*From: Lala*

*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

First Portion

**Power Words**

**Evaluation Criteria**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Peer(verb) | impound | holster | commissioner | scrounge |
| aisle  | dispatcher | felony | alderman | camaraderie |

* Match the word with the correct definition:

​a) To look carefully or with difficulty.

b) a ​long, ​narrow ​space between ​rows of ​seats in an ​aircraft, ​theater, ​church, etc., or between the ​rows of ​shelves in a ​store.

c) a ​person who is ​responsible for ​sending out ​people or ​vehicles to where they are ​needed, ​especially ​emergency ​vehicles.

d) A serious crime that can be punished by more than one year in prison.

e) To take possession of something by legal right.

f) A leather container that holds a gun, usually fixed on a belt or a strap.

g) An elected member of some city governments.

h) A friendly feeling toward people with whom you share an experience or with whom you work.

i) to get something by ​asking for it ​instead of ​buying it or ​working for it, or to ​gather something you ​want or need from what is ​available.

j)  An official in charge of a government department or other organization.

Second Portion

**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.**



**A Kidnapper Dragged a Toddler Onto a Bus. The Driver’s Quick Thinking Will Give You Chills.**

**How Tim Watson endured the longest ride of his life, and saved a little boy's.**

By Alyssa Jung | [*Source*](http://www.rd.com/true-stories/survival/bus-driver-stopped-kidnapper/)

On a warm morning last summer, California bus driver Tim Watson was about halfway through his daily 15-mile express route from Milpitas to Fremont when an alert from the Valley Transportation  Authority (VTA) flashed across his dashboard screen. A toddler had been kidnapped in Milpitas, the message read, and it asked that drivers be on the lookout for the boy.

The victim was described as a three-year-old child in plaid shorts and red shoes; the suspect, a man  in his 20s wearing jeans and a black hooded sweatshirt and carrying a  tan backpack. Tim felt his stomach drop when he realized that a man with a toddler on his hip had boarded the bus just ten minutes earlier. Tim distinctly

remembered the boy’s plaid shorts.

Tim glanced in one of his mirrors and saw the pair sitting in the last seat at the back of the nearly empty bus. Before alerting authorities, he wanted to confirm their identities. Pulling into a McDonald’s parking lot, he announced that he needed to look for a lost bag. He moved slowly down the aisle, peering under each seat, until he approached the last row. As he bent down, Tim avoided eye contact with the man. “I saw  the boy’s red shoes,” says Tim. “But  I knew I had to keep cool.”

**Question A**

* *What did Tim feel when he saw the man with the toddler?*
* *Who is the man with the toddler?*
* *What does “I had to keep cool” mean?*

“I believe  I have the kidnapping suspect on my bus,” Tim told the operator, keeping his voice low.

Back behind the wheel, Tim apologized for the delay and pulled the bus onto the highway. Not wanting to arouse suspicion, he waited a few minutes, and then radioed the bus dispatcher. “I believe I have the kidnapping suspect on my bus,” he told the operator, keeping his voice low.

The dispatcher directed Tim to continue to his final stop at the Fremont BART subway station, where police officers would be waiting. “As I’m driving, all I can think about is what I’m going to do if I get there before the police,” he says. So he slowed down, rolling along at 35 mph in a 65 mph zone.

As Tim was about to make the  last turn into the BART parking lot,  he saw from the side mirrors police cruisers pull up behind the bus  silently but with red lights flashing. “The bus doesn’t have a back window, so the guy had no idea they were there,” says Tim.

**Question B**

* *What was the dispatcher’s instruction to Tim?*

He stopped the bus and opened the doors. In his right side mirror, Tim could see four cops waiting for the suspect with their hands on their holsters. As the man got off the bus with the boy, a police officer grabbed  the child out of his arms, threw the suspect to the ground, and handcuffed him behind his back.

The police officers told Tim  that about an hour earlier, the man,  Alfonso David Edington, 23, had snatched the boy from the Milpitas library after he wandered away from his mother.

