

Exercise 1. Read, comprehend and retell the text below:

The Two Gifts

Jim and Della were very poor. They lived in New York in a small room on the top floor of a high building. Jim was twenty-two years old, Della was twenty-one. Both husband and wife worked very hard, but there never was any money in the house; for all they got went to pay the grocer, the butcher, and the baker. And the rent was \$8 a week.

And yet they owned two treasures of which they were very proud. These treasures were - Jim's gold watch, which he received from his father, and Della's beautiful hair.

It was the eve of New-Year's Day. Della wanted to give Jim a present. She counted her money. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all she had. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. So she sat down on the sofa and wept. Suddenly she got up and went to the looking-glass. Her eyes shone brilliantly. Quickly she undid her hair. It reached below her knees and covered her like a cloak. And then she did it again quickly and nervously. She put on her old brown hat. Then she ran out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

She stopped before a sign and read the words: "Madame Sofranie. Hair goods of all kinds". Then she entered the shop. She saw Madame sitting at the counter. She was fat and red-cheeked.

"Will you buy my hair?", asked Della.

"Let me see it," said Madame.

Della took off her hat and undid her hair.

"Twenty dollars", said Madame, lifting the mass of Della's golden hair with a practiced hand.

"Give me a money", said Della...

The next two hours were like a happy dream. Della hurried from shop looking for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It was a watch chain for which she paid \$21. And then she hurried home with the chain and the remaining 87 cents.

Jim was not at home. Della got out of curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work. In forty minutes her head was covered with tiny curls. She looked like a schoolboy. She said to herself: "I hope Jim not kill me. But what could I do - oh, what could I do with one dollar and 87 cents.

At seven o'clock the coffee was ready. Della sat waiting for Jim. She heard his steps on the stairs, and she turned white for just one moment. The door opened and Jim entered the room. He looked thin and very serious... and suddenly Jim stopped. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that terrified her.

"Jim, darling! She cried, "don't look at me like that: I sold my hair because I wanted to give you present. My hair will grow again. It grows very fast. Say 'A Happy New Year', Jim, and let us be happy. You don't know what a beautiful present I have for you".

Jim sighed. He drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it on the table. "If you open that package, you will understand," he said.

Della took off the paper and string. There lay the beautiful combs that Della saw in a Broadway shop window. Now they were hers, but her hair was gone.

Suddenly Della jumped and cried:

"Oh, Jim, I shall give you your beautiful present." She held it out to him upon her open palm.

"Isn't it a beautiful chain? Give me your watch: I want to see how it looks on it."

Jim did not obey. He fell on the sofa and put his hands behind his head and smiled.

"Della", said he, "I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. Is the coffee ready?"

Exercise 2. Compose a sentence with the following words (phrases):

top floor

both ... and

work hard

grocer

butcher

baker

rent

own

treasure

be proud

eve

suddenly

shine (shone, shone)

undo (undid, undone)

cover

nervously

sign

hair goods

counter

at last

remain

curling irons

tiny

curls
look like
turn white
be fixed
expression
terrify
like that
let us be
sigh
draw (drew, drown)
package
string
lie (lay, lain)
comb
her hair was gone

Exercise 3. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Jim və Della çox kasıb idilər.
2. Həm ər, həm də arvad çox çalışdılar.
3. Onlar İki xəzinəyə sahib idilər: bu xəzinələr qızıl saat və Della'nın gözəl qızıl saçları idi.
4. Yeni il gecəsi idi.
5. Della Jim üçün hədiyyə etmək istəyirdi.
6. Della öz gözəl saçlarını Jimə bir saat zənciri almaq üçün satdı.
7. Jim öz saatını satdı ki, Dellanın Brodveydəki vitrində gördüyü gözəl tarakları ona almaq üçün.

Exercise 4. Agree or disagree with the following statements.

Correct the incorrect options if necessary.

Use expressions:

I'm afraid that's wrong.

That's not quite true to the fact.

That's (quite) right.

According to the story...

1. Jim and Della lived on the ground floor a low building.
2. Jim was forty-three years old, Della was forty-one.

3. Jim and Della were brother and sister.
4. Jim was proud of his silver watch which he had got from his mother.
5. Della took off her new brown jacket and undid her hair.
6. Madam Sofronie was a young woman, thin and pale, she was standing at the counter when Della entered the shop.
7. Della sold her hair because she wanted to buy a new watch for Jim.

Exercise 5. Answer the questions. Try not to look into the text.

1. Where did Jim and Della live?
2. How old was Jim and how old was Della?
3. Why was there never any money in the house?
4. What were their "treasures"?
5. What did Della want to give Jim?
6. Why did she weep?
7. What did Della do to get some money?
8. What did she buy?
9. What did she do when he came home?
10. What did she look like in forty minutes?
11. What did Della say when Jim saw her?
12. What did Jim buy for her?
13. Could she use the beautiful combs?
14. Why did Della want to see Jim's watch?
15. Did Jim give her his watch? Why?