

READING COMPREHENSION

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary | 30-40 minutes

Topic: Environment | Skills: Reading, Vocabulary, Speaking

Read the text carefully. Then answer the questions on Page 2.

The Repair Table

When the kettle in our shared flat stopped working, I put it beside the rubbish bin. My flatmate, Elena, moved it to the kitchen table. "Before we throw it away, let's take it to the repair event," she said. I expected a room full of experts who would fix everything while we waited.

The event was held in a community centre. At the entrance, a volunteer asked us to describe the problem. Then she introduced us to Mo, who repaired electrical **equipment**. He explained that visitors were expected to stay and learn, rather than leave their objects and collect them later.

Mo checked the kettle while we watched. A small part needed **replacing**, but he did not have it. I felt **disappointed**: we had spent an hour there and still could not make tea. However, he wrote down the part number and showed us where it belonged. He also made it clear that we should not **attempt** the electrical repair ourselves.

A week later, the part arrived. We returned to the event, and Mo fitted it safely. The kettle worked again. The repair cost less than buying a new one, although it took longer. I had imagined that a successful visit meant leaving with a working kettle. Elena thought the first visit had already been useful: we had learned that "broken" did not always mean "finished".

Key vocabulary

equipment - tools or machines used for a particular purpose

replacing - putting something new in the place of something old

attempt - try to do something

disappointed - unhappy because something was not as good as you hoped

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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Answer in complete sentences. Use the text to help you.

1. What did the narrator initially expect at the repair event?

2. How did visitors' actual role differ from this expectation?

3. Why could Mo not repair the kettle during the first visit?

4. What advice did Mo give about doing the repair at home?

5. What was one advantage and one disadvantage of repairing the kettle?

6. Why did Elena think the first visit was useful?

Discuss with a partner

- Would you wait longer to repair something rather than replace it?
- What skills could people share at a community event?

ANSWER KEY

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Suggested full-sentence answers. Accept equivalent answers with the same meaning.

1. What did the narrator initially expect at the repair event?

The narrator expected experts to repair everything while visitors waited.

2. How did visitors' actual role differ from this expectation?

Visitors were expected to stay and learn rather than simply leave their objects for repair.

3. Why could Mo not repair the kettle during the first visit?

Mo could not repair the kettle because he did not have the replacement part.

4. What advice did Mo give about doing the repair at home?

Mo told them not to attempt the electrical repair themselves.

5. What was one advantage and one disadvantage of repairing the kettle?

Repairing the kettle cost less than buying a new one, but it took longer.

6. Why did Elena think the first visit was useful?

Elena thought it was useful because they learned that a broken object might still be repairable.

Teaching notes

Read once for the main idea, then reread for evidence. Compare answers before discussing the two open questions.

Language and reading focus: Past narrative; expectations and contrasts.

Text: Original fiction. Discussion questions have no fixed answers.