

ARTICLES

1. There was . . . knock on . . . door. I opened it and found . . . small dark man in . . . check overcoat and . . . soft hair.
2. He said he was . . . employee of . . . gas company and had come to read . . . meter.
3. But I had . . . suspicion that he wasn't speaking . . . truth because . . . meter readers usually wear . . . peaked caps.
4. However. I took him to . . . meter. Which is in . . . dark corner under . . . stairs (. . . meters are usually in . . . dark corners under . . . stairs).
5. I asked if he had . . . torch : he said he disliked torches and always read . . . meters by . . . light of . . . match.
6. I remarked that if there was . . . leak in . . . gaspipe there might be . . . explosion while he was reading . . . meter.
7. He said 'As . . . matter of . . . fact there was . . . explosion in . . . last house I visited : and Mr Smith . . . owner of . . . house, was burnt in . . . face.
8. Mr Smith was holding . . . lighted match at . . . time of . . . explosion.
9. To prevent . . . possible repetition of this accident. I lent him . . . torch.
10. He switched on . . . torch, read . . . meter and wrote . . . reading down on . . . back of . . . envelope.
11. I said in . . . surprise that . . . meter readers usually put . . . readings down in . . . book.
12. He said that he had . . . book but that it had been burnt in . . . fire in . . . Mr Smith's house.
13. By this time I had come to . . . conclusion that he wasn't . . . genuine meter reader : and . . . moment he left . . . house I rang . . . police.
14. Are John and Mary . . . cousins?
No, they aren't . . . cousins; they are . . . brother and . . . sister.
15. . . . fog was so thick that we couldn't see . . . side of . . . road. We followed . . . car in front of us and hoped that we were going . . . right way.
16. I can't remember . . . exact date of . . . storm, but I know it was . . . Sunday because everybody was at . . . church. On . . . Monday . . . post didn't come because . . . roads were blocked by . . . fallen trees.
17. Peter thinks that this is quite . . . cheap restaurant.
18. There's been . . . murder here.
Where's . . . body?
There isn't . . . body.
Then how do you know there's been . . . murder?
19. Number . . . hundred and two . . . house next door to us, is for sale.
It's quite . . . nice house with . . . big rooms . . . back windows look out on . . . park.
20. I don't know what . . . price . . . owners are asking. But dry and Rot are . . . agents. You could give them . . . ring and make them . . . offer.
21. . . . postman's little boy says that he'd rather be . . . dentist than . . . doctor. Because . . . dentists don't get called out at . . . night.
22. Just as . . . air hostess (there was only one on the plane) was handing me . . . cup of . . . coffee . . . plane gave . . . lurch and . . . coffee went all over . . . person on . . . other side of . . . gangway.
23. There was . . . collision between . . . car and . . . cyclist at . . . crossroads near . . . my house early in . . . morning. . . . cyclist was taken to . . . hospital with . . . concussion. . . . driver

- of . . . car was treated for . . . shock. . . . witnesses say that . . . car was going at . . . seventy miles . . . hour.
24. Professor Jones, . . . man who discovered . . . new drug that everyone is talking about, refused to give . . . press conference.
25. Peter Piper. . . . student in . . . professor's college, asked him why he refused to talk to . . . press.
26. We're going to . . . tea with . . . Smiths today, aren't we? Shall we take . . . car?
We can go by . . . car if you wash . . . car first. We can't go to . . . Mrs Smith's in . . . car all covered with . . . mud.

Adapted from: A.J. Thompson and A.V. Martinet *A Practical English Grammar*, OUP