**Л.Х. Шаяхметова**

**Тексты**

**для аудирования**

**Казань - 2012**

Казанский федеральный университет

Институт филологии и искусств

Кафедра иностранных языков

Пособие адресовано учителям английского языка, а также широкому кругу лиц, желающих освоить английский язык самостоятельно.

***Text 1***

**The joke**

Mark Twain was a humorist not only in his books but also in everyday life.

One day, when he was in England, he went to watch the horse races not far from London. When the races were over and he was walking to the station to take a train back to London, he met an English friend of his. The friend, who had lost all his money at the races, asked Twain to buy him a railway ticket back to London.

«Sorry, old boy», replied the author. «I haven’t got enough money for two railway tickets. But never mind, I’ll tell you what we’ll do. Wait for me here. I’ll buy a ticket for myself and then you can hide under my seat, and I’ll hide you with my legs when the inspector comes».

When Mark Twain came back from the ticket office, they found an empty compartment in the train, so his friend was able to hide under the seat. Soon after, the train started and it was not long before the inspector came into the compartment. Twain, who was always ready to play jokes on his friends, had got two railway tickets at the ticket office, and now he handed them to the inspector. The inspector looked round the empty compartment and asked whose the other ticket was.

«Oh, it’s my friend’s», replied the author «he’s hiding under the seat. You see, he is not quite right in his head and he likes to travel this way».

**Answer the questions:**

1. What did Mark Twain visit one day?
2. Where was it?
3. Whom did Mark Twain meet?
4. Where did he meet his friend?
5. What did Mark Twain’s friend happen to?
6. What did Mark Twain’s friend ask him about?
7. Why did Mark Twain’s friend ask him to buy a railway ticket?
8. What did Mark Twain answer him?
9. How did Mark Twain promise to help his friend?
10. Where did Mark Twain decide to hide his friend?
11. Who came into their compartment?
12. How many tickets did Mark Twain buy?
13. Why did the inspector look round the compartment?
14. What did the inspector ask Mark Twain about?
15. What did Mark Twain answer?
16. Why did Mark Twain do like that?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 2***

**Strange instrument**

When Edison was fifteen, he worked as a telegraph operator. He was on duty every night from 7 p.m. till 7 a.m., and he had to give a signal every hour to show that he was awake. This was hard for a boy of fifteen, but Edison was already so clever that he always managed to do his duty and to have his sleep as well.

One night an inspector came to see if everything was all right, and he found the young telegraph operator fast asleep in his chair. He was about to wake him when suddenly he saw a strange little instrument with two levers on the table near the larger telegraph instrument. The inspector had a good look at the strange little instrument, but he couldn’t make head or tail of it. However, he realized what it was for when the hand of the clock on the wall pointed to the hour. At once the strange little instrument got busy. One lever opened the key of the telegraph instrument, while the other sent the signal over the wire. Instead of compliments the clever young inventor got the sack. That is why the first of his many inventions was never patented.

**Answer the questions:**

1. What was Thomas Alva Edison?
2. What was he when he was fifteen years old?
3. What was his duty?
4. When did he work? At what hours?
5. Why did he have to give a signal every hour?
6. Was it hard for a boy of 15 to be awake the whole night?
7. What did Edison manage to do?
8. Who came to Edison one night?
9. Why did the inspector come?
10. What did he see?
11. What instrument did the inspector have a good look at?
12. Did the inspector realize what it was for?
13. How did the strange instrument work?
14. What did the inspector do with Edison?
15. Was the invention of Edison brilliant?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Text 3***

**Advice to the American Traveler**

One day my Uncle Malice traveled from Fresno to New York. Before he gets aboard the train his Uncle Garry paid him a visit and told him about the dangers of the travel.

"When you get on the train", - the old man said, "choose your seat carefully, sit down and do not look about. Several moments after the train begins to move two men in uniforms will come down the aisle and ask you for your ticket. Ignore them. They will be impostors. Then a young man will come to you and offer you a cigarette. Tell him you don't smoke. The cigarette will be doped, on your way to the dinner a very beautiful young woman will run into you on purpose and almost embrace you. She will be very attractive, and your natural wish will be to become friends with her. Don't do this, go into the diner and eat. If she speaks, pretend to be deaf. That is the only way out of the whole trouble. On your way back to your seat," the old man continued, "You will pass through the smoker. There you will find a game of cards in progress. One of the players will invite you to join the game. Tell them, "I don't speak English. Thank you very much." "One thing more", - the old man went on, "when you go to bed at night, take your money out of your pocket and put it in your shoe. Put your shoe under the pillow, keep your head on the pillow all night and don't sleep. That is all."

