

Justifications

Website Sample Reading Task: Note Form

The Hitch-hiker

Example 0

The sentence to be completed begins: "The car driver in the story lived in a place called [...]".

The first sentence of the text states that "Andrea turned off the motorway onto the road to Brockbourne, the small village in which she lived". "She" in this sentence refers to "Andrea" and the "small village" is "Brockbourne". Andrea is driving a car since she is on the motorway. Therefore the correct answer is "**Brockbourne**".

Q1

The sentence to be completed begins: "It was late afternoon, and it would soon [...]".

Sentence two of paragraph one states that "At this time in December, it would be completely dark by five o'clock". "This time" refers to the time mentioned in the previous sentence i.e. "four o'clock", which is late in the afternoon. Therefore the correct answer is "**be dark**" or "**be completely dark**".

Q2

The sentence to be completed begins: "The driver was unable to listen to music because the [...]".

The last sentence of paragraph one states that "She would have liked to listen to the radio, but it had been stolen from her car [...] and she had not got around to replacing it yet". "She" refers to "Andrea", who has already been identified as the "driver". The use of the verb form "would have liked" means that listening to music was an unfulfilled wish; the explanation given is that she had not replaced her stolen car radio. Therefore the correct answer is "**radio had been stolen**".

Q3

The sentence to be completed begins: "The person at the roadside appeared to be hitch-hiking because [...]".

The first sentence of paragraph two states that “she saw the old lady, standing by the road, with a crude hand-written sign saying “Brockbourne”. The “old lady standing by the road” refers to “The person at the roadside”. “Brockbourne” has already been identified as a place. Hitch-hikers stand by the roadside and sometimes let drivers know where they want to go by holding up a sign with the name of their destination on it, which is what the old lady was doing. Therefore the correct answer is “**she had/held a sign**”.

Q4

The sentence to be completed begins: “When driving on her own, Andrea did not usually [...]”.

The fifth sentence of paragraph two states that “Normally, Andrea would never pick up a hitch-hiker when she was alone”. “Normally” and “usually” mean the same; “on her own” and “alone” also mean the same. Therefore the correct answer is “**pick up a hitch-hiker**”. Other answers that are also acceptable include: “**pick up strangers**”, “**give lifts to hitch-hikers/strangers**”.

Q5

The sentence to be completed begins: “The hitch-hiker had problems getting into the car [...]”.

The second sentence of paragraph three states “Broad and fat, the old lady had some difficulty climbing in through the car door, with her big bag [...]”. It has already been made clear that “the hitch-hiker” and “the old lady” are the same person; “problems getting into the car” and “difficulty climbing in through the car door” mean the same. Therefore the correct answer is either “**because she was broad/fat**” or “**because of her (big) bag**”. Paraphrases of the former such as “**because she was overweight**” are also acceptable.

Q6

The sentence to be completed begins: “The hitch-hiker had been due to meet a friend, but [...]”.

The second sentence of paragraph five quotes the words spoken by the hitch-hiker: “I’m just going to visit a friend. He was supposed to meet me back there at Mickley, but his car won’t start”. The use of the verb forms “had been due to” and “was supposed to” points to events that were planned but that did not take place. The explanation offered for the friend’s non-appearance is “his car won’t start”. Therefore the correct answer is either “**his car wouldn’t start / his car broke down**” or “**he didn’t come/turn up/show up**”.

Q7

The sentence to be completed begins: “Andrea started to feel [...]”.

The first sentence of paragraph six states that “Something in the way the lady spoke, and the way she never turned her head but stared continuously into the darkness ahead from under her old yellow hat, made Andrea uneasy”. The words “made Andrea uneasy” suggest a change of mood or feeling. Therefore the correct answer is “**uneasy**” or a (near) synonym such as “**nervous**”, “**anxious**”, “**worried**” or “**afraid**”. Words such as “dangerous” or “absurd” are not correct since they refer to the situation not Andrea.

