

(附中文注释)

IMPROVE
YOUR READING
BOOK 1

提高阅读能力

第1册

C. 斯沃特里奇 著



Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

世界图书出版公司

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麦克米伦出版有限公司

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内 容 简 介

本书是为具有初级英语水平的学生编写的 600 词汇量的英语读物。全书共收入 22 篇短文，每篇长 200 ~ 250 个词。内容包括小故事、轶事、书信及新闻报道等。短文后有理解练习、词汇练习、笔头练习等。书末附答案。

为便于学生使用，特将书中的难点加上中文注释，列于书末。本书还配有录音带一盒。书和录音带配合使用，效果更好。可供广大中学生和初学英语者使用。

Improve Your Reading Book One

C. Swatridge

Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

提高阅读能力 第 1 册

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C. 斯沃特里奇 著

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前 言

《提高阅读能力》是专为具有初级英语水平学生编写的初级英语读物。全书共收入 22 篇课文，每篇长 200 ~ 250 个词。使用的总词汇量计 600 余个。为便于我国广大的中学生使用本书，特将书中的难词、难句加上中文注释，附于书末。

本书的语法结构包括一般现在时、过去时和将来时，现在进行时、过去进行时以及现在完成时，全部句子都是主动态。课文体裁包括叙述文、描写文，报道式的故事、独白、广告、正式函件、私人信件以及押韵诗。其中有些课文特别适合于阅读和口头复述，有些课文则适合于默读和自学。

每篇课文配有两种练习。练习 A 为多种选择理解题，练习 B 为句子结构和词汇的理解及各种词类正确用法的测试。每四五篇课文后还配有笔头练习。书末附练习答案。

本书配有 60 分钟录音带一盒，音质清晰。若将书和录音带配合使用，则对提高阅读能力大有好处。

Introduction

Book One

Improve Your Reading is intended for those in the early stages of learning English. It contains 22 passages ranging from 200–250 words in length. The total vocabulary used, amounting to a little over 600 words, is listed at the end of this book. The passages meet the requirements of the grading scheme for Range 3 of the Macmillan *Ranger* series of graded readers. Learners who tackle this book successfully will therefore also be able to read and enjoy the books at Ranges 1–3 of the *Ranger* series.

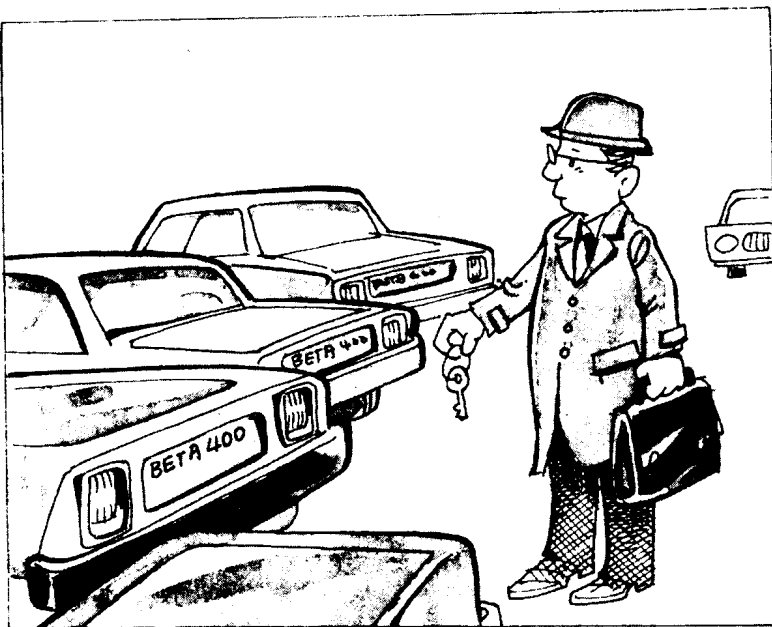
Grammatical structure has been similarly controlled. Thus, only simple past, present and future, past and present continuous, and present perfect tenses have been used, all of them in the active voice. Each of these tenses receives particular attention in one or other of the early passages: the simple past tense is used repeatedly in Passage 1 for example, the future tense (with 'will') is used in Passage 2; in Passage 5 the focus is on the present continuous tense, and so on. The passages in the first half of the book are linguistically easier than those in the second half: sentences are rather shorter, and subject-matter is more concrete; but the passages are not otherwise arranged according to any strict order of difficulty.