The old man went away and on the next day my Uncle Malice get aboard the train and went to New York. The two young men were not imposters, the young man with the doped cigarette did not appear, the beautiful young woman did not sit at his table in the diner and there was no card game in progress in the smoker. My uncle put his money in the shoe and put his shoe under the pillow and put his head on the pillow and did not sleep, but the second night he decided not to follow his uncle's advice.

On the second day he himself offered another man a cigarette. In the diner my uncle went sat at a table with a young lady and long before the train get to New York my uncle knew everybody and everybody knew him. When the train was near Ohio, my uncle, the young man and two young ladies sang American songs together. The journey was very pleasant one. When my Uncle Malice came back from New York, his Uncle Garry visited him again. "I see you are all right", - he said. - "Did you follow my instruction?" -"Yes, sir,” - my uncle answered. "I am pleased", - the old man said, - "that someone had profited by my experience!"

**Answer the questions:**

1. Who went to New York?
2. Why Uncle Garry pay a visit?
3. What advice did the old man give?
4. Did the young man follow his uncle's advice?
5. Did the old man's warning come true?
6. What way did the young man enjoy his travel?
7. Was the old man satisfied with his nephew's behavior?

h) Was he happy about his nephew?

i) If you were in the young man's place would you behave the same way?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 4***

**It only made things worse**

A husband said to his friend: "My wife doesn't allow me to sleep. She is afraid of thieves and wakes me up if she hears the slightest noise and makes me get up to see if there are burglars in the house." "You can easily get over that difficulty. Just explain to your wife that thieves don't make any noise, they work quietly and don't disturb anybody. "I've already done that", - said old man, "but it only made things worse. Now she gets me up every night because she hears nothing."

**Answer the questions:**

1. Why doesn't the man's wife allow him to sleep?
2. Who is afraid of thieves?
3. Why does she make her husband get up at night?
4. What was his friend's advise?
5. Did it make things better?
6. Why does she get up every night?

***Text 5***

**King Solomon**

Once upon a time there was a very powerful and a very good king. All the people in the land loved him. He was very wise. One day two women came to the king's court. They were fighting over the baby-girl. The first woman told the king: "She is mine, your highness. She belongs to me. I gave birth to the baby last month. Look she looks like me!" The second woman said to the king: "She's lying. The baby is mine, can't you see how she looks like me, your highness?" The king listened to the two stories and he thought for a few minutes. Then the king said: "O.K. The only solution of this problem is to saw the baby in halves with a knife". The first woman cried out: "No, no! Give her to this woman then". The king said to the first woman: "Now I know that you are the true mother. Take your baby."

**Answer the questions:**

1. Who was Solomon?
2. What kind of person was he?
3. Did people love him?
4. Why did two women come to him?
5. What did make them come to the king's court?
6. What were these two women fighting over?
7. How did he solve the problem?
8. How did the two women behave when they heard Solomon's decision?
9. How did the king find the real mother of the baby?

10.Why did the king give the baby to the first woman?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 6***

**A Story about Josef Turner**

Josef Turner lived in the 19th century. He was a famous English painter. His paintings were a great success. He was fond of dogs. One day his dog, which he loved very much, broke a leg. The artist was very sorry for the dog and wanted to have it to be well again. He was rich enough to send for the best surgeon in London instead of talking a veterinary. The surgeon arrived and asked the famous painter what the matter was. Josef Turner realized that the famous surgeon might get offended if he learned that the patient was a dog. So he decided to praise the surgeon. He told the surgeon that he was a great and famous doctor. He begged the surgeon to help his dog because it was very important for him. The surgeon felt annoyed but he didn't show it. He treated the dog carefully and soon it was quite well.

The next week the surgeon asked Turner to come to his place. The artist believed that the surgeon wanted to see him in connection with his dog. Josef Turner arrived at the appointed time and he was shown into the sitting room. The surgeon met him very warmly and said: "Mr. Turner, I'm so glad you've come. My door needs painting. I know you are too great painter for this work, but I beg you to do it. It is so important for me".

