

1. Tell about yourself

2. Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A traveller who had been riding in the rain and was wet through, arrived at a small hotel in the country. There was only one fireplace in the hall and a lot of people around it. The traveller thought of a plan how to get warm. He asked the hotel owner to take some fish to his horse. The hotel owner was surprised but the traveller insisted and the hotel owner did as he was asked. All the people rushed out to see the horse eat fish. The traveller had the fireplace all to himself and felt comfortable. When the hotel owner returned he said, "I was sure horses do not eat fish."— "Then why did you take it to my horse?"

Questions:

1. Why did the hotel owner try to feed the horse with fish?
2. Why did the traveller ask him to do it?

3 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A young writer has just managed to publish his first book. He is very proud of his success and is boasting of it to everybody around. For more than half an hour he has been talking about his success to one of his friends who is also a writer. At last he thinks that his friend is not very much interested and apologizes saying "I am sorry to have taken so much of your time, it is so selfish of me." — "Never mind," answered his friend absent-mindedly. "You haven't taken my time at all. I've been thinking over the plot of my new novel."

Questions:

1. Was the young writer modest?
2. Why wasn't his friend annoyed?

4 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

The famous composer Rakhmaninov was also a very good pianist. When he was a small boy he was asked to play at a home party at their friends' place. Though he was only eight he was quite experienced in playing the piano and did it well. At that concert he was to play one of Beethoven's sonatas. It must be mentioned that there are several very long intervals in that sonata. In each of these intervals the boy took his hands off the keyboard and waited. During one of these intervals the old mother of the hostess came up to him and said, "My boy, why don't you play something that you know very well?"

Questions:

1. Why did the boy stop playing several times?
2. Did the old lady know Beethoven's music well?

5 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A certain king was in the habit of writing verses. He thought highly of them. Since he was a king the people to whom he showed them tried to praise them too. Once he showed his verses to a wise man. The wise man didn't like them. It made the king very angry and he put the man into prison. Some time passed and the king decided to set him free. The king invited him to dinner and showed him his new verses. Then he asked the wise man what he thought of them. The wise man turned to the king and said, "Send me back to prison."

Questions:

1. Was the king wise?
2. Why did the wise man ask to send him back to prison?

6 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A driver who was going in his car at a great speed through the country road saw a man crossing the road and a dog following him. As the car drew near them the dog suddenly stopped, was hit by the car and killed. The driver stopped his car and came up to the man. "I am very sorry for what has happened," he said. "Will 50 dollars be enough for the killed dog?" — "Oh, yes," said the man, "50 dollars will be quite enough." The man put the money in his pocket and when the driver disappeared in the distance, looked at the dog and thought, "I wonder whose dog it was."

Questions:

1. Did the man feel very unhappy that the dog had been killed?
2. Why was he happy to get 50 dollars?

7 . Describing the picture



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A rich old businessman decided to make his will. He told his lawyer he would give 5 thousand pounds to each of his employees who had been working with him for 20 years or more. The lawyer was surprised at such generosity of the businessman. But the businessman said that he wasn't going to be generous at all because none of his employees had worked for him longer than a year. He only wanted to produce a favourable impression on the public for he was sure it would look nice in the newspapers.

Questions:

1. The old businessman wasn't generous, was he?
2. Why did the businessman make such a will?

9 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

Once Mark Twain was invited to the opera. All through the opera his friend's wife was talking to her husband. She talked so much and so loudly that Mark Twain could hardly hear anything. After the performance she said to Mark Twain, "Dear Mark Twain, may I invite you to the opera again next Friday? The opera will be 'Carmen' you are sure to like it." — "Thank you very much," said Mark Twain, "that will be fine. I haven't heard you in 'Carmen' yet."

Questions:

1. Why couldn't Mark Twain enjoy the opera?
2. Was the lady going to sing in "Carmen"?

10 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

Enrico Caruso, a famous Italian singer, often said, "No one is so well-known as he thinks." He knew it by his own experience. Once he came to the United States to give concerts. One day he was driving to New York and his car broke down. It was near the farm and he asked the farmer to help him repair the car. When the car was repaired, Caruso paid the farmer for his work and gave him his photograph with his name on it. The farmer read the name on the photograph and cried out, "What a luck! I've never dreamed of receiving the greatest traveller Robinson Crusoe in my house!"

Questions:

1. What did Caruso know by his own experience?
2. Who did the farmer, take Caruso for?

11 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

At a school examination the teacher handed out the question papers to all the children, looked at her watch and said that they were to finish their work in an hour. The children read the question papers and started writing the answers. At ten o'clock the teacher collected the papers and saw that one of the children hadn't written anything and was still reading his question paper. "Is any question troubling you?" the teacher asked. "Not at all," he answered, "it's the answers that are troubling me."

