

My father said **he'd rather go** to Italy **instead of** Ireland. My mother **would rather** go to Hawaii **so that** she could see a volcano.

We **pointed out** that they **hadn't** won a **free** trip to Italy, or Hawaii, **either**.

My mother could live **without seeing** Venice but she said she **would love to** climb up a **volcano**.

A chipmunk **was sitting** in the middle of the sidewalk **near** our house. It **got so involved in eating** a maple seed that **you** could **walk right up to it** before it ran away.

I never saw a chipmunk **that close** before. Maybe **there was something wrong with it**.

When Callie called me **to say** that her computer **had broken down** again, my parents **were still fretting about** the problems **of going** to Ireland in June.

They started to **think of it as** a second honeymoon. It **gave me the creeps to think of my parents having** a second honeymoon.

I thought that they **might have had an interest in** it when they were younger. But they **were already in their thirties** now. **It's weird to think** of people **that old having** any interest in **such** things.

Would you mind coming over?

I've got **a bit of a** problem. **I wonder** if you could help me.

Is it doing **the same things it did last time it broke?** -- **Pretty much.**

I had nothing better **to do** that morning **anyway.**

I **rode over** to **Callie's** on **my** bike.

Callie's house looks **just** like **ours on the outside, except** that my father paints **ours** grey **every** few years.

Timo **and I get to** paint the garage **as far up as we can reach.** Our relatives **all** come **over** for the day and **help us paint.**

The kids **get to** drink **as much** lemonade as they want. I **get to** see my cousins. The adults **treat** us almost **as if we were** the same age, **since** we're helping to do the work.

Inside, the rooms all **fit together the same way** the rooms in our house **do**.

It's **funny** how houses so much **alike** can **feel** so **different** inside. Callie's house always smells like coffee, **unlike ours**.

There's a phone in **almost** every room. Callie **is actually allowed to make calls** from her bedroom.

As a result of these differences, I never feel **quite comfortable** in Callie's house.

She'll yell at Callie for walking in the house **without taking** her shoes **off first**.

Unless Callie **reminds** me, I **tend to** forget. **You** don't have to take your shoes off **to** walk in my house.