**Answer the questions:**

What was Josef Turner?

What was he fond of?

What happened to his dog?

Did Josef Turner send for the veterinary?

Whom did he send for? Why?

Did the surgeon give Josef Turner a lesson?

How did he do that?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 7***

**The Thief and His Mother**

A boy stole a book from one of his school friends and took it home to his mother. Not only did she not beat him, she actually praised him. The next thing he stole was a coat, and when he brought it to her, she praised him even further. In time the youth became a man and proceeded to steel things of greater value. At last he was caught in the very act, and was led away to prison with his hands bound behind him. His mother followed in the crowd and wrung her hands in sorrow. Seeing this the young man said: "I wish to whisper something in my mother's ear". When she came close to him, he quickly seized her ear in his teeth and bit it. His mother scolded him for being an unnatural child. To this he replied: "Ah! If you had only scolded me when 1 first stole that book from school, I should not have come to this disgraceful end".

**Answer the questions:**

1. What did the boy steal for the first time?
2. What was his mother's reaction?
3. What did he do having been caught?
4. How do you think whose fault is it in boy's disgraceful end?
5. Why do you blame his mother?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 8***

**A wise judge**

Once there were two brothers. They worked together on their father’s farm. They were very friendly. One day their father died and left his property to his two sons. Before he died he told them to divide the property between them. But the brothers could not agree how to divide it. Each wanted to have the better part for himself. After some time they did not speak to each other. At last they went to a judge who was very wise and always knew how to decide such difficult matters. The judge listened to them attentively and then said: "The matter is very simple. We shall divide the property in this way. One of you will divide it in the way he thinks is best and the other one will have the right to choose any of the two parts he prefers". In this way the matter was settled.

**Answer the given questions:**

1. Where did the brothers work?
2. Who was the owner of the farm?
3. What did the father leave to his sons?
4. What did he tell his sons before his death?
5. Did the sons divide the property between them? Why?
6. Who did they ask for help?
7. In what way was the matter settled?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 9***

**Wisdom is Stronger than Muscle Power**

A cap-seller lived in a village. He made caps and sold them in a nearby town. It was a very hot day. He was passing through a forest to sell his caps. There were many monkeys in that jungle. He got tired. He thought of taking rest. He came under a shady tree, put his bundle down and lay down. He was soon fast asleep. He was wearing a cap on his head.

The monkeys sitting on the trees watched him. They climbed down the three and untied the bundle. Each of them put a cap on its head and then climbed up the tree. When the cap-seller got up, he found the bag empty. He was surprised. By chance he saw the caps on the heads of the monkeys.

It was very difficult to get back those caps. He thought of a plan. He threw away his own cap. The monkeys imitated and threw away the caps on the ground. The cap-seller gathered all the caps and went to the market.

**Answer the given questions:**

1. Who lived in a village?
2. Where did he sell his caps?
3. What was the weather like that day?
4. How many monkeys were in that jungle?
5. What did he do when he got tired?
6. Why did the monkeys put the caps on their heads?
7. Why he was surprised?
8. What did he see on the heads of the monkeys?
9. Did the monkeys imitate the man?
10. What way did they imitate him?
11. After gathering all the caps where did he go?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 10***

**Once at night**

A man who lived in one of the suburbs of a big town in England went home from the railway station. It was night and there was nobody in the street. Suddenly he heard that somebody was following him. The man stopped and the man behind him also stopped. The man started to walk quickly and the man behind him also started to walk quickly. The man started to run and the man behind him also started to run.

Then the first man saw a well around the garden. That man behind me wants to rob me, thought the man, and he jumped over the wall. The other man jumped over the wall too. The first man turned round to him and said: "What do you want? Why are you following me?"

"Do you always go home like this, or are you having some exercises in jumping tonight?" answered the other man. "I'm going to Mr. Fork's and the man at the station told me to go after you as you live near Mr. Fork's home. Excuse me for asking you, but will you have some more gymnastics or will you go straight home?"

**Answer the given questions:**

Where did a man from a big town go?

What did he hear?

Was there anybody in the street?

What did he do then?

Why did he start to walk quickly?

What did he notice around the garden?

What did he ask the second man?

And what was the second man's answer?

What surprised the second man?

