry too much, Major. Look, I'm driving in a straight line.
- Major** Yes, you're driving in a straight line, but you are supposed to drive on the left-hand side of the road, not in the middle. \*It's just as well there's not much traffic about.

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- Mr. Green** There we are. It's easy really. I expect you have to teach a lot of bad drivers, don't you?
- Major** Yes, Mr. Green, I do. Now I think we'll increase speed a bit and go into second gear, please.

With Mr. Green safely out of the car, the Major felt that he had had enough for one day. He put the car away and went into the office. He decided to ring Mary and tell her of Lucy's success. Mary was very pleased. "I'm coming home now," said the Major. "I'm tired. It's been a very busy day. Good-bye, dear." But just as he put the telephone down three middle-aged ladies walked into the office. They must be Lucy's friends, thought the Major. She said she would tell her friends what a good instructor I am.

- Major** Good afternoon, ladies.
- 1st woman** Good afternoon, Major. We want to \*enrol.
- Major** Are you friends of Lucy's?
- 2nd woman** Yes, that's right.
- 3rd woman** Do you call her Lucy already? That's quick.
- Major** Well, you know what Lucy's like. She's very friendly.
- 1st woman** We ought to know. We've known her for thirty years.
- Major** Thirty years? But ...
- 2nd woman** Now then, Major, we all want to enrol for the six-month course. We're all as bad as Lucy - none of us can pass that \*wretched test.
- Major** Just a minute, ladies, \*let's get one thing straight. You are all friends of Lucy Chalmers, aren't you?
- 3rd woman** Oh, no, Major. We're all friends of Lucy Carruthers!

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ....

## NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

**driving instructor** someone who teaches you how to drive (a car)  
**retire** stop working, usually on reaching a certain age  
**at a loose end** not know how to spend one's time  
**on his retirement** when he retired  
**pension** regular sum of money paid to someone who has retired  
**clients** customers  
**test** examination  
**punctual** on time  
**precisely** exactly  
**diary** book with space for each day of the year in which to write appointments, notes, etc.  
**free trial lesson** a lesson given at no cost to the client, to find out if he is a good driver or a bad driver  
**tuition** teaching  
**refresher course** lessons to refresh the student's knowledge  
**run by** managed by  
**in safe hands** well looked after  
**provisional driving licence** document that permits you to drive a car before you have taken the driving test, provided you are accompanied by an experienced driver  
**in order** all right, correct  
**an old hand** someone with a lot of experience  
**if you don't mind** if you don't object (slightly sarcastic in this context)  
**Highway Code** list of rules for drivers  
**dual controls** two sets of controls so that the instructor can steer the car if the pupil does something wrong  
**it had its ups and downs** it had its good and bad moments  
**first-rate** excellent

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

**glamorous** very attractive  
**capable** good  
**go over** repeat, practise, <0  
**wig** false hair  
**businesslike** practical  
**declaration** statement  
**delighted** very pleased  
**point out** show, indicate  
**it's just as well** it's fortunate  
**enrol** here means put their names on the Major's list of pupils  
**wretched** terrible  
**let's get one thing straight** let's get one thing clear and agreed

## A. Comprehension questions

1. How did Major Hewson find civilian life?
2. What were he and his wife living on?
3. What was the Major's first job when he arrived at the office?
4. Does Major Hewson smoke?
5. What does Major Hewson want to see before he gives Mrs. Carruthers her free trial lesson?
6. Why did Major Hewson tell Mrs. Carruthers she would have to take the full course?
7. Why did Lucy Chalmers wear a wig for her driving test?
8. What side of the road was Mr. Green driving on?
9. Who did the Major think the three middle-aged ladies were?
10. What did they want?

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ....**

**B.** Use the words in the list to complete the following sentences:

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| pedestrian | middle-aged |
| boring     | extra       |
| examiner   | test        |
| instructor | first-rate  |

1. He found civilian life dull and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He needed some \_\_\_\_\_ money.
3. How many times have you taken the \_\_\_\_\_?
4. I had an accident at a \_\_\_\_\_ crossing.
5. Miss Chalmers is a \_\_\_\_\_ driver.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ made Lucy sign a declaration.
7. The Major is a very good \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Three \_\_\_\_\_ ladies walked into the office.

**C.** Change the following sentences into indirect speech:

**Example:**

"I'm coming home," said the Major.  
*The Major said (that) he was coming home.*

1. "I find civilian life dull and boring," said the Major.
2. "I'll open my own school of motoring," he said.
3. "I think I can fit you (Mrs. Carruthers) in for a trial lesson,"  
 said the Major.
4. "I'm sure she'll pass," said the Major.
5. "I'm not talking about her driving," said Mary.
6. "I think a wig looks very businesslike," said Lucy.
7. "Do you (Lucy) know the Highway Code?" the examiner  
 asked.
8. "I'll tell everyone what a good instructor you are," said  
 Lucy.

