

baby-sitters /2/ just her way

So, every time we **were asked out**, my wife **spent hours calling** our friends **to ask** if any of them **had** an au pair who **was free to baby-sit** for the evening. Sometimes she **failed to** find anybody - or the girl who **was supposed to show up** simply **didn't** - and we **had to** sit at home, imagining the **fun** that **everybody else was having at** the party **to which we had been invited**.

But usually, **someone she called** recommended a babysitter. The girl arrived and I tried to explain **to** her **about** the boys' **bedtimes** and **where to find** the kettle and the cheese. I also tried to **make clear** that **there was no need to be upset** if the youngest boy started screaming and **throwing things around**. That was just **his way**.