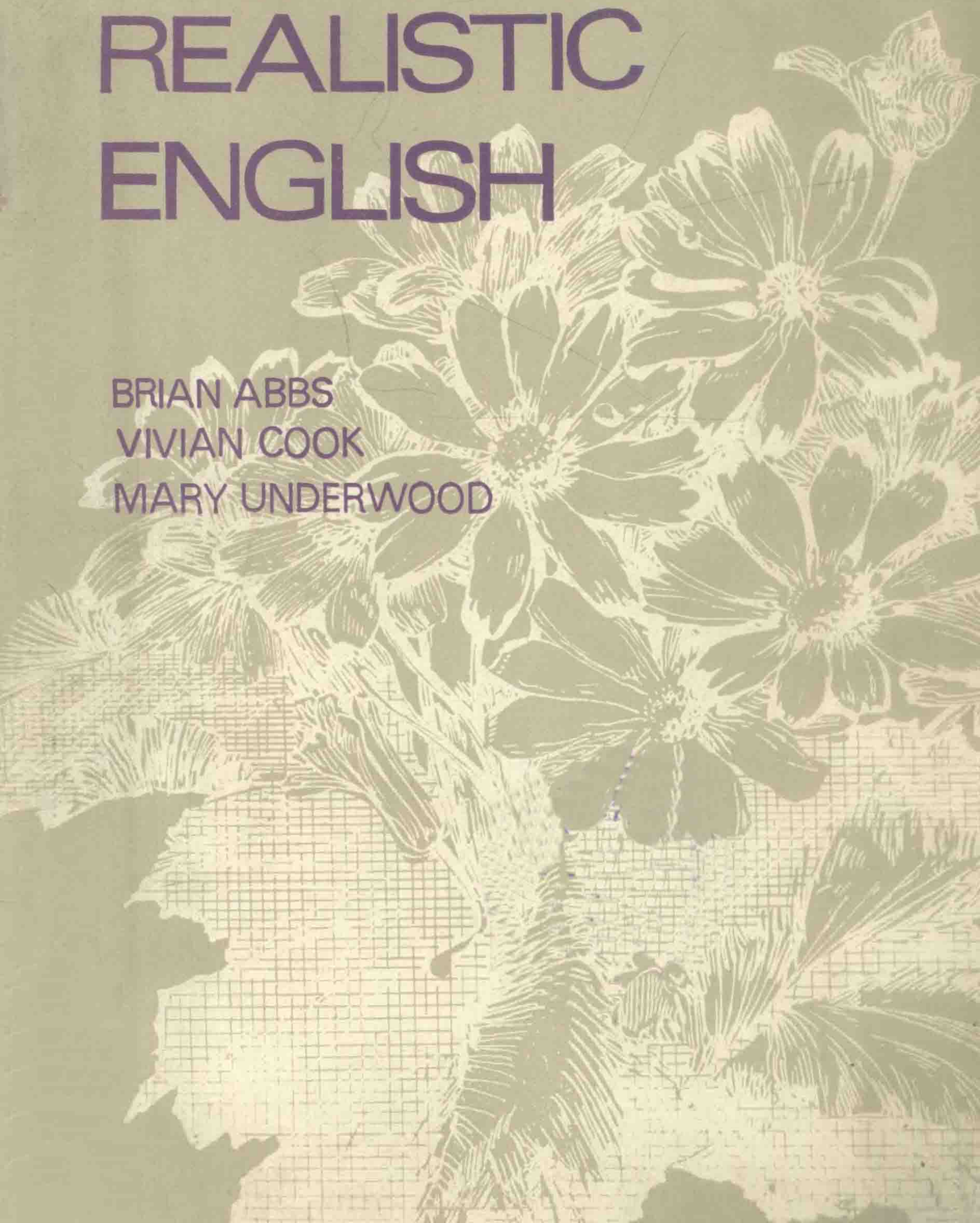


OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

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# REALISTIC ENGLISH

BRIAN ABBS  
VIVIAN COOK  
MARY UNDERWOOD

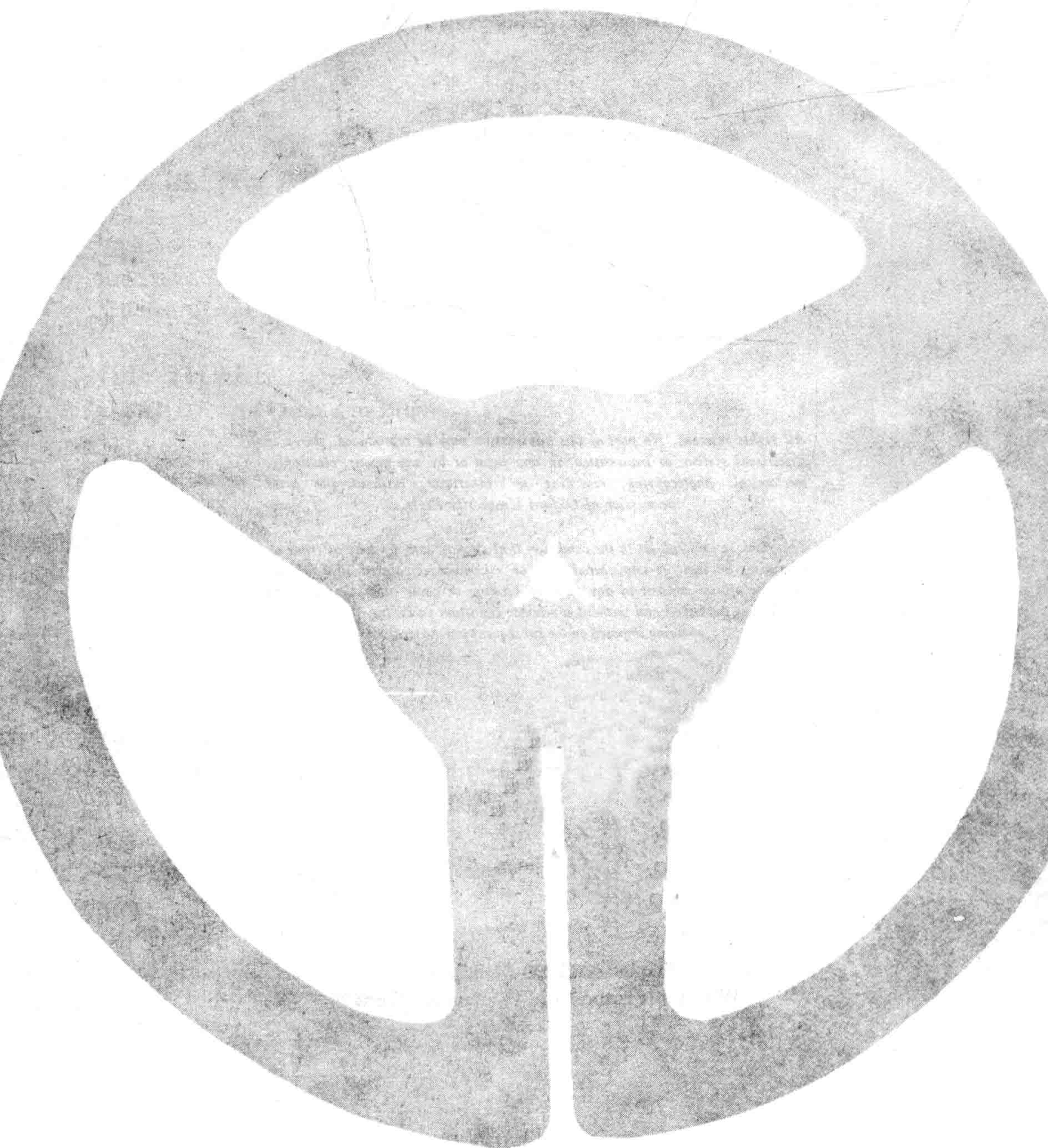




# REALISTIC ENGLISH I

BRIAN ABBS · VIVIAN COOK · MARY UNDERWOOD

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# INTRODUCTION

This book will help you to remember what you learn from the dialogues and structure drills of *Realistic English*. It contains all the practice dialogues and three examples of each drill, so that you can refresh your memory about what you have heard and practised and can refer to it and revise it on your own.

You should not use the book until you have heard the tapes. The course is intended to teach you how to speak and listen to English, not how to read and write it. You will find that, if you rely on looking at the written form, your ability to speak English will not grow so fast.

