



Ten Minute Test – Reading 1

On the next page, you will find a reading comprehension passage.

You have 10 minutes to read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

My Aunt in India

When Rupa was nine, she spent six weeks of her summer holiday with Auntie Meena in India. Her aunt lived in a small town where the roads were rarely silent. Motorbikes buzzed between cars, shopkeepers called from crowded doorways, and somewhere in the distance a horn always seemed to be complaining.

On Rupa's first morning, she woke before sunrise. The air drifting through the open window was already warm. Downstairs, Auntie Meena was waiting with two empty cloth bags.

"Come," she said. "Before the sun gets angry."

Rupa followed her through streets that grew busier with every turn. When they reached the market, her sleepy eyes widened. Mountains of red chillies filled wooden crates. Mangoes were stacked like golden towers, and bunches of herbs spilled across tables in every shade of green. Traders called out prices while customers squeezed between stalls.

Auntie Meena moved through the confusion as calmly as if she were walking through her own kitchen.

At one stall, she picked up a mango and pressed it gently with her thumb.

"Too soft," she announced, putting it back.

The shopkeeper frowned. "Perfect!"

"For someone with no teeth, perhaps," Auntie Meena replied.

The shopkeeper stared at her for a moment before bursting into laughter. Even Rupa, who had been trying to look serious, began to giggle.

By eight o'clock, the cloth bags were bulging. Rupa's arms ached as they started home. She wondered why Auntie Meena had bought quite so much food.

That afternoon, the answer arrived.

First came an elderly neighbour carrying a bowl. Then a mother appeared with two small children. Soon there were people Rupa had never seen before sitting on the floor, talking and laughing while Auntie Meena hurried between the kitchen and dining room.

"Are all these people our family?" Rupa whispered.

Auntie Meena smiled. "Some of them."

She placed an enormous dish of rice in the centre of the table.

"And the others?"

Auntie Meena shrugged. "They are hungry."

Rupa looked around the crowded room. That morning, she had thought the market was noisy. Now Auntie Meena's little house seemed to have swallowed the entire town. Plates travelled from hand to hand. Children darted between adults, and laughter bounced off the walls.

Rupa noticed that her aunt was the last person to sit down. By then, very little food remained. Without saying anything, Rupa pushed half of her mango onto Auntie Meena's plate.

Her aunt looked at it, then at Rupa.

For once, Auntie Meena had nothing to say.

But her smile said enough.

1. Why did Rupa's eyes widen when she arrived at the market?

- a. She was frightened by the shopkeepers.
- b. She had spotted Auntie Meena's friends.
- c. She was worried that they would become lost.
- d. She was surprised by how colourful and busy it was.
- e. She had never seen mangoes before.

2. In the sentence "*Before the sun gets angry*," what does Auntie Meena mean?

- a. They should go before the day becomes extremely hot.
- b. Rupa should avoid looking directly at the sun.
- c. The market closes when the sun rises.
- d. The weather becomes very windy later in the day.
- e. They should return before there is a storm.

3. Which type of figurative language is used in "*a horn always seemed to be complaining*"?

- a. Metaphor
- b. Alliteration
- c. Onomatopoeia
- d. Simile
- e. Personification

4. The text says Auntie Meena moved through the market "*as calmly as if she were walking through her own kitchen*." What does this suggest about her?

- a. She wanted to return home as quickly as possible.
- b. She knew the market well and felt comfortable there.
- c. She found the market unusually quiet.

- d. She preferred cooking to shopping.
- e. She was ignoring the people around her.

5. Which word is closest in meaning to "bulging" in the sentence "*the cloth bags were bulging*"?

- a. Torn
- b. Expensive
- c. Colourful
- d. Overflowing
- e. Heavy

6. Why does the writer include the conversation between Auntie Meena and the mango seller?

- a. To explain why Rupa does not like mangoes.
- b. To suggest that the shopkeeper is dishonest.
- c. To show Auntie Meena's confidence and sense of humour.
- d. To explain how much the mangoes cost.
- e. To show that Auntie Meena dislikes the people at the market.

7. Why had Auntie Meena bought such a large amount of food?

- a. She intended to sell some of it to her neighbours.
- b. She expected Rupa to eat more than usual.
- c. She had accidentally bought too much.
- d. She planned to store it for the entire summer.
- e. She planned to share it with people who came to her home.

8. The writer says Auntie Meena's house "*seemed to have swallowed the entire town.*" What does this expression suggest?

- a. The house was dangerously overcrowded.
- b. Everyone in the town was related to Auntie Meena.
- c. The house was much larger than Rupa had realised.
- d. Rupa was becoming confused about where she was.
- e. There were so many people inside that it felt as though everyone had gathered there.

9. Why does Rupa put half of her mango onto Auntie Meena's plate?

- a. She notices that her aunt has given food to everyone else and has little left for herself.
- b. She has decided that she does not like mangoes.
- c. Auntie Meena has asked her to share it.
- d. She wants to thank her aunt for taking her to the market.
- e. She is too full to finish eating.

10. At the end of the passage, why does the writer say "*her smile said enough*"?

- a. Auntie Meena is too tired to continue speaking.
- b. Auntie Meena's expression communicates how she feels without her needing to speak.
- c. Auntie Meena is amused because Rupa has given her too much food.
- d. Rupa has finally understood one of her aunt's jokes.
- e. Rupa knows that her aunt dislikes becoming emotional.

Once you have finished the test, watch the solutions video to check your answers and learn from any mistakes.