

## Website Sample Reading Task: Note Form

Read the text about a driver who picked up an unusual passenger. Then complete the sentences (1-7) using a maximum of 4 words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

### The Hitch-hiker

As Andrea turned off the motorway onto the road to Brockbourne, the small village in which she lived, it was four o'clock in the afternoon, but already the sun was falling behind the hills. At this time in December, it would be completely dark by five o'clock. Andrea shivered. The interior of the car was not cold, but the trees bending in the harsh wind and the patches of yesterday's snow still heaped in the fields made her feel chilly inside. It was another ten miles to the cottage where she lived with her husband Michael, and the dim light and wintry weather made her feel a little lonely. She would have liked to listen to the radio, but it had been stolen from her car when it was parked outside her office in London about two weeks ago, and she had not got around to replacing it yet.

She was just coming out of the little village of Mickley when she saw the old lady, standing by the road, with a crude hand-written sign saying "Brockbourne" in her hand. Andrea was surprised. She had never seen an old lady hitch-hiking before. However, the weather and the coming darkness made her feel sorry for the lady, waiting hopefully on a country road like this with little traffic. Normally, Andrea would never pick up a hitch-hiker when she was alone, thinking it was too dangerous, but what was the harm in doing a favour for a little old lady like this? Andrea pulled up a little way down the road, and the lady, holding a big shopping bag, hurried over to climb in the door which Andrea had opened for her.

When she did get in, Andrea could see that she was not, in fact, so little. Broad and fat, the old lady had some difficulty climbing in through the car door, with her big bag, and when she had got in, she more than filled the seat next to Andrea. She wore a long, shabby old dress, and she had a yellow hat pulled down low over her eyes. Panting noisily from her effort, she pushed her big brown canvas shopping bag down onto the floor under her feet, and said in a voice which was almost a whisper, "Thank you dearie -- I'm just going to Brockbourne."

"Do you live there?" asked Andrea, thinking that she had never seen the old lady in the village in the four years she had lived there herself.

"No, dearie," answered the passenger, in her soft voice, "I'm just going to visit a friend. He was supposed to meet me back there at Mickley, but his car won't start, so I decided to hitch-hike -- there isn't a bus until seven, and I didn't want to wait. I knew some kind soul would give me a lift."

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

about this strange hitch-hiker. She didn't know why, but she felt instinctively that there was something wrong, something odd, something....dangerous. But how could an old lady be dangerous? It was absurd.

Careful not to turn her head, Andrea looked sideways at her passenger. She studied the hat, the dirty collar of the dress, the shapeless body, the arms with their thick black hairs ....

Thick black hairs?

Hairy arms? Andrea's blood froze.

This wasn't a woman. It was a man.

[Text used with permission of the University of Victoria's English Language Centre

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/reading/hiker.htm>]

0	The car driver in the story lived in a place called _____.	<i>Brockbourne</i>
Q1	It was late afternoon, and it would soon _____.	
Q2	The driver was unable to listen to music because the _____.	
Q3	The person at the roadside appeared to be hitch-hiking, because _____.	
Q4	When driving on her own, Andrea did not usually _____.	
Q5	The hitch-hiker had problems getting into the car _____.	
Q6	The hitch-hiker had been due to meet a friend, but _____.	
Q7	Andrea started to feel _____.	