

3.19 p73 **Exercise 3b**

Ashley decided to escape. He crept into the kitchen and then ran out of the back door.

But the man was now standing outside the back door and Ashley ran straight into him. The man fell backwards onto the garden and Ashley turned to run.

Just at that moment, his mother came round the corner of the house with the shopping. 'Ashley, what are you doing?' she said. 'He's a robber, Mum!' shouted Ashley 'He's in my photos at the bank and he's come to get me!'

'Don't be silly,' said his mother. 'This man hasn't come to get you. He's come to repair the telephone!'

'The telephone?' said Ashley.

'Yes,' said his mother. 'He's a telephone engineer – not a bank robber!'

'But, but ... a telephone engineer?' said Ashley.

'Yes,' said his mother. 'I tried to tell you that the phone wasn't working, but as usual you didn't listen.'

The engineer got up and brushed off his clothes.

'But I saw you at the bank this morning,' said Ashley.

'Yes, ha, ha, we were repairing the telephones before the bank opened,' said the man, and he laughed. Ashley's mother laughed, too. They both thought it was very funny. But Ashley didn't. He just thought it was very embarrassing.