

A Puma at Large

Here is an explanation of the meanings of some words as they are used in the passage:

- 1- Puma (n.) Br. Eng. = cougar = mountain lion Am. Eng.
- 2- At large (prep. ph.) = free = not in captivity.
- 3- Reports (n.) = news
- 4- Wild (adj.) x tame
- 5- Spot (v.) = see
- 6- Begin (v.) = start
- 7- Accumulate (v.) = gather = build up
- 8- Experts (n.) = specialized people
- 9- Oblige (v.) = force
- 10- Investigate (v.) = check
- 11- For (conj.) = because = since = as
- 12- Extraordinarily (adv.) = unusually
- 13- Similar (adj.) = alike
- 14- Hunt (n.) = search
- 15- Pick (v.) = gather
- 16- Immediately (adv.) = at once = right = right away = right off = instantly = instantaneously
- 17- Run away = flee
- 18- Confirm (v.) = assure
- 19- Attack (v.) = assault = assail
- 20- Corner (v.) = trap
- 21- Prove (v.) = turn out
- 22- Observe (v.) = notice
- 23- Wherever (adv.) = anywhere = anyplace
- 24- Bush (n.) = small tree
- 25- Several (adj.) = a number of
- 26- Trip (n.) = journey

- 27- Convinced (adj.) = sure = certain
- 28- Missing (adj.) = lost
- 29- Must have been = surely/certainly/definitely/undoubtedly was
- 30- Possession (n.) = ownership
- 31- Somehow (adv.) = someway
- 32- Manage (v.) = succeed
- 33- Go on (v.) = continue
- 34- Disturb (v.) = confuse = worry
- 35- Dangerous (adj.) = perilous = hazardous
- 36- Quiet (adj.) = calm = serene = tranquil
- 37- Countryside (n.) = country x city

After we have read the passage and explained the meanings of some of the words in it, it is time to answer the comprehension questions. These are done below:

- 1- Reports that a wild puma had been spotted forty-five miles south of London were received by the London zoo.
- 2- The reports were similar in nature.
- 3- A woman picking blackberries saw it first.
- 4- It moved from place to place.
- 5- It left behind it a trail of dead animals.
- 6- Paw prints and puma fur were found as well.
- 7- Cat-like noises were heard at night.
- 8- The animal was seen up a tree.
- 9- Experts were now sure that the animal was really a puma.

Now our task is to link the sentences above so as to create a précis. Here is an attempt below:

Reports similar in nature that a wild puma had been spotted south of London were received by the London zoo. A woman saw it first in a small village, but it moved from

place to place leaving behind a trail of dead animals. Paw prints and puma fur were found as well. Cat-like noises were also heard at night, and then the animal was seen up a tree. Experts were now sure that the animal was really a puma.