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR**

**D.** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate adjective or adverb:

- |            |               |             |          |
|------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Adjectives | Adverbs       | Adjectives  | Adverbs  |
| happy      | _____         | provisional | _____    |
| _____      | unfortunately | _____       | safely   |
| early      | _____         | capable     | _____    |
| _____      | precisely     | late        | _____    |
| sad        | _____         | terrible    | smoothly |
| _____      | slowly        | _____       | _____    |



**KEYS TO EXERCISES**

**1. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE**

- A.**
1. The one in which he was living.
  2. A large majority.
  3. Henry Orpington's election agent.
  4. No, he wants him to cancel them.
  5. Because most of the men were out at work.
  6. Because it was frightened by Henry's beard.
  7. They had been addressing the envelopes for the leaflets Henry was sending out.
  8. The subsidies that the new government would be paying.
  9. Because the imported ones were too cheap.
  10. He overheard some of the other farmers planning to break up Henry's meeting.

- B.**
1. The date of the general election was announced by the Prime Minister.
  2. He thought he was going to be blown up by a bomb.
  3. We've been cut off.
  4. The news was kept from the press.
  5. I'm not going to let myself be scared by some stupid crank.
  6. The baby must have been frightened by Henry's beard.
  7. He was hit in the face by two of the tomatoes.
  8. If we hadn't been cut off....

- C.**
1. teenage 2. cut us off 3. cancel 4. crank 5. scream 6. bribery 7. hoax 8. starving

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**KEYS TO EXERCISES**

- D.**
1. Andrew suggested that Henry cancel all his engagements for that day.
  2. Henry said that he wasn't going to let himself be scared by some stupid crank.
  3. Andrew asked Henry what the man sounded like and if he recognized his voice.
  4. Henry said that he didn't because he was half asleep, but the man didn't seem to be threatening him.
  5. Andrew said that that made the whole business even more sinister.
  6. Andrew told Henry that one day wouldn't make all that much difference and that he would tell people that Henry had lost his voice.
  7. Henry said that he was going to carry on as usual.
  8. Andrew said he would like to make it clear that he was dead against it.

**2. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FLAT HUNTER**

- A.**
1. At London airport.
  2. She's German.
  3. Because there was no privacy, the food was horrible, and she had to be in by eleven o'clock.
  4. Charming self-contained furnished garden flat.
  5. He meant that they don't have to go to work.
  6. You buy a newspaper and read the accomodation advertisements.
  7. Through an agency.
  8. A month's rent in advance.
  9. Road drills and bulldozers.
  10. A motorway.

- B.**
1. She didn't know her way around London. 2. I couldn't understand the advertisements.

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## A BAY IN THE LIFE OF.

3. Whatever did it mean?
4. That was too expensive for me.
5. You took things too seriously.
6. I paid her a month's rent in advance.
7. I moved in on Sunday night.
8. Was it nicely decorated?

- C.**
1. You should have seen the flat I had before.
  2. She should have stayed at a hostel.
  3. She should have been in by eleven o'clock.
  4. I should have had the day off yesterday.
  5. We should have looked for a flat.
  6. They should have found a flat.
  7. I should have rung him up.
  8. I should have answered the phone.

- D.**
1. Smoking is bad for you.
  2. Reading all the accommodation advertisements takes a long time.
  3. Staying at a hostel can be very pleasant.
  4. Getting a flat through an agency is the best way. x
  5. Building a motorway costs a lot of money.
  6. Translating from English into German is difficult.
  7. Getting the day off is easy.
  8. Paying in advance is better.

## 3. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT TEACHER

- A.**
1. In a school just outside Edinburgh.
  2. Once a week.
  3. He wanted to ask him if he could just watch for the first week and start the actual teaching the following week.
  4. Wales.
  5. In the back row.
  6. They talked incessantly and threw things at each other.

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## KEYS TO EXERCISES

7. The bell rang.
8. Because they saw the headmaster watching them through the window.
9. Because he behaved so well when all the other teachers thought he was the worst boy in the class.
10. He says that we foreigners must stick together.

