

## Words and Expressions

doubtless	– certainly; probably or presumably	یقیناً غالباً
large-hearted	– generous; kind; sympathetic	فراخ دل
plain	– unadorned; pure; simple; natural; smooth	سادہ۔ زیبائش کے بغیر
reasonably	– sensibly; levelheadedly; realistically; rationally	ہوشمندی سے، حقیقت پسندانہ انداز میں
riches	– great wealth or many valuable possessions; wealth	امارت، دولت، خزانے
cold-eyed	– unfriendly	سرد نگاہ۔ بے مہر
hunt	– search for	تلاش کرنا، ڈھونڈنا

## Multiple Choice Questions

### I. Choose the correct synonym.

- She put it on her head again **nervously** and quickly.  
A) anxiously B) joyfully  
C) stylishly D) calmly
- If a king had lived in a same house with all his **riches**....  
A) souvenirs B) royal servants  
C) wealthy courtiers D) wealth
- She **put on** her old brown coat.  
A) removed B) wore  
C) shelved D) hung
- Hair **articles** of all kinds.  
A) things B) machines  
C) sprays D) creams
- Mrs. Safronie, large, too white, **cold-eyed**, looked at her.  
A) unassuming B) cool and calm  
C) keen D) unfriendly
- Oh and the next two hours **seemed to fly**.  
A) moved slowly B) hung heavily  
C) passed swiftly D) went up
- Because it was so **plain** and simple, you knew that it was very valuable.  
A) beautified B) smooth  
C) unadorned D) flat
- Jim and chain both had **quietness** and value.  
A) discreetness B) silence  
C) secrecy D) attractiveness
- Because it was so plain and simple, you knew that it was very **valuable**.  
A) ordinary B) respectable  
C) simple D) precious
- Her mind **quietened** a little.  
A) stayed B) relaxed  
C) thought D) puzzled
- She began to think more **reasonably**.  
A) proudly B) speedily  
C) rationally D) sentimentally
- Love and **large-hearted** giving when added together, can leave deep marks.  
A) generous B) heart-felt  
C) prompt D) unlimited
- Please God, make him think I am still **pretty**.  
A) fashionable B) attractive  
C) passionate D) slender
- Della's face **lost colour**.  
A) scowled B) blushed  
C) grew pale D) flushed
- There was an **expression** in them.  
A) impression B) urgency  
C) inclination D) expectation
- He looked at her with the **strange** expression on his face.  
A) unfamiliar B) strong  
C) loving D) shocked

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17. He seemed to labour to understand what had happened.

- A) think                      B) relax  
C) pretend                  D) endeavour

18. I hunted all over town to find it.

- A) preyed                      B) searched  
C) frequented              D) pried

19. The gold seemed to shine softly as if with her own warm and loving spirit.

- A) shiny                      B) indignant  
C) agitated                  D) sincere

20. Their gifts were doubtlessly wise ones.

- A) certainly                  B) controversially  
C) suspiciously              D) worthless

21. She had looked at them without the least hope of owning them.

- A) most                      B) thorough  
C) slightest                  D) greatest

22. She had looked at them without the least hope of owning them.

- A) presenting                  B) possessing  
C) admiring                  D) wearing

23. No one could ever count my regard for you.

- A) indifference              B) spontaneity  
C) attitude                      D) care

24. Let's put our Christmas gifts away and keep them awhile.

- A) for a short time          B) for a long time  
C) permanently              D) covered

25. The next two hours seemed to fly.

(Board 2018)

- A) looked in hurry          B) passed  
C) passed quickly          D) expired

## Answers

1. A	4. A	7. C	10. B	13. B	16. A	19. D	22. B
2. D	5. D	8. A	11. C	14. C	17. D	20. A	23. D
3. B	6. C	9. D	12. A	15. A	18. B	21. C	24. A
25. C							

## II. Choose the correct answer.

1. The James Dillingham Youngs had two valuable things, \_\_\_\_.

- A) a house and a car  
B) a necklace and a clock  
C) Jim's gold watch and Della's hair  
D) furniture and a villa

2. Della's hair was more beautiful than any \_\_\_\_.

- A) painting  
B) palace  
C) queen's Jewels and gifts  
D) scene

3. Della's hair reached below her \_\_\_\_.

- A) neck                      B) back  
C) feet                      D) knee

4. "Down fell the brown waterfall" means \_\_\_\_.

