1 You use *it* to talk about the time or the date:

What time is it?   It's one o'clock.   It's nearly two o'clock.
What day is it today?   It's Monday.   It's the first of January.

2 You use *it* + *since* to say how long it is since something happened:

It's two weeks **since** I washed the car.   It's nearly a year **since** our last holiday.
It's a long time **since** you last wrote to me.

3 You use *it* to talk about the weather:

It's very cold.   It'll be nice and warm.   It was very hot in Brazil.
I think it's going to rain.   It's often **very windy** in autumn.

4 You use *it* + *adjective* + *...ing* or *it* + *to* ... to express a general opinion:

It's great living in London.   It's dangerous driving fast at night.
It's difficult to learn a foreign language.   It's not safe to go out at night.

You can say *It is/was ... of you/ him/ her to ... :*
It was clever of you to remember my name.   It is kind of you to write to me.

You can say *It is/was ... for ... to ... :*
It's easy for anyone to make a mistake.   It's hard for me to get up early in the morning.

5 You use *It* + *(that)* ... to express an opinion.

It's great that she has passed her exams.   It's surprising Alan didn't send you a birthday card.

Six more very common expressions:

It"s lucky ...   It's nice ...   It's a good thing ...   It's a pity ...   It's possible ...   It's funny ...
It's **lucky** it's not raining.   It's **a pity** it's so cold.   It's **possible** that we'll get a letter tomorrow.
It's **funny** we haven't met before.   It's **a good thing** you can speak English.
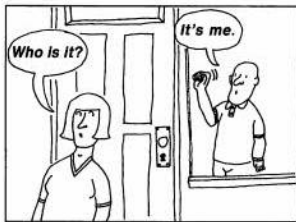
6 You use *I like/don't like/hate it ....*
to express an opinion:

I like it here.   I hate it when you leave .

7 You use *Who is it?* to ask who someone is.
You use *It's* to identify someone:

A Who's that over there?   B It's Bill.

8 Some more common expressions with *it*:

It doesn't matter ...   It takes ages ...   It takes a week ...

A I'm afraid I'll be a bit late.
B Don't worry. It doesn't matter.

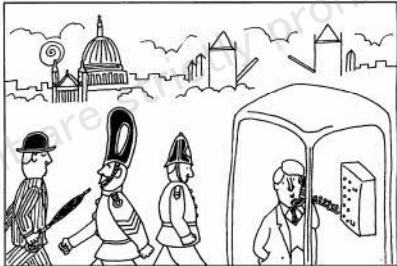A How long does it take to get to London?
B It takes about an hour by train.

Now do the practice exercises and say whether each answer belongs to number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 above.

A Complete these sentences by writing *It's a pity ... / It's lucky ... / It's a good thing ... :*

1 _It's a pity_ English is such a difficult language.

2 Everything's very expensive. _____ we brought plenty of money with us.

3 There's nothing to eat. _____ we had a big breakfast.

4 It's nice to see you, but _____ Ian isn't here too.

5 It's awfully cold in here. _____ we are wearing warm clothes.

6 It's very crowded in here. _____ we didn't come earlier.

7 He's a very clever boy. _____ he's so lazy.

B Use these expressions to complete the dialogue:

Oh, it's great being in London.　　Hello, it's me, Angela.　　it's ages since I saw you.　　Who is it?

It's nice to talk to you.　　Well, it's a bit cold, but it's not too bad.

A: Hello. _Who is it?_ _____ B: _____

A: Oh, hi! What's it like in England? B: _____

A: What about the weather? B: _____

_____

A: _____ B: Well, _____

Continue the dialogue with these expressions:

I didn't like it very much on the plane.　　it was a very long journey.　　it's four o'clock in the morning.

Was it very uncomfortable?　　Eight o'clock.　　I didn't know it was so late.　　It's really nice to hear from you.

A: Did you have a good journey?　　　　　　　B: Not really. _____

_____

A: Why not? _____　　　　B: No, it was comfortable, but _____

_____

A: What time is it over there?　　　　　　　　B: _____ Why?

A: Well _____

_____ here in Singapore.　B: Oh, I'm sorry. _____

A: Don't worry. _____　　　　　_____