



Upper intermediate 1 – Unit 3

Let's try this!

1- I was very late. When I arrived, the conference _____(start).

2-When he heard the police knocking on the door, he _____(hide) under the bed

3- They _____(play) football in that field before it started to rain.

4- After they had arrived at the police station, he said that he _____(do/not)anything wrong.

5- Tom _____(travel) around the world since the month of December.

6- Because a room _____(not/book)in advance, we were unable to find a hotel.

7- The royal wedding _____(watch) by millions of people in 2011.

8- The boss _____(talk) to clients on Skype for hours so she _____(want) a break.

Answers

1- I was very late. When I arrived, the conference **had already started**.

2- When he heard the police knocking on the door he **was hiding** under the bed.

3- They **had been playing** football in that field before it started to rain.

4- After they had arrived at the police station, he said that he **didn't do** anything wrong.

5- Tom **had been traveling** around the world since the month of December.

6- Because a room **had not been booked** in advance, we were unable to find a hotel.

7- The royal wedding **was watched** by millions of people in 2011.

8- The boss **had been talking** to clients on Skype for hours so she **wanted** a break.

Time Expressions

Match the lines and time expressions. Use each time expression once...

1. I started this job	a. By the time I was 40.
2. I didn't want to get married	b. Ten years ago
3. I had had two children	c. Before my first poem was published.
4. I'd been writing poetry for many years	d. Until I was 30
5. I didn't stay in that job	e. Until I arrived
6. They hadn't ordered the meal	f. When he finally arrived
7. The train pulled out of the station	g. For long
8. I'd been waiting over an hour	h. A minute ago
9. They got on the plane	i. Until it was too late
10. I'd never seen him	j. When the phone rang.
11. I was watching TV	k. At the last minute
12. He hadn't heard the attacker	l. Before

Answers

1-b

2-d

3- a

4-c

5-g

6-e

7-h

8-f

9-k

10- l

11- j

12- i

Let's listen to CD 33 and complete the following chart...

Title	Setting	Characters	Plot	Personal opinion

Let's Discuss What are some things you look for before reading a book?

Here are some answers let's write questions...

Example: 1. Who wrote it? - Charles Dickens/ Agatha Christie

2. _____? – it's a romantic comedy/ a crime thriller/ a biography.
3. _____? – It is about a relationship that goes wrong/war and peace.
4. _____? – In India in the 1800s / In New York in the 80's.
5. _____? – A lawyer named Potts and his client, Lady Jane/ A detective named Blunket.
6. _____? – It ends really tragically/ it's frustrating because we don't really know/ They all live happily ever after.
7. _____? – I thought it was great/ I couldn't put it down/ I didn't want it to end/ It was Ok, but I skipped the boring parts.

The Fallen Curtain by Ruth Rendell

Crime /Fiction

- Awarded an Edgar by the Mystery Writers of America.

These are short stories from crime writer at the height of her powers. Ruth Rendell employs all her spine-chilling crafts to produce a page-turner that makes the heart pound.

The clinging woman, the first story in the collection, opens with the attempted suicide of a young woman, hanging by her hands from a balcony on the 12th floor of a London apartment building. The prompt action of neighbor saves her life. But what made Lydia Simpson want to end her life? Was it an unhappy childhood? Or perhaps a failed relationship?

The man who saved her life thinks he has done nothing to deserve being called a hero. He simply called the police. He wants to forget all about the episode. But he is drawn into a relationship with the mysterious woman who he rescued from certain death.

As they become closer, he glimpses character traits in Lydia that at first worry him, then disturb him. Why doesn't she have any friends? Does she want to possess him? Why can't he ever do anything without her?

In the clinging woman, Ruth Rendell- The queen of literary mystery- exposes the twisted inner workings of an unbalanced mind. It is a haunting psychological thriller with unexpected twists and a shocking conclusion.

Vocabulary TIME!

Words you will find in the text!

