

**Reporting verbs:**

*ask, warn, apologise, remind, offer, suggest, tell, etc.*

**1 Change the sentences into reported speech using the verbs in brackets.**

- 1 "Get your hair cut, all of you!" shouted the sergeant major. (order)  
*The sergeant major ordered them all to get their hair cut.*
- 2 "Don't walk on the grass!" shouted the gardener. (tell)  
 .....
- 3 "Mary, don't put that bucket of water near the vacuum cleaner; it's plugged in," said the caretaker. (warn)  
 .....
- 4 "You need to give up smoking and eat healthier food," said the doctor. (advise)  
 .....
- 5 "Can I please get a lift home with you, Peter," said Mary. (ask)  
 .....
- 6 "Remember to pack warm clothes. It gets very cold in Edinburgh in the winter," she said. (remind)  
 .....
- 7 "If you are going to Paris, you had better brush up on your French before you go," said Jean Paul. (suggest)  
 .....
- 8 "Would you like me to help you with your homework?" he said. (offer)  
 .....
- 9 "There has been a significant reduction in crime," said the politician. (inform)  
 .....
- 10 "I haven't stolen anything!" shouted the criminal. (deny)  
 .....

**2 Make sentences using direct speech. Don't forget to use the correct punctuation marks.**

- 1 The scientist announced a discovery in the solar system; a small red planet.  
*"I have discovered a small red planet in the solar system," said the scientist.*
- 2 The doctor warned him not to eat too much sugar.  
 .....
- 3 Sam's mother reminded him to switch off the television before he went to bed.  
 .....
- 4 The careers advisor asked me what school subject I enjoyed the most.  
 .....
- 5 Philip invited Joan to the water-polo match.  
 .....

### Definite (*the River Thames*) and indefinite (*a river*) articles

**1** Look at how the definite article - *the* - is used in the following sentences:

*The food we eat today is quite different to the food our great-grandparents used to eat.*

*Food nowadays contains more additives than in the past.*

**In the first sentence we are comparing one specific thing to another. (Notice that you are asked to look at *the* first sentence, not *the* second. There are only two and we are making a comparison.) In the second sentence we are referring to food in general.**

**Now read this paragraph:**

*In the past our ancestors built houses on the banks of a river so they had access to water. These groups of houses became villages, then towns and then cities. The city of London, which was once a small group of houses on the River Thames is a classic example of a riverside development. Can you think of any more?*

**Why is London referred to as *the city of London*?**

**2** Look at these two sentences.

*A river such as the Thames can be the life-blood of a city.*

*A river can provide drinking water, food, a way to keep clean and even a transport system.*

**Here we are generalising about the different advantages of building a town on the banks of a river, and only name one specific river. It also mentions *a way to keep clean*. Nowadays we don't throw ourselves into a river to wash ourselves, nor do we take our washing to the water in big baskets; there are other ways to get clean. But do you know of any other way of washing that does not involve water?**

**3** Read this paragraph and fill in the blanks with *a*, *an*, *the* or *nothing* at all.

It is <sup>1</sup> *an* interesting point to remember that as <sup>2</sup> ..... seagull flies, <sup>3</sup> ..... distance between France and <sup>4</sup> ..... famous white cliffs of Dover is not very great. People - men, women and even <sup>5</sup> ..... children - have been known to swim <sup>6</sup> ..... Strait of Dover, sometimes both ways. Yet down <sup>7</sup> ..... centuries this narrow neck of water separating Britain and <sup>8</sup> ..... France (known in <sup>9</sup> ..... French as La Manche - "<sup>10</sup> ..... sleeve") has served as <sup>11</sup> ..... physical and psychological barrier.

William, Duke of Normandy, conquered <sup>12</sup> ..... island with his knights in 1066, but he was <sup>13</sup> ..... last successful invader. <sup>14</sup> ..... Napoleon, who derided <sup>15</sup> ..... English Channel as a "ditch", never set <sup>16</sup> ..... foot on <sup>17</sup> ..... English soil, while Hitler's invasion plans also came to <sup>18</sup> ..... nothing in 1940. <sup>19</sup> ..... British have <sup>20</sup> ..... island mentality. They resisted plans to build <sup>21</sup> ..... tunnel under the English Channel for many years, and many of them are still against any further integration with Europe. Even with today's sophisticated communication systems <sup>22</sup> ..... Englishman's home is still his castle.

**Would/used to - Get used to/be used to - Not used to**

**1 Can you substitute *would* for *used to* in these sentences?**

- 1 I used to like spinach when I was a child, but I don't anymore.  
*No.*
- 2 When my grandfather fell asleep he used to snore very loudly and keep everybody awake.  
.....
- 3 My mother used to tell my little sister not to bother me when I was studying, but she never listened to her.  
.....
- 4 John used to go hiking in the mountains, but he never wore the proper footwear.  
.....
- 5 John used to get injured quite often when he went hiking in the mountains because he didn't wear good hiking boots.  
.....
- 6 The people in our village used to have a special festival after the harvest. They used to sing and dance and they used to get quite drunk, too.  
.....

**2 Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of *used to*, *get used to*, *be used to* or *not used to*.**

Our village, which is quite a long way from the city centre, <sup>1</sup> *used to be* quite isolated, especially in winter. People <sup>2</sup> ..... come out from the city at weekends to enjoy the countryside, but the villagers <sup>3</sup> ..... to having a lot of strangers around during the week, or in the winter months. But now a new motorway has brought a lot of new people to the area. The problem is that most of them are city-dwellers who are <sup>4</sup> ..... to village life or our slow country ways.

The village shopkeepers are slower than the people in the city. They are <sup>5</sup> ..... having time to stand and chat with their customers, and they are <sup>6</sup> ..... customers who come in, buy something and rush out again, without even saying good morning or thank you. Another problem is that the shopkeepers cannot <sup>7</sup> ..... to having so many customers, and they keep running out of goods. I don't know how long it will take for the village people and the new immigrants to <sup>8</sup> ..... to each other, but one thing is for sure: I shall never <sup>9</sup> ..... to having to wait ten minutes to cross the road; there's so much more traffic these days. I'm <sup>10</sup> ..... to so much noise either, but then I am 89.

**3 Make your own sentences using *would/get used to/be used to/not used to*.**

- 1 the world / flat  
*People used to believe that the world was flat.*
- 2 older people / modern telecommunications  
.....
- 3 car drivers / seatbelts for safety  
.....
- 4 emigrants / new country  
.....
- 5 modern industry / foreign languages  
.....
- 6 when I was 5  
.....
- 7 when I am 65  
.....