

READING COMPREHENSION 10th form 2nd term

Read the following text and do the tasks below.

A DANGEROUS PLACE

Paula had always wanted to go to New York and now she had the chance at last. She was a journalist, and her newspaper was sending her there to do a series of articles on the city. But before she left her home in London, several friends warned her to be careful and not to go out alone at night in New York. "It's a dangerous place. People get robbed or even killed on broad daylight!" they told her.

But when she got there, the only thing she was afraid of was exhaustion. It was such an exciting city that she never got any sleep. It took her two weeks to do the articles and she had to interview a lot of people but she enjoyed every minute of it. She completely forgot all her friends' warnings until the day she went back to London. It all began in a bar.

She was having lunch there when she suddenly felt someone watching her. She looked up and noticed a man sitting at a table opposite her. He was staring at her, but looked away. She noticed that he had a scar on his cheek. He was about 30 and had short, curly hair. Paula was not worried at all. She had to go to an airline office to re-book her flight home. She wanted an afternoon flight instead of a morning one, as originally planned. On her way there, she stopped to look at something in a shop-window. To her surprise she saw the man follow her. She could see his reflection in the glass. He had stopped just behind her. Suddenly she felt afraid. She walked on. Then she stopped and looked behind her again. But this time she could not see him.

Just then she noticed she had come to the airline office. She went in and after she had finished her business, decided to phone a friend from a telephone booth there. She was carrying a small, portable but very expensive tape-recorder. It was in a black case in which she kept her money and passport as well. But the booth was so small that she had to leave the case outside. When she came out, it had disappeared. Then she saw the red-haired man hurrying out of the office. He had the case in his hand. She shouted but it was too late.

Task I. Mark the following statements “True” or “False” according to the text:

1. Paula was a writer by profession.
2. She worked in some newspaper in London.
3. Paula was sent to New York to do a series of articles on the city.
4. Before she left her home her friends warned her to be careful in New York.
5. It took her three weeks to do her job there.
6. She was afraid of New York and went nowhere.
7. She completely forgot all her friends’ warnings for ever.
8. Paula wanted to re-book her afternoon flight and went to the airline office.
9. She noticed a man with a scar on his cheek watching and following her.
10. She felt afraid and walked on.
11. Paula kept her money and passport in a black handbag.
12. She was punished for her carelessness.

Task II. Choose the right variant of answer:

1. **Paula lived in**
 - a) London
 - b) New York
 - c) New Mexico
 - d) Liverpool
2. **Paula was ... by profession.**
 - a) a writer
 - b) an editor
 - c) a journalist
 - d) a businesswoman
3. **She went to New York**
 - a) to paint a landscape
 - b) to visit her friends
 - c) to do a series of articles on it
 - d) just on a trip
4. **It took her two weeks**
 - a) to write a novel
 - b) to travel all around the America
 - c) to interview many people
 - d) to see an exciting city

5. New York was so exciting that Paula never got any

- a) sleep
- b) pleasure
- c) satisfaction
- d) impression

6. When Paula was having lunch in a bar she noticed a man sitting

- a) on the sofa
- b) opposite her
- c) at the next table
- d) at the window

7. The man was about 30 and had ... hair.

- a) curly black
- b) short blond
- c) short red
- d) straight red

8. She went to an airline office

- a) to re-book her flight home
- b) to phone her friend
- c) to buy the ticket to London
- d) to interview the people there

9. She could see the reflection of the man follow her

- a) when she looked behind
- b) in the window of the bar
- c) in the glass of a shop-window
- d) in the mirror

10. After Paula finished her business, she decided ...

- a) to go sightseeing again
- b) to have a bite
- c) to buy an afternoon flight ticket
- d) to phone his friend

11. She had a portable and very expensive

- a) black case
- b) small tape-recorder
- c) rare American book
- d) red handbag

12. She had to leave her case outside because

- a) it was too heavy to carry
- b) somebody called her in an airline office
- c) the telephone booth was too small
- d) she couldn't carry it in her hand