Questions:

1. What time did the written examination begin?
2. Why didn't the pupil write anything?

12 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

The school teacher of History was having the last class of the school year. At the end he spoke about the final examination in history. He said that each pupil should devote all the remaining time preparing for the final examination. "The examination papers are being typed now," he said. "Are there any questions concerning the exam?" There was a long silence and then one of the pupils stood up and asked, "Who is typing the examination cards?"

Questions:

1. What examination did the teacher speak about?
2. Why did the pupil want to know who the typist was?

2 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

An American was travelling in Switzerland. Once he was taken by a local man to the hills. The man shouted, "Hello!" and after about five minutes the echo came back. "You can't have that in America, can you?" said the Swiss. "Yes, we can," replied the American. "At my house in the hills, every night before I go to bed, I put my head out of the door and shout, 'It's time to get up.' Nine hours later the echo wakes me up."

Questions:

1. How long did it take the echo in Switzerland to come back?
2. Did the American tell the truth?

14 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

Two men were boasting to each other about how rich their families were. One said, "My father's farm is so big that when my mother goes off to milk the cows on Monday morning she gets back only on Saturday evening." — "Really?" said the other. "Well, I think that's a pretty big farm but it would look like a small garden if compared with my father's farm." — "How big is your father's farm?" asked the first man. "Well, when my father sends a young married couple to milk the cows their grandchildren bring the milk back home."

Questions:

1. How long does it take the first man's mother to get the milk home?
2. Which of the two men was more boastful?

15 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A passenger was travelling in a train. Suddenly he wanted his handkerchief and couldn't find it in his pocket. He accused the fellow passenger, who was in the same compartment, of stealing it. He continued to look for it and at last found it in his back pocket. He began to apologize to the fellow passenger for accusing him. "I am awfully sorry, I was mistaken," he said. But the passenger said calmly, "It's all right. We were both mistaken. You thought I was a thief, and I thought you were a gentleman."

Questions:

1. Why did the man accuse his fellow passenger of stealing his handkerchief?
2. Who put the handkerchief into the passenger's back pocket?

16 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

The father of a famous English actress didn't allow her to marry an actor. Nevertheless, one day he was told that his daughter had secretly married one of the actors of his company. The father got angry and decided to punish them both. "Why did you marry an actor when I told you not to do it," he shouted at her, "and besides he is the worst actor in my company who can hardly be called an actor!" — "So dear father, I have obeyed your orders," said the young actress. I have married someone whom you can't call an actor."

Questions:

1. What did the young actress do against her father's will?
2. What was the father's mistake?

17 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A passenger addressed a lady travelling in the same compartment:

- "Have you a family, madam?" - "Yes sir, one son."

- "Indeed! Does he smoke?" - "No, sir, he has never touched a cigarette."

- "So much the better, madam. Tobacco is poison. Does he drink wine?" -

"Oh, no, he has never taken a drop of it."

- "Then I congratulate you. Does he come late at night?" - "Never. He always goes to bed right after dinner."

- "He is a model young man, madam. How old is he?" - "Five years, sir."

Questions:

1. Why did the man call the lady's son a model young man?
2. Where did the conversation take place?

18 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

A doctor was often stopped by one of his patients the street and asked for his medical advice free of charge. The doctor didn't like it and decided to put an end to this practice.

One day a patient stopped him again and exclaimed, "Oh, doctor! I'm so glad to see you. I have such a bad headache?. The doctor seemed very much interested and said, "Close your eyes, open your mouth and show me your tongue." The patient did so. Then the doctor quickly went away leaving the patient with his mouth open and tongue out. .1

Questions:

1. Why did the patient ask the doctor for advice in the street?
2. In what way did the doctor put an end to this practice?

18 . Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

The famous J. Swift was once travelling with his servant. They put up at a small hotel where they spent the night. In the morning Swift asked for his boots. The servant immediately brought them to him. When Swift saw the dirty boots he asked, "Why haven't you cleaned them?" — "I haven't cleaned them," replied the servant, "because you are going to ride and they will soon be dirty again." — "Very well", said Swift, "go and get the horses ready." While the servant was away, Swift told the landlord not to give the servant any breakfast. When the servant returned he was surprised but Swift said, "You haven't had your breakfast because we are going to ride and soon you will be hungry again."