- Clinging
- Awakened
- Gaze
- Vanishing
- Deserted
- Obviously
- Nerve
- Ultimate
- Focus
- Altered

Synonyms

- Look
- holding tightly
- courage
- Woken up
- Disappearing
- Final
- Center
- Empty
- Warned
- Clearly

Part 1

The girl was hanging by her hands from the railings of a balcony. The balcony was on the twelfth floor of the high rise building next to his. His apartment was on the ninth floor, and he had to look up to see her. It was half-past six in the morning. He had been awakened by the sound of an aircraft flying dangerously low overhead and had gotten out of bed to look. His sleepy gaze, descending from the blue sky which was empty of clouds, empty anything but the bright vanishing arrow of the aircraft, alighted - at first with disbelief - on the hanging figure.

He really thought he must be dreaming, for this sunrise time was the hour for dreams. Then, when he knew he wasn't, he decided it must be a stunt. This was to be a scene in a film. There were cameramen down there, a whole film unit, and all the correct safety precautions had been taken. Probably the girl wasn't even a real girl but a dummy. He opened the window and looked down. The parking lot, paved courts, grass spaces between the blocks, all were deserted. On the balcony railing one of the dummy's hands, clutching its anchorage more tightly, more desperately. He had to believe then what was obviously happening – unbelievable only because melodrama, though a frequent constituent of real life, always is. The girl was trying to kill herself. She had lost her nerve and now was trying to stay alive. All these thoughts and conclusions of his occupied about thirty seconds. Then he acted. He picked up the phone and dialed the emergency number for the police.

Part 3

The arrival of the police cars and ultimate rescue of the girl became the focus of gossip and speculation for the tenants of the two buildings. Someone found out that it was he who had altered the police, and he became an unwilling hero. He was a modest, quiet young man and, disliking this limelight, was relieved when the talk began to die away, when the novelty of it wore off, and he was able to enter and leave his apartment without being pointed at as a kind of St. George and sometimes even congratulated.

About a fortnight after that morning of melodrama, he was getting ready to go to the theater, just putting on his overcoat, when the doorbell rang. He didn't recognize the girl who stood outside. He had never seen her face. She said, "I'm Lydia Simpson. You saved my life. I've come to thank you."

Part 4

His embarrassment was acute. “you shouldn’t have,” he said with nervous smile.” You really shouldn’t” That’s not necessary. I only did what anyone would have done.”

She was calm and tranquil, not at all his idea of a failed suicide. “ But no one else did” she said.

“Won’t you come in?” Have a drink or something?” “ Oh no, I couldn’t think of it I can see you’re just going out. I only wanted to say thank you very very much.”

“ It was nothing”

“ Nothing to save someone’s life? I’ll always be grateful to you.”

He wishes she would either come in or go away. If this went on much longer people in the other two apartments on his floor would hear, would come out, and another of those bravest- deeds – of- the- year committee meetings would be convened. “ Nothing at all” he said desperately. “Really, I’ve almost forgotten it”

“ I shall never forget, never”

Her manner, calm yet intense, made him feel uncomfortable, and he watched her retreat into the elevator – smiling pensively with profound relief. Luckily, they weren’t

Let's divide into 4 groups

Part 1:

1. A lot of facts are established in the 1st paragraph. What are they?

Part 2:

1. What is the man's initial interpretation of what he sees?
2. What is his second interpretation?
3. If this was a "stunt", what would there be on the ground?
4. How does he know this second interpretation is wrong?
5. What is his third interpretation?
6. What does he do?

Part 3:

1. How do the neighbors react?
2. How does the man react to this attention?
3. What happened two weeks (a fortnight) later?
4. Why doesn't he recognize the person at the door?

Part 4:

1. How does the man feel as she talks? What does he say?
2. What does he want her to do?
3. What doesn't he want to happen?
4. How does he feel as she goes? How does she appear?



Congratulations!