

“Ana Finds an Apartment”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Ana, her husband Mario, and their four-year-old son, Antonio, just moved to North Carolina.

They need a temporary place to call home until they get settled into their new surroundings.

Right now, they are staying in a hotel not far from Mario’s job.

Ana begins a search for an apartment for the family to live in.

First, Ana picks up an Apartment Book at the local newspaper stand. The Apartment Book contains listings of all the major apartment complexes in her area.

Ana starts by looking at the prices for apartments in the Apartment Book. Then, she reads about the **amenities** that each apartment complex offers.

For example, some apartments have a clubhouse. Some have a gym, which is also called a fitness center. Some have a pool. Some have all of these!

Ana notices that the more amenities an apartment complex has, the more it costs each month. She wants the family’s new apartment to be nice, but she does not want to spend too much money on it. Ana and Mario are trying to save money to buy a house.

After **considering** prices, amenities, and locations, Ana finds several apartment complexes that she thinks the family will like.

Ana calls the apartment complexes. She sets up appointments with the apartment managers to see the apartments she thinks are interesting.

Ana makes five phone calls in total.

When Mario gets back to the hotel from work, Ana shows him the list of apartments. “These look good,” he says.

The next day, while Mario is at work and Antonio is at daycare, Ana visits the apartment complexes.

She likes the fifth one the best. It is in a good school district. It has a pool, but no fitness center or clubhouse. It is near Mario’s job. Ana hopes to find a job nearby as well.

When Ana gets back to the hotel, she **discusses** all that she has seen with Mario. They decide to rent the last apartment Ana saw.

The next day, Ana calls the manager of the apartment complex with the news.

The manager asks Ana and Mario to sign a lease and pay a **security deposit**.

If the family damages the apartment in any way while they are living there, the security deposit will help to pay for the cost of repairs.

Ana and Mario sign a lease and pay the money. The manager asks them when they plan to move in and Ana looks up at Mario. He looks back at her for a moment and then tells the manager, "In a few days."

Finally, they have a place to stay.

Questions:

1) What kind of book does Ana get?

- A. a City Guide Book
- B. a Map Book
- C. a House Book
- D. an Apartment Book

2) What did Ana consider while looking through the Apartment Book?

- I. school districts
 - II. amenities
 - III. locations
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

3) Where is Ana's family staying while they look for a place to call home?

- A. in an apartment close to Mario's work
- B. at an apartment next to Antonio's school
- C. in Ana's mother's house
- D. in a hotel near Mario's work

4) What does Ana realize as she looks through the Apartment Book?

- A. that the nicest apartments are far away
- B. that all the apartments are small and cramped
- C. that it is easy to find a nice apartment in a good school district
- D. that the number of amenities is related to cost

5) Why doesn't Ana want to spend too much money on an apartment?

- A. Her husband will get upset.
- B. She does not have the money.
- C. She cannot find one she likes.
- D. She wants to save money for a house.

6) As described in the beginning of the story, which of the following is not mentioned as an **amenity**?

- A. carpet
- B. clubhouse
- C. fitness center
- D. pool

Questions (continued):

7) What makes Ana like the fifth apartment best?

- I. It has many amenities.
- II. It is near Mario's job.
- III. It is in a good school district.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

8) Where is Antonio while Ana looks at apartments?

- A. at daycare
- B. at the hotel
- C. at school
- D. at work

9) As described in the middle of the story, what does it mean to **consider** something?

- A. to rent it
- B. to think about it
- C. to make it happen
- D. to read a book about it

10) "*When Ana gets back to the hotel, she **discusses** all that she has seen with Mario.*"

Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence while keeping its meaning the same?

- A. When Ana gets back to the hotel, she reads about all she has seen with Mario.
- B. When Ana returns to the hotel, she writes about all she has seen with Mario.
- C. When Ana returns to the hotel, she talks about all she has seen with Mario.
- D. When Ana leaves the hotel, she talks about all she has seen with Mario.

