

Lesson 1

Text A

How Old Is She?



A woman was having some trouble with her heart¹, so she went to see the doctor². He was a new doctor, and did not know her, so he first asked some questions, and one of them was³, “How old are you?”

“Well⁴,” she answered, “I don’t remember, doctor, but I will try to think.” She thought for a minute and then said, “Yes, I remember now, doctor! When I married, I was eighteen years old, and my husband was thirty. Now my husband is

sixty, I know. And that is twice thirty⁵. So I am twice eighteen. That is thirty-six, isn't it?"

Text B

Could I Speak to Jim, Please?

A: Hello, 332440.⁶

B: Oh hello, Sally. This is Dave Thomson here.⁷ Could I speak to Jim please?⁸

A: I'm afraid he's not in at the moment⁹, Dave. He went out about an hour ago and he's not back yet.

B: Any idea when he might¹⁰ be back?¹¹

A: Well, he shouldn't be long¹². He said he was just going to get some paint. But I wouldn't be surprised¹³ if he's stopped off at the pub¹⁴ on the way back¹⁵.

B: O. K. Well, tell him I've called, will you, and I'll try again later.

A: All right. Goodbye, Dave.

B: Thanks then Sally. Goodbye.

1. Listen to Texts A and B with the help of the notes given.

Notes

1. having some trouble with her heart: 心脏有些毛病。
2. went to see the doctor: 去看医生(去看病)。

3. one of them was: 其中的一个(问题)是。
4. Well: 语气词,用于开始说话时。
5. that is twice thirty: 那是 30 的两倍。
6. Hello, 332440: 喂,这是 332440。英语国家的习惯是接到电话先报自己的电话号码或单位、公司名称。
7. This is Dave Thomson here: 我是戴维·汤姆森。
8. Could I speak to Jim please: 我能同吉姆讲话吗?
9. he's not in at the moment: 他现在不在。
10. Any idea when he might be back: 知道他大概什么时候回来吗?
might: 可能,也许(语气婉转)。
11. he shouldn't be long: 他不会(耽误)很久。
12. I wouldn't be surprised: 我不会感到吃惊。
13. if he's stopped off at the pub: 如果他在酒馆停下来。
14. on the way back: 回来的路上。

ii. *Pick out useful words and expressions from the following and make sentences with them.*

Example: I will **try to think**.

She told me yesterday that she would try to come.

We will try to finish the work in a week.

They tried their best to solve the problem.

1. A woman was having some trouble with her heart.
2. She went to see the doctor.
3. She thought for a minute.
4. That is twice thirty.
5. I'm afraid he's not in at the moment.
6. Any idea when he might be back?

7. But I wouldn't be surprised if he's stopped off at the pub on the way back.
8. He said he was just going to get some paint.

iii. *Answer the following questions first and then piece together the answers group by group.*

Questions on Text A

1. Where did the story take place?
What was the relationship between the two people?
What is the story about?
2. Why did the woman go to see the doctor?
Did the doctor know her? Why not?
What did he ask her first?
3. Did the woman tell the doctor her age immediately?
Why not?
How old was her husband?
Then how did she work out that she was only thirty-six?
4. How old was the woman?
Did she really forget her age?
Why didn't she tell the doctor her age in a direct way?

Questions on Text B

1. Who are talking on the phone?
What's the possible relationship between Sally and Jim?
What's the relationship between Jim and Dave?
2. What's Jim's telephone number?
Who wants to speak to Jim?
Can he speak to Jim? Why not?
3. When did Jim go out?
Why did he go out?
4. Will Dave call again?
Where is Jim likely to be now?
Does Jim often go to the pub on his way home?

IV. Describe the picture in Text A with the help of the words and expressions below.

a desk with an instrument on it
an instrument for measuring the blood pressure
a bottle of ink
a pen-holder
a sheet of paper
a woman sitting on a chair beside the desk
a handbag on her lap
her hands resting on the handbag
dressed in a dark-colored coat
a short skirt
a fur hat

look up
seem to be thinking hard
facial expression funny
a doctor sitting in an armchair behind the desk
hold a pen in his right hand
his chin resting on his left hand
dressed in a suit
a stethoscope around his neck
look amused
talk about something interesting

V. *Retell the story of Text A. Students sit in a circle with the teacher as a participating member. Each student gives two sentences and all the sentences must be logically connected. The sentences below are given as examples of the beginning of each retelling.*

1. Once there was a woman who didn't want to tell people about her age. She went to a doctor one day because she had some trouble with her heart.
2. I am a new doctor in a clinic. One day a middle-aged woman came and told me she had some trouble with her heart.
3. One day my wife had some trouble with her heart. She went to see a doctor and in the evening she told me about her visit to the clinic.

VI. *Discuss the following topics.*

1. Use as many descriptive words as you can to describe the woman. (Text A)

2. Do you think the woman really wanted to keep her age a secret? Explain. (Text A)
3. Why did the doctor want to know the woman's age? Is it common with doctors? Explain. (Text A)
4. Suppose you were Sally. What would you say to Jim when he came back? (Text B)

vii. *Read the following passage once. Underline the key words while reading and retell the story to your partner.*

Accident

The river, you see, was never really safe at that time of the year—early autumn, I mean, when there is heavy rainfall. So when I heard the children had gone swimming, as they used to all spring and summer, I knew there might be an awful accident. And when they came home late without little Katie, I guessed what had happened.