It has been the intention of the writer to provide teachers and learners with a number of different examples of the ways in which English is used. To this end the passages include narrative and descriptive accounts, and stories of a journalistic kind, monologues, advertisements, letters both official and personal, and rhyming verses. Many of the passages, some of the stories, monologues, and verses in particular, are suitable for reading, and recalling orally. Others lend themselves to silent reading, and individual study.

Two exercises, A and B, are provided after each passage. Exercise A is a test of the learner's understanding of the passage. It takes the form of a series of questions of a multi-choice kind. Exercise B is a test of the learner's understanding of sentence structure, of vocabulary, or of the correct use of different parts of speech. In most cases, this exercise is, again, in multi-choice form. Answers to these exercises are given in a separate section at the end of this book.

Writing exercises are also supplied, in which the learner is required to answer open-ended questions, complete sentences, and write at greater length, in his own words.

The text passages from this book are available on tape.



Mr Perkin's New Car

Mr Perkin stood at the bus-stop and watched the cars go by. Many of the cars were new Beta 400s, and most of them were yellow. Mr Perkin always wore the same clothes as other men, ate the same food as other people, and did the same things after work, and at the end of the week. Mr Perkin did not like to be different.

The following week, Mr Perkin bought a new, bright yellow Beta 400. He was very pleased with it, and drove to work in it the very next day. He was even more pleased with his new car, when he saw all the other Beta 400s, in front, behind, and on both sides of him.

Mr Perkin parked his car in a big car-park near his office, and walked the rest of the way. But when he came back at five o'clock there were so many bright yellow Beta 400s in the car-park, that Mr Perkin did not know which car was his. He tried his key in some of the cars, but people passing by gave him a look he did not like. So he stopped.

Poor Mr Perkin had to wait nearly two hours until his was the only yellow Beta 400 in the car-park.

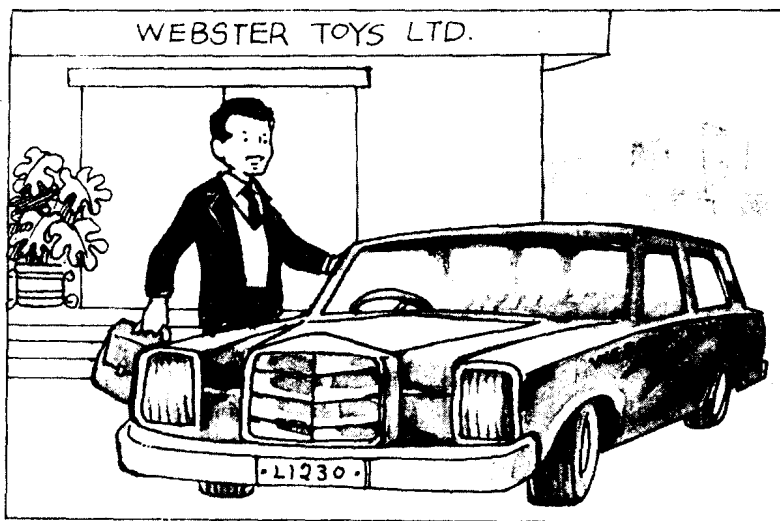
A Choose the best of the four answers (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) to finish the sentence.

- 1 Mr Perkin wanted a new, yellow Beta 400, because:
 - (i) the bus did not come.
 - (ii) he liked new clothes, food and cars.
 - (iii) he liked to do the same as other people.
 - (iv) he liked to be different from others.
- 2 He drove to work in his new car:
 - (i) the day after he bought it.
 - (ii) the day he bought it.
 - (iii) a week after he bought it.
 - (iv) on the day he first watched the cars passing.
- 3 He was pleased with his new car, because:
 - (i) no-one else had a yellow one.
 - (ii) it was the same as cars all around him.
 - (iii) he was in front of all the other cars.
 - (iv) other cars were not as bright as his.
- 4 At five o'clock, Mr Perkin:
 - (i) walked home.
 - (ii) drove his car out of the car-park.
 - (iii) came back to the car-park.
 - (iv) did not know which was his car-park.
- 5 People 'gave him a look' in the car-park because:
 - (i) he had a nice new car.
 - (ii) he could not open the door of his car.
 - (iii) he was in the wrong car-park.
 - (iv) he was trying to open more than one car.
- 6 Mr Perkin had to wait until:
 - (i) there was only one yellow Beta 400 in the car-park.
 - (ii) there was only one car in the car-park.
 - (iii) there were no bright yellow cars in the car-park.
 - (iv) there was no-one about to look at him.

