

“Late”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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



Martin is **in a hurry**.

He is late to work again.

Martin's boss doesn't like it when he is late. Martin was late last week. His boss told him not to be late again.

“You can't be late anymore,” said Martin's boss. **“I mean it.”**

Martin thinks he might lose his job if he is late again.

The time is now 7:15 am. Martin needs to be to work by 7:30. It takes him 22 minutes to drive to work.

“Things don't look good,” he says to himself.

Martin runs out of the house. He jumps in his car. He puts the car in reverse. He backs up without looking.

BOOM!

There is a sound like someone hitting a drum. Martin's car jerks to a stop. He has hit the car parked behind him.

“Oh no!” Martin exclaims. He is angry now.

Martin looks at his watch. It is 7:18. He needs to get to work.

He looks around. There is no one on the street. There is no one **nearby**.

He looks in the parked car. It is empty.

Martin drives off quickly.

He gets to work 10 minutes late.

Martin's boss is not around. “Thank goodness,” he says to himself.

He stops worrying. He sits at his desk to work.

During lunch, Martin goes out to the parking lot. He looks at his car. There is a big dent in the back.

Then he thinks about the other car - the car he hit this morning. “I know that car is damaged too,” he thinks.

He feels **guilty**.

“That was not right,” Martin says to himself.

He will see if the car is still outside his house when he gets off work.



Questions:

1) Martin is **in a hurry**. What does this mean?

- A. He is running.
- B. He is angry.
- C. He is late.
- D. He is moving fast.

2) Why is Martin in a hurry?

- A. _____

3) Martin's boss says, "**I mean it.**" What does this mean?

- A. He is serious.
- B. He is angry.
- C. He is sad.
- D. He is interested.

4) What does Martin think will happen if he is late to work again?

- A. He will get a pay cut.
- B. He will need to buy a watch.
- C. He will get fired from his job.
- D. He will need to learn to tell time.

5) What time does Martin need to be at work?

- A. _____

6) If Martin leaves the house at 7:15, what time would he get to work?

- A. 7:32
- B. 7:37
- C. 7:40
- D. 7:52

7) What is the loud noise?

- A. Martin yelling
- B. police sirens
- C. someone hitting Martin's car
- D. Martin hitting someone's car

8) Martin checks if there is anyone nearby. What does **nearby** mean?

- A. in
- B. next to
- C. close to
- D. far (away) from

9) Why doesn't Martin get in trouble with his boss today?

- A. His boss is not around.
- B. He gets to work on time.
- C. His boss feels sorry for him.
- D. Martin says he is sorry for being late.

10) Who does Martin talk to during the story?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. his boss
- B. his friends
- C. himself
- D. the driver of the other car

Questions (continued):

11) How do Martin's feelings change during the story?

- A. from hurried, to guilty, to angry
- B. from angry, to guilty, to hurried
- C. from hurried, to angry, to guilty
- D. from angry, to hurried, to angry

12) Why did Martin look around after he hit the car?

- A. He needed help.
- B. He wanted a ride to work.
- C. He needed to check the time.
- D. He wanted to check if anyone saw him.

13) What does it mean to feel **guilty** ?

- A. to feel bad about doing something
- B. to feel worried about doing something
- C. to feel unsure about doing something
- D. to feel like you want to change something

14) What might Martin do if the car he hit is still there after work?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. He might hit it again.
- B. He might try to find the owner.
- C. He might try to hide the dent.
- D. He might leave a note on the car with his name and number.

Do you think Martin is a good employee? Why or why not?
