Reading-Comprehension Test Form 9

 Why Did the Little Dog Die?

This happened in England soon after the World War II. Mrs. Reed decided to give a party. She wanted to invite her friends to dinner. It was easy to ask people to come, but much more difficult to make a meal for them, for it was very difficult to find food in Great Britain at that time because of the war. She was thinking about it when her maid-servant said “There is a man at the back door who wants to sell mushrooms.”

The lady accompanied by the little terrier, came down to the kitchen and found there a strange-looking man with a basket. The lady knew nothing about mushrooms and she asked the man about these mushrooms. He told her that they were good. The lady paid the money, ordered the servant to empty the basket and returned it to the man. When the servant was emptying the basket she dropped a mushroom, and the terrier immediately ate it. Seeing that, the stranger said “Your dog knows what is good”. He took the money, laughed unpleasantly and left the kitchen.

The guests arrived and were served a dish of mushrooms, which they liked very much. But the hostess noticed that the servant’s eyes were red with tears. The girl said,” I do not want to upset you but I’m crying because the dog has died.”

The lady remembered how earlier that day the poor dog had eaten a mushroom and ran away. She also remembered the stranger’s unpleasant laughter. The terrible truth crossed her brain. She told the guests that the mushrooms were poisonous.

Some of the gentlemen began to shout, some of the ladies cried. Then one man suggested going to the nearest hospital to clear their stomaches.

The staff of the hospital was surprised to see a group of patients in evening dresses. Naturally no one thought of having fun after the incident.

When the lady came back home, she asked, “Where is the terrier’s body?” Mrs. Reed wanted to bury her poor dog. The maid said still crying,”The gardener has buried it, for it’s body was so badly destroyed, and we didn’t even have enough time to write down the number of the car that so cruelly ran over the poor little pet.”

1. Write down the words you read in the text:

Servant, greedy, aside, indeed, truth, hutch, dish, daughter

1. Choose the best completion of the sentences:
2. In the kitchen Mrs. Reed saw

a) a rather strange-looking man.

b) a stranger accompanied by terrier.

c) a plateful of mushrooms.

1. The lady paid the money at once

a) ordering her servant to cook them for supper.

b) ordering the servant to empty the basket.

c) and asked the man if they were poisonous.

1. While the servant was emptying the basket

a) the terrier was examining the stranger.

b) her maid-servant dropped a mushroom.

c) Mrs. Reed was talking to the stranger.

1. She added that if they wished to save their lives

a) they should find the man.

b) they should catch the terrier.

c) they should act quickly.

1. Correct the order of events
2. The terrible truth crossed her brain.
3. When the lady came back home, she asked for the terrier’s body.
4. Mrs. Reed remembered the stranger’s unpleasant laughter.
5. Mrs. Reed wanted to bury her poor dog.
6. Translate into Russian:
7. It was easy to ask people to come, but much more difficult to make a meal for them.
8. The hostess noticed that the servant’s eyes were red with tears.
9. She told the guests that the mushrooms were poisonous.

 4. We didn’t even have enough time to write down the number of the car

 that so cruelly ran over the poor little pet.”

1. Prove the statements according to the text:
2. The man who sold the mushrooms was very strange.
3. Mrs. Reed’s servant was stupid.
4. The dog died not from eating poisonous mushrooms.
5. The staff in the hospital was surprised to see a group of patients in evening dresses.