



L2 UNIT 1 READING

Exercise 1.- Match the following KEYWORDS and definitions.

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| 1. Volunteer | A. A person who helps others without being paid. |
| 2. Guide | B. To change words from one language to another. |
| 3. Translate | C. A person who shows people places and gives information. |
| 4. Specific | D. A plant-like organism that grows in water. |
| 5. Improve | E. To get better at something. |
| 6. Scientist | F. To study something to learn more about it. |
| 7. Research | G. A person who studies science. |
| 8. Algae | H. A special or exact thing. |

Exercise 2.- Read the text.

TURNING POINTS

MARIA FADIMAN

When I was in high school, I went to Costa Rica for a few weeks, as a volunteer. I had high-school level Spanish, so I could say a lot of things. But I soon realized that listening was harder than speaking! I often didn't understand what people said to me. I really wanted to improve my Spanish. So, I went back to the U.S.A. and continued studying Spanish in university. After that, I returned to Costa Rica. I became a guide in the rainforest—because I spoke Spanish, not because I knew about the rainforest. I wasn't really interested in science, but I started translating Spanish guidebooks into English. As a result, I learned all about the forest plants and animals, and a door opened for me then. That's how I became a scientist—because I learned Spanish!

ANNE JUNGBLUT

My interest in biology started when I was a kid in Germany, where I grew up. My house had a really big garden, and I was always out there looking for plants and insects—anything interesting. I really enjoyed my biology classes in high school, so I decided to study biology in university. The

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men"

Colossians 3: 23



first few years of study are usually very general— you don't choose a specific topic. During that time, I spent one year studying in Australia because I wanted to improve my English. I took some science classes there, and we studied blue-green algae—they're similar to plants and they grow in water. Sometimes, they're a real problem because they produce chemicals that make people sick. I wasn't interested in algae before this class, but I wrote a paper about them and became very interested. As a result of that, I decided to choose algae as my area of research. So, when I returned to Germany, I continued studying algae for my master's degree and my PhD, and I still study them in my work now.

Exercise 3 .- Select the best options to answer the questions.

A) Where did Maria Fadiman go as a volunteer in high school?

- a) Australia
- b) Costa Rica
- c) Germany

B) Why did Maria become a guide in the rainforest?

- a) Because she knew a lot about plants and animals
- b) Because she spoke Spanish
- c) Because she liked adventure

C) What helped Maria become a scientist?

- a) Learning Spanish
- b) Studying biology in school
- c) Traveling to Germany

D) What made Anne Jungblut interested in biology?

- a) She had a big garden as a child
- b) She went to Costa Rica
- c) She watched science movies

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E) Where did Anne study for one year?

- a) The U.S.A.
- b) Costa Rica
- c) Australia

F) What did Anne study in Australia?

- a) Rainforest plants
- b) Blue-green algae
- c) Birds and insects

G) Why are some algae a problem?

- a) They make the water dirty
- b) They produce chemicals that can make people sick
- c) They eat other plants

H) What did Anne do after returning to Germany?

- a) She stopped studying algae
- b) She studied algae for her master's degree and PhD
- c) She became a tour guide

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