



Exercise 5 In The Pool

It had been rather an exciting day in the pool. Various things, both pleasant and unpleasant, had occurred which had kept the members of The Winkle Society in a state of excitement since early morning. The first thing that happened was an encounter between Prawn and a seagull, which nearly ended in disaster. Prawn was taking a before-breakfast stroll near the surface of the pool when he was sighted by a seagull, who was also taking a before-breakfast stroll. To the seagull, Prawn looked just like the breakfast he was seeking, and he made a very savage stab at him with his long yellow beak. Prawn, who was not yet properly awake, did not jump back quite quickly enough, and lost the very tip of one of his claws. Crab and Lobster had to spend some little time reviving and comforting him, until they discovered that it was not the loss of a small piece of claw which was worrying him, but the fact that he had missed his breakfast owing to all the fuss.

The next occurrence was a mystery which has never been explained. Suddenly, during the morning, several quite large chunks of meat were dropped into the pool, whether by a passing bird or animal will never be known, but it formed a welcome change of diet for The Winkle Society, whose members were getting rather tired of seaweed and small water insects.

(From *The Winkle Society* by Peter Thornhill.)

Questions and Exercises

1. What had made the day exciting?
2. (a) What was the first exciting thing which happened? (b) Was it pleasant or unpleasant?
3. Did the incident end in disaster?
4. (a) When did it happen? (b) What creatures were concerned in it? (c) What is meant by an encounter?
5. (a) Why did Prawn not jump back more quickly? (b) What happened as a result?
6. Which creatures came to his aid?
7. What did they discover?
8. What else happened during the morning?
9. Which creature might have been responsible for dropping the meat into the pool?
10. Explain in a sentence what a mystery is.
11. (a) Why would the creatures of the pool be pleased about the addition to it? (b) What had they fed on before that happened? (c) Make a list of all the creatures mentioned in the story, writing the names in alphabetical order.