

# Stories for Lipreading

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## [Pipe Troubles by Michael Edwards - Setting the Scene](#)

In this autobiographical piece set in the 1950s, the author recalls reluctantly helping his father to replace part of the soil-pipe main drain for their house. He describes how his father labours for many patient hours to prepare a special open channel junction pipe. The part the author played in the subsequent installation proved unforgettable...

### Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

Dad would often undertake  
Competent  
Lack of skills  
Outstanding act  
Mere thought of it makes me cringe  
Urgent  
New gulley pipes  
Main drain running along  
Fence  
Usual choice of assistant for the more complex tasks  
Reluctantly drafted in  
Only a closed one  
Local building suppliers  
Delay  
Cut it in half  
Trench was duly dug through the concrete  
Club-hammer and chisel  
No toilet  
Set about cutting the pipe  
Along the length of the pipe arms  
With angled side entry  
On a bed of sand  
Shattered  
Cleaved half-pipe  
Cement grout readied  
Minor role in the ensuing drama  
Don't drop it  
I readied myself  
Task in hand  
Tug  
Foot or so  
Urged on my way  
Of the saga  
Expunged