

Listening (конкурс понимания устной речи)

Task 1.

Вариант 1.

"Tom! Tom!"

There was no answer.

"Where is that boy? Tom!" Aunt Polly looked under the bed but she only found the cat.

"Tom!" she cried.

Then she heard a noise behind her. A small boy ran past and she stopped him with her hand.

"What are you doing, Tom?" she asked.

"Nothing."

"Nothing. Look at your hand and your mouth. I told you not to eat the jam."

"Oh, Aunt Polly, look behind you!"

The old lady looked and Tom ran away. Aunt Polly was surprised and then she laughed.

"I never learn. Tom always plays tricks on me and I never learn. I love Tom. He's my sister's child - she's dead. But it's not easy to look after him. Tomorrow is Saturday and there's no school. But Tom must work tomorrow. He hates work but he must do it."

Tom lived in the small village of St Petersburg with his Aunt Polly, his brother Sid and his sister Mary. The summer evenings were long, and in the evenings Tom liked walking around the village. One evening he saw a big boy in front of him. The boy was a stranger. Tom was surprised because he did not see new people often. This boy had very nice, expensive clothes. "He's got shoes, a new shirt and a tie. And it's not Sunday," Tom thought. "My clothes are old and ugly."

Tom looked at him and the big boy looked at Tom. Tom did not like him. Finally he said, "I can beat you!"

"Why don't you try?" said the boy.

"Well, I can," said Tom.

"No, you can't."

"Yes, I can."

There was silence.

"You're afraid," said the boy.

"I'm not afraid," said Tom.

"Yes, you are."

"No, I'm not."

There was more silence.

Then Tom pushed the boy and the boy pushed Tom. Soon they were on the ground. Tom pulled the boy's hair and hit him hard. They both fought a lot. The big boy was angry and started crying.

"Stop," he said, "Stop!"

"Now, that will teach you something," said Tom.

Tom arrived home late and he was very dirty. When Aunt Polly saw his dirty clothes, she thought, "What can I do with this boy? Well, tomorrow is Saturday, and he must work."

Saturday morning was beautiful and sunny. It was summer and the world was happy. Tom sat in front of the fence and looked at it. It was thirty yards long and nine feet high. He was very unhappy.

"It's Saturday and I must paint this long fence. All my friends will laugh at me," he thought.

He put his long brush in the white paint and started painting. He stopped and looked at his work. Then he continued painting.

After a few minutes he had a great idea. He continued painting the fence. He saw his friend Ben Rogers in the street. Ben had an apple in his hand. He came to look at the fence.

"You're working for your aunt," said Ben.

Tom said nothing. He continued painting.

"I'm going swimming but you can't come with me. You're working," said Ben.

"Do you call this work?" asked Tom.

"Of course it's work. You're painting a fence," said Ben.

"Maybe it's work but maybe it isn't. I like it!" said Tom, "I can swim every day, but I can't paint a fence every day."

Ben watched Tom. He painted slowly and carefully. He often stopped and moved back from the fence. He looked at his work and smiled. Ben was suddenly interested in the fence and said,

"Let me paint a little, Tom."

Tom thought for a moment. "I'm sorry, Ben. Aunt Polly wants me to do it because I'm very good at painting. My brother Sid wanted to do it, but he's not good at painting."

"Oh, please, Tom! Please can I paint? I'm good at painting too. Here, you can have some of my apple."

"No, Ben, I can't —"

"Then take all of my apple!"

Tom was happy but he did not smile. He gave Ben the brush and sat down to eat the apple.

Tom's other friends came by. At first they laughed at him. But soon they all wanted to paint the fence. Billy Fisher gave Tom a kite and Johnny Miller brought him a dead rat. His other friends gave him an old knife, a cat with one eye, an old blue bottle, an old key and other interesting things. His friends painted the fence and Tom now had a lot of interesting things. He went back home.

"Aunt Polly, can I go to play now?"

