

Transcription/Dictation #1. Prof. Soledad García Añón.
From "Telling Stories", by Maeve Binchy.
109 words.

Transcribe the following passage or use the recording as a dictation.

Irene rarely took herself through the evening before the day she was due to be married. But if she had to then she could have done it with no difficulty. It wasn't hard to remember the smells: the lilac in the garden, the polish on all furniture, the orange blossom in the house. She even remembered the rich smell of the hand-cream she was massaging carefully into her hands when she heard the doorbell ring. It must be a late present, she thought, or possibly yet another fussy aunt who had come up from the country for the ceremony and arrived like a homing pigeon at the house.

Before you look at the key, have another look at the articles, prepositions, personal pronouns, modals and auxiliaries in the passage (in italics). Can you account for any instances of strong forms? Which ones? Why?

Irene rarely took herself *through the* evening before *the* day she *was due to be* married. But if she *had to* then she *could have* done it with no difficulty. It *wasn't* hard *to* remember *the* smells: *the* lilac in *the* garden, *the* polish on all furniture, *the* orange blossom in *the* house. She even remembered *the* rich smell *of the* hand-cream she *was* massaging carefully *into her* hands when she heard *the* doorbell ring. It *must be* a late present, she thought, or possibly yet another fussy aunt who *had* come up from *the* country *for the* ceremony and arrived like a homing pigeon *at the* house.

Key:

aɪrɪ:n reəli tʊk hɜ:sɛlf θru: ði i:vŋɪŋ bɪfɔ: ðə deɪ ʃi wəz dju: tə bi
mæɪɪd | bət ɪf ʃi hæd tu: ðen ʃi kʊd hæv dʌŋ ɪt wɪð nəʊ
dɪfɪkəlti | ɪt wəznt hæd tə rɪ'membə ðə smelz | ðə laɪlək ɪn ðə
ɡɑ:dŋ | ðə pɔɪf ɒn ɔ:l ðə fɜ:nɪʃə | ði ɒrɪndʒ blɒsəm ɪn ðə
haʊs | ʃi i:vŋ rɪ'membəd ðə rɪʃ smel əv ðə hænd kri:m ʃi wəz
mæsɔ:zɪŋ keəfəli ɪntə hə hændz wen ʃi hɜ:d ðə dɔ:bel rɪŋ | ɪt
məst bi ə leɪt prezənt | ʃi θɔ:t | ɔ: pɒsəbli jət ənʌðə flʌsi aɪnt
hu həd klʌm ʌp frəm ðə kʌntri fə ðə serɪməni ənd əraɪvd laɪk
ə həʊmɪŋ pɪdʒən ət ðə haʊs |