

ADVANCE YOUR ENGLISH

A communicative grammar course for Upper Intermediate and Advanced students by Richard Lewis

UNIT 1 States and Events

*Ben's work consists of testing ideas.
Lord Clevedon-Smith got up early every morning.
The car roared off down the street.
John is being rude.*



- 1 One of these men is Lord Clevedon-Smith, former Foreign Secretary, who died last year. One is Robert McBeer, the popular Liverpool poet and songwriter. One is Ben Rees, the inventor. Who do you think is who? Give your reasons.

The following is a profile of Ben Rees:
Ben Rees is a successful inventor. He is, notably, the inventor of the famous Freedom Cat Flap, a spring flap fitted to an outside door which lets a cat come in or go out. Mr. Rees has a house in South Wales and he has lived there for many years. He is 59 now and has remained a bachelor all his life. He likes his work, which consists mainly of testing ideas in his office and workshop on a nearby trading estate. He tends to work intensively for a few months at a time, and then have a long rest. He thinks this is by far the best way of working. In his spare time he does odd jobs around the house or plays chess with a friend.

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Check What is Ben's most famous invention?
Talk about Ben using the following verbs:
live/remain/consist of/tend/think/do/play

- 2 Invent a profile similar to the one above for Robert McBeer and Lord Clevedon-Smith. Use the following checklist:
What is/was he most famous for?
Where does/did he live?
Is/was he married? Children?
What does/did his work or daily routine mainly consist of?
How does/did he tend to work?
What does/did he do in his spare time?
Anything else?

- 3 From the following dialogue, tell the story of what you think happened.
- 4 "I was walking along a lonely, deserted street late last night when I suddenly heard footsteps behind me" Continue this story in a chain around the class (one sentence per person).
- 5 John is being rude. He's making fun of his friend and insulting him. Now suggest a situation for the following:
John is being polite. John is being generous. John is being helpful. John is being stubborn. John is being greedy. John is being silly.

Language Check

- 1 Look at the two sentences below. Which one expresses a condition or state and which one expresses a happening or event?
a) He ran off down the street.
b) He lived in a small house near the sea.
- 2 What is the difference in meaning between the following two statements?
a) John is rude.
b) John is being rude.

Language Summary

- 1 Verbs express states or events. The following are a few verbs typically associated with states: *be, remain, like, tend, live*.

Example Ben is a bachelor.
He has remained a bachelor all his life.

Verbs like these may be called state verbs.

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