

## The Wedding Invitation

It was a beautiful Sunday morning, not too warm and not too cold. Spring was leaving and the summer had just about erased all proof that spring was ever there. I had woken up early to get to the church earlier than usual as I was meant to be one of the ushers that day. I had eaten my cereal and was about to head out the door when I realised that I had plenty of time before I needed to be at the church. Pouring myself another cup of tea, I sat down at the kitchen counter and opened up my laptop to pass the time. I had to be careful though, as opening up a browser is never a quick thing for me. I would search for one thing, which would lead to another and then another and before you know it, I would have been caught up in the tangle of the aptly named World Wide Web with seemingly no escape! I had logged in to my email and was pleasantly surprised at the name that popped up on top. It was an email from my cousin Nicole. We hadn't been in touch for at least two years, so this was a nice surprise.

Nicole was my mum's older sister's daughter. Aunt Louise had emigrated to France when she was just eighteen. She had travelled to Paris as a young art student and had decided to settle down there indefinitely. I first met Nicole when she visited us with Aunt Louise one summer. It was quite a daunting experience, speaking to someone whose first language wasn't English, so I shied away at first. Mum however kept telling me how important it was to keep in touch with family so I tried my best for her. It turned out to be a great way to learn about a different culture but I wasn't too convinced as a young girl. Thanks to Mum's resolution we started writing to each other regularly, and although I was dubious at first, after a few months of writing to Nicole I had to reluctantly admit that Mum's instinct was right. I was very introverted at school and so found it quite a challenge to make friends. Mum had seized the opportunity to rid me of my growing pains and so began her almost daily routine of selling the idea of keeping in touch with Nicole. She told me that the opportunities are endless – I could learn a different language, I could make a lifelong friend, and I could travel the world. Above all else, she drilled into me the importance of family. I remember thinking to myself that Mum's persistence could only be rivalled by a door-to-door salesman that often called around to flog his merchandise.

*(The actual passage is 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  pages long, the actual passage word count is 466 words)*

9. What quality of Nicole's was evident in the beautifully decorated card?
- She was a pessimist
  - She was very artistic
  - She was down to earth
  - Her love for babies
  - Her love for plants
10. According to the passage, how did Susie feel about the World Wide Web?
- She felt it was a very useful tool.
  - She only used it for email, as she didn't have time for browsing.
  - She thought it was good to pass the time.
  - She felt entrapped by it because she found it hard to stop browsing.
  - She felt it was an intuitive tool that helped her to keep browsing page after page.
11. Which of the following is an accurate description of the wedding card?
- It was a plain card with ivory borders and a blue bow tied in its centre
  - It had an intricate platinum border of flowers, which came together in a lace-patterned bow.
  - It was ornately decorated with a silver border of flowers, which came together in a lace bow.
  - There was no card in the envelope; only a handwritten note.
  - It was an ivory card, with a beautiful lace ribbon tied into a bow in the middle.
12. What was the main purpose of Nicole's note?
- It was to persuade Susie and her mum to come to the wedding.
  - It was to ask Susie whether she received the card.
  - It was to ask Susie whether she would be a bride's maid.
  - It was to tell Susie that they could finally go and see the sights in Paris.
  - It was to tell Susie that she was her closest friend.
13. Why had Susie woken early that Sunday morning?
- She wanted to have her cereal.
  - She wanted to watch the seasons change.
  - She had to get to the church earlier than usual.
  - She wanted to check her emails.
  - She wanted time to enjoy her cup of tea.
14. What did Susie's aunt study as a young girl?
- Travel and tourism
  - Art
  - Literature
  - English
  - French

15. According to the passage, which of the following best describes how Susie was feeling on the way to her mum's house?
- She was feeling sad that she couldn't attend the wedding.
  - She was feeling angry that her mum hadn't taken her to Paris all these years.
  - She was impatient to write a response to Nicole.
  - She regretted that the friends had never met or spoken.
  - She was excited at the thought of seeing Paris.
16. Drawing from the context of the passage, how did Susie feel about door-to-door salesmen?
- She thought their personality was similar to her mother's.
  - She thought they were welcoming.
  - She thought they were generous.
  - She thought they were not keen on selling their merchandise.
  - She thought they were pessimistic.
17. What surprised Susie most about Nicole's grasp of the English language?
- Susie couldn't understand why Nicole wasn't very fluent in English.
  - Susie couldn't grasp the concept of a first language.
  - Susie wished she spoke as well as Nicole.
  - Susie was impressed at how fluent Nicole was although English isn't her primary language.
  - Susie felt indifferent about Nicole's language skills.

Answers

9	B	Inside the envelope was another ivory-coloured one that was decorated with golden flowers and a beautiful lace ribbon running through the middle, which ended in a perfectly tied bow right in its centre
10	D	I had to be careful though, as opening up a browser is never a quick thing for me. I would search for one thing, which would lead to another and then another and before you know it, I would have been caught up in the tangle of the aptly named World Wide Web with seemingly no escape!
11	E	Inside the envelope was another ivory-coloured one that was decorated with golden flowers and a beautiful lace ribbon running through the middle, which ended in a perfectly tied bow right in its centre

12	A	<p>“Dear Aunt Maddie and Susie,</p> <p>I hope this letter finds you well. I’m sorry that I’m springing this on you at the last minute but I hope that you can come to Paris for my autumn wedding!</p> <p>Lots of love,</p> <p>Nicole.</p> <p>PS: I can finally show you around Paris like we always spoke about.”</p>
13	C	I had woken up early to get to the church earlier than usual as I was meant to be one of the ushers that day.
14	B	Aunt Louise had emigrated to France when she was just eighteen. She had travelled to Paris as a young art student and had decided to settle down there indefinitely.
15	E	I got into my car to follow Mum to her house where I was always found on a Sunday afternoon. During the fifteen-minute drive, I still couldn’t wipe the smile off my face.
16	A	Mum’s persistence could only be rivalled by a door-to-door salesman that often called around to flog his merchandise.
17	D	But I was surprised that someone whose first language was not English, could be so articulate in it.