

**CONNECTED TEXTS (orthographic)**

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## 1. IN THE GARDEN

(Speakers: George Smith and Mr. Robinson.)

- Robinson Good afternoon, Smith! Out in the garden, I see! It'll keep us all busy for the next few weeks, won't it?
- George Oh, hallo, Robinson! I'm not really what you might call 'out in the garden' yet. This is by way of being a reconnaissance. Just to see what the winter's left us.
- Robinson Yes. I know. I've been itching to get out here for weeks. But there's been so much rain that one couldn't get on to the soil. Fortunately, I haven't lost any plants through the frost. I take precautions, you know. It's a bit expensive in time and money. But it's worth it in the long run. How did you fare?
- George Well, what I'm particularly interested in at the moment is a little patch of mint I put in last year. I shan't be at all popular with Mary if that's disappeared. That looks rather like it over there! What do you think? Can you see over the fence?
- Robinson Just a minute. I'm having to pick my way rather gingerly over the flower-bed. Oh, yes. That's mint all right. But it's rather badly choked, isn't it?
- George The grass, you mean? Yes. This bed gets covered with grass every year between my autumn and summer appearances. It's an awful job digging it out every spring. And, of course, the bed gets lower and lower as I take out more and more soil. And then it floods every time it rains.
- Robinson You go about it in the wrong way. You ought to dig the bed over every year in the late autumn. Tidy it up, and don't let the grass get a hold. I never have that sort of trouble. Except, if I may say so, where a little comes through from your side of the fence.

- George Oh, I am sorry! I really must be more careful about that in the future. You seem to manage to keep your garden in such a disciplined state. Nature wins hands down every time with me.
- Robinson It's a matter of time and patience, you know. You may have noticed that I'm out here most evenings when it's light. Not to mention nearly every week-end. There's always something to do. Something to tidy up. I enjoy just pottering about out here.
- George I'm sure that's the only way to do it. I'm afraid my gardening consists of a few violent skirmishes during the season. By the way, Mary and I've been intrigued by the splendid hole you've been digging over there for the last few days. Are you sinking a mine by any chance?
- Robinson Good gracious, no! You will have your joke! I've been busy constructing an ornamental pond. We think it'll be a great joy when it's finished. Though it's taking longer than I thought it would.
- George Will you keep fish in it?
- Robinson Oh, yes. Though I haven't quite decided what sort to have. As a matter of fact, I've got a couple of books on the rearing and care of fish out of the local library. It's a fascinating subject. Though I can't say I've done more than scratch the surface as yet.
- George I'm sure we can look forward to having a well-behaved colony of fish next door. Didn't I feel a spot of rain? Pity! I'll have to postpone my inspection.
- Robinson It's not going to be very much. Not enough to send a real gardener scurrying indoors. Before you go, you won't mind if I mention just one thing, will you? This fence is yours, you know. And I'm afraid that in a good many places it needs attention. I did nail up one section when it blew down in November. But it was more than a temporary repair. I've been meaning to have a word with you about it for some time.
- George I really must apologise. I know the fence is my responsibility And I feel very guilty for not having done anything about it before. But I promise you I'll get some fencing contractors to come and have a look at it, and put up a new one if necessary.

- Robinson Well, if you want any help, just let me know. Now it really is coming on. Good for the young plants!
- George I must be off! I'll see you again during the next fine spell.

## 2. DECORATING THE HOUSE

(Speakers: George and Mary Smith.)

- Mary You know, I think it's about time we had the house decorated. I feel quite ashamed when people come here.
- George Yes. I suppose you're right. When you live in a place, you get used to the shabby bits, don't you?
- Mary We ought to have something done every year. And then it wouldn't seem quite so expensive. You always put things off.
- George All right. What shall we have done? The outside of the house? It really does need painting. After all, that comes under the heading of preservation of the property. I've noticed quite a few places where the paint's flaked off completely. We'll have some kind of rot setting in next.
- Mary Yes, that's a job that needs to be done regularly. Every four or five years. Or so Mrs. Robinson next door was telling me.
- George I wish the Robinsons would mind their own business and not always be giving us tips on how to run our house and lives.
- Mary That's not the point. They're so spick and span and house-proud. And they like their neighbours to keep up the tone of the road. I don't see anything wrong in that. You must admit that our house does look a bit decrepit amongst all the others, not to mention the garden.
- George No, let's not mention the garden. Let's concentrate on the outside of the house for the moment. I suppose we'd better get Entwistle the builder to do it.
- Mary It's a pity we can't find anyone else. His men are so old, aren't they? I always feel they're past it really. I get so worried when they go up the ladders.

