

Name _____ Date _____

The terrible mistake

This is a true story. It happened a long time ago in 1965.

John and Bill were good friends. They both had children who went to the same childcare centre.



One Saturday there was a working bee at the childcare centre. Many of the fathers went to help paint the building. They needed some more paint.

Bill said, 'I'll go and get the paint.'

Then Bill realised his car was blocked by other parked cars.

John said, 'Use my car. Here are the keys.'

Bill drove to the hardware store in John's car. It was a white Volkswagen.

He bought the paint, came out of the hardware store and got into the white Volkswagen. He drove back to the childcare centre.

When Bill arrived at the centre, John looked worried and said, 'That's not my car! My car hasn't got blue seat covers. This is the wrong Volkswagen!'

Quickly Bill got into the car and drove back to the hardware store. When he arrived he saw a lady standing on the footpath. She looked very upset. When she saw Bill in her car she looked angry.

Bill parked the car and explained, 'I'm so sorry. I took the wrong car by mistake. I was using my friend's car. It looks the same and the key fitted.

Look, there's my friend's white Volkswagen.'



When the lady saw the other white Volkswagen she stopped being angry.

She was relieved. Her car was not stolen.

Everybody was very surprised that the same key fitted both cars.

Do you think the same key would fit two new cars today?

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True or False? Write T or F

1. John and Bill were good friends. _____
2. Bill had no children. _____
3. The children were painting the childcare centre. _____
4. John's car was a white Volkswagen. _____
5. Bill bought paint at the grocery store. _____
6. The two Volkswagens were the same colour. _____
7. John's car had blue seat covers. _____
8. The lady's car was stolen. _____
9. The same key fitted both cars. _____

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Put the words in brackets in the correct order to answer these questions:

1. When did the terrible mistake happen? (happened It 1965 in)

.....

2. Where was the working bee? (the at was childcare centre It)

.....

3. What did Bill need to buy? (to buy He paint needed)

.....

4. Where did he buy the paint? (it He at bought the hardware store)

.....

5. Whose car did he use? (car John's used He)

.....

6. How did the lady feel when her car was gone? (felt She upset)

.....

7. How did the lady feel when Bill took her car back? (relieved felt She)

.....

8. Why was everyone surprised? (cars key both same the Because fitted)

.....

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Write sentences using these words:

angry feeling happened bought upset

(or find the sentences in the story)

1.

.....

2.

.....

3.

.....

4.

.....

5.

.....

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Word Search Puzzle

Q	E	V	F	C	E	X	R	A	P	M	N	M	A	T	Y
X	U	U	P	S	E	T	F	O	O	T	P	A	T	H	A
H	S	S	Y	X	H	N	L	T	S	E	R	C	M	P	L
C	O	V	E	R	A	N	T	S	U	R	P	R	I	S	E
S	E	D	U	S	N	H	R	R	W	R	Z	L	T	F	N
J	M	B	Y	O	G	K	Y	E	E	I	S	K	D	I	O
P	O	E	W	U	R	E	S	C	A	B	W	N	E	H	C
M	K	P	O	T	Y	D	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	J
Z	A	B	R	M	N	W	H	I	T	E	I	X	O	D	N
Q	A	M	K	E	O	S	T	L	A	D	Y	S	E	N	R
W	O	N	I	P	H	A	R	D	W	A	R	E	E	R	G
X	M	R	N	S	A	M	E	C	D	I	N	E	T	D	G
L	F	T	G	H	T	R	P	A	I	N	T	C	T	K	M
F	I	T	T	E	D	A	K	R	E	L	I	E	V	E	D
T	A	O	B	L	O	C	K	E	D	R	O	V	E	E	H
C	B	L	U	E	S	F	I	E	D	I	P	Q	U	O	C

Find the hidden words.

angry, both, children, fitted, hardware, lady, paint, relieved, terrible, white, blocked, bought, cover, footpath, keys, mistake, parked, same, upset, working, blue, drove, friends, childcare, centre, need, realised, surprise, use, wrong.

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Practise these conversations with a partner.

1. AT THE CHILDCARE CENTRE.

John: We need some more paint.

Bill : I'll go and get some.

John: Use my car. Here are the keys.

Bill: OK. Thanks.

2. AT THE HARDWARE STORE.

Store assistant: Can I help you?

Bill: I'd like this tin of paint please. How much is it?

Store assistant: That's £24. 65

Bill: Thanks very much.

3. AT THE CHILDCARE CENTRE.

John: That's not my car! My car hasn't got blue seat covers.

This is the wrong Volkswagen!

4. OUTSIDE THE HARDWARE STORE:

Bill: I'm so sorry. I took the wrong car by mistake.

I was using my friend's car.

It looks the same and the key fitted.

There's my friend's car, just down there.

Lady: Oh! What a relief! I thought my car was stolen.