



The Open Day

It's a sunny Saturday morning in late July. In the beautiful little village of Shepton Mallet, ¹ Henry, the school **caretaker** is working hard. Everything must look perfect before the guests arrive. He is hanging up a banner above the entrance. It says:

Shepton Mallet Boarding School, 1915 - 2015. 100 Years of Educating Girls!

"Very good, Henry," says a well-dressed, **middle-aged** woman, smiling. "Our **Open Day** will be a great **success**."

She turns to a group of teenage girls. They all wear identical dark blue skirts, white shirts and blue and white ties.

"Now, Amy and Alice, you two set up the cake **stall** on the left of the garden, and Belinda, you can put up the **handicrafts** stall." She then turns to a tall girl with a ponytail.

"Joanna, your job as **head girl** is to welcome the guests. Be **polite** and charming."

"I'll do my best," Joanna says with a smile.

The woman smiles back at her.



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|------------------------|---------------------|
| caretaker | Hausmeister |
| boarding school | Internat |
| to educate | (aus)bilden |
| middle-aged | mittleren Alters |
| open day | Tag der offenen Tür |
| success | Erfolg |
| stall | Verkaufsstand |
| handicrafts pl | Handarbeiten |
| head girl | Schulsprecherin |
| polite | höflich |

Shepton Mallet ist eine kleine Stadt im Südwesten Englands. Sie gehört zur Grafschaft Somerset, die bekannt ist für ihre schöne Landschaft und ihre Apfelplantagen.



Three hours later, the garden is full of guests. Women and girls of all ages are standing in little groups, many with their families. On one side of the garden a family is eating muffins and **chatting**.



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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| to chat | sich unterhalten, plaudern |
| strict | streng |
| lazy | faul |
| curly | lockig |
| wedding | Hochzeit |
| That's a shame! | Wie schade! |
| to change the subject | das Thema wechseln |
| bossy | bestimmend, herrisch |
| prime minister | Premierministerin |

“When I was a girl, the teachers were very **strict**,” a white-haired lady tells her granddaughter. “If I was **lazy** in class, the teacher hit me on the back of the hand.”

“Oh Granny, I don’t believe you,” laughs the little girl.

“It’s true! Once I had to write ‘I must not run in the corridor’ one hundred times! Of course things are very different now.”

“Hello and welcome. Would you like a glass of champagne?” asks Joanna, the head girl, with a charming smile.

“See what I mean?” says the grandmother. “Very different!”

On the other side of the garden, two old school friends say hello. One of the women has **curly** red hair and is wearing a colourful skirt. The other has short blonde hair and looks very business-like in a pencil skirt and blazer.

“Penny! How lovely to see you,” says the red-haired woman. “You remember my husband, Brian, don’t you?”

“Yes, Jennifer, of course. Hello Brian! Do you know, I haven’t seen you both since your **wedding**,” Penny replies.

Margaret Thatcher war von 1979 bis 1990 Premierministerin des Vereinigten Königreichs. Sie war die erste und bislang einzige Frau in diesem Amt und berühmt für ihre oft unerbittliche Haltung, was ihr den Spitznamen „The Iron Lady“ (die eiserne Dame) einbrachte.



"That's a long time ago," Jennifer laughs. "What about you? Where's your husband? Didn't he come with you today?"

"No, Neil is busy this weekend," answers Penny.

"**That's a shame,**" says Jennifer. "You two are such a lovely couple. Penny, are you alright? You look rather tired."

"I'm fine. I've just got some stress at work at the moment," says Penny.

She quickly **changes the subject.**

Exercise 1: Adjectives. Lesen Sie weiter und unterstreichen Sie alle 9 Adjektive!

"Look at those uniforms, those lovely blue skirts," Penny says. "Do you remember our uniform when we were young?"

"My God, yes! Those ugly grey skirts and yellow blouses. We all looked terrible!" laughs Jennifer

Just then Joanna walks past and offers them some champagne.

"Wow, things have changed here," says Jennifer when Joanna has gone. "Do you remember the head girl when we started?"

"You mean Margaret Taylor I could never forget her She was so **bossy** and arrogant - more like a **prime minister**¹ than a head girl."

"Yes, that's why we called her 'Thatcher' behind her back!" replies Jennifer, and both women start to laugh.

On the other side of the **lawn**, near the school **gates**, two women are standing watching the guests and smoking.

"Come on, Fiona. Let's go in," one of them says and **stubs out** her cigarette with the sole of her leather boot. "Don't you want to see how the others have changed?"

"Not really," says Fiona, lighting up another cigarette.

"They're **probably** all rich, fat and boring."

Claire laughs. "You're terrible, Fi! They're not all bad."

A bell rings and the music teacher, Miss Wallis, appears.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to invite you all to come inside. The school **choir** is about to sing in the **assembly hall**."

"Go on, Claire. I'll see you later at the Queen's Arms, okay?" Fiona turns to leave. "Claire, look over there. A **peeping Tom**!"

She points at a man on the other side of the gate. He is watching the school through **binoculars**.

The man sees her and moves away quickly towards the little **wood** behind the school. The two friends say goodbye and Claire walks up the path towards the huge stone building.

In the assembly hall, the choir sings the school song. Many of the women **join in**, some with tears in their eyes. This is too sentimental for Claire, so she goes out into the entrance hall. Here the walls are full of class photos from 1915 till the present year.

"Hello there!" says a voice beside her.

Claire looks up and sees a blonde woman in a business suit.

"Penny?" says Claire.



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| lawn | Rasen |
| gate | Tor |
| to stub out | ausdrücken |
| probably | wahrscheinlich |
| choir | Chor |
| assembly hall | Aula |
| peeping Tom | Spanner |
| binoculars pl | Fernglas |
| wood | kleiner Wald |
| to join in | mitmachen |