- George Oh, I think they're quite safe. Just a bit slow. And the very old one does nothing else but hold the ladder for his mates.
- Mary I'm not saying they're not pleasant to have about the place. They're very polite, even if they aren't very brisk. I must remember to get some extra tea in.
- George That's settled then. It's just a question now of when they can come.
- Mary Aren't you going to get an estimate? You really ought to get several and accept the most reasonable.
- George That's far too much trouble. No, we know the Entwistle firm, and we may as well stick to them. They weren't too expensive last time. Shall I give him a ring now?
- Mary You might as well, before your enthusiasm cools off.
- George All right. Here goes! Now, what's his number? Where's the telephone directory? A new one came the other day, didn't it?
- Mary Yes. Now where did I put it? Isn't it on the window-sill? No, I know. It's on the piano. There it is! I remember I had to put it down hurriedly.
- George Thanks! Entwistle. What's his initial? He's called 'Bert', isn't he? That'll be 'H' then. 288164, that'll be it. It's ringing now.
- Hallo? Could I speak to Mr. Entwistle, please? He's not in? When d'you expect him back? About seven. I wonder if you'd ask him to give me a ring when he comes in. Well, yes. When he's had his supper, if you think that'd be better. Yes, I get hungry too after a hard day's work. About eight then? That's very kind of you. You won't forget to mention it, will you? My name's Smith. Of 98 Arthur Road. Oh, you remember us from the last time. Yes, poor Fred was unlucky, wasn't he? I've had the hole in the path filled in now. It must have given him a nasty turn, especially at his age. I'll look forward to hearing from your husband then. Goodbye!
- Mary That must have been Mrs. Entwistle. She's a bit of a dragon.
- George Yes, she did seem slightly hostile. But she says her Bert'll phone when he's had his supper.

- Mary He won't, you know. He never does! You'll have to ring up again tomorrow. And still nothing'll happen. In the end, you'll have to go round and see him. Don't you remember? That's what happened last time.
- George So it did! Anyway, we can at least say that negotiations have been put in hand. And we'll have time to decide exactly what we want to do.
- Mary I wonder if we could have that rather bright colour scheme. You know. The one I thought up the last time we had the outside done.
- George But Bert doesn't approve of that sort of thing. You know he doesn't! He's a stickler for what he calls good taste. And I'm sure your precious Robinsons would be horrified. No, you'll have to quieten it down a little bit. Last time, it was the scarlet door that finally put paid to it as far as Bert was concerned.
- Mary All right. Let's settle for some nice sober colours. But no browns, please. And while we're about it, we'd better have the walls repainted with that white liquid cement stuff.
- George Yes, but let's get Mr. Entwistle down to figures first.

### 3. SHOPPING

(Speakers: George and Mary Smith.)

- Mary Will you get the car out, George? I'm off to do the shopping now.
- George I'll come with you, if you like. I could get the fruit and veg for you. I'm much quicker than you are in shops. Men always are, I suppose.
- Mary You're quicker. But you don't always buy the right things. No, George. Thank you very much, but I'll manage quite well by myself. You just get the car out of the garage for me. That'll be a great help. It's such a struggle for me to undo the top bolt on the garage door.

George All right. But I'll finish this page of the paper first, if you don't mind.

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George It's no good, Mary. The car won't start.

Mary Won't start? It was perfectly all right the last time I took it out. You know, the other evening. When I went over to see Dorothy.

George Well. You left the lights on. Yes, you did! And now the battery's flat. I can't even get Mr Robinson to get his jump leads out because there's no one in next door just now. I'll have to ring the the AA to come and recharge the battery.

Mary How long'll that take? If we don't get off soon, the supermarket'll be crowded.

George You'll just have to walk for a change.

Mary But I've got to get the whole week's shopping. You'll have to come and give me a hand. You can take these two big baskets. And I'll make do with the smaller one and the shopping bag.

George Why on earth d'you have to buy so much all at once?

