KEY into inference

SENTENCES when

With these questions you are looking for KEY words that tell you - when something happened, how often things happened.

MODEL SENTENCE: Having been out in the mountains since dawn and with freezing winds beginning to sweep the slopes and the light fading, the search party were about to abandon the search for the missing climbers when three figures were spotted moving along a snow-covered ridge.

QUESTION: What time of day was it when the missing climbers were spotted?

ANSWER: Late afternoon/early evening.

KEY WORDS: since dawn - tells you it is now later in the day
the light fading - tells you it must have been late in the afternoon or early evening

PRACTISE

1. The first glint of light in the eastern sky was the signal for the soldiers to clamber from the shelter of their trenches.
   What part of the day was it?

2. With hunger gnawing at her stomach and the sun at its zenith, Barbara sought the shade of a small cafe.
   What part of the day was it?

3. Anna observed the seemingly endless flocks of birds migrating to a warmer climate and yearned to be going with them.
   What season was it?

4. Having travelled so far, Doug was disappointed to find that he no longer recognised the village.
   Had Doug been in the village before? How do you know that?

5. The house, which had once seemed so large and full of wonderful places for games of hide and seek, now seemed cramped and small.
   When had the writer been in the house before?
KEY into inference

SENTENCES where

With these questions you are looking for KEY words that tell you - where something or someone was, is, or is going to.

MODEL
SENTENCE: After the turbulence of the gorge, the raft was finally carried by the current into a broad sheet of slow-moving water, to the relief of all on board.

QUESTION: Where was the raft going?

ANSWER: Going down a river.

KEY WORDS: gorge and water - tells you the raft is on a river carried by the current - tells you it is going downstream

PRACTISE

1. Liz stood in the middle of the vast empty room, recalling the chattering voices of hundreds of children and then the sudden silence when the principal walked onto the stage.

   Where was Liz?

2. Although the venue was immense, the band had no trouble filling it with roof-raising, throbbing sound.

   Where is this?

3. The killer whale circled the unfamiliar cramped space that was its new home.

   Where was the killer whale?

4. It was a strange place to meet perhaps, among worn marble slabs and broken angels, but, as a place rarely visited at night, ideal for our purpose.

   Where did they meet?

5. Although less distinct and more oval, from this distance it has the familiar appearance of the globe found in most school classrooms.

   Where is the writer?