Tim thought about his own sons, ages 17 and 21. “I went back  in the bus alone and broke down,” he says. Then he climbed out again to check that the boy was OK. Tim found him sitting calmly in the front seat of a squad car, without a tear in sight. “I just smiled at him,” Tim says. “I knew  he was safe.”

Edington was charged with felony kidnapping and faces up to 11 years in prison.

**Question C**

* *How did Tim save the boy?*
* *How did the kidnapper get the boy?*

A few weeks after the incident, Tim received a certificate of recognition from the VTA Board of Directors,  the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, and the city of Milpitas, as well as a congressional resolution from Congressman Eric Swalwell. Still, Tim is humble about his actions.

“I try to teach my kids to look  out for people who can’t defend themselves,” he says. “And that’s what I did.”

**Question D**

* *What happened to Tim after the incident?*
* *Why is it important to teach kids to look out for people?*

**ARTICLE 2.**

**This Small-Town Cop Set a Prisoner Free. Here’s the Heartwarming Reason He Came Back.**

**The policemen assumed their prisoner was long gone, but dad knew best.**

*By Wanda Bullard |*[*Source*](http://www.rd.com/true-stories/inspiring/cop-set-prisoner-free/)

My dad’s name was George Bullard. He was born in a rural area, right up in the northeast corner of Mississippi that most folks call British County and the locals just call paradise. My dad was about 50 when I was born, but I was very fortunate to have had him.

He raised and trained bird dogs his whole life. If the bird dog business got a little slow, he’d paint a house or two, but after he got up in his 60s, someone persuaded him to get into politics. He ran for the board of aldermen, and he was elected by a landslide. Everybody loved him.

**Question A**

* *Describe the author’s father*
* *What does “elected by a landslide” mean?*

His assignment was fire commissioner. Now, the only things the previous fire commissioners had done were go to meetings and make political decisions. My father liked to get involved, though, so he went to the telephone company and said, “Can’t y’all hook my telephone up with the one at the fire department?”

So they did, and every time the fire department telephone rang, our phone rang—one long, continuous ring until you picked it up—and then you didn’t talk; you just listened to see where the fire was so he could go. And he went to all the fires, day or night. He knew almost nothing about firefighting, but he knew how to encourage young men, so he’d go and encourage ’em.

I got involved because my father had almost stopped driving at night because of his age, and as a teenager with a driver’s license, I’d drive him at three o’clock in the morning.

**Question B**

* *Compare the previous fire commissioners and George Ballard*
* *Why would George go to all the fires even though he knows nothing about firefighting?*

After his few turns as board alderman, several people, myself included, persuaded him not to do that anymore. But when he left, he found that he missed the camaraderie he had formed with the firemen, and because the firemen and the police department were in the same building, he missed the policemen too. So he would just go down there to visit every now and again. And this being a small town, they worked out something which might not have been real legal, but they taught him how to operate the police radio, and anytime anybody wanted a day off or was sick, he’d go in and work an eight-hour shift.

But one day, he got to his job down at the police department, and he discovered, to his amazement, they had a prisoner!

I did say it was a small town. It was most unusual.

**Question C**

* *What something unusual happened?*

And that morning, he really didn’t have much to do. He’d wander back and talk to this young man, and when he went out for lunch, he brought a couple hamburgers back for him. Well, by one or two o’clock, he had made a decision about this young man, and he always trusted his instincts about people. He had decided that in spite of being long-haired—way down to here, which my father hated—he was a decent young man, so he’d see if he could help him.

He started to inquire of him, “Why are you still here? You seem like such a nice young man. Won’t anybody come get you out of jail?”

**Question D**

* *Why did George decided to help the young man?*
* *Why was the young man in jail?*

And the young man told him, “Well, I had a little too much to drink last night, and they arrested me for drunken disorder, and here I am.”

My dad said, “Well, what would it take to get you out?” And he said, “Well, I have to pay a two-hundred-dollar fine.” My dad said, “Well, why can’t your family pay the two-hundred-dollar fine?” He said, “Well, I think if I could talk to my father face-to-face, I could get the two hundred dollars from him, but I don’t know how he’s going to react to a collect call from the Boonville jail.”