- B.**
- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Yes, it is.     | No, it isn't.     |
| 2. Yes, he has.    | No, he hasn't.    |
| 3. Yes, he did.    | No, he didn't.    |
| 4. Yes, he does.   | No, he doesn't.   |
| 5. Yes, he has.    | No, he hasn't.    |
| 6. Yes, they were. | No, they weren't. |
| 7. Yes, he was.    | No, he wasn't.    |
| 8. Yes, I am.      | No, I'm not.      |

- C.**
1. Come and see me after the lesson, Robinson.
  2. Don't come to my study before ten o'clock.
  3. Watch out for the Welsh boy, Henry.
  4. Don't throw things at me, Jones.
  5. Don't pretend to be ill.
  6. Please explain, Jones.
  7. Please don't talk about your problems in the staff room, Robinson.
  8. Please listen to me, boys.

- D.**
1. He was very rude, wasn't he?
  2. He didn't do anything, did he?
  3. He looked perfectly well, didn't he?
  4. He didn't fall down on the floor, did he?
  5. You're not feeling well, are you?
  6. You're pulling my leg, aren't you?
  7. I'm late, aren't I? (am I not?)
  8. We foreigners must stick together, mustn't we?

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ....

## 4. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POLICEMAN

- A.**
1. For ten years.
  2. Because he couldn't get used to the hours he had to work.
  3. Because they were given in alphabetical order.
  4. Because he was born there.
  5. So that he would not be noticed.
  6. He said that he and his friends were practising a burglary.
  7. A television actor.
  8. They were rehearsing a scene for a new TV series.
  9. He was trying to open a window in one of the houses.
  10. No, he arrived in a police car.
- B.**
1. for
  2. since
  3. ago
  4. since
  5. ago
  6. since
  7. for
  8. ago
- C.**
1. He was being congratulated by the chief constable.
  2. The men were dealt with in alphabetical order.
  3. Paul was told by the sergeant to wear civilian clothes.
  4. You won't be noticed.
  5. He was relieved by another police officer.
  6. What you say will be written down.
  7. The burglar was overpowered by the four men.
  8. I'm called "Hawkeye".
- D.**
1. Paul was thinking of giving up.
  2. Paul was sitting round a table with his colleagues.
  3. I've been eating an ice-cream.
  4. It was beginning to get dark.
  5. The men were walking quietly towards the road.
  6. They were trying to open one of the windows.
  7. The burglars were breaking into a house.
  8. Paul is doing his job well.

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## KEYS TO EXERCISES

## 5. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STATELY HOME OWNER

- A.**
1. On the death of his father five years ago.
  2. From the entrance fees.
  3. Because the accounts for the last quarter didn't look very good.
  4. It will discourage people from coming.
  5. Fifty.
  6. Cook, gardener, security guard, odd-job man.
  7. "The tea is ready, Sir John."
  8. He was bending down to pick up his handkerchief.
  9. Because the staff were just not good enough.
  10. A film director.
- B.**
1. anecdote
  2. put up with
  3. arrested
  4. stands
  5. sign
  6. bored
  7. fee
  8. bottom
- C.**
1. If the contract comes off, we'll be all right.
  2. If we raise the entrance fee, people won't come.
  3. If the weather is good, we'll have tea in the garden.
  4. If things go well, Mr. Schulman will sign the contract.
  5. If you look closely, you can see the artist's wife and child (or you will be able to see the artist's wife and child).
  6. If Mr. Schulman likes the place, we'll get a contract.
  7. If you shout, people will become annoyed.
  8. If we make a film, we'll use the staff as actors.
- D.**
1. Only Pelham Manor remained in the family.
  2. Sir John did not want to sell it.
  3. He thought it was worth the effort to keep it.
  4. Few people came here.
  5. Sir John took the visitors round himself.
  6. Were the Pelham-Smiths short of money?
  7. It made an interesting anecdote.
  8. We all drank a lot of tea.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF . ...

6. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

- A.**
1. Dull and boring.
  2. His army pension.
  3. To go into the garage next door and check the car for oil, water and air.
  4. Yes, he smokes a pipe.
  5. Her provisional driving licence.
  6. Partly because she obviously needed it, and partly because it was good for business.
  7. Because she thought it looked more businesslike than her long fair hair.
  8. He was driving in the middle of the road.
  9. Friends of Lucy Chalmers.
  10. They wanted to enrol for the six-month course.
- B.**
1. boring
  2. extra
  3. test
  4. pedestrian
  5. first-rate
  6. examiner
  7. instructor
  8. middle-aged
- C.**
1. The Major said he found civilian life dull and boring.
  2. The Major said he would open his own school of motoring.
  3. The Major said he thought he could fit her in for a trial lesson.
  4. The Major said he was sure she would pass.
  5. Mary said she was not talking about her driving.
  6. Lucy said she thought a wig looked very businesslike.
  7. The examiner asked her if she knew the Highway Code.
  8. Lucy said she would tell everyone what a good instructor he was.
- D.**
- happily; unfortunate; early; precise; sadly; slow;  
provisionally; safe; capably; late; smooth; terribly.