

CHAPTER 1

It was one of those times, Emilia Ramsay later thought, when pleasant surprise quickly turns to unpleasant surprise. And then to something even worse.

She was pleasantly surprised when, on an unexpectedly warm Sunday evening in May, which she intended to spend in the garden, David Rowe walked up the garden path. Emilia had not seen her friend for some time. She had been busy, and David extremely so, which was partly due to the happy circumstance that his girlfriend Alix Hill was back in Yorkshire. He and Alix were trying to find a house within commuting distance¹ of both York, where Alix worked as a hospital doctor, and St Stephen in Troutsdale, where David was a member of the Criminal Investigation Department².

“David! This is a nice surprise,” Emilia greeted him, “do sit down. Would you like a drink?” “Good evening, Emilia,” David said and gave her a quick hug, which, however, felt somehow perfunctory³. “We’d better go in. Is Robert here?” This was when Emilia understood that this was no social call. It was Detective Chief Inspector⁴ Rowe of the St Stephen police, who needed to talk about something. “Is there anything I can help you with?” she asked. Being a private investigator⁵, she had worked with the police before.

“I’m afraid not. It’s Robert I have to talk to,” David repeated. “Is he in?” “He’s in his study,” Emilia replied. Robert was deep in work on an article – he was the proprietor of a successful art gallery, but occasionally wrote for art journals – and, in the last few days, had not been very talkative. But he would of course make time for David.

Exercise 1

The simple present

Complete the text by using the correct forms of

arrive – be (x 3) – believe – can – have – join – need – own – reply – say – work (x 2)

1. While Emilia _____ in the garden, David _____ at her house. “I _____ that Robert _____ in his study,” Emilia _____ to his question. Robert _____ them at the dining table.

1 commuting distance: Entfernung, die das Pendeln ermöglicht 2 Criminal Investigation Department (CID): Kommissariat der brit. Kriminalpolizei 3 perfunctory: routinemäßig 4 Detective Chief Inspector (DCI): Rang bei der brit. Kriminalpolizei 5 private investigator: Privatdetektiv(in)

2. Emilia _____ as a private investigator. She _____ her own detective agency called R&R Investigations. Robert and his ex-wife Stella _____ an art gallery called Lloyd Rutherford Fine Arts.
3. David and Alix are looking for a house. "We _____ a place to live from where we _____ drive to both York and St Stephen," Alix _____ to Emilia. "You and Robert _____ in the same town – you _____ lucky!"

Two minutes later, they were all seated, rather formally, at the table in the conservatory⁶ that doubled⁷ as a dining room. Emilia, noticing both Robert and David's restrained⁸ behaviour, began to wonder.

"I was told that on Friday evening," David addressed Robert, "Robert Rutherford had a meeting with George Geddes of Geddes Herbs near Stainsby. Could you tell me what happened there?" Robert was, Emilia realised, completely taken aback⁹. "How do you know?" he asked. "The Stainsby police was told so," David explained, "and your phone number turned up in the list of calls made from Mr Geddes's telephone." Hearing about the telephone, Emilia got a sinking feeling¹⁰.

"And why do you need to know about this meeting?" Robert asked. "It would be best if you simply told me," David replied. Robert sighed. "George Geddes phoned me in the afternoon," he said. "He said that he had a business proposition and that it was urgent. He asked me to pay him a visit the very same evening, and when I asked if it could wait till Monday he said that he really needed to see me." He hesitated. "He is one of my best and oldest clients, so I gave in and went." "When was that?" David asked. "I left at about six and it took me about an hour and a half to get there," Robert said, "but why do you want to know all this?" "I'll explain in a minute," was David's only reply. "What happened when you arrived?"

Emilia felt that Robert was really uncomfortable now. "I arrived at the house," he said. "George let me in, and we went upstairs where he has a big study. There he had gathered a number of paintings – an odd mixture of old and new. Some of them were good and maybe valuable. He wanted to know if I would buy them because he was in need of money and he needed it fast. I was surprised. Most of the pictures were too modern for me to sell. You know that

6 conservatory: Wintergarten 7 to double as s.th.: (etwa) auch die Funktion von etw. haben 8 restrained: (unnatürlich) beherrscht, zurückhaltend 9 taken aback: unangenehm überrascht 10 to get a sinking feeling (idiom): bange ums Herz werden

my gallery specialises in 18th and 19th century art. But I was interested in two or three of the older works. There was, however, no way for me to pay for them at once and I suggested that I speak to my bank. And I offered to take some of the other pictures on commission¹¹ – as a favour to George. But this wasn't enough for him, he had hoped for more and became quite unreasonable. He must be about seventy-five and in the last few years has become a bit ... stubborn."

