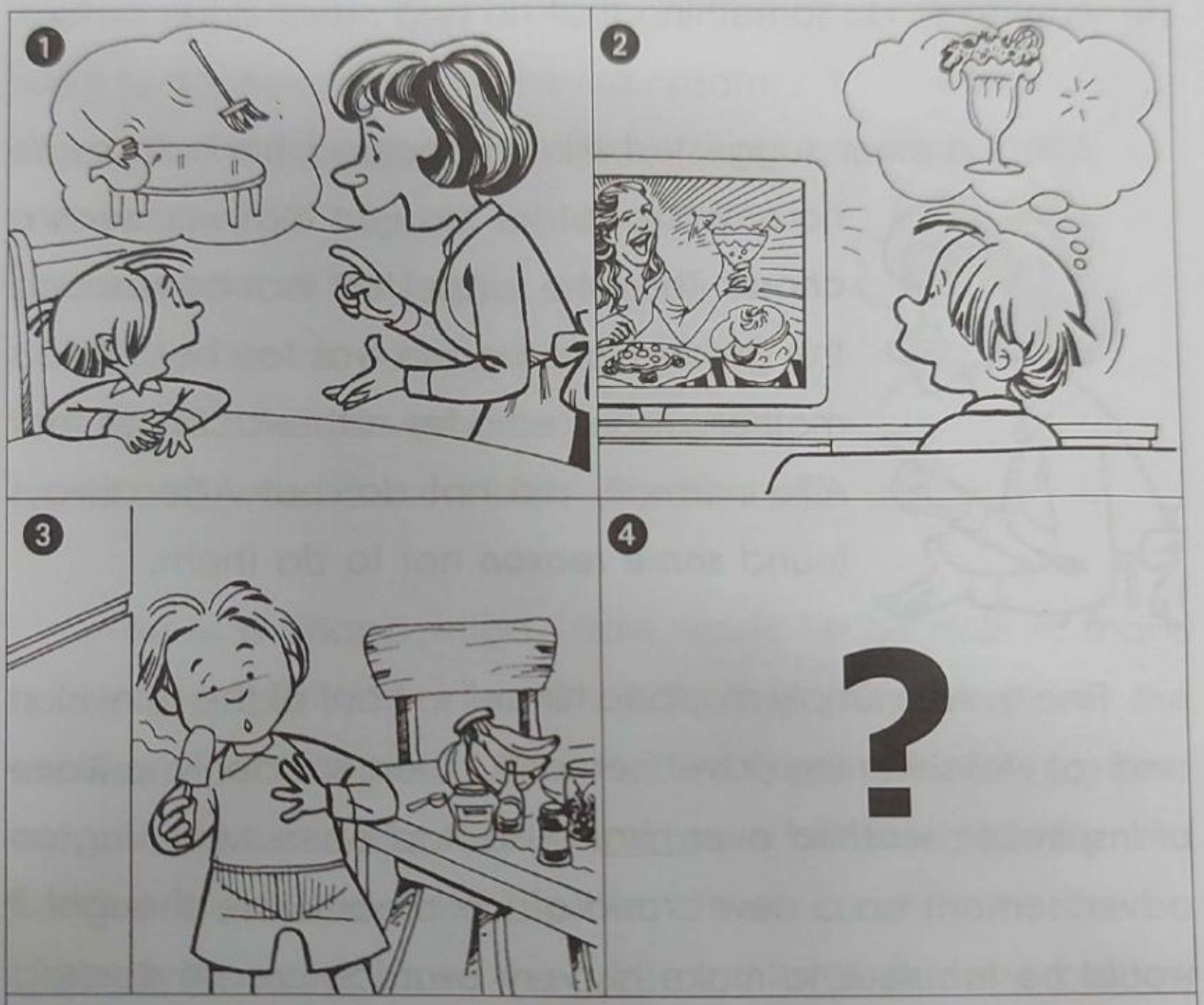
Composition 1

Write a story of **at least 120 words** based on the pictures below. Give the story your own ending. You may use the words and phrases in the box.



the usual stuff	a chore
fabulous	a wave of inspiration
pondered over the problem	ingredients
a neat little pile	dribbled

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Model Composition

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Little Alfie was feeling bored. He wondered if there was anything he could do that was different from ***the usual stuff***. He wanted to do something that he had never done before.

Alfie's mother suggested that he helped her with some housework, but he thought that was ***such a chore***. Then she suggested that he weeded the garden, but the sun was too hot. Alfie's mother suggested a few other activities that Alfie normally did not do, but Alfie always found ***some reason*** not to do them.

Finally, Alfie simply plopped himself in front of the television and sat watching the advertisements. Then, suddenly, ***a wave of inspiration washed over*** him. Alfie had been watching an advertisement on a new brand of ice cream. He thought ***it would be fabulous*** to make his ***very own*** ice cream dessert.

