



The Parade That Almost Wasn't

The trouble started with the _____¹ of Mr. Muller's pet snake. Mr. Muller was our upstairs _____². He lived in the apartment above our shop, but on that day, he was away on a short _____³. The snake got out through a _____⁴ in its cage. Then it crawled under the door, down the hall, and into the freight elevator. When the elevator stopped, the snake crawled into our busy _____⁵.

There were two customers at the counter, one _____⁶ and one _____⁷. The woman had just _____⁸ for a big birthday cake. The man was holding a loaf of bread and watching my mother _____⁹ out a pound of Swiss cheese on the _____¹⁰. Outside, a big noisy _____¹¹ was passing. As Mom handed the man the cheese, he looked down and saw the snake. The man screamed and ran out the door. He ran right into the trumpet player, who dropped his trumpet and fell down. The man from the bakery fell on top of him. Then the flute player tripped and fell on top of them. The parade stopped.

Meanwhile the lady in our bakery dropped her cake and grabbed what she thought was an empty bucket to catch the snake. But it was a large _____¹² full of sugar. The heavy _____¹³ of the full bucket was too much. She dropped it, spilling all the sugar. She tried to get the _____¹⁴ into the empty bucket, but she slipped on the sugar and fell. The snake crawled out the door and into the parade.

The saxophone player was the first to see the snake. He began to yell so loudly that a vein stood out on his forehead. Finally the drum major saw the snake. She used her _____¹⁵. She told everyone to _____¹⁶ in line. Then she picked up the snake. "Let's not _____¹⁷ the parade any longer," she said. "Start marching when I _____¹⁸ my baton." Holding the snake and her baton high in the air, she began to march.

The flute player stood up and began to _____¹⁹ about an ache in his back. The trumpet player got up and picked up his trumpet. The man from the bakery left and got lost in the crowd. The parade began to move.

The next day a picture of the drum major holding the snake was in all the papers. Everyone said how brave she was. She said, "Let me _____²⁰ .. My dad works in the snake house at the zoo. He took me to work with him a lot when I was young. No silly old milk snake will ever scare me!"



paid
brain
scale
parade
raise
weigh
explain
escape
snake
holiday
remain
male
complain
weight
break
containers
bakery
delay
neighbor
female