

Producing your own grammar activities

This passage about Carl Smith contains 30 grammar mistakes. Find and correct them.

Carl Smith works in one small office near to the centre of London. He's accountant and he is an accountant since he left University in 1987. He is married with Patricia and they have two childrens: Tom, six, and Sam, four and half. Every day, Carl gets up at about half seven and has a breakfast with his family, then he drives to the work. The travel usually takes about an hour – more if the traffics are bad.

Last year, Carl and Patricia have bought a big house in the suburbs of London. It increases the amount of traveling he should do, but the house has a large garden and in her free time Patricia loves to garden and the children love to play there.

Right now, Carl is very busy because its the end of the financial year and he prepares 'the books' for several differents companies. Carl don't have many free times, but he loves listening to music – especially music classical, and next year he will make a special trip to Verona for the opera season. The family will stay for one week in a nice hotel in the city centre and they will watch three operas: Carmen, Aida and Madame Butterfly. Madam Butterfly is Carl's best opera, and he's really looking forward to see it in Italy. Carl? What would you be if you weren't accountant? Carl: 'I will be the conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, of course!'

Answers

Carl Smith works in **one** (a) small office near **to** (no preposition needed here) the centre of London. He's (**an** – articles are need with jobs) accountant and he **is** (has been – from the past until now) an accountant since he left University in 1987. He is married **with** (to – wrong preposition) Patricia and they have two **childrens** (children – irregular plural): Tom, six, and Sam, four and (**a**) half. Every day, Carl gets up at about half seven and has **a** (no article with meals) breakfast with his family, then he drives to **the** work. The **travel** (trip, journey – travel is usually a verb) usually takes about an hour – more if the **traffics** (traffic is uncountable – no plural form) **are** bad.

Last year, Carl and Patricia **have bought** (bought – last year is past time) a big house in the suburbs of London. It **increases** (increased, or has increased – from the past until now) the amount of traveling he **should** (must, or has to – obligation) do, but the house has a large garden and in her free time Patricia loves **to garden** (in this kind of context, verbs like love, like, etc are usually followed by the gerund) and the children love **to play** (ditto) there.

Right now, Carl is very busy because **its** (apostrophe needed = it is) the end of the financial year and he **prepares** (it's at the moment – is preparing) 'the books' for several **different** (adjectives have no plural form) companies. Carl **don't** have **many** (much – time is uncountable) free **times**, but he loves listening to music – especially **music classical**, (adjective before the noun) and next year he **will** (it's a plan – going to) make a special trip to Verona for the opera season. The family **will** (ditto) stay for one week in a nice hotel in the city centre and they will watch three operas: Carmen, Aida and Madame Butterfly. Madame Butterfly is Carl's **best** (wrong word – favourite) opera, and he's really looking forward to **see** (seeing) it in Italy. Carl? What would you be if you weren't (**an**) accountant? Carl: 'I **will** (would – it's not real) be the conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, of course!'