

THE ENGLISH LESSON

We had a very interesting English lesson today. Our teacher spent twenty minutes telling us off. First he said he was fed up with getting such poor homework and he threatened to give us all a detention. Then he said we were too complacent and he was going to insist on certain rules in the classroom being obeyed. He wouldn't let us swing back on our chairs and he was going to make us copy down every word of vocabulary he wrote on the board. He said he would insist on starting the lesson on time, and would no longer accept people arriving late. *'I can't stand listening to people apologising for being late. I could write a book on all the different excuses I've heard this week. A large percentage of them are suspicious, and I don't approve of people being economical with the truth.'*

He went on to talk about the last test and accused some of us of cheating. He absolutely refused to listen when we tried to protest our innocence. *'I don't mind you getting low marks if you've done your best,'* he said, *'but I really object to people cheating. Basically, I'm tired of listening to excuses. The sad thing is,'* he said, *'that you could be good at speaking English if you didn't spend so much time gossiping. You can't afford to let your opportunities pass you by. It's no good thinking you'll pass the end-of-term exam without making more effort. If you don't concentrate on improving your work I can't actually imagine any of you passing the exam at the moment. I've got no intention of wasting any more of my time giving you practice tests if you're going to keep on treating them as group activities.'*

He finished by saying that he expected us to work a lot harder in future and that he was looking forward to seeing our next homework. He was prepared to postpone giving us any detentions for the moment as long as we avoided doing anything else to annoy him.

Personally, I object to being shouted at, but he certainly succeeded in giving us all something to think about!

A List the verbs in the text which are followed by a second verb. HIGHLIGHT any prepositions plus the ENDING of the SECOND verb!

B Rewrite these sentences, using one of the verbs on your list:

1. I must have your homework by Friday.
2. I'm not going to accept any more cheques.
3. I'm sorry I used your computer without asking you.
4. I'm not going to do this report until later.
5. I had to stay in because my father insisted.
6. He told me that Jack stole his watch.
7. I think that legalising drugs would be wrong.
8. He continued his lecture by talking about the war.
9. I'm not going to lend you any more money.
10. It's useless to think that money is not important.
11. I managed to finish the work by Friday.
12. I find it objectionable when people spit in public.
13. I'm going to keep out of trouble.
14. He plays the guitar very well.
15. I worked on my verbs for twenty minutes.

C Finish off these phrases with a personal comment of your own:

1. *I object to ...*
2. *I don't approve of ...*
3. *I usually try to avoid ...*
4. *I'm going to concentrate ...*
5. *I'd like to postpone ...*
6. *Our English teacher makes us ...*
7. *Our English teacher won't let us ...*
8. *I'm fed up with ...*
9. *I don't mind ...*
10. *Most parents insist on ...*
11. *I can't stand people ...*
12. *I'm tired of ...*
13. *I waste a lot of time ...*
14. *I spend too much time ...*
15. *I refuse to ...*

D Change into reported speech the teacher's actual words in paragraphs 1 and 2.