Mary I don't see any point in going down to the supermarket every day, when we can perfectly easily buy most things at the same time and keep them in the freezer till we need them. Anyway, there's that man from the farm who calls once a week. I get eggs and quite a lot of fruit and vegetables from him.

George I thought you said he'd stopped coming.

Mary So he has, for the time being. But I'm hoping we'll see him again when the weather improves. Still, that's beside the point. It's time we were going. Pick up those baskets and let's be off.

George The air's quite fresh, isn't it? We're in for a fine day, I should think. I wish I'd put a coat on though.

Mary You'll warm up when we've been walking for a bit. Not so fast, though, George. You're not running for the train this morning.

George Sorry. I get so used to hurrying down this road in the mornings. How's that? Is this a more reasonable speed?

Mary Yes, that's better. I don't expect you'll be quite so energetic on the way home, when it's up-hill all the way. Oh, have I brought

my purse? Thank goodness! But I don't seem to have much money with me. Can you let me have some?

George Well, I've only got two ten-pound notes. Will that do?

Mary It'll have to. But you'd better go to the cash machine and draw out some more money.

George But I haven't brought my card. No. Let's get all the shopping we can and I'll come down again later.

Mary Well, since you're so keen on the fruit and veg, you can get those. I shall want six pounds of potatoes and two pounds of onions to start with. Then a pound of carrots. Oh, and you'd better get some of those frozen beans. Two packets should be enough. The large ones. Now what else? Apples! We'll soon have finished those we have. You choose two pounds of the kind you like best. Don't you think you ought to write all this down, George?

George No, no! I can remember it all perfectly well. Is that all you want in the way of fruit?

Mary I usually buy bananas and oranges. But I doubt whether you'll have room for them.

George Of course I will. We may as well carry as much as we can. And what about grapes? We have some of those as a rule, don't we?

Mary Yes. We do. I'll leave it to you, then. Get what you can. But don't forget the essentials, whatever you do. I'll meet you at the checkout.

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George Well, here we are! All finished in no time! I met Mrs Robinson. We had quite a chat. She asked after you. Thought you must be ill. I told them you were taking the day off, and had bullied me into doing the shopping.

Mary I wish you'd tell the truth, instead of making up these tales. It's often most embarrassing. I can't think what the Robinsons make of you. Anyway, have you got everything I told you to?

George Look! I got a bunch of the most enormous grapes.

Mary Where? I don't see any grapes.

- George They must be underneath the other things. At the bottom of the basket.
- Mary At the bottom? They'll be crushed. When we put them into a bag, they'll be a sticky mess. What else have you got?
- George Bananas. Oranges. Oh, and some rather nice pears Mrs Robinson recommended.
- Mary Well Mrs Robinson doesn't know what she's talking about. I had some of those pears last week. They're over-ripe inside. And the potatoes?
- George Potatoes? I knew there was something else. But there's no room, in any case.
- Mary We need them for lunch. So it's just as well that you're coming down again. You can get the potatoes then. You'll be able to buy some washing powder and one or two other things I haven't room for. But let's hurry home now.
- George These baskets are heavy! You were quite right. It isn't so easy going home.
- Mary There's no need to puff and blow so, all the same. You are making an exhibition of yourself, George. You've been putting on weight, you know. You ought to do something about it. What about a few exercises every morning? You might join Mr. Robinson in the garden. He's out there every morning, at seven-thirty sharp, wet or fine, doing his kneesbends. Quite a picturesque figure it makes in his shorts and tea shirt. I shouldn't think you'd be a very prepossessing sight!
- George All right, Mary. There's no need to be personal. I admit I've filled out a little in the last year or two. But I wouldn't say I've put on weight. To hear you talk, anybody'd think I was corpulent. Anyway, I wouldn't dream of exposing myself in the garden, in the way that Robinson does. All he gets as a result is a perpetual cold. . . . But you go on, if you're in a hurry to get home. I'll come along at my leisure and enjoy the morning air.

## 4. TELEVISION

(Speakers: George Smith and his son, John.)

