



FLAT IN DUBLIN



Read the text "A Flat in Dublin" and answer the multiple choice questions on the next page.



Finding a good flat in Dublin at a Price you could afford was like finding gold in the gold rush. The best way was by personal contact, if you knew someone who knew someone who was leaving a place, that often worked. But if, like Jo, you had only just arrived in Dublin, there was no chance of any personal contact, nobody to tell you that their bedsit would be vacant at the end of the month. No, it was a matter of staying in a hostel and searching.



For Joe, Dublin was a very big blank spot. She really felt she was stepping into the unknown when she got on the train to go and work there. She didn't ask herself why she was going there in the first place. It had been assumed by everyone she went around with at school that she would go. Who would stay in a one-horse town, the back of beyond, the end of the world, the sticks? That's all she had heard for years. They were all going to get out, escape, see some life, get some living in, have a real kind of existence, and some of the others in her class had gone as far as the towns of Ennis or Limerick, where an elder sister or an aunt would see them settled in. But out of Jo's year, none of them were going to Dublin. She was heading off on her own.



Jo's mother thought it would be great if she stayed permanently in the hostel. It was run by nuns, and she would come to no harm. Her father said he hoped they kept the place warm, hostels were well known for being freezing. Jo's sisters, who worked in a hotel as waitresses, said she must be off her head to have stayed a whole week in a hostel. But Jo didn't know they were all still thinking about her and discussing her, as she answered the advertisement for a flat in Ringsend. It said "Own room, own television, share kitchen, bathroom." It was very near the post office where she worked and seemed too good to be true. Please, please let it be nice, let them like me, let it not be too dear!



There wasn't a queue for this one because it wasn't so much "Flat to Let", more "Third Girl Wanted": The fact that it said "own television" made Jo wonder whether it might be too high a class for her, but the house did not look in any way overpowering. An ordinary red-brick terraced house with a basement. But the flat was not in the basement, it was upstairs. And a cheerful-looking girl with a college scarf, obviously a failed applicant, was coming down the stairs, "Desperate place" she said to Jo. "They're both awful. Common as dirt!" "Oh," said Jo and went on climbing.



"Hello," said the girl with "Nessa" printed on her T-shirt. "Did you see that toffee-nosed girl going out? I can't stand that kind, I can't stand them." "What did she do?" asked Jo. "Do? She didn't have to do anything. She just poked around and pulled a face and sort of giggled and then said, "Is this all there is to it? Oh dear, oh dear." In a posh accent. We wouldn't have her in here, would we Pauline?"



Pauline had a psychedelic shirt on, so colorful it almost hurt the eyes, but even so it was only slightly brighter than her hair. Pauline was a punk, Jo noted with amazement. She had seen some of them on O'Connell Street, but hadn't met one close up to talk to. "I'm Jo, I work in the post office and I rang." Nessa said they were just about to have a mug of tea. She produced three mugs, one had "Nessa" and one had "Pauline" and the other one had "Other" written on it. "We'll get your name put on if you come to stay." she said generously.





1. What does "it" in line 4 refer to?

- A The accommodation available
- B finding accommodation
- C getting advice on accommodation
- D the shortage of accommodation



2. What do we learn about Jo's schoolfriends in paragraph 2?

- A They would have liked to be as independent as Jo was.
- B They had more self-confidence than Jo had.
- C They had made Jo feel that she ought to leave her home town.
- D They were not as happy as Jo was to move to a new town.



D What impression do we get of Jo's home town?

- A It was an uninteresting place in the middle of the countryside.
- B It was a place where people struggled to earn a living.
- C It was a place here the population had fallen greatly.
- D It was an unfriendly place, where young people were treated badly.



4 What did Jo think about the flat in Ringsend before she saw it?

- A that she was likely to be able to afford it
- B that the advertisement for it was confusing
- C that it might not be as suitable for her as it first sounded in the advertisement
- D that it did not really have all the facilities mentioned in the advertisement



5 What do we learn about the girl who passed Jo on the stairs?

- A She was upset that she was not going to live in the flat.
- B She liked neither the flat nor the other girls living there
- C She had not been seriously intending to live in the flat before seeing it.
- D She had not realized that other people were already living in the flat



6 What is meant by "toffee-nosed"?

- A feeling superior
- B being curious about others
- C strange-looking
- D appearing nervous



7 What did Jo think when she first met Pauline?

- A She probably wouldn't like Pauline because of her appearance
- B Pauline was different from other punks she had met.
- C Pauline would probably not want to make friends with her.
- D She knew very little about people who looked like Pauline



8 By the end of the extract, we learn that

- A Nessa and Pauline did not really want anyone to share their flat.
- B other people had moved out of the flat because they had not enjoyed living there.
- C Nessa felt that Jo would be more suitable than the previous applicant.
- D Nessa and Pauline were not expecting anyone to want to share their flat.

