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4. Copy and complete the following paragraph about the theme of the play using the clues given in the box below. Remember that there are more clues than required.

Sell, buying, house, enthusiastic, comes, 200 thousand francs, taking, favour, get, sleeps, money, 300 thousand francs, unhappy, his in-laws, walks in, strikes, keep

Juliette, the owner of a villa wants to _____ it as she is in need of _____. Moreover, she is not in _____ of the house. Jeanne and Gaston, a couple visit her with the aim of _____ the Villa. While Jeanne is _____ about buying, Gaston detests the idea as he does not want his _____ in that house. Also, he finds the asking price of _____ to be expensive. When Jeanne and Juliette go around the house, another customer _____ and starts talking to Gaston _____ him to be Juliette's husband. Gaston _____ a deal with the customer by which he is able to give _____ to the owner and _____ one thousand francs for himself.

Answer:

Juliette, the owner of a villa wants to sell it as she is in need of money. Moreover, she is not in favour of the house. Jeanne and Gaston, a couple visit her with the aim of buying the Villa. While Jeanne is enthusiastic about buying, Gaston detests the idea as he does not want his in-laws in that house. Also, he finds the asking price of house to be expensive. When Jeanne and Juliette go around the house, another customer walks-in and starts talking to Gaston taking him to be Juliette's husband. Gaston strikes a deal with the customer by which he is able to give 200 thousand francs to the owner and keep one thousand francs for himself.

5. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Why does Jeanne want to buy a villa?

Answer:

Jeanne wants to buy the villa so that her parents can stay in it as well as spend a holiday with her husband at the villa.

(b) Why is Gaston not interested in buying the villa in the beginning?

Answer:

Gaston is not fond of his wife's family. He believes that her parents would occupy the villa for quite some time and her sister would also visit there. He believes that buying the villa is a bad investment and has no desire to buy it.

(c) Mrs. Al Smith makes many statements about the French. Pick out any two and explain them.

Answer:

Mrs. Al Smith makes the following statements about the French:

(i) "You French have a very cute way of doing business".

(ii) "Frenchmen usually have to consult about ten people before they get a move on".

Mrs Al Smith believes that French are not very business-minded and they don't go into any details. Moreover she also believes that the French are fickle- minded and they cannot make their own decisions.

(d) Juliette says "... now I have only one thought that is to get the wretched place off my hands. I would sacrifice it at any price." Does she stick to her words? Why/Why not?

Answer:

Juliette did not stick to her words because she quotes a hefty price of two hundred and fifty thousand francs for the villa and she finally sells it for two hundred thousand francs. Her greed for wealth leads to change in the course of actions.

(e) Who is better in business -Juliette or Gaston? Why?

Answer:

Gaston is better than Juliette in business. He managed to make a hundred thousand francs on a property he never owned. He sold the villa that belonged to Juliette to a Mrs. Al Smith and also acquired a picture by an artist named Corot in the deal.

(f) Do you like/dislike Gaston? Give your reasons.

Answer:

Yes, I like Gaston. He is an intelligent person and also very clear in thinking. He is a shrewd businessman that know how to make good profit. In the part, He pretends to be the husband of the owner and manages to swindle the rather smart Mrs. Al Smith. He takes advantage of the situation and-makes a hundred thousand francs. He is a diplomat who manages to keep everyone happy at the end Juliette, Mrs. Al Smith and his wife Jeanne.

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