



WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

READING

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.



My Blog

This Is Ellen Richardson

When you're a news reporter, every day on the job is different. You never know what will happen next. One minute you're interviewing the city mayor, and the next minute you're reporting about a murder. Another thing about being a news reporter is you have to be ready to work at a moment's notice. I discovered this while I was having a holiday with my husband in Italy in October. It was the fourth day of our holiday in Sicily. Right after enjoying a delicious breakfast at our bed and breakfast, I received a phone call from the TV station that I work for in the US. They wanted me to report on the eruption of the Mount Etna volcano. My husband used to work as a photographer for a newspaper, so he was happy to join me.

We drove to Linguaglossa, a small ski town that lies just under Mount Etna, to see what was going on. Many small earthquakes had hit the area and caused the volcano to erupt early in the morning. Lava was pouring on Linguaglossa, and it had already covered buildings and caused a forest fire. The schools in the area and the airport were closed, and many people had left their homes because of the danger. The good news was that no one was hurt, and there weren't any injuries or deaths to report.

I interviewed a few residents about the disaster that had struck their hometown. They seemed quite calm and explained the facts to me. They told me that Mount Etna is the largest volcano in Europe and is also the continent's most active volcano. An 87-year-old woman who was leaving town with the help of her son said, "This is my home. When the volcano quiets down again, I'll return."

I didn't stay much longer in Linguaglossa myself. Another reporter from my TV station came to replace me the next day, so my husband and I continued our holiday. Of course, I checked the news as often as I could. I guess the news is in my blood.



QUESTIONS

A) CHOOSE THE BEST OPTION TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

- 1) The text mentions a city mayor and a murder in the same sentence because...
 - a) news reporters need to report on very different subjects.
 - b) the mayor and the murderer were just the same person.

- 2) It was the fourth day of her holidays when ...
 - a) her husband received a phone call from his boss to return to the US.
 - b) the volcano erupted.

- 3) The eruption of Mount Etna was caused by ...
 - a) many small earthquakes that had hit the area.
 - b) a small ski town which lies just under the mount.

- 4) The volcano eruption caused one additional natural disaster:
 - a) a forest fire.
 - b) an 87-year-old woman had to leave her town.

B) SAY IF THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OR FALSE.

- 5) Ellen's husband is a photographer for a newspaper.
- 6) People generally go skiing in the area of Linguaglossa.
- 7) Lava was pouring onto the town when Ellen arrived there.
- 8) All the residents left the town because of the eruption.
- 9) Ellen ended her holiday because of the disaster.

C) FIND IN THE TEXT ...

- 10) ... a synonym of: "*Flowing*" (paragraph 2)
- 11) ... a word or phrase meaning: "*Stops activity*" (paragraph 3)
- 12) ... an opposite of: "*Safety*" (paragraph 2)