All the English you will hear is used in every-day conversation. It is full of the natural spoken forms that you will rarely find in written text-books and it ranges over a number of situations from student life to business conferences.

Of the many people who have helped us and shown interest in our work, we are particularly grateful to our colleagues and students at Ealing Technical College for their valuable comments and criticism. Our special thanks must go to Mrs Joan Ager, who gave up so much of her free time to typing the successive versions of this course.

Brian Abbs   Vivian Cook   Mary Underwood





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# UNIT ONE

## 'Caroline Arrives'

### PRACTICE DIALOGUE

#### SECTION ONE

- Mrs Evans* Oh good, it's you, Caroline.  
*Caroline* Hallo, Aunt Margaret. Sorry I'm late.  
*Mrs Evans* Come in, Caroline.  
*Mrs Evans* Put your coat here. What a lovely coat! Is it new?  
*Caroline* Yes. I bought it for college. It's nice and warm.<sup>1</sup>  
*Mrs Evans* Where did you buy it?  
*Caroline* In Nottingham.<sup>2</sup>  
*Mrs Evans* It suits you. It looks very smart, I think. Oh good, here's Bill.  
*Mr Evans* Hallo, Caroline! Nice to see you again! Did you find your way here all right?  
*Caroline* Well, I caught the wrong bus first of all. But the conductor helped me and then I caught the right one.

#### SECTION TWO

- Mrs Evans* Come on now!<sup>3</sup> Let's have tea!  
*Caroline* How nice!  
*Mrs Evans* I bought some cream cakes this morning. Christopher likes them.  
*Caroline* Christopher? Who's Christopher?  
*Mrs Evans* Oh, he lives with us. He's a student at the Art College.  
*Caroline* Oh, is he? What's he studying?  
*Mr Evans* Graphic Design,<sup>4</sup> I think. You must meet him. He usually comes home early on Saturdays. Oh, I must hurry. The meeting starts at five. Cheerio!  
*All* Cheerio!  
*Mr Evans* Here's Christopher now.  
*Mrs Evans* Hallo, Christopher. This is my niece, Caroline. She's a student at the Training College.<sup>5</sup>  
*Caroline* How do you do?  
*Christopher* How do you do? When did you start at the College?  
*Caroline* This term.  
*Mrs Evans* Here's the tea. Milk and sugar, Caroline?  
*Caroline* Milk, please. No sugar.  
*Christopher* Do you like folk music,<sup>6</sup> Caroline?  
*Caroline* Well . . . I . . . er . . . er . . . er . . .  
*Christopher* What are you doing tonight?  
*Caroline* Well . . . I . . . er . . .



- Christopher* Would you like to come to a concert tonight? It's in Finchley<sup>7</sup>.  
*Caroline* Tonight?  
*Christopher* Yes. Tonight.  
*Caroline* Aunt Margaret, Christopher wants me to go to a folk music concert tonight. Do you mind if I go?  
*Mrs Evans* Not at all.  
*Caroline* I'd love to go.  
*Christopher* What time shall I meet you?  
*Caroline* I'll be ready at half past seven.  
*Christopher* O.K. See you then. I really *must* do some work now. 'Bye!

## SECTION THREE

- Mrs Evans* I'm sure you're going to enjoy yourself here.  
*Caroline* Oh dear! Christopher didn't tell me where to meet him.  
*Mrs Evans* He can come to your digs.<sup>8</sup> He's got a car.  
*Caroline* A car?  
*Mrs Evans* Well, he calls it a car.<sup>9</sup> It's very old. I hope you get there and back all right.  
*Caroline* Don't worry, Aunt Margaret. Don't worry about me. *I* can look after myself.  
*Mrs Evans* But you don't know the car—or Christopher!

