



# Terror attack in London: a French woman becomes a hero (by The Guardian)

Level: High. Language: Narrative Tenses, Feelings, Personality

*In May 2013, British Army soldier Lee Rigby was brutally murdered on a street in south London. This is a TV interview from the day after the attack with a French woman named Ingrid. She had been on a city bus which stopped when it arrived at the scene of the crime.*

**Task 1:** Watch the video once or twice and write a short answer to each of the questions. The times in brackets are approximate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJaihYtBJXQ>

- a. (0.10) Why did Ingrid first get off the bus?
- b. (0.40) What three things did the man have in his hands?
- c. (1.20) Why doesn't Ingrid think that her behaviour was "extraordinary"?
- d. (2.00) What was Ingrid trying to get the man to do?
- e. (2.40) Why was this her objective?
- f. (3.00) Why wasn't Ingrid scared for herself?
- g. (3.20) Why did she ask the man what he wanted?
- h. (3.40) Why did she get back on the bus?





**Task 2:** Discuss the questions below with your classmate or your teacher.

Do you think that Ingrid's response to the attack was the right one? Why or why not?

If you had been in this situation, how do you think you would have reacted?

Ingrid seems very calm after the attack and while giving the interview, which was only a day or two later. Do you think this calmness is genuine or do you think that she was in shock?

Ingrid became a Twitter and Facebook phenomenon in the days and weeks after the attack. Why do you think people were so interested in her?

Can you think of other people who the media has called "heroes"?

Has anyone done anything nice/kind/thoughtful for you recently?  
What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

Who is the kindest, most thoughtful person you know?

Have you ever done any work as a volunteer? If so, describe it.

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**Answers:**





a. (0.10) What were the initial things which Ingrid noticed about the scene?

A man on the road, obviously injured, and a car, badly crashed. She assumed it was a road accident. She approached the man lying on the road and there was a lady cradling (holding) him.

b. (0.40) What three things did the man have in his hands?

A revolver, a butcher's knife and a small axe which butchers use.

c. (1.20) Why doesn't Ingrid think that her behaviour was "extraordinary"?

For her, she thought that the murderer was just a regular guy, just a bit upset. He wasn't on drugs, he wasn't drunk. So she talked to him as if he were just a normal person.

d. (2.00) What was Ingrid trying to get the man to do?

She was trying to get him to talk to her by asking him questions about how he felt, etc.

e. (2.40) Why was this her objective?

More and more people were arriving and they were all watching the scene on the street. Ingrid found this very daunting (intimidating) and she was worried that the man would start attacking more people. So she tried to engage him in conversation to prevent him from attacking people.

f. (3.00) Why wasn't Ingrid scared for herself?

She thought "Better me than a child". There were a lot of mothers with their children at the scene so Ingrid would have preferred for the man to attack her than to attack one of these children.

g. (3.20) Why did she ask the man what he wanted?

Because "usually they want something, like a car, or ...". Ingrid thought that the man had attacked the soldier because he was trying to obtain money, a car, etc.

h. (3.40) Why did she get back on the bus?

She saw the bus moving and she thought "Aaah! It's going to leave without me!" so she asked the guy one last time "Is there anything I can do?" and he said "No, I just want to shoot the police" so Ingrid just left, thinking that "the police should be around, somewhere" (she thought that the police would be arriving very soon and that they would take control of the problem).