- George     There's a dreadful din coming from Ann's bedroom, John. What on earth is it?
- John        Oh, she's borrowed a cd player from one of her friends, and she's trying out some of her latest downloads.
- George     Does she have to have it on quite so loud? The whole house seems to be trembling with it. Anyway, why can't she use our hifi?
- John        Ours isn't any good, if you really want to hear the music. For one thing, it's got such small speakers, and only about half the notes come over. And I don't know how many years we've had it. It's time we got a modern system, with bass and treble controls.
- George     That'd be a waste of money. We hardly ever use the cd part. And when we do, the quality seems perfectly all right to me.
- John        That's because you've got used to it. If we had a decent machine, I for one would use it more often. As it is, I don't play my cd's on it.
- George     Well, we'll have to think about it. But push the door to, would you? It'll keep some of the noise out. I thought I might look at the play on television. When does it come on? Have you seen the *Radio Times*?
- John        Yes. It's on the stool by the fireplace. I'd been hoping to see the rugby between England and France. It's being played this evening. And I think it's on BBC1.
- George     That's right. From seven to nine. And the play begins at nine-fifteen. You may as well switch it on now. You'll get the end of the match.
- John        The picture takes ages to come on this set. Ah! At last! It's not very good, is it? It looks as though they're playing in a fog. Shall I put the big light out?
- George     Yes, just leave the little lamp on. That's better. I think that's as good a picture as you can hope for. I'm afraid it's a very old set.

- John        What you ought to do is to hire a set. You pay so much a month, and the firm guarantees to maintain the set for you.
- George      No, I think I'd rather buy one. Modern sets are very reliable. Hallo! Someone's just scored. Was it France or England?
- John        I missed what the commentator was saying because you were talking. I expect they'll show the score on the screen. Ah, yes! Fifteen-thirteen. And about a quarter of an hour still to go. The play should warm up now. All the papers were expecting England to win fairly easily.
- George      So much for the pundits!

## 5. AT THE OFFICE

(Speakers: George Smith, his secretary, Jane, and a visitor.)

- George      Good morning, Jane! I'm afraid I'm very late. The train was delayed again. What is the right time?
- Jane        I make it just a quarter to ten. I was beginning to wonder if I should ring up Mrs. Smith, in case you were ill.
- George      I'm glad you didn't. She'd only have worried. There's nothing more infuriating than crawling along in a train, getting later and later. Well, now I *am* here, is there anything urgent on today?
- Jane        There's a good deal of correspondence to be dealt with. Some of it's a week old. And about ten minutes ago, an old gentleman turned up and asked to see you. Very polite he was. I said you'd have very little time today. But he insisted. So I put him in your office to wait.
- George      Who is he? You got his name, I suppose?
- Jane        Oh, yes. It's a Mr. Applethwaite from Huddersfield. He says he's come from Singleton's.
- George      Singleton's! So they've sent someone at last! Not before time, too! I was going to ring them up today. I'd better deal with him straightaway. Can you get on with some letters for the next half

hour? You know, the usual routine answers. Oh, and I could do with a cup of coffee.

Jane Right you are, Mr. Smith. I'll get the coffee before I start on the letters.

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George Mr. Applethwaite? I'm so sorry I kept you waiting.

Mr. A Good morning, Mr. Smith. That's perfectly all right. I should have let you know I was coming. But I only got my instructions last night.

George Well, I'm very glad you're here, as you can imagine. Would you like some coffee?

Mr. A That would be very nice.

George I've been very worried about all these orders which are outstanding. And I don't have to tell you my clients abroad have been writing me some pretty sharp letters. Our original delivery dates weren't all that competitive, you know. And this extra delay's sure to do our future business a good deal of harm.

Mr. A We do appreciate all this, I can assure you, Mr. Smith. But there've been some good reasons for the delays. You know we had that disastrous fire three months ago. And that destroyed a third of our factory. We're only just getting back into full production again. And, what's more, we've been held up for some of the components which are supplied by another firm. But I can promise you that the orders'll be despatched within the next ten days.

George Well, that's good news. I only hope that all this hasn't cost us the goodwill we've built up abroad over the last few years. I'll send off some cables this morning. Ah! Here's Jane with the coffee! Would you care for a biscuit with it? We go in for some rather nice chocolate ones.

## 6. HOLIDAYS

(Speakers: George and Mary Smith, and their son, John.)