## DIALOGUE NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> 'Nice and warm'—'nice and' followed by an adjective is fairly common in colloquial speech and emphasises the following adjective. For example, 'nice and cool', 'nice and hot', 'nice and sunny'.  
<sup>2</sup> 'Nottingham'—a large industrial city in the Midlands famous for Robin Hood and its pretty girls.     <sup>3</sup> 'Come on now'—shows that there is going to be a change of subject or activity.  
<sup>4</sup> 'Graphic Design'—planning and drawing of publicity material such as advertisements.  
<sup>5</sup> 'Training College'—a college for training teachers, officially called a 'College of Education'.  
<sup>6</sup> 'Folk music'—this now means not only traditional songs but also modern popular songs sung in a similar style.     <sup>7</sup> 'Finchley'—a suburb in the North West of London.  
<sup>8</sup> 'Digs'—a colloquial word for the place where one lodges.  
<sup>9</sup> 'He calls it a car'—this shows Mrs Evans has a very low opinion of Christopher's car

## Structure Drills

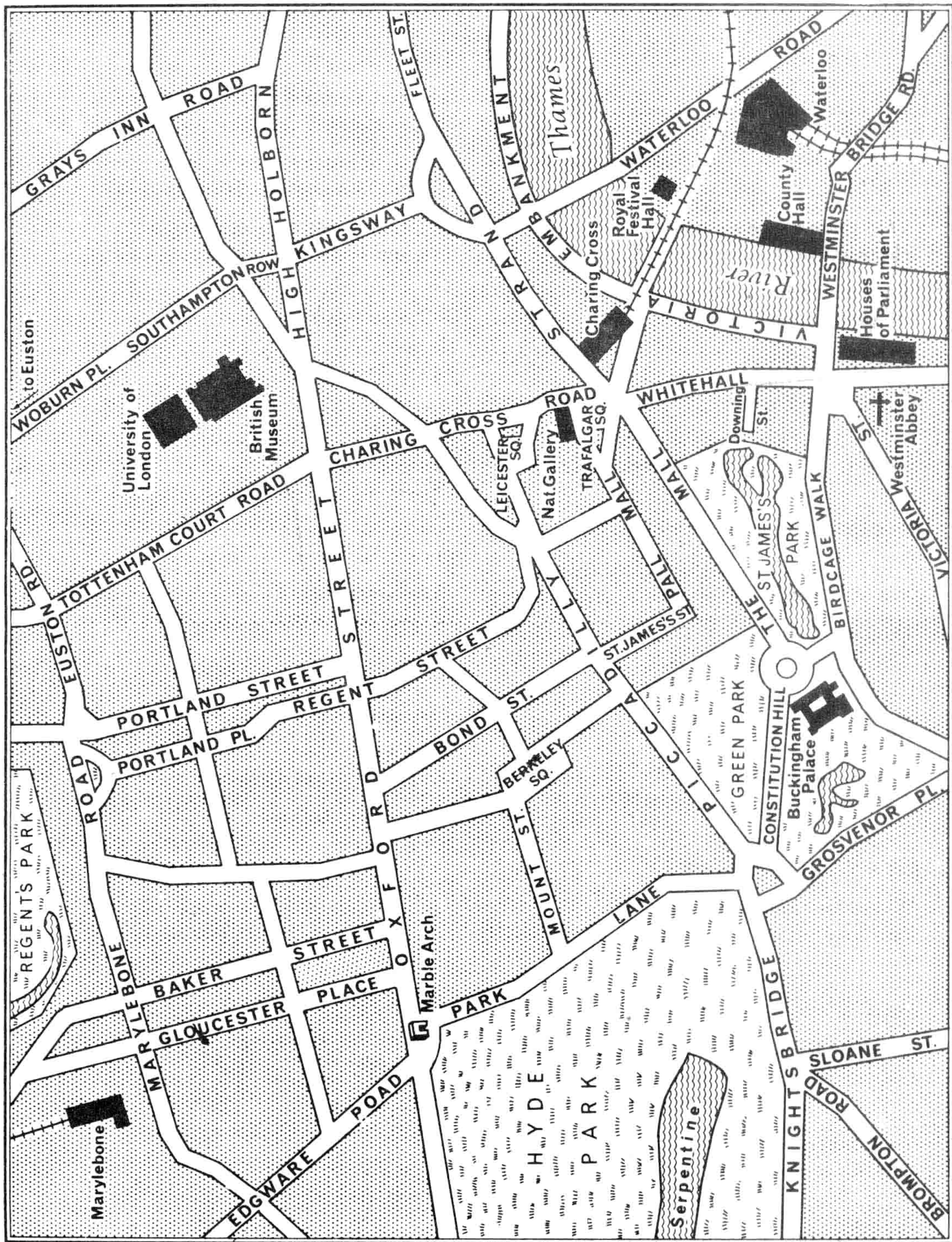
## SECTION ONE

## DRILL 1

He wants some coffee.  
 She looks well.