Questions:

1. Why did Swift order to leave his servant without breakfast?
2. Did Swift treat his servant kindly?

20. Describing the picture



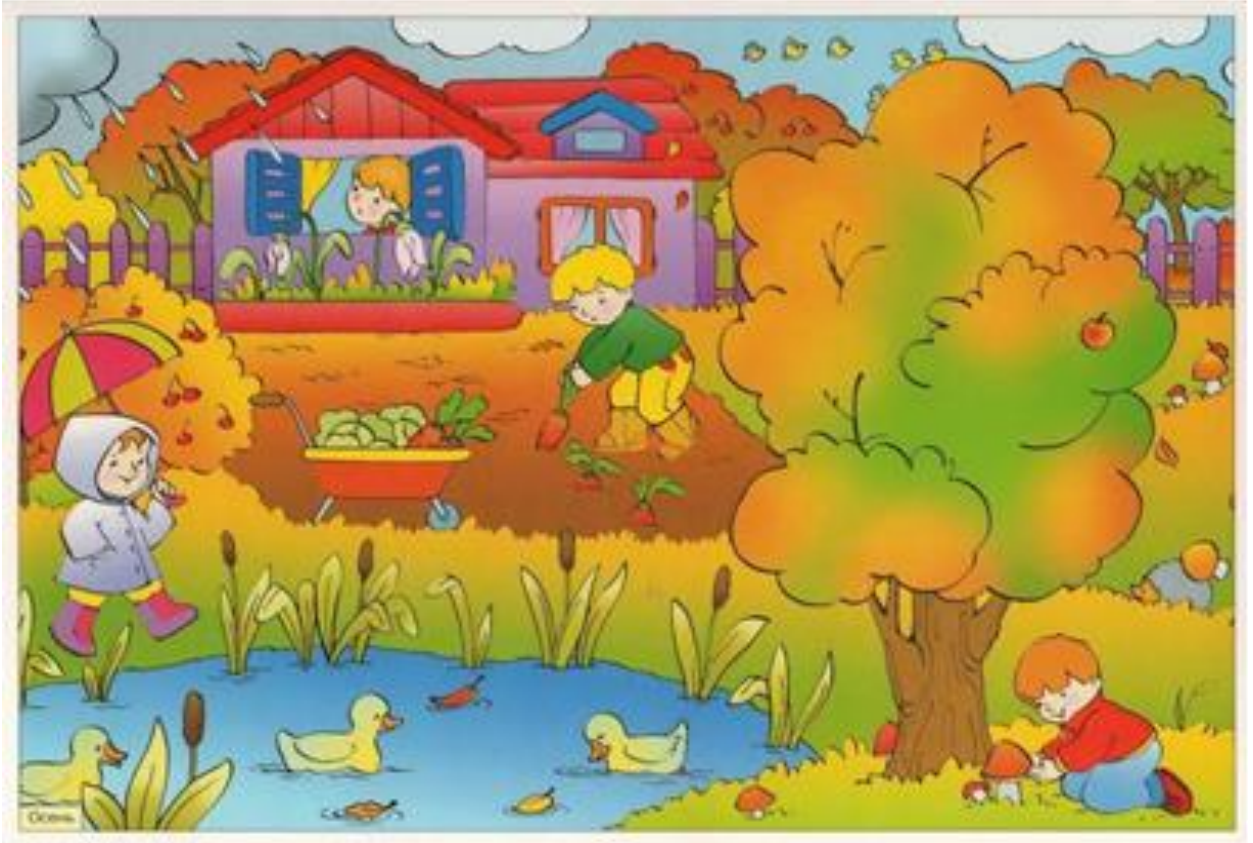
Read and answer the questions.

Once a French cab driver played a joke on Conan Doyle. The driver took Conan Doyle from the station to the hotel and said, "Thank you, Mr Conan Doyle." Conan Doyle was surprised and asked how he knew his name. The driver said that he had seen in the papers that the writer was coming to Paris. And he said that Conan Doyle's appearance was typically English and he guessed at once, who he was. "Besides," said the man, "your name is written on your luggage."

Questions:

1. What was Conan Doyle surprised with?
2. What helped the driver to recognize Conan Doyle?

21. Describing the picture



Read and answer the questions.

Mark Twain and a friend of his went abroad on the same ship. Once they were both invited to a dinner. And they were to make speeches. Mark Twain was the first to speak. He spoke for twenty minutes and was a great success. Then it was his friend's turn. He rose and said, "Before this dinner Mark Twain and I agreed to pronounce each other's speeches. He has just pronounced my speech. And I thank you for your kind appreciation of my speech. I'm sorry to say that I have lost the notes of his speech and can't remember what he was to say." Then he sat down and the guests burst out laughing.

Questions:

1. What did Mark Twain's friend do when it was his turn to make a speech?
2. Did the guests understand what Mark Twain's friend had done?

22. Describing the picture



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Questions:

1. Was the young writer modest?
2. Why wasn't his friend annoyed?

25. Describing the picture



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29. Describing the picture



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A London girl was spending her holiday in the country for the first time. One day she complained to the farmer that the bull had been running after her. She was very much frightened because she had never seen bulls before. "Well," said the farmer, "the bull was running after you because of the red blouse you were wearing." — "Dear me," said the girl, "of course, I understand that this blouse is awfully out of fashion. But I didn't know the bull would notice it."

Questions:

1. The girl didn't understand why the bull had been running after her, did she?
2. How did the farmer explain the bull's behaviour?

30. Describing the picture



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