Reading

Helen Sharman was born in Sheffield in the north of England in 1963.She was a good student at school, and her special interest was science. After school, she went to Sheffield University. Then she got a job in a laboratory. It was a good job and it was interesting, but Helen had other ambitions. She wanted to travel and she wanted to have adventures. One day, she heard about a space project. The French wanted a British person to go on the Juno mission. She was very excited. She wanted to travel and have adventures, and flying in Space is the longest journey and the biggest adventure! But, of course, many other people thought the same thing. More than 13,000 people answered the advertisement. The competition was great, but Helen was the best person. She passed all the tests. She knew a lot about science and she was fit, strong and intelligent. She won! In 1990, she travelled to Paris. There she learned many things. The two most important things were the French language and how to control a spaceship. She needed to speak French to the scientists in Paris and, if the French pilots with her in the spaces were ill, Helen would need to control the spaceship.

On 18th of May 1991, the spaceship was launched. It travelled for six days round the Earth. Helen enjoyed her journey. Afterwards she said that the most fantastic thing was looking down at our planet Earth from high in the sky. It was so beautiful.

When the spaceship came back to the Earth, Helen was a famous person. Everybody wanted to talk to her and to hear about her fantastic adventure. But she is a very modest person. She doesn`t want to be "The English Space woman" forever. She thinks about her future and the future of the world. She said, "Yes, I am lucky. I had a fantastic adventure but now I want to be an ordinary person again. I need a new job. I would like to continue to help people all over the world to be friends. It was very important for me to have French friends and to learn a new language. I think that learning to cooperate and to be friends with people from other countries was the best thing."

Task 1. Mark the true and false statements.

1. Helen Norman is from the USA. _____
2. She was interested in science. _____
3. Helen didn't like the work in the laboratory of the University. _____
4. Her dream was to become a scientist. _____
5. Flying in space is a very short journey. _____
6. Helen took part in the competition and won it. _____
7. She learned the Russian language in America. _____
8. She went into space in May 1992. _____
9. Best of all she liked flying over the Earth. _____
10. She was happy to become famous. _____
11. Helen Sharman wanted to continue to train as a pilot. _____
12. It was very important for her to make many new friends in France. _____

Task 2. Choose the right variant.

1. Helen Sharman was born ... of England.

a) in the north;
b) in the south;
c) in the west.

2. When Helen studied at school, she was fond of...

a) history;
b) literature;
c) science.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. After school she studied ...
a) at the space training centre;
b) at university;
c) at college.
4. Her first work was ...
a) in the science laboratory;
b) in the university library;
c) in the research centre.
5. Helen's dream was ...
a) to read more about space;
b) to make scientific experiments;
c) to travel more.
6.More than ... people took part in the competition.
a) thirteen;
b) one hundred and thirty;
c) thirteen thousand.
7. Helen passed all the tests and won because ...
a) she was well-educated and fit;
b) she was strong and beautiful;
c) she knew English and Russian.
8. In 1990 she travelled to ...
a) London;
b) Paris;
c) Moscow.
9. The two most important things she learned were ...
a) how to become fit and get good knowledge of the world;
b) how to control the spaceship and learn the French language;
c) doing tests and making new friends.
10. The spaceship travelled round the world for ... days.
a) nine;
b) six;
c) eight.
11. She said that the most fantastic thing was ...
a) to be in space;
b) to look down at the planet Earth;
c) to control the spaceship.
12. After coming back to the Earth, Helen ...
a) became famous and was happy;
b) wanted to talk about her travel all the time;
c) decided to change her job.

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