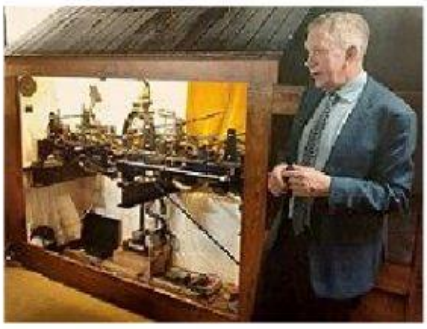


Big Ben



Edmund Beckett

The clock is famous _____ its reliability, which can be attributed to one _____ its designers, the horologist Edmund Beckett Denison. The tower was completed _____ 1859, so Denison had time to experiment and invented the double three-legged gravity escapement which provided the best separation _____ pendulum and clock mechanism. The pendulum is installed _____ an enclosed windproof box sunk _____ the clockroom. It is 3.9m long, weighs 300 kg and beats every two seconds. The clockwork mechanism _____ the room below weighs five tons.



Double three-legged gravity escapement



Pendulum



Penny

The idiom of putting a penny _____, with the meaning _____ slowing down, sprang _____ the method _____ fine-tuning the clock's pendulum. _____ top _____the pendulum is a small stack _____ old penny coins; these are to adjust the time _____ the clock. Adding or subtracting coins has the effect of minutely altering the position _____the pendulum's centre _____ mass: adding or removing a penny changes the clock's speed _____0.4 seconds _____ day.

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