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***Тексты
для аудирования***

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Пособие адресовано учителям английского языка, а также для широкого круга 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?
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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?