My dad mulled this over a little while, and he said, “Well, do you think if I turned you loose, you could go find your father and get two hundred dollars and come back?”

I’m going to remind you that my father’s only duty was operating the police radio that talked back and forth with the cars.

**Question E**

* *What couldn’t the young man get out of jail?*
* *Do you agree with George’s idea of turning the young man loose? Why?*

So the young man said, “Well, see, I’m from Corinth, Mississippi, and that’s about 20 miles north. They impounded my car. I got no way up there.”

And my daddy said, “Well, is it a blue Chevrolet?” And he said, “Yes, sir.” And then my daddy said, “It’s parked out in the parking lot. I can probably find the keys.”

So he scrounges around in the desk drawers and finds the keys, and he not only releases the prisoner, over whom he has no authority, he gives him a getaway car.

Well, as the kid leaves, my father says, “Now, son, I believe if I could borrow two hundred dollars from my daddy, I’d borrow another five to get me a darn haircut.”

At about four o’clock, the policemen started coming back to change shifts, and as they came in, they check in on the prisoner. And they discovered, to their dismay, that they didn’t have one. And they said, “Mr. George, what happened to the prisoner?”

My daddy was busy doing his closing-up paperwork, and he said, “Oh, yeah. I turned him loose.”
And the police officer said, “You did what?”

“Turned him loose.”

“Mr. George, why did you do that?”

Daddy said, “Well, he just seemed like a nice young man, and he’ll be back in a little while with his two hundred dollars.”

**Question F**

* *What was the policemen’s reaction when they found out that the prisoner was gone?*
* *How would you react if you were the policeman?*

And the police officer was kind of taken aback. He’d known my father all his life; my father was like a grandfather to most of those guys. The officer said, “OK, well, we’ll take care of this,” and he went back to the other policemen to try to figure out how they were gonna get out of this without my father losing his unofficial job, and one of them says, “Well, we ought to remind the chief that George Bullard helped get him elected.” But another of ’em said, “Oh, I got a better idea. Let’s just tear up the paperwork, and we’ll just pretend we never arrested that boy.”

Well, my father wouldn’t hear of it. He said, “Oh, no. I know that boy’s coming back. I know he is.”

And the police officer said, “How can you be so sure? You don’t even know him.”

And my father’s answer was simple: “He told me that he would.”

**Question G**

* *What does “taken aback” mean?*
* *What was the officer’s idea?*

They waited around, and 4:30 came and five o’clock, and of course, no young man returned. And at about 5:15, they’re trying to get my dad to go home, ’cause his shift ended at five.
He’s kind of stoic, and he says, “No, I’m gonna wait around until he comes back.”

One of ’em observed, “Might be kind of a long wait.” But no, my dad didn’t get discouraged.
All of a sudden, the door opens, and the young man walks in—shaven, short hair—walks up to the counter, and they don’t even acknowledge him, ’cause they’re still mulling over what they’re gonna do to save my dad, and finally the young man says, “Excuse me; I’d like

to pay my fine.” And that kind of got their attention, but they still didn’t recognize him, and one of ’em walked to the counter and said, “What fine is that you’re talking ’bout?”

**Question H**

* *Why didn’t his father go home after his shift ended?*
* *What distracted them when they were thinking of how to save his dad?*

He said, “Well, you guys arrested me last night—locked me up. I owe two hundred, and I’m here to pay it.” Started counting out 20-dollar bills. When he got to 200, the police didn’t say a word, but they wrote him out a receipt. They thanked him. The boy started to leave. When he got to the door to go out, he turned around and—almost as if he knew what the situation was like there in that office with my dad—said, “Oh, by the way, Mr. Bullard, I’m sorry I was late getting back, but I had to wait in the line at the barbershop.”

**Question I**

* *Who was the Young man?*
* *Why didn’t they recognize him?*

**- THE END -**