B Use one of these verbs to complete the following sentences:

wore tried parked saw walked
stood drove bought watched ate

- 1 On Tuesday, he ... the same shirt as I was wearing.
- 2 I ... the boats going by up and down the river.
- 3 We all ... too much at the party last night.
- 4 The driver ... the bus at the bus-stop.
- 5 It was not easy, although I ... many times.
- 6 It was dark, but he ... me all the same.
- 7 The policeman ... dangerously to catch the yellow car.
- 8 He did not drive that day, he ... there.
- 9 The boys ... against the wall watching the fight.
- 10 With my money, I ... the books that I needed.



Webster Toys Ltd.

You have heard of Webster Toys. Webster's have made good, safe, interesting toys for more than a hundred years. Now, we sell them, and children play with them, in countries from New Zealand to Norway, and from Japan to Brazil. We are looking for someone to sell our toys in the Far East. He (or she) will be between the ages of thirty and forty. He will already have some years of selling in world markets behind him. He will speak good English, and at least one other language of the Far East.

The person we are looking for will live in Singapore, and work in our office there, but he will travel for up to six months in any one year. He will know the Far East quite well already. He will know how to sell in old markets, and where to find new ones. He will understand money, and make more than ever before, for himself, and for Webster Toys.

Webster's want someone who can stand on his own feet. If you think you are the person we are looking for, write to Mr J. Sloman at our Head Office.

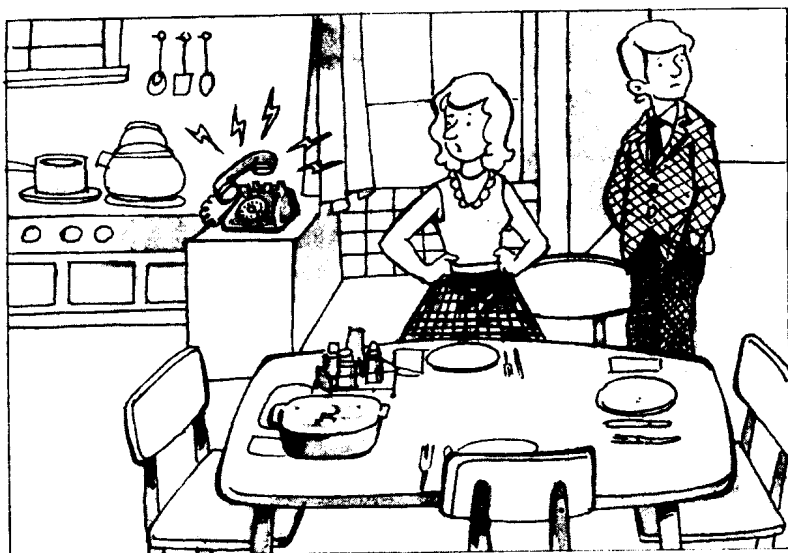
Webster Toys Ltd.
Church Mill, Watford
Herts. WD3 6HE

A Choose the best of the four answers (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) to finish the sentence.

- 1 Children play with Webster toys:
 - (i) only in countries a long way from each other,
 - (ii) in countries all over the world,
 - (iii) in only four countries of the world,
 - (iv) only in New Zealand, Norway, Japan and Brazil.
- 2 The person Webster's are looking for, will be:
 - (i) thirty years of age,
 - (ii) forty years of age,
 - (iii) less than forty years of age,
 - (iv) between thirty and forty years of age.
- 3 'He will already have some years of selling in world markets behind him' means:
 - (i) he has already sold things in different parts of the world,
 - (ii) he has sold toys for some years,
 - (iii) he has already sold toys all over the world,
 - (iv) he has already sold things for some years.
- 4 The person will speak:
 - (i) English and only one other language,
 - (ii) English or any other language,
 - (iii) English or any other Far Eastern language,
 - (iv) English and a Far Eastern language.
- 5 He will live in Singapore:
 - (i) for at least 6 months in any one year,
 - (ii) all through the year,
 - (iii) for less than six months a year,
 - (iv) for up to six months.
- 6 'Someone who can stand on his own feet' means:
 - (i) someone who does not stand on other people's feet,
 - (ii) someone who can understand money,
 - (iii) someone who can work by himself,
 - (iv) someone who understands many languages.

B Re-write the following passage, using the best word in the brackets.