The sun sets in the west.  
 She teaches English.  
 He watches television a lot.  
 She passes my house every morning.  
 He washes his car on Saturdays.







He leaves home early.  
She worries too much.  
The north wind brings snow.

## DRILL 2

They swim in the summer.  
He swims in the summer.

They play tennis.  
He plays tennis.

They go to college.  
He goes to college.

## DRILL 3

Put.  
You put the money in here.  
Push.  
You push the money in here.  
Drop.  
You drop the money in here.

## DRILL 4

What's two and two?  
Two and two are four.  
What's six and three?  
Six and three are nine.  
What's four and five?  
Four and five are nine.

## DRILL 5

My sister has a music lesson every Saturday.  
Oh, my sister has a music lesson every week,  
too.

My brothers watch football every Saturday.  
Oh, my brothers watch football every week,  
too.

My aunt visits her mother every Saturday.  
Oh, my aunt visits her mother every week, too.

## DRILL 6

The concert usually starts at eight.  
Yes, but sometimes it starts at seven.

The shop usually opens at eight.  
Yes, but sometimes it opens at seven.

The film usually begins at eight.  
Yes, but sometimes it begins at seven.

## SECTION TWO

## DRILL 7

Are dogs animals?  
Oh yes, a dog's an animal.  
Are onions vegetables?  
Oh yes, an onion's a vegetable.  
Are Austins cars?  
Oh yes, an Austin's a car.

## DRILL 8

What's this book?  
It's a book about England.  
What's this magazine?  
It's a magazine about England.  
What's this film?  
It's a film about England.

## DRILL 9

*Peter and Ann are talking about the people they can  
see at a party.*

He's a teacher.  
Oh yes, he's the teacher from Acton.

He's a doctor.  
Oh, yes, he's the doctor from Acton.

He's a policeman.  
Oh yes, he's the policeman from Acton.



## DRILL 10

*Ann has just arrived in England, and she's talking to Peter about the price of food.*

Butter's cheap in England, isn't it?

Oh no, I think the butter here's expensive.

Food's cheap in England, isn't it?

Oh no, I think the food here's expensive.

Coffee's cheap in England, isn't it?

Oh no, I think the coffee here's expensive.

## DRILL 11

I'm going to hospital.

You mean the hospital near here, I suppose.

He's going to school.

You mean the school near here, I suppose.

She's going to church.

You mean the church near here, I suppose.

## DRILL 12

*Peter is taking Ann round London on a bus, and she is seeing all the places she has heard about.*

Here's Regent Street.

Oh, so this is Regent Street.

Here's Buckingham Palace.

Oh, so this is Buckingham Palace.

Here's Leicester Square.

Oh, so this is Leicester Square.

## SECTION THREE

## DRILL 13

Finish your work now.

But I finished it yesterday.

Wash your hair now.

But I washed it yesterday.

Fetch the paper now.

But I fetched it yesterday.

## DRILL 14

*Peter and Ann are talking about Peter's friend, Chris.*

Chris plays the guitar every night, I hear.

Well, he played it last night, certainly.

Chris repairs his car every night, I hear.

Well, he repaired it last night, certainly.

Chris whistles that tune every night, I hear.

Well, he whistled it last night, certainly.

## DRILL 15

*Ann does not quite agree with what Peter is saying.*

The programme ends before lunch.

I thought it ended after lunch.

Sarah rests before lunch.

I thought she rested after lunch.

The students debate before lunch.

I thought they debated after lunch.

## DRILL 16

She broke a glass last night.

Yes, she often breaks one.

You wore a hat last night.

Yes, I often wear one.

She wrote a letter last night.

Yes, she often writes one.

## DRILL 17

He dug the garden yesterday.

Yes, he digs it every day.

She drove the Mini yesterday.

Yes, she drives it every day.

She shook the carpet yesterday.

Yes, she shakes it every day.

## DRILL 18

He heard the news last night.

But surely he hears it every night.



He swept the path last Sunday.  
But surely he sweeps it every Sunday.

He told that joke last night.  
But surely he tells it every night.

## DRILL 19

*Peter doesn't quite hear what Ann says.*

I caught the train at six.  
What did you catch?

I brought a book with me.  
What did you bring?