When Aunt Polly saw the beautiful white fence she was very happy. She gave Tom a big apple and said, "Yes, go and play! But don't come home late!"

Вариант 2.

The next day was Sunday. Tom wore his clean Sunday clothes – he hated this! Tom, Sid and Mary always went to Sunday school on Sunday morning. But Tom was not a good student and never listened to the teacher.

After Sunday school Tom and his family went to church. This Sunday he had a big black beetle in his pocket. When the Reverend started speaking, Tom took the black beetle out of his pocket. He put it on the floor.

There was a little dog in the church. It saw the beetle and wanted to play with it. Suddenly the beetle bit the dog's nose. The little dog barked and everyone looked at it. It jumped and ran after the black beetle. It ran all about the church barking and making a lot of noise.

The people in the church laughed silently. Their faces were red. The Reverend continued talking but no one listened to him. Tom was happy because he had an interesting morning in church.

On Monday morning Tom did not want to get up.

"Get up immediately, Tom, and get ready for school!" Aunt Polly cried.

On his way to school Tom met his friend Huckleberry Finn. Huck's father drank whiskey all the time and did not work. Huck had no mother and no home. He lived in the streets and did not go to school. His clothes were old and dirty. He went fishing and swimming when he wanted. Huck was happy.

All the mothers of the village hated him because he was lazy and used bad language. All the children of the town liked him very much. They admired him.

"Hello, Huckleberry! What's that?"

"It's a dead cat," said Huck.

"What will we do with it?" asked Tom.

"I want to take it to the graveyard after midnight," Huck said,

"A dead cat can call ghosts out of their graves.

"Really?" asked Tom.

"Well, old Mrs Hopkins told me. She's a witch and she knows about these things," said Huck.

"Can I come with you?" asked Tom.

"Of course! Or are you afraid of ghosts?" asked Huck.

"Afraid of ghosts! Of course not!" said Tom, "Come and call me at my window at eleven o'clock tonight."

Tom was late for school. The teacher was angry and said, "Thomas Sawyer! Why are you late again?"

Suddenly Tom saw a new girl in the classroom. She had blue eyes and long blonde hair. She was very beautiful. Tom looked at her. He was in love! There was a free chair next to her and Tom wanted to sit there. But how?

Tom thought quickly and said, "I stopped to talk to Huckleberry Finn."

The teacher was very angry. "You know you must never talk to that boy!" The teacher took his stick and hit Tom.

"Now go and sit with the girls!" said the teacher.

The children laughed at Tom. He sat down next to the new girl. He looked at her. Then he drew a picture of a house.

"Let me see it," she whispered.

Tom put the picture in front of her.

"It's nice. Draw a man," she said.

Tom drew a man near the house. It was a terrible picture, but the girl liked it.

"You draw beautifully. I can't draw," said the girl.

"I can teach you after school," said Tom.

"Oh, thank you!"

"What's your name?" Tom asked.

"Becky Thatcher. I know your name. It's Tom Sawyer.

That night Tom and Sid were in bed at half past nine. Sid was soon asleep but Tom was not. At eleven o'clock he heard Huck meow. He dressed quickly and went out of the bedroom window.

"Let's go!" whispered Huck. He had his dead cat. Tom and Huck walked down the dark road. They walked for about half an hour. The graveyard was on a hill. There were a lot of trees and a lot of graves; everything was dark and scary. The wind made strange noises and dark clouds covered the moon.

"Are the ghosts making these noises?" thought Tom. He was afraid but he said nothing.

"Now let's find the grave of Hoss Williams," said Huck.

They soon found the grave.

"Here it is. He died last week," said Huck.

"Do you think Hoss Williams can hear us?" asked Tom.

"Well, I think his ghost can hear us," said Huck.

"Then let's call him Mr Williams," said Tom.

"Alright," said Huck, "But everybody called him Hoss."

"Sh!"

"What is it, Tom?" asked Huck.

"Do you hear the noise? Look over there, Huck! Oh, no!" said Tom.