Exercise 2

A closer look at the simple present

Complete the text by using the correct forms of

arrive – be (x 2) – come – go – hate – have (x 2) – investigate – like (x 2) – live – make – sit down – solve – switch on – try – work

Have a look at the completed sentences. Are some of the verbs used for actions that happen regularly? Are some of them used to describe something permanent?

1. *In the mornings, Emilia _____ to her agency. She _____ getting up early. She _____ at the agency, _____ herself a cup of coffee, _____ at her desk and then _____ the computer.*
2. *Alix _____ in a hospital in York. She _____ her job, but her work _____ usually rather stressful. David _____ in St Stephen. As a police officer, he _____ crimes and often _____ them. And of course the police _____ to prevent crime.*
3. *St Stephen in Troutsdale _____ a picturesque town in Yorkshire. It _____ an interesting historic centre, and its inhabitants _____ living there. Many tourists _____ to St Stephen, and many artists and art dealers _____ their studios and galleries there.*

Robert paused and, after a moment, David asked. "Did you argue about this?" "We had words¹²," Robert said stiffly. David looked at him. "Words?" he asked. "We argued," Robert said, but from his voice Emilia realised that there was more to it. "For heaven's sake," Robert broke out, "we had a blazing row¹³! George was out of order¹⁴. I don't want to repeat the things he said!" "I'm afraid that you'll have to," David said. "You will have to give a full statement at the police station."

11 to take on commission: in Kommission nehmen 12 to have words (formell): sich streiten 13 blazing row (ugs.): Riesenstreit 14 to be out of order: sich völlig danebenbenehmen

KEY TO THE EXERCISES

- Exercise 1 1. is, arrives, believe, is, replies, joins, 2. works, has, own, 3. need, can, says, work, are
- Exercise 2 1. goes, hates, arrives, makes, sits down, switches on, 2. works, likes, is, lives, investigates, solves, try, 3. is, has, like, come, have; actions happening regularly: 1. all of the verbs with the exception of "hates", 2. is, investigates, solves; verbs to describe something permanent: 2. works, likes, lives, 3. all of the verbs
- Exercise 3 a) activities happening often or regularly: 1. goes, arrives, makes, sits down, switches on, 2. is (usually stressful); b) something permanent: 3. all of the verbs; c) successive activities: 1. arrives, makes, sits down, switches on; d) likes/dislikes: 1. hates, 2. likes, 3. like; e) what a person does professionally: 2. works, investigates, solves; f) common truths: 2. try
- Exercise 4 1. are interviewing, 2. is investigating, 3. is talking, is pointing out, 4. am waiting, is getting
- Exercise 5 a) activity in progress right now: 1. are interviewing, 3. is talking, is pointing out, 4. am waiting; b) activity in progress (but not necessarily right now): 2. is investigating; c) gradual development: 4. is getting
- Exercise 6 1. PP, 2. SP, 3. SP, 4. PP, 5. SP, 6. PP
- Exercise 7 1. lives, works, is investigating, is having, 2. is, empties into, lies, 3. are holding, hates, are
- Exercise 8 Wrong forms can be found in sentences 1, 3 and 5.
- Exercise 9 1. I work as a private investigator. 2. I often have lunch at a pub. 3. I am making coffee, because I am in a meeting with a client. But I dislike coffee. 4. I am looking for a missing person and I really have to find him.
- Exercise 10 1. is, has, wears, thinks, is, is trying, 2. likes/loves, loves/likes, dislikes, writes, does, is getting, 3. is not working, enjoys, meet, have, go, 4. are talking, is happening, want
- Exercise 11 1. a) have lived, b) has returned, c) has lived, 2. a) has written, has made, has taken part, 3. has seen, 4. have (I've) worked, have (I've) never worked, have (I've) always wanted
- Exercise 12 1. sentence 2, 2. sentences 1a, 1c, 4b, 3. sentences 1b, 3, 4a
- Exercise 13 1. I have been, 2. you have done, 3. he has had, 4. she has taught, 5. it has got, 6. we have driven, 7. you have come, 8. they have made
- Exercise 14 have been producing, have been working, have been trying, has been thinking