

# Fun with Stamps – 17

## Let's Get Organised

Sheets 17 and 18 have lots of stamp collecting hints. Draw some pictures that would show people what NOT to do with their stamps. (We've done some for you). You can make these pages into a book, or put them into your stamp album.

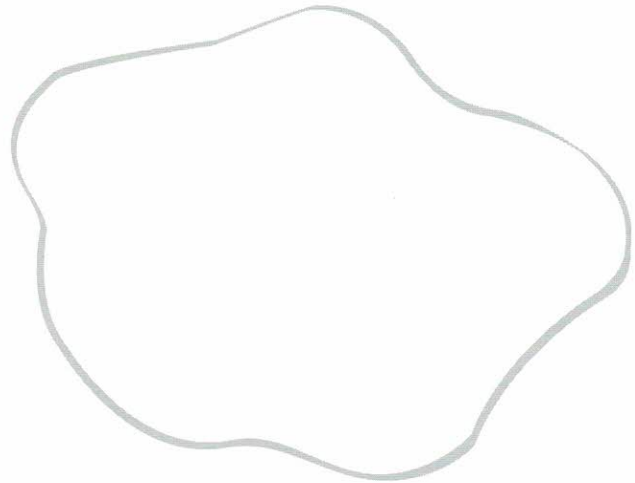
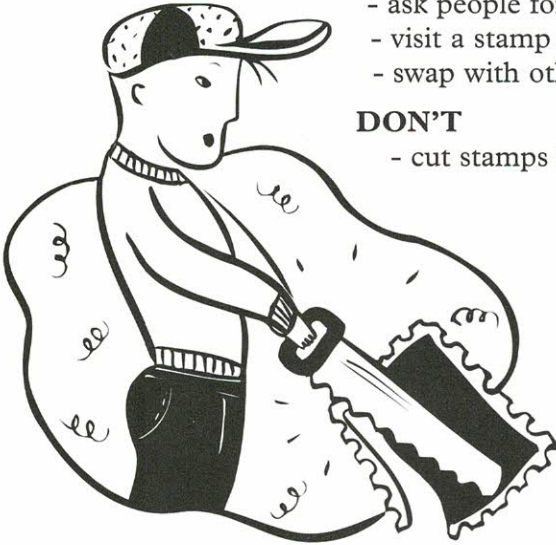
Collecting stamps requires some planning. To begin stamp collecting you will need lots of stamps to sort and swap.

### DO

- ask people for their stamps.
- visit a stamp dealer.
- swap with other people.

### DON'T

- cut stamps from your neighbour's letters!



### DO

- cut around it!

Use a pair of scissors to carefully cut around a stamp on an envelope. Leave a reasonable amount of paper around the stamp so that you are unlikely to cut the stamp or damage its perforations.

### DON'T

- tidy up the edges with a saw!

### DO

- soak it off!

Place the stamp with the design face up in a bowl of warm water.

This will soak the gum from the back of the stamp in about five minutes.

'Peel and stick' self-adhesive stamps will take longer (about 20 minutes).

Avoid putting stamps on coloured envelopes in to soak with those on white envelopes. This will stop the colours running together.

### DON'T

- soak the stamps off in your bath!

**DO**

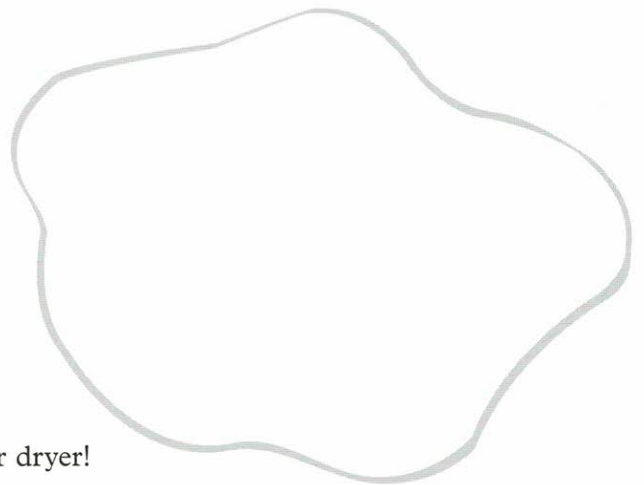
- dry it out!

Using special stamp tweezers, carefully transfer the wet stamp on to a clean sheet of cloth, such as a clean tea towel or a paper towel.

Leave the stamp until it's dry and then use your stamp tweezers to place it in your album.

Stamp tweezers are different from the tweezers you might use to pull out splinters. They are specially designed so they will not damage your stamps.

Stamp dealers and post offices usually sell the proper blunt-nosed stamp tweezers.

**DON'T**

- try to be faster by using a hair dryer!

**DO**

- store it carefully!

Stamps can be very easily dirtied or creased. Flat storage between the pages of an album is the safest way of keeping stamps and the most convenient way of displaying them.

Stamp albums come in different sizes and bindings. Some stamp albums have clear cellophane strips in which to mount stamps. Others use plastic mount strips which can be bought in packets. For yet other albums, stamp hinges are needed. Stamp hinges are slightly gummed on one side and hold stamps in place without damaging them.

Glue and sticky tape should never be used to mount stamps, as they can cause a lot of damage.