

Text for Listening

She Wanted to Show off

In the 18th century young ladies in Italy usually had very poor knowledge of history and geography. They hardly ever read a book about America, which was called the New World, about Christopher Columbus or about his discoveries.

Once a young lady was invited to the King's palace. There was a ball there. The lady belonged to a very rich and famous family. She knew a lot of important and respectable people. She liked to talk to them though she seldom could understand the subject of their talk. The ministers, lawyers, other political people knew that the young lady was neither clever, nor bright but they often talked to her as they didn't want to offend her because though she was rather dull, she was nice and pleasant.

Well, that evening one of the guests, a professor of history, was late. The young lady knew his name very well as his political ideas were very famous. She came up to him and asked him why he was late. "Oh, nothing important", said the professor, "I was delayed by my friend, a professor of history from Mexico". "Is Mexico far from Italy?" asked the young lady. The professor smiled and said it was in the New World. "In the New World?" repeated the young lady who was surprised to hear that. "Yes", smiled the professor again. He had a good sense of humour, so he said: "Mexico is in the New World which was discovered by Christopher Columbus".

When the young lady heard that she ran to the dancing hall and shouted as loud as she could: "Ladies and gentlemen, have you heard the latest news? A new world has just been discovered by a certain Christopher Columbus!"

KEYS

Listening Test

Task 1 1 18th, 2 New World, 3 history, 4 political, 5 far, 6 good.

Task 2 1 T. 2 F. 3 F. 4 T. 5 T. 6 F.

Task 3 1 There was a ball in the King's palace. 2 The young lady belonged to a rich and famous family. 3 They talked to her because they didn't want to offend her and she was nice and pleasant. 4 No, she didn't. 5 The professor did. 6 She wanted to show off her knowledge.

Task 4 It's not good to show off.

Listening Test

Task 1

Listen to the text "She Wanted to Show off" and choose the best variant.

1. The story took place in the 18th / 19th century.
2. At that time America was called New Place / New World.
3. The professor of geography / history was late.
4. His political / scientific ideas were popular.
5. Mexico is far / not far from Italy.
6. The professor had poor / good sense of humour.

Task 2

Agree or disagree with the statements.

1. In the 18th century young ladies in Italy hardly ever read a book about America.
2. One of the ladies invited the king to her place.
3. Many people wanted to talk to the young lady though she was neither clever, nor bright.
4. The young lady knew the professor of history very well.
5. The professor was late because he was delayed by his friend.
6. The young lady told all the guests the latest news.

Task 3

Answer the questions.

1. Why was the young lady invited to the King's palace?
2. What family did she belong to?
3. Why did many important people talk to the young lady though she was neither clever, nor bright?
4. Did the young lady know what the New World was?
5. Who had a good sense of humour?
6. Why did the young lady run to the dancing hall and shout?

Task 4

What is the main idea of the story. Describe it in 3–4 sentences.