

## READING



## Likes and Dislikes

There was a very interesting story in this morning's paper about a man who had just inherited £50,000. The newspaper account was quite detailed. It said that the man has always behaved very strangely. What others like, he dislikes, and what most people enjoy, he doesn't care for.

For example, most people enjoy the summer, when they can wear lightweight clothes. No one else would think of wearing a heavy coat and a hat on a hot day, but he does. He says he can't stand the sun, but he'll take long walks in the rain without a raincoat or an umbrella. He's extremely particular about selecting the correct tie to wear with his suit, but it doesn't bother him if his shirt is dirty or his suit isn't pressed.

He always sees the black side of everything. He finds fault with the best picture of the year, but he stays up late watching very old films on television. Even his taste in food is peculiar. He drinks warm water and cold tea, eats raw eggs and can't stand fresh fruit.

Last week his uncle died and left him £50,000. Perhaps the uncle was rather odd, too. Or perhaps he knew about his nephew's strange preferences—one of them, anyway—and decided to try and cure him.

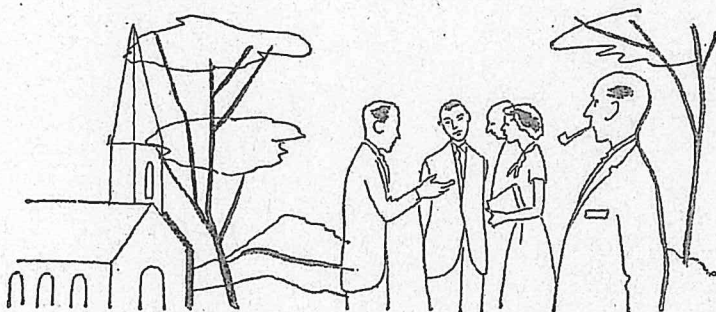
In his will, the old man insisted that the nephew should spend half the inheritance within the next five years. If he didn't, the money would be given to a university.

Everyone is anxious to know what the nephew will do. You see, the thing he hates most of all is to part with his money.

*Questions*

1. What are some of the strange preferences of the man in the story?
2. What happened last week?
3. What did the uncle insist on in his will?
4. Why do you suppose the uncle wrote his will in this way?
5. Do you think the nephew will spend half the money in the next five years?
6. What would you buy if you had to spend £25,000 in five years?

## READING



## Discussing Different Points of View

Some people are always starting arguments. They often have very little information on whatever is being discussed, but this doesn't matter. They have strong views, anyway. There's no point in getting into a discussion with people like this because you can never come to any conclusion.

But with other people a difference of opinion can start an extremely interesting discussion. Each person tries to explain his point of view, but he listens to other arguments, too. This type of argument is an exchange of ideas rather than a quarrel. Whether or not their differences are reconciled, each person gains something from the experience.

When issues arise that have special local importance, in many towns and villages the local inhabitants meet and talk over their problems. They may sometimes disagree with each other, and there may be some arguments. Each side will try to persuade the other that its point of view is best. Frequently the two sides are not really so far apart in their views, and this kind of public discussion helps them to settle their differences.

*Questions*

1. Why shouldn't you argue with people who have little information on what is being discussed?
2. What is a quarrel? What is a discussion? How are they different?
3. When does an argument become a quarrel?
4. How are local issues dealt with in many towns and villages?
5. Do you think public discussion of local problems is a good idea? Why?

*M*

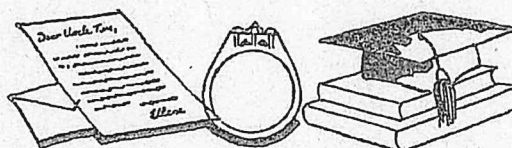
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## READING



## Giving Advice and Opinions

Dear Ellen,

I have just received your letter and I feel that I should let you know what I think of your plans for the future. I hope you won't take offence, but will accept what I say here as fatherly advice.

I was very surprised when I read in your letter that you had decided not to finish your studies at the university. I realize that Peter wants you to marry him this summer. But with only one more year to go, you would be well advised to finish the course. A year is really a very short time, and later you will be glad you took my advice.

As you know, my reaction to Peter was extremely favourable when I met him. He's an exceptionally fine young man and should make a good husband. But I do urge you to complete your education first.

You are twenty-one, and old enough to make up your own mind. This is something you'll have to work out for yourself. As your uncle, I have always tried not to interfere in your affairs and I don't intend to begin now. But, my dear, please do consider my words very carefully before you decide. Whatever you do, though, Ellen, you know I only want one thing for you, and that is your happiness.