- George     Mary! I think it's about time we were off, if you're ready. I've got the car out.
- Mary        Just coming! I've been making some coffee for the journey. D'you think I should put any chocolate in the picnic basket, in case we get hungry?
- George     We'll be stopping for lunch on the way, you know. But you may as well put some in. The children always like to be chewing something. Where are they, by the way?
- Mary        John's out there with you, isn't he? Ann's been helping me in the kitchen. Oh, there you are, John! Give Ann a hand with these bags, will you?
- George     Careful with that one! It's got your mother's precious bottles in it. Just leave it there. I'll put the big cases in first, if you'd bring them out.
- John        What on earth's in this one? It weighs a ton!
- George     Oh, all the shoes are in that one, besides one or two things of mine. Let's get that one in the boot first. Now, which way round'll it fit in best? I seem to remember we've had this trouble before. If only they'd made this boot another inch bigger each way.
- John        It won't stand upright, will it? You'd get more in that way.
- George     No, the boot's not high enough. There's so much space lost from having the spare wheel underneath. We'll have to put the case in sideways as usual. The corner'll get caught, but it can't be helped. Now for the other ones!
- John        Here's the other big one! Not half as heavy as yours, thank goodness! And Ann's little one. That'll slide in on top of the others. You can squeeze my hold-all in anywhere.
- George     Good! That's the lot! Oh, no! There's your mother's bag of bottles. We must find a space for that. There! I wonder if the lid's going to shut. Good heavens! It does! That's something that's never happened before.
- John        There is this other case of yours, you know. We usually put that in the boot, too.

George Well, I'm not going to open it up again now. It can go in the back with you and Ann. Mary! Ann! Come and get in! We're all ready. Is everything turned off in the house?

Mary Coming! There's just the water to turn off at the main.

George Run in and do that quickly, will you, John? Mind you turn the tap properly! . . . Right! Off we go!

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George It's beginning to rain, isn't it? It usually does when we go on holiday.

Mary It's been a good omen in the past. The sun's always come out before the end of the day. Shouldn't you put the windscreen wipers on, George?

George No, let's wait till it starts raining properly. The windscreen'll only smear.

Mary Aren't you going rather fast? The road seems quite greasy. There's no hurry. We needn't get there till evening.

George I'm only doing forty, you know.

Mary That's ten more than you ought to be doing. We're still in a built-up area.

George All right! But we'll have to go fairly fast when we get to the motorway. Or we won't arrive before nightfall. We were more than an hour late starting, remember. Have you got the map, John?

John I've got two. Which should I use? The large-scale one?

George The one inch to the mile map, you mean. No, that won't be much good. We'd be off it in no time. You may as well use the road maps in the book. D'you see where we are?

John Well, this is the road to Westerham. The A 233. When we get to Westerham, we turn right on to the M 25. But we haven't got to Biggin Hill yet. So there's plenty of time.

George I'm all right for the next half-an-hour or so. But don't lose the place, because I want to by-pass Guildford. There's a turning to the left I don't want to miss.

Mary George, do be careful! You're much too close to that lorry in front.

George I want to overtake it before we get to the narrow part of the road. Otherwise we'll be stuck behind this thing for the next ten miles. Good! He's waving us on.

Mary Well, now you've passed him, you can relax. There's no point in hurtling along these twisting lanes. I'd prefer to arrive a little later and in one piece.

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George Well, here we are! Eighteen and a half minutes past seven. Not bad going, considering the traffic we've had on the way.

Mary Are you sure this is the hotel?

George Why, yes. It says 'Grand Hotel' on the front, doesn't it?

Mary It doesn't look very grand to me. In fact, it could do with a good coat of paint. I don't think I'm going to like it.

George Oh, come on, Mary! Old Robinson recommended it. And I should think he's fussy about where he stays. Unpretentious and reasonable, he said.

Mary Let's hope it's better inside. There's no harm in trying it, I suppose.

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Mary So this is our room! It's not very big, is it? You did ask for a double room, I suppose?

George Of course I did. It is on the small side, I admit. But I don't expect we'll be spending much time in here.

Mary We have to sleep here. Just let me have a closer look at the bedclothes. I might have known it! The sheets haven't been aired. It's a good job I brought the hot-water bottles.

George Cheer up, Mary! You're tired after the journey. When you've had a meal, you'll feel better. And the room'll look quite different. And after dinner, we can have a look at the sea.

Mary Where is the sea, by the way? I thought our windows were to overlook the sea.

George     Yes, that's what the manager said in his letter. Wait a minute! If you stand here—no, right up against the window—you can just see the sea on the left of that chimney-stack.

Mary        If you ask me, we've been properly had!