Вариант 3.

It was Becky Thatcher's birthday on Saturday and all of Becky's friends were happy and excited.

"I'm having a big picnic near the river," said Becky to Tom, "After the picnic we can visit McDougal's Cave."

"It'll be great fun!" said Tom. He liked Becky a lot.

On Saturday morning a big boat took Becky, Tom and their friends down the river. There were no mothers and fathers, but a few boys and girls were eighteen years old. There were a lot of good things to eat and everyone ate, played and had fun.

After the picnic the children went to visit McDougal's Cave. Everybody had candles because it was dark inside the cave. Some children were afraid but they all went in. Caves are exciting and mysterious.

McDougal's Cave was very, very big. It had hundreds of tunnels, rooms and secret passages. No one knew all of them.

The children played and ran in the tunnels and in the rooms. But they always played near the entrance. They did not want to get lost. Tom and Becky wanted to find a new tunnel. They walked and walked and soon they were alone. Where were the other children? They were lost!

In the evening the other children returned to the boat. They laughed and talked, but they were very tired. They did not see that Tom and Becky were not there. The boat took them back to St Petersburg.

Huck saw the boat but he did not know about the picnic. The mothers of St Petersburg did not like him. They never invited him to birthday picnics.

But tonight Huck was not interested in birthday picnics. He was interested in Injun Joe's treasure. He hid behind a tree and watched an old house.

"Injun Joe's in that old house," he thought, "I'll stay here and wait. When he comes out I'll follow him and I'll find the treasure." It was late and very dark.

Soon two men came out. It was Injun Joe and his friend. Huck followed them quietly.

"They're going to Widow Douglas's house," thought Huck, "But why?"

Suddenly the two men stopped. Injun Joe said, "Many years ago Widow Douglas's husband was very cruel to me. Now I want to hurt the widow. I want to cut her face, her nose and her ears. And you must help me.

"Oh, please don't kill her," said his friend. Injun Joe laughed.

Huck heard this and wanted to run away. But he remembered that Widow Douglas was kind to him. "I must help her," thought Huck, "These men want to kill the poor old woman!"

Huck ran quickly to Bill Welsh's house. "Mr Welsh, help, help!"

Mr Welsh opened the door.

"Mr Welsh, please help me! Two men want to kill Widow Douglas!"

Mr Welsh and his sons took their rifles. They ran to the widow's house. Suddenly there was a loud shot. Injun Joe and his friend escaped, but the widow was not hurt. The next morning Huck returned to see Mr Welsh.

"You're a courageous boy, Huck," said Mr Welsh, "You saved the widow's life. The two men escaped but we'll find them. Sit down and have breakfast with us!"

Huck was happy because he saved the widow's life. And now he had new friends, Mr Welsh and his family.

That morning all the people of St Petersburg knew about Tom and Becky and they were very worried. Where were they?

Tom and Becky were lost in McDougal's Cave. They did not know what to do. They were both afraid. Tom took Becky's hand. They walked and walked. Tom wanted to find the entrance of the cave, but he couldn't.

Tom and Becky entered a big room with a lot of black bats. It was terrible. The bats flew over their heads and when Tom and Becky ran away the bats followed them. Finally the bats went away. Becky looked at Tom and said, "Tom, where are we?"

"I don't know, Becky."

They continued walking in the dark tunnels. They were both tired and hungry. Becky started crying. "No one will ever find us, Tom. There are too many tunnels and rooms. Oh, we're going to die here!"

"We'll get out of this cave, Becky, you'll see," said Tom. They ate their last piece of cake. Soon their last candle went out. Everything was dark. What time was it? What day was it? They didn't know. They were tired and slept.

When they woke up they were very hungry. Suddenly, Tom heard a noise.

"Listen, Becky! Did you hear a noise? Someone is looking for us!"

Becky looked at Tom and smiled.

"I'm going to see. You stay here, Becky!" said Tom.

Task 2.

Вариант 1.

