



Comprehension: The Accident

Read the following passage, and then answer the questions which follow:

The accident

Mr Gumede drove the Pinetown children home from school every afternoon. Their parents chose him, because his taxi had seat belts for each child and he didn't overload.

"Fasten your seat belts and sit quietly," he said each day. Everyone did not listen to him. Faith and Zodwa liked to stand and play a clapping game while the taxi was moving.

One rainy afternoon, just before the holidays, Faith and Zodwa were playing their game in the taxi. They were laughing and shouting, because they were so excited about the church camp at the sea.

"Be quiet and fasten your seat belts," shouted Mr Gumede. "I can't concentrate!"

They did not listen...

Suddenly a truck pulled in front of the taxi. Mr Gumede swerved and skidded on the wet road. Faith and Zodwa fell against the window and it shattered. Faith hurt her head and Zodwa cut her arm. There was blood everywhere.

"They didn't listen," Mr Gumede said when the ambulance came. Faith and Zodwa had stitches at the hospital. They had to rest so they couldn't go on the church camp. It was very boring at home.

"If only we'd listened," they said sadly.

Life Skills Learner's book, 2012, Cambridge University Press

Comprehension: Answer in full sentences.

1. Where did the children in this story live? (1)

2. Who was the taxi driver? (1)

3. Why did the parents of the children choose him to transport their children? (2)

4. Do you think it is important to wear a seat belt when driving in a car or taxi?
Give a reason for your answer. (2)

5. What was the **instruction** given to the children in the taxi? (1)

6. Did everyone **obey** (listen to) his instructions? Explain your answer. (2)

7. Why did Mr Gumede say that he couldn't concentrate? (1)

8. How did Faith and Zodwa get **injured** (hurt)? (2)

9. What was the **result** of their **disobedience** (not listening to instructions)? (2)

Language in Context:

1. **Punctuation** - Identify the punctuation mark and then discuss why you think it has been used:

- a) I can't concentrate! _____
- b) Faith and Zodwa liked to stand and play. _____
- c) "They didn't listen," Mr Gumede said. _____
- d) Their parents chose him, because his taxi had seat belts. _____
- _____
- e) They did not listen... _____

(This exercise is more advanced and learners may need assistance.)

2. An **apostrophe** has been used in each of the following words. For each of these words, write out the words in full, without an apostrophe:

Example: wasn't - was not

- a) didn't - _____
- b) couldn't - _____
- c) we'd - _____

3. Give a **synonym** (word with the same meaning) for the following word, underlined in the story:

- a) excited - _____

4. Give an **antonym** (word with the opposite meaning) for the following words, underlined in the story:

- a) everyone - _____
- b) everywhere - _____

Creative writing:

How would you feel if you were in a taxi accident?

Write 4 creative sentences, to describe your feelings.

MEMO:**Comprehension:**

1. Where did the children in this story live? (1)

The children lived in Pinetown.

2. Who was the taxi driver? (1)

Mr Gumede was the taxi driver.

3. Why did the parents of the children choose him to transport their children? (2)

The parents chose him, because everyone in his taxi had a seat belt and he never overloaded.

4. Do you think it is important to wear a seat belt when driving in a car or taxi?

Give a reason for your answer. (2)

Example: Yes, I think it is very important to wear a seat belt when in a car or a taxi, because if you are in an accident, the seat belt will prevent serious injuries.

5. What was the instruction given to the children in the taxi? (1)

The children were told by Mr Gumede to fasten their seat belts and to sit quietly.

6. Did everyone obey (listen to) his instructions? Explain your answer. (2)

No, everyone did not obey his instructions. Faith and Zodwa played a game and didn't sit quietly in the taxi.

7. Why did Mr Gumede say that he couldn't concentrate? (1)

Mr Gumede couldn't concentrate, because the girls made too much noise and moved around in the taxi.

8. How did Faith and Zodwa get injured (hurt)? (2)

When the taxi skidded on the wet road, they fell against the window and it shattered. Faith hit her head and Zodwa cut her arm.

9. What was the result of their disobedience (not listening to instructions)? (2)

They got injured and couldn't go on the church camp.

Language in Context:

1. **Punctuation** - Identify the punctuation mark and then decide why you think it has been used:

- a) I can't concentrate! Exclamation mark – used in a command
b) Faith and Zodwa liked to stand and play. Capital letters – proper nouns
c) "They didn't listen," Mr Gumede said. Quotation marks – direct speech

- d) Their parents chose him, because his taxi had seat belts. Comma – pause
in the sentence, before a conjunction (because)
- e) They did not listen... Ellipses – when you can guess what happened
next

(This exercise is more advanced and learners may need assistance. If too advanced, teach them to recognise the punctuation mark.)

2. An **apostrophe** has been used in each of the following words. For each of these words, write out the words in full, without an apostrophe:

Example: wasn't - was not

- a) didn't - did not
b) couldn't - could not
c) we'd - we had

3. Give a synonym (word with the same meaning) for the following word, underlined in the story:

a) excited - happy

4. Give an antonym (word with the opposite meaning) for the following words, underlined in the story:

- a) everyone - nobody
b) everywhere - nowhere