He is clever, and (yet, already, still) has many years of teaching (behind, in front, beside) him. He understands children (between, among, round) the ages of six and nine, and plays (by, for, with) them like a big brother. He speaks (safe, good, old) French and knows (why, what, how) to teach it in an (important, interesting, other) way. He travels (by, to, from) school to school for (up to, down to, over to) three months in (every, all, any) one year, looking (by, for, to) ways in which he can make himself useful.



The Dry Dinner

Ben and his wife Susan were on their way to have dinner with their friends, Ian and Betty. It was a dark, windy night, and they did not know the road very well. They drove through Cookstown, until they found what they thought was the road to Dorling, where Ian and Betty lived. But it soon became clear that they were not on the road to Dorling at all. The road that they were on was getting narrower, and there were no other cars on it. The wind was blowing harder with every minute that passed.

They came to a small village. They drove past a church, and then two houses without lights on. There was nobody about to tell them where they were, or where the road went. Just then, Ben saw a telephone-box, fifty metres or so further on. While he walked back along the road to see if there was a name outside the church, Susan telephoned Ian and Betty to tell them that they were still on their way.

Betty was just saying that the dinner was already rather dry, when Ben came back to the telephone-box, his head down against the wind. He said that there was a tree lying across the road, and that the telephone lines were down. Susan heard nothing more from Betty about the dinner.

A Choose the best of the four answers (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) to finish the sentence.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Ben and Susan were on their way to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) have dinner with Ian and Betty in Dorling,(ii) have dinner with friends in Cookstown,(iii) find a telephone-box, to telephone Ian and Betty,(iv) eat with friends at a hotel on the Dorling road. <p>2 They knew they were on the wrong road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) as they were driving through Cookstown,(ii) when they arrived in the small village of Dorling,(iii) as the road became narrower, and they were alone on it,(iv) because it rained heavily, and the wind blew harder. <p>3 In the village that they came to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) there was a church with a telephone-box outside,(ii) there were lights on in the houses, but not in the church,(iii) the people could not tell them where they were,(iv) there was nobody to tell them where they were. | <p>4 While Ben walked back along the road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Betty telephoned Susan to say that the dinner was dry,(ii) Susan went to see if there was a name outside the church,(iii) Susan telephoned Betty to explain why they were late,(iv) his wife telephoned Betty to ask what was happening. <p>5 It was hard for Ben to walk along, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) a very strong wind was blowing,(ii) there was nobody about to tell him the way,(iii) he did not have any lights on,(iv) the road was getting narrower and narrower. <p>6 When Ben returned to the telephone-box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) he took the telephone lines down,(ii) he took Susan's place at the telephone,(iii) Betty told him that the dinner was dry,(iv) he said that the telephone lines were down. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

B Use one of these words to complete the sentences below.

while just soon still already until

- 1 Are you ... at home, or have you left yet?
- 2 I'll telephone Jim ... you are getting ready.
- 3 I did not know the way ... I saw the name outside the church.
- 4 We have only ... arrived home because we lost our way.
- 5 They'll arrive ... It's not far from Cookstown to Dorling.
- 6 I was ... coming when you called.



An Airline Advertisement

When you fly, fly with Bel Air

People who travel a lot fly with Bel Air, because they know they will get what they want.

They want to go quickly, and safely, across the country, across the sea, or right across the world—and they know Bel Air will take them where they want to go, when they want to go. Bel Air flies all the newest, and fastest aeroplanes, to more towns and cities, in more countries of the world, than any other airline.

Do you want to go to Paris, Washington, Tokyo? Bel Air will take you there, at all times of the day or night, right through the week. But Bel Air flies not only to the big cities, in the rich countries—we fly two or three times a week to towns and cities in the very heart of Asia, Africa and South America.

People who travel a lot fly with Bel Air, because they know they will leave on time, and arrive on time. They know that the food they will receive, and the films they will watch, will be of the very best.

Bel Air is second to none.

