



Mary was seven years old. Her parents had recently moved to a new town, and so Mary was going to a different school from the one she had been at for some years. It was a few kilometres from the house which she now lived in with her parents, but there was a school bus that went around picking up pupils every morning and bringing them back to their homes every afternoon, and as both of Mary's parents had to go to work every morning, she always went on this bus. She had to be at a corner twenty metres from her front door by half past eight every day and the bus was usually on time, and never more than a minute or two late.

Mary's parents always set their alarm clock every evening so that none of them would be late, but one morning the alarm failed to go off, and it was not till a quarter past eight that Mary's mother suddenly woke up, looked at the clock, said, 'What ever's happened to that clock?' and then hurried into Mary's room. Mary was fast asleep, but her mother woke her up and told her to get ready for school.

'I'm sorry, dear,' she said, 'but you'll have to wash and dress very quickly, have an even quicker breakfast, and then I'll drive you to school on my way to the office. I'll get your breakfast ready now.'

'But how ever will you find the way, Mum?' Mary said. 'You've only been to school once.'

'Yes,' her mother answered, 'but you've done the trip several times now in the bus, so you can be my guide to get there, can't you?'

'Oh, yes,' said Mary, 'I suppose so.' She washed, dressed and had a quick breakfast, and then she and her mother went to the garage and got into the car.

They set off, and Mary told her mother to turn each time that they came to a place she recognised. In this way she made her mother drive round most of the town before they got to her school. When they arrived, her mother saw that it was not really very far from their house.

'Why ever did you make me go such a long way round, Mary, instead of the most direct way?' her mother asked her.

'Well, Mum,' answered Mary, 'it was because I didn't know how else to get here. That's the way our bus always goes to pick up the other children on the way to school.'

Exercise 1

Look at these questions. Find the right answers. Then write the questions and the answers:

- 1 Did Mary change schools?
a) No, she did not. b) Yes, she did.
- 2 Why did she do this?
a) Because her parents went to another town. b) Because she had been at the first school for some years.
- 3 Did Mary usually go to school in her mother's car?
a) No, she did not. b) Yes, she did.
- 4 Why was Mary late one morning?
a) Because her mother's alarm clock did not go off.
b) Because she was fast asleep.
- 5 Did Mary get her breakfast ready?
a) No, she did not. b) Yes, she did.
- 6 Did Mary know the way to school?
a) No, she did not. b) Yes, she did.
- 7 How did she know where her mother should turn?
a) She was a guide. b) She recognised each place.
- 8 Was the school really rather near, or a long way from, Mary's house?
a) It was a long way from it. b) It was rather near it.
- 9 Did Mary make her mother go a long way round?
a) No, she did not. b) Yes, she did.
- 10 Why did she do this?
a) Because it was the way their bus went. b) Because she didn't really know the way.

Exercise 2

Guided summary. A new neighbour arrives and she has a daughter who is going to go to Mary's school. She asks you these questions about it, and you must answer:

- 1 'How far away is the school?'
- 2 'How can pupils get there?'
- 3 'And how do they come home?'
- 4 'How far away is the place where Mary can get the bus?'
- 5 'At what time does she have to be there?'
- 6 'Is the bus punctual?'

Use the following space to answer the questions in complete sentences.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.