*From: Johny*

*To: IELTS Prep Group*

*Subj: IELTS* ***Reading*** *material*

**Lesson Objective**

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

**Power Words**

**Evaluation Criteria**

* Ability to understand the definition of the word and how to use in context within a complex statement/sentence

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *variegated* | *grimy* | *clergyman* | *countenance* | *quiver* |
| *ensue* | *earnest* | *dusky* | *allege* | *unobtrusive* |

* Match the word with the correct definition:
1. ​Not conspicuous or attracting attention.
2. ​Happen or occur afterwards or as a result.
3. a slight trembling movement or sound, especially one caused by a sudden strong emotion
4. exhibiting different colors, especially as irregular patches or streaks
5. Resulting from or showing sincere and intense conviction. Serious, serious-minded.
6. Claim or assert that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically without proof.
7. Covered with grime; dirty. Also a person who always looks to do someone dirty no matter who it is just to make some change.
8. naturally having skin of a dark color; "a dark-skinned beauty"
9. A person's face or facial expression.
10. A male priest, minister, or religious leader, especially a Christian one.

**Reading**

**Evaluation Criteria**

* Ability to read, with clear pronunciation, and comprehend the meaning of the paragraph. Student will be asked several questions to validate their comprehension of the reading material

**ARTICLE 1 *(level: High)***

**The Crystal Egg**

*By Herbert George Wells,*

There was, until a year ago, a little and very grimy-looking shop near Seven Dials, over which, in weather-worn yellow lettering, the name of "C. Cave, Naturalist and Dealer in Antiquities," was inscribed. The contents of its window were curiously variegated. They comprised some elephant tusks and an imperfect set of chessmen, beads and weapons, a box of eyes, two skulls of tigers and one human, several moth-eaten stuffed monkeys (one holding a lamp), an old-fashioned cabinet, a flyblown ostrich egg or so, some fishing-tackle, and an extraordinarily dirty, empty glass fish-tank. There was also, at the moment the story begins, a mass of crystal, worked into the shape of an egg and brilliantly polished. And at that two people, who stood outside the window, were looking, one of them a tall, thin clergyman, the other a black-bearded young man of dusky complexion and unobtrusive costume. The dusky young man spoke with eager gesticulation, and seemed anxious for his companion to purchase the article.

* What kind of store was C. Cave’s?
* Who wanted to purchase the egg-shaped crystal?

While they were there, Mr. Cave came into his shop, his beard still wagging with the bread and butter of his tea. When he saw these men and the object of their regard, his countenance fell. He glanced guiltily over his shoulder, and softly shut the door. He was a little old man, with pale face and peculiar watery blue eyes; his hair was a dirty grey, and he wore a shabby blue frock coat, an ancient silk hat, and carpet slippers very much down at heel. He remained watching the two men as they talked. The clergyman went deep into his trouser pocket, examined a handful of money, and showed his teeth in an agreeable smile. Mr. Cave seemed still more depressed when they came into the shop. The clergyman, without any ceremony, asked the price of the crystal egg. Mr. Cave glanced nervously towards the door leading into the parlour, and said five pounds. The clergyman protested that the price was high, to his companion as well as to Mr. Cave—it was, indeed, very much more than Mr. Cave had intended to ask, when he had stocked the article—and an attempt at bargaining ensued. Mr. Cave stepped to the shopdoor, and held it open. "Five pounds is my price," he said, as though he wished to save himself the trouble of unprofitable discussion. As he did so, the upper portion of a woman's face appeared above the blind in the glass upper panel of the door leading into the parlour, and stared curiously at the two customers. "Five pounds is my price," said Mr. Cave, with a quiver in his voice.

* What was the reaction of the clergyman when he heard the price of the crystal?
* Why, in your opinion, did Mr. Cave want to charge more than its real value?

The swarthy young man had so far remained a spectator, watching Cave keenly. Now he spoke. "Give him five pounds," he said. The clergyman glanced at him to see if he were in earnest, and, when he looked at Mr. Cave again, he saw that the latter's face was white. "It's a lot of money," said the clergyman, and, diving into his pocket, began counting his resources. He had little more than thirty shillings, and he appealed to his companion, with whom he seemed to be on terms of considerable intimacy. This gave Mr. Cave an opportunity of collecting his thoughts, and he began to explain in an agitated manner that the crystal was not, as a matter of fact, entirely free for sale. His two customers were naturally surprised at this, and inquired why he had not thought of that before he began to bargain. Mr. Cave became confused, but he stuck to his story, that the crystal was not in the market that afternoon, that a probable purchaser of it had already appeared.

The two, treating this as an attempt to raise the price still further, made as if they would leave the shop.

* Who decided to accept the price?
* How was the reaction of Mr. Cave when the price was accepted? What did he do?
* What was Mr. Cave’s excuse for avoiding the selling?

But at this point the parlour door opened, and the owner of the dark fringe and the little eyes appeared.

She was a coarse-featured, corpulent woman, younger and very much larger than Mr. Cave; she walked heavily, and her face was flushed. "That crystal is for sale," she said. "And five pounds is a good enough price for it. I can't think what you're about, Cave, not to take the gentleman's offer!" Mr. Cave, greatly perturbed by the irruption, looked angrily at her over the rims of his spectacles, and, without excessive assurance, asserted his right to manage his business in his own way. An altercation began. The two customers watched the scene with interest and some amusement, occasionally assisting Mrs. Cave with suggestions. Mr. Cave, hard driven, persisted in a confused and impossible story of an enquiry for the crystal that morning, and his agitation became painful. But he stuck to his point with extraordinary persistence. It was the young Oriental who ended this curious controversy. He proposed that they should call again in the course of two days—so as to give the alleged enquirer a fair chance. "And then we must insist," said the clergyman, "Five pounds." Mrs. Cave took it on herself to apologize for her husband, explaining that he was sometimes "a little odd," and as the two customers left, the couple prepared for a free discussion of the incident in all its bearings.

* Why was the crystal again for sale?
* What were the two men doing while Mr. Cave and the woman were arguing?
* Did the men buy the crystal that day? Why?
* Who did the lady turn out to be?