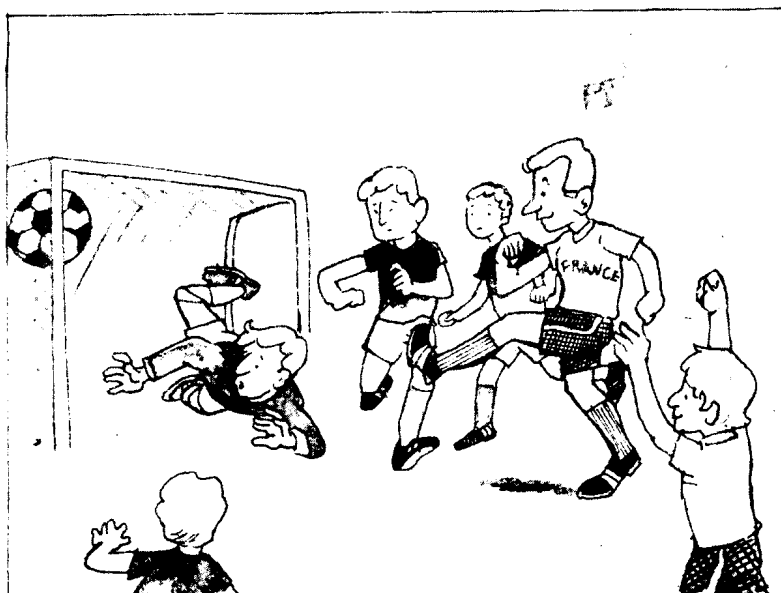
When you fly, fly with Bel Air

A Choose the best of the four answers (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) to finish the sentence.

- 1 People who fly with Bel Air:
 - (i) know they will travel a lot,
 - (ii) get what they want quickly and safely,
 - (iii) know that everything will be just right,
 - (iv) always travel right across the world.
- 2 Bel Air's aeroplanes:
 - (i) are fast, but not safe,
 - (ii) fly quickly, but not very fast,
 - (iii) are only safe because they are new,
 - (iv) fly fast and fly safely.
- 3 The airline flies aeroplanes to cities like Paris:
 - (i) day and night, right through the week,
 - (ii) two or three times a week,
 - (iii) at any time of the day, but not at night,
 - (iv) right through the day, two or three times a week.
- 4 It flies aeroplanes to towns and cities in Asia:
 - (i) at all times of the day and night,
 - (ii) at all times, right through the week,
 - (iii) two or three times a week
 - (iv) day and night, right through the week.
- 5 'In the very heart of Asia ...' means:
 - (i) all over Asia,
 - (ii) near the sea in Asia,
 - (iii) the biggest city in Asia,
 - (iv) right in the middle of Asia.
- 6 Travellers by Bel Air know that they will:
 - (i) see films that they have seen before,
 - (ii) leave all the best food,
 - (iii) leave and arrive on time,
 - (iv) eat a lot of what they receive.

B Complete the following sentences with one of the forms of the adjective in brackets.

- 1 Japan is a ... country than Colombia.
(rich, richer, richest, more rich, most rich)
- 2 Bel Air is the ... airline in the world.
(safe, safer, safest, more safe)
- 3 This is a ... film. The one I saw last was not.
(new, newer, newest, more new, most new)
- 4 That is the ... book that I have read so far this year.
(good, better, best, most good)
- 5 They offer a ... range of food than other airlines.
(interesting, more interesting, most interesting)
- 6 Paris is without doubt the ... city in France.
(big, bigger, biggest, more big, most big)
- 7 The Tristar is the ... aeroplane I have travelled in.
(comfortable, more comfortable, most comfortable)



Five Minutes of Football

'This is really a very fast game, the fastest I have seen so far this year. Both sides are fighting for the ball all the time. The crowd is loving every minute of it. They're shouting at the tops of their voices.

'Willis has the ball now. This is only his third game for Scotland, but he's playing so well that it won't be his last, I'm quite sure.

'Willis passes the ball to Cotton. Cotton kicks it over the heads of the waiting Frenchmen, towards the goal-mouth. But he's too far away. Dupont picks it up easily, and throws it to Patou, out on the left.

'France and Scotland still have one goal each, and there are only two minutes left of the game. But in that time, anything can happen. Patou kicks the ball across to Crozat. It's a beautiful kick, but Stevens jumps and just stops the ball with the side of his head. But Meunier is there, he passes to Crozat, and Crozat, without waiting a second, puts the ball into the back of the goal. It takes everybody by surprise. I've never seen a goal like it.

'And the game is over. France has won the cup.'