I taught English for years.  
What did you teach?

## DRILL 20

Did you send a postcard?  
No, I sent a letter.

Did you spend fifty pence?  
No, I spent a pound.

Did you build a bungalow?  
No, I built a house.

## DRILL 21

*Peter is a little annoyed by all Ann's questions.*

Why did you shut the door?  
I shut it because I wanted to.

Why did you hurt your sister?  
I hurt her because I wanted to.

Why did you hit John?  
I hit him because I wanted to.



# UNIT TWO

## 'The Folk Music Concert'

### PRACTICE DIALOGUE

#### SECTION ONE

- Christopher* I'm not late, am I?  
*Caroline* No, you're not. I wasn't ready by half past.  
*Christopher* Nice car, isn't she?<sup>1</sup>  
*Caroline* It's marvellous! Do you push it or pull it?  
*Christopher* I drive, you push. Well, jump in! The door doesn't shut very well. Hey, don't slam it!  
*Caroline* Why not?  
*Christopher* Well, it might fall off!  
*Caroline* What's this piece of string for?  
*Christopher* That's the brake. Hold tight! Here we go!<sup>2</sup> It isn't far to Finchley.  
*Caroline* I hope we get there all right.  
*Christopher* Don't worry! We will!

#### SECTION TWO

- Caroline* What time does the concert start, Chris?  
*Christopher* Eight. We haven't much time. Two tickets, please.  
*Girl* Are you a member?  
*Christopher* Yes, I am. Here's my membership card.<sup>3</sup>  
*Girl* Two tickets. Can you sign your guest in, please?  
*Christopher* Are there any good seats left?  
*Girl* Well, there *are* some at the back.  
*Christopher* Thanks! Come on, Caroline.  
*Caroline* Who's playing tonight, Chris?  
*Christopher* Casey Jones and the Hitch-hikers. I used to hear them when they played in Ealing.  
*Caroline* Are they an English group?  
*Christopher* No; they're not; they're American.  
*Caroline* Look! They're going to start.

#### SECTION THREE

- Caroline* That *was* good. I *did* enjoy it.  
*Christopher* I'm glad you liked it. We must come again. What are you going to have?<sup>4</sup>  
*Mike* Well, look who's here! It's a small world, isn't it?



- Christopher* I didn't see you at the concert, Mike. Er—this is Mike, Caroline. We used to go to the same school. He's at the London School of Economics<sup>5</sup> now.
- Mike* Hallo!
- Caroline* Hallo! Did you enjoy the concert?
- Mike* Yes, I did.
- Christopher* What are you two going to have? *I'll* get the drinks.
- Caroline* Um—I think I'd like a lager,<sup>6</sup> please.
- Mike* A half of best bitter<sup>7</sup> for me, please Chris. What do *you* do?
- Caroline* I'm at training college.
- Mike* Are you? Near here?
- Caroline* No, I'm at the college in Perivale.
- Mike* How long have you been in London?
- Caroline* I've only just arrived.
- Mike* I see.
- Caroline* Ah, here's Chris with the drinks.
- Mike* Cheers!<sup>8</sup>
- Christopher* Cheers!
- Mike* By the way, are you doing anything next Saturday? I'm planning to go to a Jazz Concert in Brighton.<sup>9</sup> Would you like to come?
- Christopher* I don't know yet.
- Mike* Well, I'll give you a ring later in the week.
- Christopher* O.K., Mike. You've got my number, haven't you?
- Mike* Yes, I have . . . but I haven't got *yours*, Caroline.
- Caroline* It's 997 9527, but I'm in college all day.
- Mike* Oh, well, when shall I ring?
- Caroline* Any evening, after six.
- Mike* Well, I must go. Have a good time, you two. See you next week-end, I hope.

## DIALOGUE NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> 'Nice car, isn't she?'—People who are fond of cars often refer to them as 'she'. Notice that Caroline refers to the car as 'it'. Similarly, ships are almost always 'she'.
- <sup>2</sup> 'Here we go'—they are now moving off.
- <sup>3</sup> 'Membership card'—a member of a club has to show his membership card when he enters the club. He also has to put the name of his guest in a book kept for that purpose.
- <sup>4</sup> 'What are you going to have?'—the usual way of offering to buy someone a drink.
- <sup>5</sup> 'The London School of Economics'—a college that forms part of the University of London. It specializes in economics, politics, sociology and law, and is usually abbreviated to L.S.E.
- <sup>6</sup> 'Lager'—a light beer. <sup>7</sup> 'Best bitter'—bitter is the most popular kind of beer drunk in pubs.
- <sup>8</sup> 'Cheers!'—usually said before having a drink.
- <sup>9</sup> 'Brighton'—a seaside resort on the South Coast just over fifty miles from London. (see map p. iv.)



