JERRY AND LARRY

Jerry had just finished work. He usually worked from 9 to 5, Monday through Friday. But that Thursday, Jerry finished late. It was 8:30 and Jerry decided to walk home instead of taking the subway (V1).

His office was a twenty-five minute walk (* 1)from his house and he always enjoyed strolling (V2) through the park after work. The park was quiet that night – probably because Jerry was walking home at a later time than usual. Because it was so quiet, Jerry felt nervous. He started to feel really nervous when he noticed that a man was following him.

There were many paths in that park that Jerry was walking through. And every path he chose to walk down the stranger chose that path too. Jerry looked back for a moment and noticed that his follower had long hair and a black leather jacket. Jerry began to think that the man might be dangerous. He began to walk faster and chose a path that led back to the park's entrance towards his office. He thought that if he went back in the same direction that he had come from, he would know for sure (*2) whether or not the mysterious man was following him. If he wasn't following him then there would be no reason for him to head back to the park's entrance.

But the long-haired man did continue to follow Jerry, who became very afraid when he noticed this.

Jerry began to run. He ran by the park benches and the waterfall that was in the centre of the park. Nobody else was around, but (* 3)Jerry and the man behind him. When Jerry looked back to see if he was still being pursued, he saw that the man was running. And he was running fast. Jerry began running harder, 'I have to reach the subway where I'll be safe,' he thought.

He made it.

Soon he was surrounded by people and waiting for the train. The man that had been behind him was gone. Jerry never again walked home through the park.



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TEXT NOTES

(*1) a twenty-five minute walk

直訳すると、「25 分の徒歩」になります。"a twenty-five minute walk"全体で、名詞句を作っています。冠詞"a"がかかっているのは、"walk"(この場合、名詞)で、"twenty-five minute"は、"walk"を修飾する形容詞(=名詞を修飾することば)となっています。この用法で、所要時間を表わすことができます。例えば、

- ・ The station is a ten-minute walk from here. 「駅はここから歩いて 10 分です。」
- ・ It's a few-minute drive. 「(所要時間は)車で数分です。」

のような言い方ができます。

"-(ハイフン)"は、通常、数詞や、2 つ以上の語をつなげて形容詞的に用いるときに用いますが、英米による違いや個人によって、表記に差があるようです。

(*2) for sure

「確実に、確かに、きっと」という副詞です。"sure"の「確信して」という意味から考えるとよいでしょう。

I know fore sure that I won't be able to go to the party.

「間違いなく、パーティには行けないよ。」coation Laboratory

・ I cannot say for sure. 「確実とは言えないよ。」

のような使い方ができます。

(*3) Nobody else was around, but Jerry and the man behind him

"but"には、接続詞「しかし〜」のほかに、前置詞「〜を除いて、〜の他は」という意味もあります。本文では、"Nobody else was around"までで「周りには誰もいませんで

した」、"but Jerry and the man behind him"と続いて、「ジェリーと彼の後ろにいる男以外は」という内容になっています。この"but"の用法で、

Everyone but you know it.

「あなた以外みんな知ってるわよ。(知らないのはあなただけ。)」

This machine has been nothing but trouble.

「この機械はトラブル以外何もない。(いつも壊れてばかり。)」



VOCABULARY

(V1) subway

"sub-"は接頭語で、「下」の意味があります。"way"は「道」ですので、"subway"で「地下の道」ということになります。ですので、そもそもは、水道管や人が通るための「地下道」をさす言葉でした。それが、「地下鉄」の意味で使われるようになったのです。現在では、アメリカでは"subway"といえば「地下鉄」が第一義のようです。イギリスでは「地下鉄」は"underground"が一般的に使われています。もちろん現在でも、「地下道」の意味で使われることもありますので、場面・文脈で判断するようにしましょう。

(V2) strolling

原形は"stroll"で、「ぶらぶら歩く、ぶらつく、散歩する」の意味です。ここでは、動詞 "enjoy"の目的語で、"strolling"と"-ing形"になっています。

英語で「歩く」と言えば、walk が最も一般的な語ですが、歩き方の違いによって「歩く」 にいろいろな語彙があります。例えば、

- stroll「ゆっくり、リラックスした感じで歩く」
- ・ wade「(水中など困難な場所を)苦労して歩く」
- trail「(疲れて)足を引きずって歩く、のろのろ歩く」

など、他にもいろいろあるので、興味のある方は辞書で調べてみるとよいでしょう。

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