

10 Read *The Story Of The Post* and say what people thought of Rowland Hill's idea to use stamps.

The Story Of The Post

Rowland Hill ['roulənd 'hɪl]

A famous Englishman of the 19th century was Sir Rowland Hill. Rowland's father was a very poor schoolteacher. Rowland often heard his mother say, "I hope that the postman does not come today, for we cannot afford to pay for any letters."

Nowadays the person who sends a letter pays for it when he buys a stamp and sticks it on the envelope. When Rowland Hill was a boy there were no stamps, and the person to whom a letter was sent had to pay the postman who brought it.

A letter cost a lot of money in those days. Let us watch a little boy who is writing a letter to his mother. The little boy is staying in Cornwall and his mother is in Scotland.

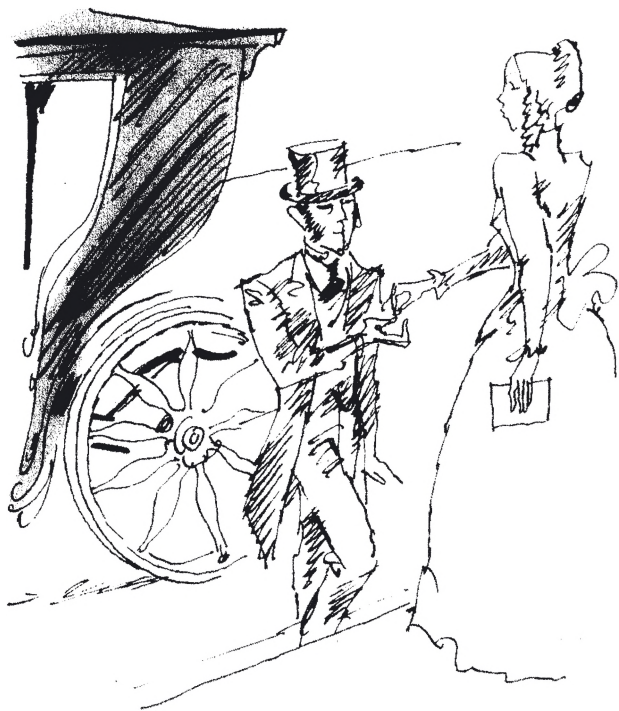
He is a very clever boy, so he is able to write the letter himself. He takes care to write on only one sheet of paper, for two sheets cost twice as much as one sheet. When the letter is finished, he does not put it in an envelope. He just folds it up, fastens it with wax¹ and writes his mother's address on the outside.

There are no letter-boxes in the streets, so he takes his letter to the inn² from which the coach³ starts for London. To take the letter to London costs ninepence. In London it will be put on another coach and taken to

¹ to fasten ['fɑ:sn] with wax [wæks] — скреплять воском

² inn — гостиница

³ coach [kəʊtʃ] — почтовая карета



Scotland. That will cost a shilling. The little boy pays nothing, but his mother in Scotland has to pay one shilling and ninepence when the letter is brought to her house by the postman.

Now you see why Rowland Hill's mother was not glad when the postman came to her door. Rowland thought it was a shame that people had to pay so much to get letters from their friends and relations. When he grew up, he thought of a plan to make the post cheaper.

His plan was that the Post Office should offer¹ to

¹ to offer ['ɔfə] — предлагать

carry a letter to any place in England, Wales, Scotland or Ireland for one penny, and that the person who sent the letter should buy a penny stamp at the Post Office, and put it on the outside of the letter. In this way the postman would not have to collect any money.

The people at the Post Office laughed at his plan.

“How can we carry letters for a penny each?” they asked. “Why, we should lose thousands of pounds every year!”

Rowland Hill replied, “Yes, you will lose money at first, but wait and see. When people find that they can send a letter for a penny, everyone will begin to write letters, even the poorest. Soon there will be so many letters that you will make more money than ever before.”

Rowland Hill was right. His plan was put into practice, and from that day to this the number of letters people send has grown bigger and bigger. Post Offices and letter-boxes have appeared in every town and village, and every day one can see the postman on his rounds.

Letters do not go by coach now. They go by train, ship or aeroplane, and though Englishmen no longer have the penny post, they can send a letter round the world, for stamps are still cheap.

Do You Understand The Story?

11 Choose the correct ending to each sentence.

- 1 In the early 19th century many people in England were not glad to receive letters because:
 - they had to pay a lot of money to get letters.
 - the letters were too long to read.
 - it took a lot of time to carry the letters from those who wrote them to those for whom they were written.

- 2 The people at the Post Office laughed at Roland's plan because:
- they couldn't imagine that sending letters would be so cheap.
 - they were sure they would lose a lot of money.
 - they thought it was a silly plan and it was impossible to put it into practice.
- 3 It is not a problem nowadays to send and to get a letter because:
- stamps and envelopes are cheap.
 - there are a lot of post-offices and letter boxes in every town.
 - postmen bring letters in time.

12 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Was it expensive to send a letter from one part of Great Britain to another in the nineteenth century?
- 2 What kind of family did Rowland Hill come from?
- 3 How could letters get to different places in the nineteenth century and earlier?
- 4 What was Rowland Hill's plan to make the post cheaper?
- 5 Why didn't the people at the Post Office want to accept Hill's plan at first?
- 6 Was Hill's plan put into practice? What was the result?

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 62—63)



What Do You Think?

- 13 *Say why Englishmen remember Rowland Hill and what made him a famous man in his time.*
- 14 *Compare how letters got to different places in the 19th century and how they get to people nowadays.*
- 15 *Why do you think Post is necessary?*





How Good Is Your English?



16 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 Don't forget to write the
correctly and neatly if you want your letter to
reach the proper place and person quickly.
- 2 Some people are just crazy about collecting
.....
- 3 People usually write a great
of letters and greeting cards before Christmas
and other popular holidays.
- 4 Who remembers those old films
.....?
- 5 He bought some paper and two
.....
- 6 If you do not want to telephone your friend
in another city, send him a letter by
.....
- 7 I can't see how your plan is going to work in
.....

nowadays
envelopes
stamps
practice
number
post
address

17 Match the words in column A with the words in column B.

A	B
cheap	sheets of paper
expensive	stamps
friendly	letters
famous	people
clean	envelopes
useful	practice

18 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 "How much shall I pay the envelope", the girl asked.
- 2 There were several letter-boxes the street.
- 3 You often receive letters relations and friends, don't you?
- 4 One can buy all kinds of greeting cards, envelopes and stamps the post-office.
- 5 "The letter is written my elder sister", the boy said.

in
by
from
at
for

19 a) Write the missing forms of the verbs.

to stick	stuck	stuck
to buy		
to fold		
to put		
to pay		
to bring		
to lose		
to carry		

b) Use the correct form of the **Passive Voice**.

- 1 A lot of money (lose) when they tried to put their plan into practice.
- 2 The stamp (stick) in the right-hand corner of the envelope.
- 3 The telegram (bring) by the postman quickly.
- 4 The letter (write) on three sheets of paper.
- 5 This beautiful box (buy) a year ago.
- 6 We don't know how much (pay) for the tickets.