Diana Frances Spencer, who was born on July 1st, 1961, married Prince Charles when she was just 20. Diana was young and full of life. She loved fashion and music and was the first of the Royal family to do normal things like go to pop concerts. She also loved children and soon had two boys of her own, Princes William and Harry. The public grew to love Diana because she cared about and understood their problems and spent a lot of time helping people in need. After her divorce from Prince Charles in 1996 she dedicated herself to helping others and worked tirelessly for the campaign to ban landmines.

Princess Diana supported over 500 charities and is famous for her charity work. She travelled to India to meet Mother Teresa, who she said was a constant inspiration. She also went to Angola and Bosnia for the campaign to ban landmines and experts say that her interest in the campaign helped it become known to the world's media. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1997, the year that Diana was tragically killed in a car crash in Paris. More than one million people came to London for her funeral and 2.5 billion watched the ceremony live on television. She is remembered as the Queen of Hearts.

Вариант 2.

Reporter: March 8th is International Women's Day and to celebrate we're taking a trip to the Women's Library, in London. The Women's Library is a cultural centre

for women and contains the biggest collection of women's history material in the UK. There are over 600,000 books in the library as well as historical documents, posters, magazines photographs, postcards and diaries. There are exhibitions to see on a variety of themes and today the library is hosting one on “Art and the Women's Movement”. Some of the most influential women in Britain have given talks here in the library such as Cherie Blair, the top barrister and wife of former Prime Minister, Tony Blair. This afternoon Kate Adie, the award-winning journalist and war correspondent is giving a talk. And here, visiting the library with me today are Lisa Addison and Joanna Lake. Lisa, you often come to the library, don't you?

Lisa: Yes, that's right. I live nearby and I love visiting the library. I often come in to prepare projects for school. It's a nice place to study, the staff are helpful and I can always find anything I need. I think it's great that there's a library dedicated to women and women's studies. Women are often undervalued in our society.

Reporter: And what about you Joanna? Are you enjoying your visit to the library?

Joanna: Not really! I can't see the point of a Women's Library. Women say they want equal rights and then they build a library all for themselves. That's not equality! To me it's a contradiction. It just separates women even more from men. I think it's a dumb idea.

Reporter: Oh I see. Well... I'm afraid that's all we've got time for today. Now back to John in the studio...

Вариант 3.

SPEAKER 1: When did Buy Nothing Day start?

SPEAKER 2: Buy Nothing Day was started in 1993 by a group called Adbusters. Since then it has grown and it is now celebrated in around 55 countries worldwide. Countries like France, Italy, Poland, Japan and Taiwan.

SPEAKER 1: And what's the reason for it?

SPEAKER 2: We feel that as a society we are encouraged to spend too much. We want people to think about how much they spend and to think about the other things

in life that are important, things like spending time with family and friends. We also want you to think about the connection between buying and global warming.

SPEAKER 1: And what is that link?

SPEAKER 2: Well, if we buy lots of products then more products have to be made. This means using more energy and this leads to global warming.

SPEAKER 1: But do you believe that one day can really make a difference?

SPEAKER 2: Yes, we do. Of course this day is just a symbol but we hope it will start people thinking seriously about their lifestyle and change it for the better.

SPEAKER 1: So what should people who are interested do?

SPEAKER 2: Well, the first thing, obviously, is spend nothing. But if you're feeling adventurous then you could organise an activity.

SPEAKER 1: Like what?

SPEAKER 2: Well, there are many. One that is popular is to make a shopping-free zone in your high street. Take an area and fill it with people sitting on chairs, playing games, chatting and listening to music. It always gets the shoppers to stop and take interest. You can then give out balloons with the message printed on them.

SPEAKER 1: Sounds like fun. Any others?

SPEAKER 2: Well, there's another called 'choo choo'. You need 13 people. Each person has a plain shopping bag with one of the letters of Buy Nothing Day written on it.

You then all walk around the shopping centre in a line so that the letters on the bags spell out the message.