

“Talía’s Special Day”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Today is a special day for Talía. She is getting ready for a dinner celebration. She wants to look very nice for her night out.

First, she gets her hair cut at a **salon**. A **salon** is a place where people go to get their hair and nails done.

Then, she gets her fingernails painted pink. A woman who works at the salon paints Talía’s nails.

Talía is not happy with the color. She asks the woman to change the color to purple.

She likes the purple very much.

It is almost time to go out. Talía goes home and looks in her closet.

She tries on a pair of light blue pants with a white shirt.

She tries on a purple dress with a black belt.

She tries on a brown skirt with a green top.

She wears the purple dress.

Many of her friends and family are at the restaurant when she gets there.

She hugs her mother and father.

She gives her grandfather a kiss.

Talía’s sister gives her a big smile.

Her best friend, Asra, gives her a present.

Tomorrow is Talía’s birthday, but she is celebrating it tonight.

“Happy Birthday, Talía,” they say. “You look great!”

“I feel great because all of you are here,” says Talía, “for my last night as a teenager.”



Questions:

- 1) What is Talia doing for her special day?
- A. She is having a party at home.
 - B. She is going to her friend's house.
 - C. She is making dinner.
 - D. She is going to a restaurant.
- 2) Why does Talia want to look nice?
- A. She is celebrating.
 - B. It is a national holiday.
 - C. She is going to church.
 - D. She is going a dance.
- 3) What does Talia do first?
- A. She picks out a dress.
 - B. She gets her nails painted.
 - C. She gets her hair cut.
 - D. She goes out to eat.
- 4) Why does Talia change the color of her nails?
- A. It does not match her dress.
 - B. She is not happy with pink.
 - C. Her friends tell her to change the color.
 - D. She is not happy with purple.
- 5) What does Talia wear out?
- A. light blue pants
 - B. a brown skirt
 - C. a purple dress
 - D. a green top
- 6) What does Talia do when she sees her parents?
- A. She smiles.
 - B. She says hello.
 - C. She gives them a hug.
 - D. She gives them a kiss.
- 7) Who smiles at Talia?
- A. her mother
 - B. her sister
 - C. her father
 - D. her friend
- 8) How old is Talia?
- A. 15
 - B. 16
 - C. 19
 - D. 21
- 9) As described in the beginning of the story, what is a **salon**?
- A. a restaurant
 - B. a place where people talk about business
 - C. a gift shop
 - D. a place to get hair and nails done
- 10) Why does Talia feel great?
- A. because she looks great
 - B. because her friends and family are there
 - C. because her hair is cut
 - D. because her nails are purple

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

At the beginning of the story, we learn that Talia is getting ready for a dinner celebration. In paragraph 11, learn that Talia has arrived at a restaurant. Using this information, we can understand that Talia's celebration takes place at a restaurant. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **A**

At the beginning of the story, we are told that Talia is getting ready for a dinner celebration. The story tells us, "She wants to look very nice for her night out." Talia wants to look nice because she is celebrating a special occasion. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **C**

The passage tells us how Talia gets ready for her special celebration. In paragraph 2, we learn, "First, she gets her hair cut at a salon." Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although Talia does pick out a dress, get her nails painted, and go out to eat, all of these things happen *after* she gets her hair cut. Therefore answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are incorrect.

4) **B**

In paragraph 3, we learn that Talia has her nails painted pink. In paragraph 4, we learn, "Talia is not happy with the color. She asks the woman to change the color to purple." Because Talia is not happy with pink nails, she has her nails painted purple. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

It is true the pink nails would not match Talia's purple dress, but Talia does not know what outfit she is wearing when she gets her nails painted. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not contain information to support choices **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **C**

Talia tries on several outfits before she decides which one to wear. Paragraph 10 tells us, "she wears the purple dress." Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although Talia tries on the light blue pants **(A)**, brown skirt **(B)** and green top **(D)**, she does not wear them out. Therefore, **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are incorrect.

6) **C**

In the passage, *parents* is another word for Talia's mother and father. In paragraph 12, we learn that Talia "hugs her mother and father." So we can understand that Talia hugs her *parents* when she sees them. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Talia's sister smiles at her. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not contain information about anyone saying hello. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. She gives her grandfather a kiss. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

7) **B**

In paragraph 14, we learn, "Talia's sister gives her a big smile." Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **C**

In the last paragraph Talia tells her family and friends that she feels great that they are at the restaurant for her "last night as a teenager." A person is a teenager from the ages of 13 to 19. If it is Talia's last night as a teenager, we can understand that she is still 19 and will turn 20 the next day. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **D**

Paragraph 2 explains, "A salon is a place where people go to get their hair and nails done." Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

10) **B**

In the last paragraph, Talia says, "I feel great because all of you are here." Using this information, we can understand that when Talia says "all of you" she means her friends and family. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.