Excitedly, Alfie ran into the pantry to see what he could find there. ***To*** his ***delight***, he found a bunch of bananas hanging from a knob on the cupboard, a bottle of hundreds

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and thousands, a can of cherries (with the stalks still on them), a squeeze bottle filled with yummy brown caramel, and a can of whipped cream – just the right ingredients to make a delicious banana split!

Alfie laid out all the ingredients on the dining table. Then, excitedly, he went to the freezer to get the ice cream. Cold air drifted out of the freezer box as soon as Alfie opened the door. Alfie stood in front of the freezer, enjoying the cold air while his eyes searched for the ice cream. But the only ice cream Alfie could find was an iced lolly – the kind with a stick on it.

Alfie was disappointed. How would he be able to make a banana split with an iced lolly?! Alfie ***pondered over the problem*** for a moment. Then, suddenly, ***an idea hit*** him ***from out of the blue***. Alfie took the wrapper off the iced lolly and put the ice cream onto a plate. Then, carefully, he used a butter knife to separate the green icy layer from the creamy centre. With a teaspoon, he scooped the green ice onto an oval glass dish, making ***a neat little pile*** in the middle of the dish. After that, he divided the creamy centre into two portions and scooped them onto either sides of the green

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ice on the glass dish. By then, the ice cream had begun to melt, and Alfie had to work as fast as he could.

Seeing that Alfie was enjoying himself, Alfie's mother decided to ***give*** him ***a little help***. She peeled the banana and cut it into two long strips. Alfie placed the strips on either sides of the ice cream. Then, he sprayed the whipped cream over the ice cream, dribbled the caramel on top of the cream and sprinkled lots of hundreds and thousands over that. Finally, he ***topped*** the ice cream ***with*** a bright red cherry. At last, his banana split was complete!

Alfie's mother took a picture of the dessert before Alfie happily ***dug into*** it. It was the best ice cream he had ever tasted!

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Helpful Phrases

the usual stuff

☞ meaning: something that one did quite often
example: She said she was tired of doing **the usual stuff**, and wanted to try something different.

.....

such a chore

☞ meaning: something that involved a lot of effort and was unpleasant
example: She hated washing the dishes because it was **such a chore**.

.....

some reason

☞ meaning: an excuse (that might not be very good)
example: He managed to find **some reason** to get away from the place.

.....

a wave of inspiration washed over ...

☞ meaning: shows that one suddenly felt very interested and confident about doing something
example: Suddenly, **a wave of inspiration washed over** Mary, and she crafted a beautiful necklace from seashells.

.....

it would be fabulous

☞ meaning: shows that something was wonderful
example: She said **it would be fabulous** if she could go on a cruise all by herself.

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... very own

☞ meaning: something that one could say belonged to him/her

example: Finally, she had her **very own** room, where she could sleep peacefully.

.....

to ... delight

☞ meaning: shows that one was feeling very happy about something

example: **To** his **delight**, he found a golden coin under the chest.

.....

pondered over the problem

☞ meaning: thought about how to get over some difficulty

example: He **pondered over the problem** for three days before he finally found a solution.

.....

an idea hit ... from out of the blue

☞ meaning: shows that one suddenly thought of a very good plan

example: Just when she thought that she would have to give up, **an idea hit** her **from out of the blue**.

.....

a neat little pile

☞ meaning: a small, tidy heap

example: He swept the leaves into **a neat little pile** before putting them into the garbage bag.

.....

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give ... a little help

☞ meaning: to help (someone)

example: The kind man decided to **give** the boy **a little help** to encourage him to finish the puzzle.

.....

topped ... with ...

☞ meaning: placed something on top of (something else)

example: The waitress took out a lovely peach pie and **topped** it **with** fresh whipped cream and some strawberries before taking it to the customer.

.....

dug into ...

☞ meaning: ate with a good appetite

example: The hungry boys **dug into** their food as soon as they sat down.

.....

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Exercise 1.1

Match the phrases with their meanings.

1. some reason •	• something unpleasant that involved a lot of effort
2. ... very own •	• a small, tidy heap
3. an idea hit ... from out of the blue •	• shows that one was feeling very happy about something
4. the usual stuff •	• thought about how to get over some difficulty
5. dug into ... •	• shows that something was wonderful
6. such a chore •	• an excuse
7. a neat little pile •	• ate with a good appetite
8. it would be fabulous •	• something that one did quite often
9. to one's delight •	• something that one could say belonged to him/her
10. pondered over the problem •	• shows that one suddenly thought of a very good plan

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Exercise 1.3

Use the clue given to help you form a word from the scrambled letters in each question. All the words can be found in the model composition in this unit.

Clue	Word
1. normal	A S U L U
2. thought	D E P N R O E D
3. wonderful	F B U S O U L A
4. food that is used to cook up a dish	I E D N S G T N E R I
5. happiness or pleasure	L T H I G E D
6. usually	M N Y R L L A O
7. a sudden good idea	O N R S T N I A I I P
8. an explanation for something	S O N E R A

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