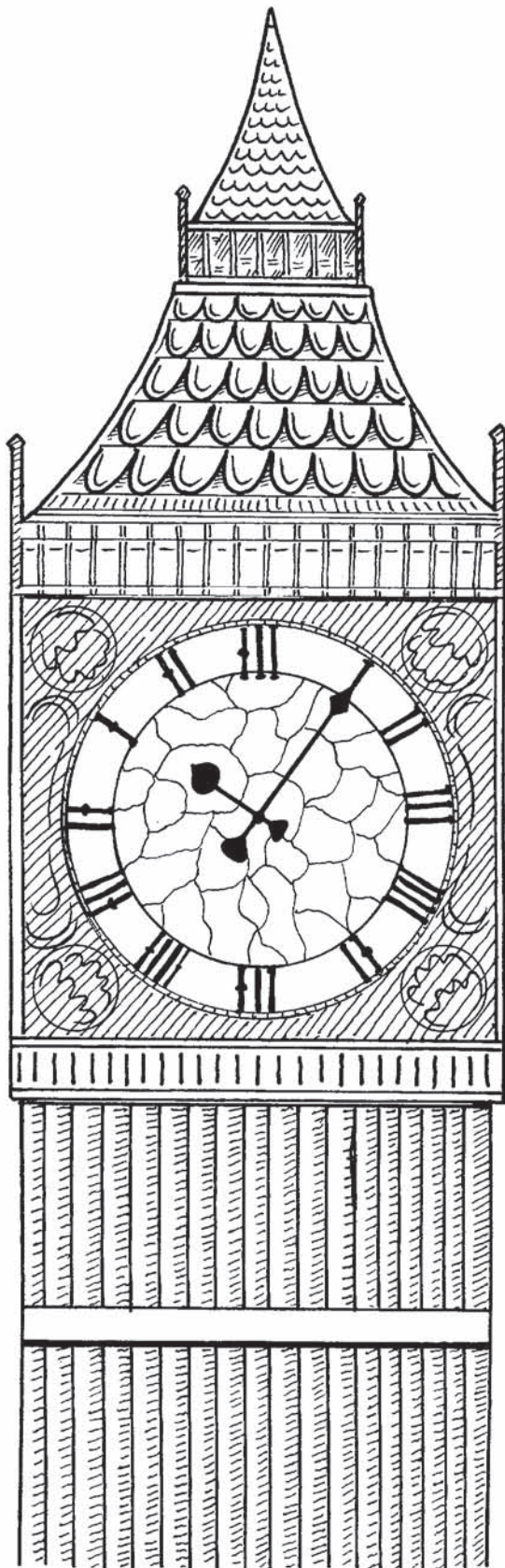


Section 1: Using good examples

Extract 3: Who is Big Ben?



Many people recognise the sight of the clock tower on the Houses of Parliament, known as Big Ben. In fact, Big Ben isn't the name of the tower, or even the clock.

The tower is called the Clock Tower. It is a 96 metre tower at one end of the Houses of Parliament. There is a light at the top of the tower that is lit whenever the MPs, the people who make laws for the land, are working at night.

At the bottom of the tower there are the rooms where the Sergeant at Arms – a policeman for Parliament – can keep any naughty MPs in detention (this last happened in 1880).

The clock is huge – four dials, each seven metres across. The Roman numerals on the clock are 60cm long and each minute space is 30cm. The clock is an old type of clock that uses weights to make it 'tick tock' along. To make the weights really accurate, they use old pennies. Each penny

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