

5 The Facts

Editors of newspapers and magazines often go to extremes to provide their readers with unimportant facts and statistics. Last year a journalist had been

- 5 instructed by a well-known magazine to write an article on the president's palace in a new African republic. When the article arrived, the editor read the first sentence and then refused to publish it.
- 10 The article began: 'Hundreds of steps lead to the high wall which surrounds the president's palace.' The editor at once sent the journalist a telegram instructing
- 15 and the height of the wall.

The journalist immediately set out to obtain these important facts, but he took a long time to send them. Meanwhile, the editor was getting impatient, for the magazine would soon go to press. He sent the journalist two urgent telegrams, but received no reply. He sent yet

20 another telegram informing the journalist that if he did not reply soon he would be fired. When the journalist again failed to reply, the editor reluctantly published the article as it had originally been written. A week later, the editor at last received a telegram from the journalist. Not only had the poor man been arrested, but he had been sent to prison as well. However, he had at last been

25 allowed to send a cable in which he informed the editor that he had been arrested while counting the 1084 steps leading to the 15 foot wall which surrounded the president's palace.



Comprehension and Précis

In not more than 80 words describe what happened from the time the journalist set out to get the facts. Do not include anything that is not in the last paragraph.

Answer these questions in note form to get your points:

1. Did the journalist immediately set out to get the facts after receiving instructions from his editor or not?]
2. Did he send them at once or not?]
3. Was the editor getting impatient or not?]
4. How many telegrams did the editor send?]
5. What did the editor threaten to do?]
6. Was the last telegram answered or not?]
7. Was the article omitted from the magazine, or was it printed in its original form?]
8. When did the journalist send a telegram?]
9. Why had he been imprisoned?]

Vocabulary

Give another word or phrase to replace the following words as they are used in the passage: journalist (l. 4); instructed (l. 5); well-known (l. 5); publish (l. 9); surrounds (l. 11); fired (l. 21); reluctantly (l. 21).

Composition

Describe how the journalist was arrested and what happened afterwards. Expand the following into a paragraph of about 150 words.

The journalist counted the number of steps as he . . . On arriving outside the main gate, he . . . He then . . . in order to measure the wall. While he was busy measuring the wall, a policeman . . . Though the journalist . . . , the policeman refused to believe him. He was arrested and sent to prison because the police thought that . . . When the journalist . . . he made things worse for himself. This proved to the police that . . .
(69 words)

Letter-writing

Write a letter of about 80 words to a friend who has recently got married. You read about the wedding in your local paper. Supply a suitable Introduction and Conclusion. Use the following ideas to write the *Purpose*: Surprise and pleasure at seeing newspaper report—glad to hear that he and his wife will be staying in your neighbourhood—hope to see them soon.

Key Structures

A, The and Some. (1 KS 196)

Exercises

A. Underline the words *a(n)* and *the* in the passage and note how they have been used.

B. Write sentences using the following words and phrases:

1. Hudson river.
2. information.
3. cinema.
4. industry.
5. flour and milk.
6. newspaper.

Special Difficulties

Not only had the poor man been arrested . . . (ll. 23-24)

Study these pairs of sentences:

I have never seen so many people.

Never have I seen so many people.

I had hardly finished speaking when the door opened.

Hardly had I finished speaking when the door opened. (Compare 1 SD 98a)

He little realizes the danger he is in.

Little does he realize the danger he is in.

Exercise

Write these sentences again beginning each one with the words in italics:

1. He has *not only* made this mistake before but he will make it again.
2. I realized what was happening *only then*.
3. I will *never* trust him again.
4. You *seldom* find traffic wardens who are kind and helpful.

3 An Unknown Goddess

Some time ago, an interesting discovery was made by archaeologists on the Aegean island of Kea. An American team explored a temple which stands in an ancient city on the promontory of Ayia Irini. The city at one time must have been prosperous, for it enjoyed a high level of civilization. Houses—often three storeys high—were built of stone. They had large rooms with beautifully decorated walls. The city was even equipped with a drainage system, for a great many clay pipes were found beneath the narrow streets.

The temple which the archaeologists explored was used as a place of worship from the fifteenth century B.C. until Roman times. In the most sacred room of the temple, clay fragments of fifteen statues were found. Each of these represented a goddess and had, at one time, been painted. The body of one statue was found among remains dating from the fifteenth century B.C. Its missing head happened to be among remains of the fifth century B.C. This head must have been found in Classical times and carefully preserved. It was very old and precious even then. When the archaeologists reconstructed the fragments, they were amazed to find that the goddess turned out to be a very modern-looking woman. She stood three feet high and her hands rested on her hips. She was wearing a full-length skirt which swept the ground. Despite her great age, she was very graceful indeed, but, so far, the archaeologists have been unable to discover her identity.



Comprehension and Précis

In not more than 80 words describe what archaeologists discovered in an ancient temple on the island of Kea. Do not include anything that is not in the last paragraph.

Answer these questions in note form to get your points:

1. Where did the archaeologists find clay fragments?
2. What did they represent?
3. Had they once been painted or not?
4. Where was the body of one statue found?
5. Where was its head found?
6. Were the fragments reconstructed or not?
7. How tall did the goddess turn out to be?
8. Where did her hands rest?
9. What was she wearing?
10. Is her identity known or not?

Vocabulary

Give another word or phrase to replace the following words as they are used in the passage: explored (ll. 3-4); ancient (l. 5); prosperous (l. 7); storeys (l. 9); beneath (l. 13); fragments (l. 18); remains (l. 20).

Composition

Write an imaginary account of how the archaeologists explored the sacred room of the ancient temple. Expand the following into a paragraph of about 150 words.

After walking round the ancient city, the archaeologists . . . This temple . . . On entering the sacred room, the archaeologists . . . After this, workmen began digging and soon discovered . . . They also found . . . The archaeologists carefully . . . They were astonished to find that . . . The goddess was . . . She . . . Although the archaeologists . . . they were unable to find out her name. (52 words)

Letter-writing

Write six phrases which could be used to end letters to friends.

Key Structures

What happened? (1 KS 190)

Exercise

Suppose that each of the following verbs were used to describe *what happened* yesterday. What would be their correct form?

Yesterday I . . . leave, lay, lie, choose, raise, rise, beat, bite, catch, hear, sing, think, show, run, lose, begin, fall, feel.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Misused and Confused.

a Happen. Study these examples:

Its missing head *happened to be* among remains of the fifth century B.C. (By chance.) (ll. 20–21)

I happened to find the ticket in my pocket. (By chance.)

It happened that I found the ticket in my pocket. (By chance.)

I couldn't find out what had *happened*. (What had taken place.)

Exercises

a Complete the following making a sentence out of each:

1. She **happened** . . .
2. It **happened** . . .
3. Tell me what . . .
4. If you **happen** . . .

b Storey and Story. Study these examples:

Houses—often three storeys high—were built of stone. (ll. 8–9)

c Worship and Warship. Study these examples:

The temple . . . was used as a place of worship. (ll. 15–16)

The *Arethusa* used to be a warship.

Exercise

Use the words storey, story, worship, and warship in sentences of your own.