Jennifer looked at the clock on the waiting-room wall. Nearly half-past eight. The light was still on in Doctor Gibson's room. I'm going to be late, she said to herself, why doesn't he hurry up? The evening surgery was always busy on Thursdays but tonight was worse than usual.

(1) He / She / They / It quickly put the newspapers in a (2) wardrobe / shelf / cupboard / table. Then she took off her white (3) gloves / shoes / trousers / coat and locked it in the cupboard (4) to / too / two / together. She was turning off the lights (5) where / while / when / what someone rang the front doorbell. Oh (6) no / not / yes / well, not another patient, not at this (7) day / minute / hour / month. She ran to the door and (8) open / opening / openly / opened it. Outside it was dark but (9) her / she / he / hers could see a man, his hands (10) deep / low / down / under in his pockets. He moved his (11) heart / head / back / ears and the light fell on his (12) fork / flower / finger / face.

'Richard!' she cried in surprise. 'What (13) is / have / are / were you doing here?'

'Can I come (14) on / in / at / to for a minute?'

He did not (15) waited / waiting / waiter / wait for an answer but pushed past (16) her / she / hers / him and went inside. Jennifer turned to (17) he / his / him / her. She was usually pleased when Richard (18) shouted / cried / called / asked, but this was the wrong time. (19) 'I / I'm / Im / Its sorry, but you can't stay. I (20) could / would / might / must hurry. I'm meeting my friend Claire (21) at / to / for / of dinner and . . . ' She stopped. It was (22) Richard / Richards / Richard is / Richard's eyes – they looked tired and worried.

(23) 'Which's / What's / Who's / Where's the matter?' she asked.

Just then (24) Mr / Mrs / Dr / Ms Gibson called from his room. 'Did (25) I / I'm / it / they hear the doorbell, Nurse? Was it (26) other / another / more / an patient?'

'No, it's only my brother (27) him / that / it / Richard,' she called back.

She turned back (28) at / for / from / to Richard. 'Is something wrong?' she asked (29) another / more / again / before.

He shook his head. 'I'm fine,' (30) he / she / they / it said. 'It's just . . . well, I had some trouble at work.'

'Trouble?'

'It was nothing really. I said something to my boss and he didn't like it. He got angry with me and . . . and in the end he told me to go. So I've lost my job.'

© Oxford University Press