

CLOZE EXERCISE

It was ¹ again. The weekend was over. The weekend went far ² quickly for Jane. Back to ³ and she hadn't even had a ⁴. How times had changed since her mother's ⁵! Her mother had always told her that, apart from cooking Sunday ⁶ it was a day of rest and a time to praise God! Jane didn't go to ⁷; she had when she was a ⁸ but she had stopped just after her thirteenth birthday when her best ⁹ had died of a brain tumour. A God who was 'So good, so strong and so mighty...' as she had once ¹⁰ with the joyous abandon of a first year infant, could not have allowed such a ¹¹ thing to happen.

Sometimes, though, she did long for the peace and cool solitude she felt after Saturday morning ¹². Maybe, she thought, if they cut out the religious bit and let you go to ¹³, say your confession and instead of saying five 'Hail Marys' you had to give £2 to charity or something, she would go again. People didn't seem to be as confused then as they are ¹⁴. Her mother had a rigid weekly timetable but never seemed to be as hurried or as ¹⁵ as Jane now felt.

Things were supposed to be better for ¹⁶, but she felt, in her heart, that they weren't. Not really. She had more choice but that brought more decisions, more anxiety, more ¹⁷. She had a better ¹⁸ of living but she wanted more.

Her mother had seemed ¹⁹ when, at the age of 50, she had finally acquired the fitted bedroom of her ²⁰. Nothing lavish and pretty bog-standard by Jane's own standards but, nevertheless, her mother was ²¹. As a teenager, Jane had resented her mother's lack of ambition: her floral aprons and Sunday best suits. Now, as she battled through the Monday morning traffic, dreading the start of another week at the office, she imagined herself standing in the kitchen while her mother baked scones. Jane mentally pictured herself wearing her mother's apron. Strangely, she didn't feel the sense of horror that her teenage self had once felt at the thought of being 'just a housewife'; in fact the thought was comforting and, for the first time in her life, she envied, really envied her mother.

¹ Saturday / Monday / Tuesday

² to / two / too

³ walk / work / talk

⁴ rust / rest / test

⁵ way / day / pay

⁶ best / dinner / suit

⁷ school / brownies / church

⁸ baby / child / air hostess

⁹ sister / friend / uncle

¹⁰ sang / shouted / cursed

¹¹ terrible / simple / good

¹² decision / confession / shopping

¹³ bingo / church / Benidorm

¹⁴ somehow / now / new

¹⁵ hard-nosed / happy / harassed

¹⁶ children / women / old people

¹⁷ money / fear / men

¹⁸ cost / style / standard

¹⁹ satisfied / mortified / horrified

²⁰ nightmares / sister's / dreams

²¹ miserable / content / awful