What do you think of situation described?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 11***

**The letter-box key**

The summer was very hot. It was very stuffy in town and Stephen Blake decided to go to the seashore for his summer holidays. He booked a railway ticket, packed his things and was about to start for the station when he remembered that he must ask the housekeeper to post him all letters he would receive. She promised to do that Stephen Blake rested very well. The weather was fine. The sea was calm. He spent much time on the seashore, got sunburn and felt fine. The only thing that worried him was the fact that he had not received any letters. He thought it strange and phoned his housekeeper to find out why she didn't post him his letters. The housekeeper answered that she had not the key to his letter-box. Stephen Blake apologized and promised to send the key. The same day he put the key into an envelope, wrote down his address on it and posted the letter. Another month was passing. Stephen Blake had a nice time on the seashore. He swam in the sea, went boating and fishing, but he didn’t receive any letter.

When the summer holidays were over, he returned home. The housekeeper met him very warmly, but Stephen was very angry with her. She could not understand why he was so angry. Stephen Blake asked why she had not sent him his letters. The poor woman explained to him that she could not get the key as it was in the locked letter-box together with the letters.

**Answer the given questions:**

1. Why did Stephen Blake decide to go to the seashore?
2. What did he ask the housekeeper to do?
3. How did Stephen Blake rest in the seashore?
4. What made him worry?
5. Why did he phone his housekeeper?
6. When did Stephen Blake return home?
7. Why was he angry with his housekeeper?
8. Why didn't the housekeeper send his letters?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 12***

**The Dog and the Wolf**

A hungry wolf met a fat dog on the road. They stopped and greeted each other. Then the wolf said: "Dear friend, you look very well and you are so fat. Please, tell me now you manage to live so much better than I do. I look for food from morning till night and still often go to bed quite hungry".

"Oh," said the dog, "I guard my master’s house and he gives me good food and drink I have a warm little house in the yard. If you come to the village with me you will live as comfortably as I do". The wolf was very pleased to hear this and agreed to go with the dog to the village. So they turned and went to the nearest cottage. Suddenly the wolf stopped and said: "I see a bare place on your neck, friend, what is it?" "Oh, that's nothing" said the dog. "It is the mark of my collar. You see, the master sometime ties me up. Why are you turning away?"

"No, I am not going with you, my friend", - said the wolf. "I won't lose my freedom for good food. It is better to live in the forest and suffer from hunger and cold than to wear a collar. Keep your happiness to yourself, I want to be free".

**Answer the given questions:**

1. Who did a hungry wolf meet on the road?
2. Why was the wolf surprised when he met a dog?
3. Whose life was better? Why?
4. What did the wolf notice on the dog's neck?
5. Why did the wolf leave him?
6. What kind of life did the wolf prefer?
7. What was the wolfs last words?
8. Was the wolf right or wrong? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 13***

**A professor and a boatman**

Once a philosopher was crossing a river in a small boat. During the passage he asked the boatman: "Have you ever heard about philosophy? No", - answered the boatman. "I'm very sorry for you", - said the philosopher, "You've lost a quarter of your life." Some minutes later the philosopher asked the boatman again:

"Have you ever heard about algebra?"

"Never," replied the boatman.

"In this case", - exclaimed the philosophy, "You've certainly lost a second quarter of your life". Some minutes passed and the philosopher asked the boatman again:

"Have you ever heard about astronomy?"

"No," replied the boatman, "I have never heard about it." "I am very sorry for you", - said the philosopher. "It is a very interesting science. You have lost a third quarter of your life". At that moment the boat ran on a rock. The boatman jumped up and cried:

"Have you ever learnt to swim?"

"No," - cried the philosopher, "I have never gone in for swimming." "In that case," said the boatman sadly, "You've lost your whole life, because the boat is sinking."

**Answer the questions:**

1. What was a philosopher doing one day?
2. What did the professor ask the boatman?
3. What was the answer?
4. Did the boatman learn algebra or astronomy?
5. Why was the philosopher sorry for the boatman?
6. What had happened to the boat?
7. What did the boatman ask the professor?  
   h) What did the professor answer?

i) Why was the boatman sad?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 14***

**Сity mouse and the Country Mouse**

Once there were two mice. They were friends. One mouse lived in the country, the other mouse lived in the city. After many years the country mouse saw the city mouse and said: "Do come and see me at my house in the country." The city mouse went there.