Affectionately,

Uncle Tim

Questions

1. What was Ellen's uncle surprised about?
2. How much longer had Ellen got to spend at the university to complete her education?
3. What was Ellen's uncle's opinion of Peter?
4. What did he advise Ellen to do?
5. What was the one thing that Ellen's uncle wanted for her?
6. Do you think Ellen should wait or marry Peter this summer?

## READING



## Asking Favours of Other People

There are two men in important positions in my office—Mr. Thompson and Mr. White. Everyone enjoys working for Mr. Thompson, but no one likes Mr. White.

Mr. Thompson is always thoughtful and considerate. When he wants something done, he'll say, "Would you mind getting this information for me, please?" Mr. White is just the opposite. He usually shouts across the room, "Get me this memorandum, and hurry up."

Mr. White surprised us this morning, though. At first we thought he must be ill. He was kind and agreeable. "Miss Butler," he said, "if it isn't too much trouble for you, could you please make these telephone calls for me?" June Butler was astonished. Immediately after that Mr. White said, "Miss Reed, would you be so kind as to open the window? It's rather warm in here." Then he spoke to me. "I'd appreciate it very much if you'd post these letters for me."

We couldn't imagine why he was behaving so strangely. Was he ill? Did he need a doctor? Or had Mr. White just changed his personality?

The situation was soon cleared up. "Ladies," Mr. Thompson said, "I've been told that the chairman of the company will be here soon. He's very interested in the welfare of his employees and will have some questions to ask you about your working conditions here."

*Questions*

1. What kind of positions have Mr. Thompson and Mr. White got?
2. Why does everyone like Mr. Thompson?
3. What does Mr. White usually do when he wants something?
4. How did Mr. White behave this morning?
5. What did everyone think?
6. What did Mr. Thompson say to clear up the situation?
7. Which man would you rather work for—Mr. Thompson or Mr. White? Why?

*SLC*

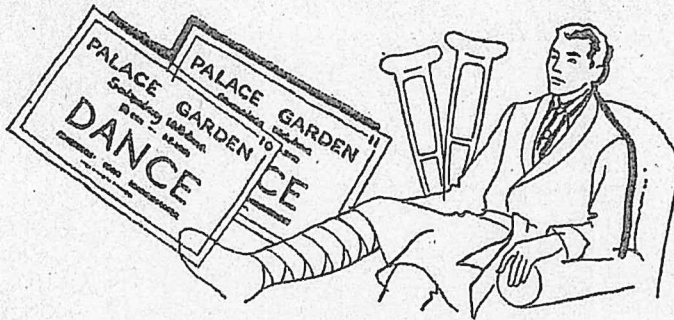
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## READING



## Talking About Past Possibilities

The two girls sat drinking their coffee without talking. Finally, Judy asked, "What would you have done if this had happened to you?"

Betty drank some more coffee before she answered. "If this had happened to me, I'd have told Steve exactly what I thought of him. I wouldn't have been so nice to him as you were."

"If I'd had enough time to think about it," Judy agreed, "I'd have told him how much inconvenience he had caused me."

They were discussing what had happened that morning. Steve had asked Judy to go to a dance with him on Saturday night, and she had accepted. Now, it seemed, he wouldn't be able to go.

"He should have told me sooner," Judy said. "I might have been able to go with someone else. I wouldn't have had to stay at home while everyone else went to the dance."

"You could have gone with Charles," Betty reminded her.

"Yes, but it's too late now," Judy said. "You'd think that when someone invites you to the biggest dance of the year, he'd realize how important it is."

Betty agreed. "That's right. If he hadn't slipped and fallen, you wouldn't have had this problem. He should have broken his leg some other time."

## Questions

1. Why is Judy so unhappy?
2. What's the matter with Steve?
3. What would you have done if you had been Steve?
4. Why can't Judy go to the dance with someone else?

*Daniel  
Morgan*

*W*

*SD*

*M*

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READING



Thinking About Future Activities

There are some people who just can't make up their minds by themselves. They frequently ask the advice of their friends and then do the opposite of what their friends have suggested.

My brother Tom is such a person. He can never decide what to do, and is always asking my opinion. I try to help him as well as I can, but he never takes my advice. Yesterday I answered his question in a different way.

"Look," he said, showing me a letter. "What do you think I ought to do?"