A Choose the best of the four answers (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) to finish the sentence.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 'They're shouting at the tops of their voices' means:</p> <p>(i) they're shouting as loud as they can,</p> <p>(ii) their shouting is almost like singing,</p> <p>(iii) they're shouting all the time,</p> <p>(iv) their voices are as high as they will go.</p> | <p>4 'In that time, anything can happen' means:</p> <p>(i) nothing more will happen to change the game,</p> <p>(ii) there is time for another goal,</p> <p>(iii) the game is nearly over,</p> <p>(iv) anything can happen after the game.</p> |
| <p>2 It will not be Willis's last game for Scotland because:</p> <p>(i) he has played three already,</p> <p>(ii) this is only his fourth game,</p> <p>(iii) he is playing so well,</p> <p>(iv) he has the ball for the third time.</p> | <p>5 Stevens jumps and:</p> <p>(i) falls on the side of his head,</p> <p>(ii) kicks the ball beautifully,</p> <p>(iii) passes the ball to Crozat,</p> <p>(iv) stops the ball with his head.</p> |
| <p>3 Cotton cannot kick the ball into the goal-mouth because:</p> <p>(i) the Frenchmen stop the ball with their heads,</p> <p>(ii) he is too far away,</p> <p>(iii) Dupont picks the ball up easily,</p> <p>(iv) Willis is too far away from him.</p> | <p>6 Crozat scores a goal:</p> <p>(i) when the game is over,</p> <p>(ii) as soon as Meunier passes him the ball,</p> <p>(iii) the second time he has the ball,</p> <p>(iv) that no-one sees him score.</p> |

B Choose the word(s) which best fill(s) the space:

- 1 This is the ... car on the market.
(fast, fastest, very fast, faster)
- 2 It's best when ... passing the ball to each other.
(they're, their, they, there)
- 3 This is ... the second time I have visited France.
(every, quite, very, only)
- 4 The hills are too far ... to see clearly.
(away, just, towards, there)
- 5 They are the same. They ... have eleven players.
(even, either, ever, each)
- 6 Without ... a moment, he rang the bell.
(to wait, wait, waiting, waited)
- 7 The noise ... everybody by surprise.
(gives, takes, puts, passes)

Passages I–5

Writing Exercises

1 Mr Perkin's New Car

A Answer the following questions on the passage in your own words:

- 1 Why did Mr Perkin want a yellow Beta 400?
- 2 How did he feel when he drove his new car?
- 3 What trouble did Mr Perkin meet with on his return to the car-park?
- 4 Why did people look at him in the way that they did?
- 5 What do you think Mr Perkin did to stop the same thing happening again?

B Write an advertisement for a Beta 400.

C A policeman sees what Mr Perkin is doing in the car-park. What does he say?

2 Webster Toys Ltd.

A Answer the following questions on the passage in your own words:

- 1 What is Webster Toys Ltd?
- 2 Who or what is Webster Toys looking for?
- 3 What will this person do for Webster Toys?
- 4 Where will he or she live?
- 5 How will Webster Toys find the person they are looking for?

B Write an advertisement for any Webster toy.

C Reply to the job advertisement. In your letter, tell Mr Sloman what you have done, and why you think you are the person Webster's is looking for.

3 The Dry Dinner

A Answer the following questions on the passage in your own words:

- 1 What sort of night was it when this story takes place?
- 2 How did it become clear to Ben and Susan that they were on the wrong road?

- 3 What was the village like that they came to?
 - 4 What did Ben do while Susan telephoned? Why did he do this?
 - 5 In what way are Ben and Susan in trouble at the end of the story?
- B** Write down either what Ian says to Betty, or what Ben says to Susan, after the wind has blown the telephone lines down.
- C** Continue the story in any way that you choose.

4 An Airline Advertisement

- A** Answer the following questions on the passage in your own words:
- 1 What sort of person travels with Bel Air?
 - 2 What sort of service does the airline promise those who travel with it?
 - 3 To what parts of the world do the airline's aeroplanes fly?
 - 4 What can travellers expect to receive when they fly with Bel Air?
 - 5 'Bel Air is second to none.' What do you think this means?
- B** You work in a travel office. A traveller asks you what is the best way to travel from London to Tokyo. What do you say to him?
- C** You have just been on a long journey with Bel Air. The aeroplane was late leaving, the food was poor, and the film was a very old one. Write a letter to Bel Air describing the things that went wrong.

5 Five Minutes of Football

- A** Answer the following questions on the passage in your own words:
- 1 Why do you think the crowd is loving every minute of the game?
 - 2 What sort of a game is Willis playing?
 - 3 Which side is winning two minutes before the end of the game?
 - 4 In two minutes, 'anything can happen.' What does happen?
 - 5 What do you think 'the cup' is?
- B** You are either a Frenchman or a Scotsman. Write your own account of the last five minutes of the game.
- C** Put yourself in Crozat's place. Write a post-card to a friend back home describing the game from your point of view.