

## Time for Toast

The Smiths own an old-fashioned toaster that takes only two slices of bread at a time, toasting one side of each. To toast the other side, you have to remove the slices, turn them over, and put them back into the toaster. It takes exactly one minute for the toaster to toast one side of each piece of bread that it contains.

One morning, Mr. Smith wished to toast both sides of three slices. Mrs. Smith watched over the top of her newspaper and smiled when she saw how her husband went about it. It took him four minutes.

“You could have toasted those three slices in less time, my dear,” she said, “and kept down the cost of our electric bill.”

Was Mrs. Smith right, and if so, how could her husband have toasted those three slices in less than four minutes?