The letter was to offer him a job. It seemed to be an excellent opportunity for a young engineer. Tom would be sent to Africa to work. The job would pay very well, and he would be able to travel and visit many interesting places.

"What do you think, Bill?" he asked. "Should I go? If I were to accept the job, I'd have to stay in Africa for two years. I might have to stay longer. But it would be wonderful experience for me. What should I do?"

"Don't go," I told him. "You'd be very unhappy."

"Don't go?" He looked very surprised at my answer.

As you've probably guessed, Tom accepted the offer. I don't know if it has occurred to him that I actually wanted him to take the job.

Questions

1. What do some people do when they can't make up their minds?
2. What was in the letter that Tom showed to Bill?
3. Where would Tom be sent?
4. What did Bill advise Tom to do?
5. Why did Bill tell Tom *not* to take the job?
6. Do you think Bill did the right thing?

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## READING



## Making Preparations To Go Away

I was going away and everyone told me to make my preparations early. I thought I had plenty of time. I had no idea how much there was to do and I waited too long before I began getting things ready.

First of all I had to apply for a passport, and also a visa because I was going to a country that required one. I had to have several inoculations at the doctor's surgery. Then I had to call at the bank and get some travellers cheques.

At the same time there were many things to be taken care of at home. I turned off the electricity and took the dog to the kennels, but I almost forgot to stop the milk and cancel the papers. My neighbour reminded me to leave my forwarding address at the post office. I know it would have slipped my mind if he hadn't mentioned it.

The day I was supposed to leave, I realized I still hadn't got my passport back with the visa. I simply couldn't believe the time had passed so quickly. I was really afraid I wouldn't be able to go.

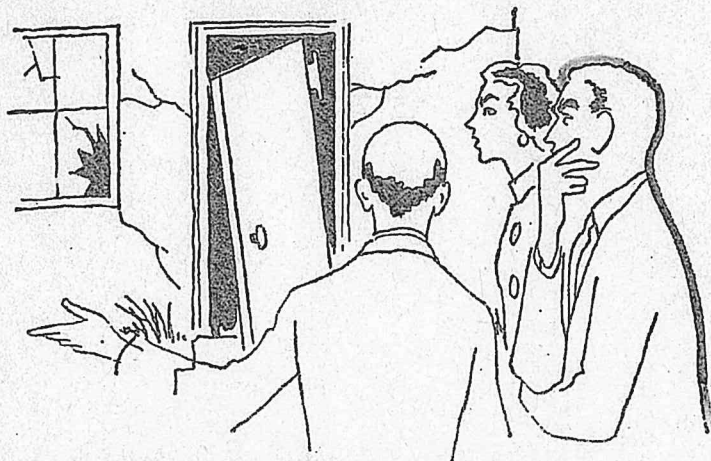
Fortunately, the post was delivered early and my passport arrived. By the time I got to the airport, they were already announcing the departure of my flight. I barely had time to make it. As soon as I sat down inside the plane, I remembered that I hadn't got my camera, but it was too late to worry about that. I would have to buy another one if I wanted to take any photos.

I had a wonderful time travelling, but the next time I make plans to go away, I'm going to be sure to start preparing early enough to avoid all the last-minute problems.

## Questions

1. Why did I wait so long to begin getting things ready for my trip?
2. What did I need because I was going to visit a foreign country?
3. What were the things I had to take care of at home?
4. Why was I afraid I wouldn't be able to go?
5. What did I forget to take?
6. When one is going away, why is it a good idea to begin making plans early?

## READING



## Asking About Furniture and Places To Live

There are many things to consider when you are looking for a house, whether you intend to buy or only to rent. After all, it is going to be your home, perhaps for quite a long time, and you want to be happy with it. You have to decide exactly what kind of house you want, how much you can afford to pay, and the type of neighbourhood you wish to live in.

Last week my wife and I arranged to see a house that was for sale. The estate agent said it might need a few repairs, but he thought we should look at it anyway. He told us it was a bargain. What a bargain! The roof leaked and the plumbing didn't work. The walls were cracked and the back door had no lock on it. It needed to be painted both inside and outside. It was in a terrible condition.

"What do you think?" the agent asked.

"It isn't exactly what we want," we told him.

"You're very difficult to please," he said. "Perhaps you'd better have a house built to your own design."

*Questions*

1. What should you consider before buying a house?
2. What did the agent tell my wife and me about the house that was for sale?
3. What was wrong with the house?
4. Do you think this house was a good bargain?
5. What did the agent say when we told him we didn't want this house?

MM

me

DL

AL