- A) the stream flowed down  
B) the brown waterfall fell down  
C) Della's hair fell down  
D) the brown water fell down

5. What did she buy for Jim?

- A) a gold watch  
B) a gold watch chain  
C) a necktie  
D) a brown hat

6. What was common to Jim and the watch chain?

- A) simplicity  
B) quietness  
C) value and preciousness  
D) quietness and value

7. With her short hair, Della looked wonderfully like a \_\_\_\_.

- A) young girl                  B) school boy  
C) dame                      D) woman

8. What did Della pray?

- A) may he think her still pretty  
B) may she live long  
C) may she have long hair again  
D) may she remain pretty



9. No one can count Della's \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) feelings B) love  
C) hair D) Jewels
10. What did Jim buy as a gift for Della?  
A) hair articles of all kinds  
B) a gold watch chain  
C) flowers  
D) combs
11. How much money had Della put aside?  
A) eighty-seven cents  
B) one dollar and eighty-seven cents  
C) one dollar and twenty-seven cents  
D) twenty dollars
12. Della sold her hair for \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) twenty dollars  
B) twenty five dollars  
C) thirty dollars  
D) thirty five dollars
13. How many times did Della count her savings?  
A) three times B) four times  
C) five times D) six times
14. Jim and Della could not live through Christmas without \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) some money  
B) a lot of shopping  
C) giving each other gifts  
D) partying
15. When was Jim's dinner ready?  
A) at seven B) at eight  
C) at nine D) at ten
16. How old was Jim?  
A) 21 years B) 22 years  
C) 23 years D) 24 years
17. Della paid \_\_\_\_\_ dollars for the gift.  
(Board 2010)  
A) 20 B) 21  
C) 22 D) 23
18. Della hurried home with the chain and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) eighty seven cents  
B) eighty eight cents  
C) eighty nine cents  
D) ninety cents
19. What can leave deep marks?  
A) beauty and attractiveness  
B) love and large-hearted giving  
C) gifts and jewels  
D) riches and power
20. Love and large-hearted giving can leave \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) deep marks B) Christmas gifts  
C) sacrifice D) nothing behind
21. Della had looked at the combs with the least hope of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) wearing them B) owning them  
C) liking them D) leaving them
22. The gold watch chain was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) simply made B) well-decorated  
C) expensive D) cheap
23. When Della arrived home her mind \_\_\_\_\_ a little.  
A) quietened B) was agitated  
C) hurt D) panicked
24. The chain seemed to shine softly as if with \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) its rich and pure material  
B) Della's warm and loving spirit  
C) Christmas joy  
D) the spirit of the Magi
25. Della's long hair almost made itself into a \_\_\_\_\_ for her.  
A) treasure B) gift  
C) skirt D) dress

## Answers

1. C	5. B	9. B	13. A	17. B	21. B	25. D
2. C	6. D	10. D	14. C	18. A	22. A	
3. D	7. B	11. B	15. A	19. B	23. A	
4. C	8. A	12. A	16. B	20. A	24. B	



## Questions from the Textbook

- Q.1 How much did Della save for Christmas?**  
**Ans.** Della could save only one dollar and eighty seven cents in her careful buying of meat and other foodstuff. With this money she could not buy a nice gift for Jim.
- Q.2 Why did Della feel proud of the beauty of her hair?** (Board 2017)  
**Ans.** Della felt proud of the beauty of her hair because her hair was like a brown waterfall and it reached below her knees. To her, it was more valuable than a queen's jewels and gifts.
- Q.3 Why did Della sell her hair?** (Board 2016)  
**Ans.** Della sold her hair because she didn't have enough money to buy a Christmas gift. She sacrificed her dearest possession for the sake of Jim.
- Q.4 Why did Jim sell his gold watch?** (Board 2010,14)  
**Ans.** Jim didn't have enough money to buy a Christmas gift for Della. He was too hard up financially. In the midst of his humble circumstances, the act of selfless love played out and he sold his most prized possession.
- Q.5 Why did they want to present the gifts? OR How did Jim and Della want to celebrate their Christmas? OR Why did Della and Jim want to exchange the gifts?** (Board 2018)  
**Ans.** Christmas is an occasion of giving. Jim and Della wanted to celebrate Christmas by giving gifts to each other. To them, Christmas gifts were expressions of the warmth of their souls.
- Q.6 Why did Della feel sad on losing her hair?** (Board 2015)  
**Ans.** Della's beautiful long hair had always been the pride of the family. Now after losing it, she thought she had lost her charm. She feared that Jim might not like her without her long hair.
- Q.7 Why didn't Jim welcome her when he stepped in?** (Lahore Board 2007 Group-II)  
**Ans.** Seeing his wife's hair cut off, he just stood still, trying to figure out what had happened. He had sold his precious gold watch to buy combs for Della. He was stunned by her appearance, or rather confused realizing how useless his gift had become.
- Q.8 What did Jim bring out of his coat?**  
**Ans.** Jim brought out of his coat beautiful combs for Della's long hair. These were the combs she had seen in a shop window and loved for a long time.
- Q.9 How beautiful was the gold watch chain?**  
**Ans.** The gold watch chain was plain and simple. Its value was in its rich and pure material. It seemed to shine softly as if with Della's warm and loving spirit.
- Q.10 What was the wisdom in selling the most valuable things?** (Board 2007, 17)  
**OR What is the message of the story "The Gift of the Magi"?**  
**Ans.** Love has its own wisdom. It is all about unselfishness and large-hearted giving. Material possessions are nothing if they do not express the warmth of the soul. This is a story of self-sacrifice, generosity and love.