The country mouse took him to his house in the field and gave him the nicest food to eat. The city mouse said: "This food is not good and your house is not good either. Why do you live in a hole in the field? You should come and live in the city. You would live in a nice house made of stone. You would have nice food to eat. You must come and see me at my house in the city. "

The country mouse went to the house of the city mouse. It was a very good house. There was nice food to eat for them. But just as they began to eat, they heard great noise. The city mouse said: "Run, run the cat is coming!" They ran away and hid themselves. After some time they came out. The country mouse said: "I do not like living in the city. I like living in my hole in the field. It is better to be poor and happy than to be rich and live in fear."

**Answer the following questions:**

1. How many mice were there in the story?
2. Where did the mice live?
3. What did the country mouse say when it saw the city mouse?
4. Why didn't the city mouse like the country mouse's house?
5. Did the country mouse treat his friend well?
6. What did the city mouse do at the country mouse's house?
7. Why did the country mouse go to the city mouse's house?

h) What had happened at the city mouse's house?

i) Did the country mouse like the city mouse's house?

j) Whose house was better?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 15***

**Coffee and tea**

Coffee and tea were not known in Europe two hundred years ago. People were afraid to drink them because they thought coffee or tea could kill a person. Once the king of Sweden decided to find out whether it was true or not.

At that time two brothers were in prison. They were twins and were much alike. They had committed a crime and had been sentenced to death. The king said: "I shall let them live but they must drink coffee or tea to the end of their lives. One brother must drink coffee and the other must drink tea every day."

They both lived long. At last one of the brothers died when he was eighty three years old. The other died a few years later. In this way it was proved that neither tea nor coffee were harmful to man.

**Answer the questions:**

1. Why were people afraid to drink tea or coffee?
2. Who solved the problem of coffee and tea?
3. What was the king's decision?
4. What was the result of the experiment?
5. Do you know other stories about tea or coffee?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 16***

**At the bookshop**

One day I went to a bookshop to look through the new books. The manager of the shop, Mr. Seller, showed me to the back of the bookshop where I could find some interesting books. While I was looking through the books, I could watch Mr. Seller at work and see some of his methods. A fashionably dressed woman was standing at the counter and Mr. Seller was showing a book to her. "You are quite sure it's his latest?" the lady was saying to Mr. Seller. "Oh, yes, Mrs. Rasseler," answered the manager. "This is Mr. Slush's latest book. It's having a wonderful sale. It's an extremely powerful thing. One says that it's perhaps the most powerful book of the season."

I looked at the title, the name of the book was Golden Dreams. Another lady entered the bookshop. She was in deep mourning and looked like a widow. She asked the manager to show her some new books. "Something new in fiction," repeated the manager. "Yes, Madam, here's a charming thing. Golden Dreams, a very sweet story, extremely sweet. The critics say that it's one of the sweetest things written by this author." "Is it a good book?" asked the lady. "A charming one," said the manager. "It is a love-story very simple and sweet and wonderfully charming. My wife was reading it aloud only last night. She was crying all the time while she was reading it."

The lady bought Golden Dreams and left the shop.

"Have you any good light reading for vacation time?" asked the next customer. "Yes," said Mr. Seller, "Golden Dreams, that is the most humorous book of the season. My wife was reading it aloud only yesterday. She was laughing all the time while she was reading it." The lady paid for the book and went out.

And every customer who entered the shop went away with Golden Dreams. To one lady the manager sold Golden Dreams as the reading for holiday, to another as the book to read after the holiday, another bought it to read on a rainy day and the fourth as right book for a fine day.

When I was leaving the shop I went up to the manager and asked him, "Do you like the book yourself?"

"Dear me!" said the manager, "I have no idea of the book, I've no time to read every book I 'm selling."

"Did your wife really like the book?"

"I'm not married, sir," answered the manager smiling.

**Answer the following questions:**

Where did the author come to?

What did the seller tell to the first customer?

What was the name of the book?

What did the seller say to the widow?

Was the seller married?

How can you characterize the seller?

What kind of man is he?

What can you say about his method of working?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Text 17***

**The Power of Imagination**

Mr. Brown got to a hotel late in the evening after a long journey. He asked the hall-porter whether there were any vacant rooms in the hotel. At that moment another traveler came to the hotel and asked the hall-porter for a room too. The only vacant room was a double room, that is, a room with two beds in it. “Do you mind if you spend the night in that room together?” the hall-porter asked. “It’ll be less expensive for you, you’ll each pay half.”