## Structure Drills

### SECTION ONE

#### DRILL 1

Bill likes football.  
He doesn't like football, you know.  
Englishmen drink wine.  
They don't drink wine, you know.  
Bill wears sandals.  
He doesn't wear sandals, you know.

#### DRILL 2

Do I look ill?  
No, you don't look ill.  
Does she look pale?  
No, she doesn't look pale.  
Do we look untidy?  
No, you don't look untidy.

#### DRILL 3

What did John say when you met him?  
Unfortunately, I didn't meet him.  
What did Mary say when you told her?  
Unfortunately, I didn't tell her.  
What did Bill say when you 'phoned him?  
Unfortunately, I didn't 'phone him.

#### DRILL 4

Did you see him?  
No, I didn't see him.  
Do you know him?  
No, I don't know him.  
Did you find him?  
No, I didn't find him.

#### DRILL 5

Helen's boyfriend's rather tall, I believe.  
No, he isn't; he's short.

Helen's father's rather old, I believe.  
No, he isn't; he's young.

Helen's brother's rather rich, I believe.  
No he isn't; he's poor.

#### DRILL 6

I know England very well.  
But surely you aren't English?  
He knows France very well.  
But surely he isn't French?  
They know America very well.  
But surely they aren't American?

#### DRILL 7

*Ann keeps contradicting what Peter says.*  
Bill works on Sundays.  
No, he doesn't, you know.  
Bill went to Oxford last week.  
No, he didn't, you know.  
Bill lives in Birmingham.  
No, he doesn't, you know.

#### DRILL 8

I suppose Chris is in college.  
I'm afraid he isn't.  
I suppose Mary was at home.  
I'm afraid she wasn't.  
I suppose the Browns are here.  
I'm afraid they aren't.

#### DRILL 9

He used to walk to work.  
He doesn't now he's rich.  
They used to go by bus.  
They don't now they're rich.  
He used to clean his car.  
He doesn't now he's rich.



## SECTION TWO

## DRILL 10

I believe John drinks too much.  
He used to, but he doesn't any more.

I believe Mary lives in France.  
She used to, but she doesn't any more.

I believe the Smiths have a lot of parties.  
They used to, but they don't any more.

## DRILL 11

Does Jack smoke?  
He used not to, but he does now.

Do you leave the house early?  
I used not to, but I do now.

Do they go home for lunch?  
They used not to, but they do now.

## DRILL 12

Bill loves beer.  
Well, he used to, but he hates it now.

Sally hates coffee.  
Well, she used to, but she loves it now.

Peter likes dogs.  
Well, he used to, but he dislikes them now.

## DRILL 13

Brian dances well now.  
Really! He used to dance badly.

Sally sings well now.  
Really! She used to sing badly.

The Browns play well now.  
Really! They used to play badly.

## DRILL 14

Are you a singer?  
Well, I used to be, but I'm not now.

Is he a student?  
Well, he used to be, but he isn't now.

Are you interested in football?  
Well, I used to be, but I'm not now.

## DRILL 15

The train leaves at six.  
Well, it used to leave at five.

The lesson is at six.  
Well, it used to be at five.

The shop closes at six.  
Well, it used to close at five.

## SECTION THREE

## DRILL 16

Here's a stamp.  
Thank you! I collect stamps.

Here's a postcard.  
Thank you! I collect postcards.

Here's a medal.  
Thank you! I collect medals.

## DRILL 17

*Peter is showing Ann round the zoo.*

There are the snakes.  
Oh, I hate snakes.

There are the lions.  
Oh, I hate lions.

There are the crocodiles.  
Oh, I hate crocodiles.

## DRILL 18

Have a banana.  
Thank you! I love bananas.

Have a chocolate.  
Thank you! I love chocolates.

Have a sandwich.  
Thank you! I love sandwiches.