

# 8. On Saying "Please"

WORKSHEET

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## COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

The slamming of the doors had aroused my mother: she peered out of her room. 'What on earth are you boys doing?' she demanded. Herman ventured out of his room. 'What was all that running around downstairs?' said mother. We just looked at her. 'Burglars!' she shouted intuitively. I tried to quiet her by starting lightly downstairs....

'Don't either of you go a step,' said mother. 'We'll call the police.' Since the phone was downstairs, I didn't see how we were going to call the police, nor did I want the police, but mother made one of her quick incomparable decisions. She flung up a window of her bedroom which faced the bedroom windows of a neighbour, picked up a shoe and whammed it through a pane of glass across the narrow space that separated the two houses. Glass tinkled into the bedroom occupied by a retired engraver named Bodwell and his wife. Bodwell had been for some years in rather a bad way and was subject to mild 'attacks'.....

It was now about two o'clock of a moonless night; clouds hung black and low. Bodwell was at the window in a minute, shouting, frothing a little, shaking his fist. 'We'll sell the house and go back to Peoria,' we could hear Mrs Bodwell saying. It was some time before mother got through to Bodwell. 'Burglars!' she shouted. 'Burglars in the house!' Herman and I hadn't dared to tell her that it was not burglars but ghosts, for she was even more afraid of ghosts than of burglars. Bodwell at first thought that she meant there were burglars in his house, but finally he quieted down and called the police for us over an extension phone by his bed....

The police were on hand in a commendably short time: a Ford sedan full of them, two on motorcycles, and a patrol wagon with about eight in it and a few reporters.... Police were all over the place; doors were yanked open, drawers were yanked open, windows were shot up and pulled down, furniture fell with dull thumps.... They began to ransack the floor, pulled beds away from walls, tore clothes off hooks in the closets, pulled suitcases and boxes off shelves.... The cops were reluctant to leave without getting their hands on somebody besides grandfather; the night had been distinctly a defeat for them...A reporter, a thin-faced, wispy man came up to me....'Just what the hell is the real lowdown here, Bud?' he asked. I decided to be frank with him. 'We had ghosts,' I said. He gazed at me a long time as if I were I were a slot machine into which he had, without results, dropped a nickel. Then he walked away. The cops followed him....

From: The Night the Ghost Got In - by James Thurber

**A** Answer the following questions.

1. What aroused mother?

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2. What was the quick decision made by mother?

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3. Who were the author's neighbours?

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4. Who arrived when the police were called?

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5. Why do you think the reporter gazed at the author for a long time and then walked away?

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**B** Fill in the blanks with suitable words and then give the meanings of the words you have used:

1. 'Burglars!' she shouted, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Mother made one of her quick \_\_\_\_\_ decisions.
3. Their neighbour was a retired \_\_\_\_\_ called Bodwell.
4. The police began to \_\_\_\_\_ the floor.
5. The cops were \_\_\_\_\_ to leave.

## GRAMMAR

**A** Complete the following sentences using appropriate types of conditional clauses.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, you will become weak.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, I would buy a luxury car.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, you will develop obesity.

**B** Make sentences of your own using the following.

1. if I were you: \_\_\_\_\_
2. as it was raining: \_\_\_\_\_
3. because he is so generous: \_\_\_\_\_
4. where he had left it: \_\_\_\_\_
5. although he is not rich: \_\_\_\_\_
6. what he wants: \_\_\_\_\_

**C** Use the following prepositions and conjunctions correctly.

to at into under beside for

1. She stood \_\_\_\_\_ the chair till the others had sat down.
2. They went \_\_\_\_\_ the dining room when dinner was announced.
3. Someone should be \_\_\_\_\_ the door to receive the guests who are late.
4. I don't think you have looked \_\_\_\_\_ the table \_\_\_\_\_ the shoes.
5. Has anyone gone \_\_\_\_\_ the airport to pick up the cargo?

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

**A** Use the underlined idiomatic phrases in sentences of your own:

1. He was written down as an ill-tempered fellow.

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2. Bad temper is more catching than a bad cold.

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3. The school runs on well-oiled wheels.

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4. There was a glow of pleasure on Bittu's face when he got the balloon.

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5. Mr Sharma has a fund of patience handling the long queues at his counter.

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**B** Use the following words in the correct place to complete the sentences below:

later over in as soon as steadily after by tonight at on

1. I left \_\_\_\_\_ I heard the news.

2. Keep this book \_\_\_\_\_ the table please.

3. Has Rohan arranged for the party \_\_\_\_\_?

4. The plane flew low \_\_\_\_\_ the building.

5. Perhaps we can go \_\_\_\_\_ the concert is over.

6. Let's go \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner somewhere.

7. The army marched \_\_\_\_\_ for three hours \_\_\_\_\_ the rain.

8. Mehr left \_\_\_\_\_ train \_\_\_\_\_ nine thirty.

**C** You have lost your book 'Treasure Island' from your school bag, and you want to put up a notice at the 'Lost Property' board in school. Write a suitable notice asking anyone who finds it to return it to you or to your class teacher, putting in the necessary information.

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