

3

B

Lost in translation

1 VOCABULARY describing books

Complete the sentences.

1 The final chapter was incredibly moving – I actually cried!



2 The subject made me think seriously about human rights issues. It was an extremely thought-provoking book.

3 Although the story wasn't particularly deep, it was both interesting and amusing. It was a very entertaining book.

4 I quite enjoyed it, but unfortunately, the ending was completely incredible. That would never have happened in real life.

5 The plot is most intriguing. I just can't guess what's going to happen.

6 The book deals with the cruel and violent events that occur in a war. It's really distressing.

7 The plot kept my attention the whole way through. It was absolutely captivating.

8 The writer's style is hard to read and I find his books very heavy-going.

9 It was a horrible story and I can't get it out of my mind.

10 The plot is very fast-moving – the action shifts from London to New York in quick succession.

2 GRAMMAR adding emphasis 1: inversion

a Complete the sentences with these adverbial expressions. In some sentences more than one answer may be possible.

Hardly Never No sooner Not only Not until
Only Rarely

1 Hardly had we set off when the engine started rattling.

2 _____ the clock struck midnight did the musicians start playing.

3 _____ have I heard such a moving speech. The last time was at the funeral of a close relation.

4 _____ had we sat down to eat than the doorbell rang.

5 _____ when you get on the scales do you realize how much weight you've put on over Christmas.

6 _____ was my father physically affected, but his pride had also been hurt.

7 _____ had the fans witnessed such a resounding victory in the history of the club.

b Rewrite the sentences to make them more emphatic.

1 The woman had just sat down when her baby started crying.
Hardly had the woman sat down when her baby started crying.

2 He betrayed my trust and he wrecked my car.
Not only _____.

3 The sun had only just gone down when the temperature fell dramatically.
Scarcely _____.

4 The fire fighter's bravery will never be forgotten.
Never _____.

5 As soon as the teacher turned her back, the children started whispering.
No sooner _____.

6 The exam began when all the papers had been given out.
Only _____.

7 You rarely find two people so alike.
Rarely _____.

8 Classes will not recommence until a replacement teacher has been found.
Not until _____.

Study Link **Student's Book p.143 Grammar Bank 3B**

3 READING

a Read the text quickly. What kind of mistranslations is it about?

b Read the text again and match the missing sentences (A–H) to the spaces (1–6). There are two sentences you do not need to use.

A The intention had been to warn them to dismount because of the uneven road surface.

B This means that all official road signs have to be bilingual, resulting in a number of embarrassing slip-ups.

C Everything these days seems to be written first in English and then translated.

D 'We've been running a series of these pictures over the past months.

E Pedestrians have also been known to suffer at the hands of mistranslation.

F The English version of the sign read 'No entry for heavy goods vehicles. Residential site only.'

G 'We took it down as soon as we were made aware of it and a correct sign will be re-instated as soon as possible.'

H Unaware of its real meaning, officials had it printed on the sign.

c Look at the highlighted words and phrases. What do you think they mean? Check with your dictionary, then use them to complete the sentences.

1 One of my most embarrassing *slip-ups* recently was referring to a friend's daughter as a boy.

2 At first I couldn't see my aunt, but then I _____ her at the other end of the platform.

3 Our road is full of potholes because of all the _____ making their way to the building site at the end of the street.

4 We were _____ when we saw that someone had transferred a million pounds into our bank account.

5 The outbreak of flu meant that nearly half the class was _____.

6 Riders are requested to _____ before entering the garage to leave their bikes.

7 The judge signed a document _____ him from seeing his children for a year.

8 Our secretary committed a terrible _____ when she sent all the bills to the wrong customers.

The pitfalls of translating into Welsh

Since the introduction of the 1993 Welsh Language Act, Welsh benefits from equal official status with English in the public sector in Wales, requiring all government information and documentation to be available in both languages.¹

The latest error was Swansea council's attempt at erecting a sign **barring** lorries from using a road in a residential area.² The local authority was hoping for a suitable Welsh version when they emailed their in-house translation service.

The seeds of confusion were sown, however, when officials received an automated email response in Welsh from the **absent** translator saying: 'I am not in the office at the moment. Please send any work to be translated.'³ Welsh speakers were quick to find the error and municipal services took the 'translated' sign down post-haste. But not before the sign had been photographed and printed in the Welsh-language magazine *Golwg*.

Dylan Iorwerth, Managing Editor of the magazine, says⁴ They're circulating among Welsh speakers because, unfortunately, it's all too common that things are not just badly



translated, but are put together by people who have no idea about the language.'

The **blunder** is not the first time Welsh has been translated incorrectly or put in the wrong place. In 2006 cyclists between Cardiff and Penarth were left **baffled** by a sign telling them they had problems with an inflamed bladder.⁵ Unfortunately, however, the online translator had confused the word *cyclists* with *cystitis*, a painful urinary infection. The temporary road sign was removed as soon as the error was discovered.

⁶ In Cardiff a sign giving conflicting advice to shoppers was **spotted** in the city centre. In English they were told to 'Look Right' whereas the Welsh translation instructed them to 'Look Left'. Fortunately, no one was hurt as a result of the confusion, and the offending sign was replaced.

5 LEXIS IN CONTEXT Lost in translation

Try to complete these sentences with a synonym of the word in bold without looking back at the text on Student's Book p.42.

- 1 A **vast** crowd gathered outside the shop for the book-signing. **enormous**
- 2 The maid folded the clothes **n**_____ and took them upstairs. **tidily**
- 3 The novel is **a**_____ the best work of fiction to be published this decade. **it could be argued**
- 4 His autobiography **b**_____ sold 1,000 copies. **hardly**
- 5 He was the son of a **l**_____ farm worker, but he grew up to be president of his country. **humble**
- 6 Some of the more **qu**_____ anecdotes were quite witty. **original**
- 7 The film remains **f**_____ to the book, for the most part. **true and accurate**
- 8 Karl's outburst **pr**_____ shocked his parents. **deeply**
- 9 One of the reasons the novel was so heavy-going was that the characters were so **bl**_____. **colourless**
- 10 He was actually named in the novel, so it was quite **aw**_____ for him. **difficult to deal with**
- 11 The road was **sm**_____ so we made good progress on our bicycles. **flat and even**
- 12 She spoke in a rather unpleasant **st**_____ voice. **with short sharp sounds**