11) When will the family move into their new apartment?

- A. the next day
- B. at the first of the month
- C. in three or four days
- D. in just over a week

12) As used at the end of the story, which is the best description of a **security deposit**?

- A. money given to landlord to pay for amenities
- B. money given to landlord to pay for utilities and telephone
- C. money given to landlord to prove the tenant can pay rent on time
- D. money given to the landlord to pay for any damage to the apartment

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

Paragraph 5 tells us that “Ana picks up an Apartment Book at the local newspaper stand.” Therefore **(D)** is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **C**

In paragraph 9, we learn that Ana chooses some apartments to visit “after considering prices, amenities, and locations.” Although school districts are related to locations, the two are not the same thing. Later, we learn that her favorite apartment complex “is in a good school district.” But the question asks what she considers “while looking through the Apartment Book,” and the story does not contain information that she considers school districts at that time. This eliminates **option (I)**. In paragraph 9, we learn she does consider amenities. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 9, we also learn that she considers locations.” This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

3) **D**

In paragraph 3 we learn that “they are staying in a hotel not far from Mario’s job.” Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **D**

In paragraph 8 we learn that “Ana notices that the more amenities an apartment complex has, the more it costs each month.” Since the price of the apartment goes up in relation to the number of amenities offered, the number of amenities is related to cost. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect. Although it may be easy to find a nice apartment in a good school district, the story does not provide enough information to determine whether it was easy or hard for Ana to do. Also, the story does not tell us this is a realization Ana has while reading the Apartment Book. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

5) **D**

In paragraph 8 we learn that Ana “wants the family’s new apartment to be nice, but she does not want to spend too much money on it. Ana and Mario are trying to save money to buy a house.” Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

In paragraphs 6 and 7 it says that Ana “reads about the **amenities** that each apartment complex offers. For example, some apartments have a clubhouse. Some have a gym, which is also called a fitness center. Some have a pool.” Clubhouse is mentioned. This eliminates **(B)**. Fitness center is mentioned. This eliminates **(C)**. Pool is mentioned. This eliminates **(D)**. Carpet is the only thing that is not mentioned. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

7) **C**

In paragraph 14, we learn that Ana likes the fifth one best. The story tells us “it has a pool, but no fitness center or clubhouse.” One amenity is not many, so this eliminates **option (I)**. We also learn “it is near Mario’s job.” This supports **option (II)**. In the next sentence we learn “it is in a good school district.” This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

8) **A**

In paragraph 13, we learn that “while Mario is at work and Antonio is at daycare, Ana visits the apartment complexes.” Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **B**

In paragraph 9, we learn that Ana chooses some apartments to visit “after considering prices, amenities, and locations.” These are the things that Ana thinks about as being important to finding an apartment her family will like. *To consider* means to think about. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Ana eventually rents an apartment, but she does not rent “prices, amenities, and locations.” Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Ana does not make “prices, amenities, and locations” happen, because these facts are set. She is merely thinking about them. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Although Ana does read the Apartment Book, she does not read a book to find out what will work for her family. She thinks about these things instead. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10) **C**

“Returns” means the same thing as “gets back to,” and “talks about” means the same things as “discusses.” Answer choice **(C)** uses these words to keep the meaning of the original sentence. Therefore **(C)** is correct. “Reads” is not the same thing as “discusses.” Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. “Writes” is not the same thing as “discusses.” Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. “Leaves” is not the same thing as “gets back to.” Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

11) **C**

In paragraph 19, the story tells us “the manager asks them when they plan to move in and Ana looks up at Mario. He looks back at her for a moment and then tells the manager, ‘In a few days.’” A few means a small number. Three or four days is a small number of days. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

12) **D**

In paragraphs 17 and 18, we learn that “the manager asks Ana and Mario to sign a lease and pay a **security deposit**. If the family damages the apartment in any way while they are living there, the security deposit will help to pay for the cost of repairs.” We can infer from this that the security deposit will be used to pay for any damage to the apartment. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.