At first the travelers didn’t like the idea, but just then it began raining hard and they were too tired to go to another hotel, so they changed their minds. They spoke to each other and then they told the porter that they agreed to spend the night in the same room. Their things were carried in and soon the two men went to sleep to the accompaniment of the rain.

Suddenly Mr. Brown was woken up by a loud noise. It was quite dark. “What’s the matter?” Mr. Brown asked in surprise. “Is anything the matter?” In a weak voice the second traveler answered, “I’m sorry, but I had to wake up. I’ve got asthma. I feel very bad. In addition, I’ve got a terrible headache. If you don’t want me to die, open the window quickly.”

Mr. Brown jumped out of bed and began looking for his matches, but he could not find them in the dark, and the sick man went on moaning: “Air, air ...I want fresh air, I’m dying.”

Mr. Brown still couldn’t find the matches, so he tried to find the window. It took him some time, and at last he thought he had found it. But he was unable to open it. As the voice of the traveler grew weaker and weaker, Mr. Brown in horror took a chair and broke the window with it. The sick man immediately stopped moaning and said that he was very grateful and felt much better now. Them the two of them slept peacefully until morning. When they woke up next morning, they were surprised to see that the only window in the room was still closed, but the large looking glass was broken to pieces.

**Answer the questions:**

1. Why did the two men have to spend that night in one room?
2. Did they agree to spend the night in the same room?
3. Why was Mr. Brown woken up?
4. What did Mr. Brown do to help that man?
5. What made the sick man feel better?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Text 18***

**A sad story**

Three men came to New York for a holiday. They came to a large hotel and took a room there. Their room was on the 45th floor. In the evening the three men went to the theatre and came back to the hotel very late. "I'm very sorry," said the hotel clerk, "but our lifts are not working. If you don’t want to walk up to your rooms, you will have to sleep in the hall."

"No, no," said one of the three men. "No, thank you. We do not want to sleep in the hall. We shall walk up to our rooms." Then he turned to his friends and said: "It is not easy to walk up to the 45th floor, but I think I know how to make it easy. I shall tell you some jokes. Then you, Andy, will sing some jolly songs. That will help to pass the time.

So, they began to walk up to their rooms. Tom told them many jokes. Andy sang some songs. At last they came to the 34th floor. They were very tired. "Well," said Tom, "now it is your turn, Peter. Tell us a long and an interesting story." Peter said: "My story is short but very, very sad. We have left the keys to our rooms in the hall.”

**Answer the questions:**

Who came to New York?

Where did they take a room?

On what floor was their room?

Where did they go in the evening?

What did the hotel clerk say to them, when they came back?

Did the three men stay in the hall?

Were they walking upstairs silently?

What story did Peter tell?

***Text 19***

**A broken vase**

The young man was going to marry a beautiful girl. One day the girl said to him that the next day she would celebrate her birthday and invited him to her birthday party. The young man wanted to buy her a present so he went to a gift shop. There he saw many beautiful things. Of all the things he particularly liked the vases. But they were very expensive and as he had very little money he had to leave the shop without buying anything. Making for the door he suddenly heard the noise: one of the vases fell on the floor and broke to pieces. A brilliant idea came to his mind. He came up to the counter and asked the salesman to wrap up the broken vase he wanted to buy. The salesman got surprised but did what the young man asked him to do.

The young man took the parcel and went straight to the girl's place. By the time he entered the room the guests had already gathered. Everybody was enjoying the party. Some of the people were dancing, others were talking, joking and laughing. Saying: "Many Happy Returns of the Day!" to the young girl, the young man told the girl that he had bought a small present for her. With these words he began to unwrap the parcel. Suddenly he got pale and said: "I'm afraid, I have broken it. There were so many people in a bus. But when he unwrapped the parcel he saw that the salesman had wrapped up each piece of the vase separately.

**Answer thе questions:**

1. Where was the young man invited?
2. Why did he go to a gift shop?
3. Did he buy anything?
4. What idea came to his mind?
5. Why did the salesman get surprised?
6. Did he do what the young man asked him to do?
7. Why did the young man get pale?
8. What way did the salesman wrap up the parcel?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_