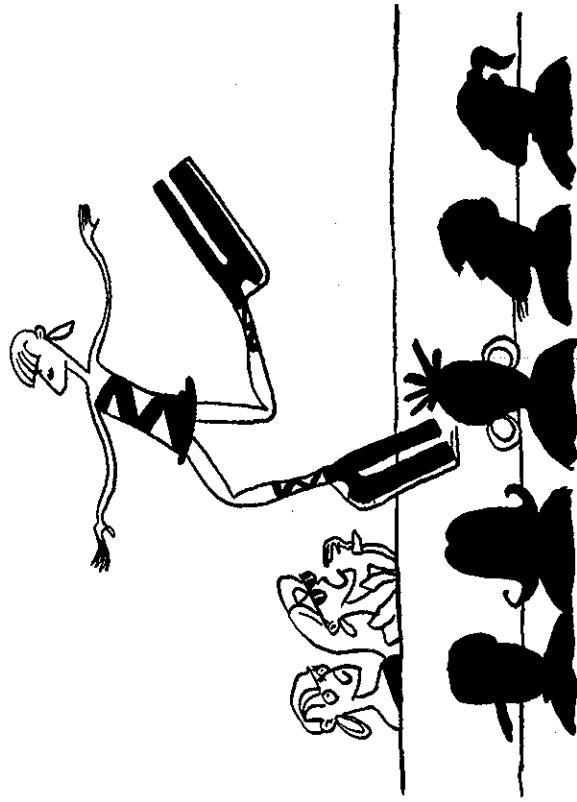


# prepositions and particles

Fill in the missing prepositions or particles in the following sentences.

- 1 Everything seems to be above *board*, but there's something that doesn't feel quite right. I just wish I knew what it was.
- 2 I always thought he was strange. After seeing him at the party I'm convinced that he's the bend.
- 3 If you have any complaints, then *tell me* my face. I can't stand people who *do things* my back.
- 4 My mother is a vegetarian and won't eat meat principle.
- 5 you, me and the gatepost, I don't think the new boss will last more than a few months.
- 6 This work is taking much longer than I thought. this rate it'll be Christmas before it's finished.
- 7 He didn't have time to prepare a speech so he had to give one the cuff.
- 8 Throughout the flight he was very much edge, and didn't start to relax until the plane had landed.
- 9 I wouldn't like to *be* her shoes when Miss Hoffman finds out that she's lost the exam papers.
- 10 I'd love to come to the concert with you but I can't, I'm afraid. I'm my ears in work this week.
- 11 Playing tennis once a week is one way of *letting* steam.
- 12 He learnt Portuguese scratch in less than six months.
- 13 The competitors waited bated breath for the results to be read out.

- 14 Mrs Samuel's daughter is terrible, isn't she? Out all hours and never a kind word to anyone.
- 15 I bought a computer last year, but I've had nothing but trouble with it. As far as I'm concerned it was money the drain!
- 16 The football match had to be postponed account the bad weather.



'I wouldn't like to be in her shoes!'



A *drain* is a pipe for carrying away water. So if you dropped anything down it, you would lose it!

The *scratch* used to be a starting line which was scratched on the ground to show where a race should start from, so *from scratch* means from the start, beginning.