## Additional Questions

- Q.11 Why did Jim and Della sell their most valuable things?**  
**Ans.** Jim and Della wanted to give gifts to each other to celebrate Christmas but they had no money. So they sold their most valuable possessions to buy each other Christmas gifts.
- Q.12 What was Mrs. Safronie like?**  
**Ans.** Mrs. Safronie was large, cold-eyed, and too white.
- Q.13 How much did Mrs. Safronie offer Della for her hair?**  
**Ans.** Madame Sofronie's cold evaluation of the dollar value of Della's hair directly contrasts with its value to Della and Jim. She offered twenty dollars for her gorgeous past-her-knees hair.



**Q.14 What little prayer did Della say before Jim came home?**

**Ans.** After selling her precious long hair, she was afraid Jim might no longer find her beautiful with her short hair. Therefore, she prayed, "Please God, make him think I'm still pretty."

**Q.15 How proud was Jim of his gold watch?**

**Ans.** It was a prized family heirloom. Jim inherited it from his grandfather. He knew that his watch was more valuable than the treasure of a king.

**Q.16 Why does the author call Jim and Della the Magi?**

**Ans.** The writer calls Jim and Della the Magi because like the Magi their wisdom lies in unselfish and large-hearted giving. He considers their gifts equal to or as wise as those given by the Magi.

**Q.17 What according to O Henry can leave deep marks on human life?**

**Ans.** Love and large-hearted giving are the most profound emotions known to human beings and can leave deep marks on human life. Without them, there is little in life to inspire.

**Q.18 How did the Magi celebrate their Christmas?**

(Board 2018)

**Ans.** Christmas is an occasion to renew all pledges and promises to make others realize how much you care for them. It is done through exchange of gifts. The tradition began with the Magi who brought valuable gifts for the newly born Jesus Christ.

## Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

cut it off and sold it said della dont you like me now i m me jim i m the same without my hair

**Solved:**

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me now? I'm me Jim. I'm the same without my hair."

2) **Unsolved:**

if jim doesnt like me she said to herself before he looks at me a second time he ll say i look like a girl who works for money but could i do oh what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents

**Solved:**

"If Jim doesn't like me," she said to herself, "before he looks at me a second time, he'll say I look like a girl who works for money. But could I do – oh! What could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

3) **Unsolved:**

jim dear she cried dont look at me like that i had my hair cut off and sold it i couldnt live through christmas without giving you a gift my hair will grow again you wont care will you

**Solved:**

"Jim, dear," she cried, "don't look at me like that. I had my hair cut off and sold it. I couldn't live through Christmas without giving you a gift. My hair will grow again. You won't care, will you?"

4) **Unsolved:**

cut it off and sold it said della dont you like me now im me jim im the same without my hair

**Solved:**

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me now? I'm me, Jim. I'm the same without my hair."

5) **Unsolved:**

you dont have to look for it said della its sold I tell you sold and gone too its the night before christmas boy be good to me because I sold it for you

**UNIQUE NOTES****Solved:**

"You don't have to look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you – sold and gone, too. It's the night before Christmas, boy. Be good to me, because I sold it for you."

6) **Unsolved:**

i want you to understand me dell he said nothing like a haircut could make me careless for you but if you ll open that you may know what i felt when i came in

**Solved:**

"I want you to understand me, Dell," he said. "Nothing like a haircut could make me careless for you. But if you'll open that, you may know what I felt when I came in."

7) **Unsolved:**

isnt it perfect jim i hunted all over town to find it you ll have to look at your watch a hundred times a day now give me your watch i want to see how they look together

**Solved:**

"Isn't it perfect, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at your watch a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how they look together."

8) **Unsolved:**

della said he lets put our christmas gifts away and keep them awhile they re too nice to use now i sold the watch to get the money to buy the combs and now i think we should have our dinner

**Solved:**

"Della," said he, "let's put our Christmas gifts away and keep them awhile. They're too nice to use now. I sold the watch to get the money to buy the combs. And now I think we should have our dinner."



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