

Intermediate Short Stories – “Maria gets her license”

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version

Maria went to get her driver’s license on Friday. There was a long line of people waiting at the front desk. She was not looking forward to such a long line on a Friday morning.

“Do you have two forms of identification?” asked the person who worked for the DMV. “Yes, I brought a bill and my social security card,” replied Maria. “That is good. Here is your number. Please wait over there,” said the worker.

Maria was number ten. She sat in the waiting area and read a book. After awhile, they called her number. She went to the desk and spoke with a different person who worked for the DMV. “Would you like to be an organ donor?” asked the worker. “Yes, I would,” replied Maria. Maria chose the lighthouse as her background picture. She then paid fifteen dollars. They took her picture after she paid.

“Maria, your license is ready,” called the worker. Maria got up and received her license from the clerk. She laughed when she saw her picture because she had forgotten to smile! Maria then left the DMV to meet her family for lunch.



Advanced Version

Maria went to get her driver’s license on Friday. There was a long line of people waiting at the front desk. She was not **expecting** such a long line on a Friday morning.

“Do you have two forms of identification?” asked the DMV **employee**. “Yes, I brought a bill and my social security card,” replied Maria. “That is good. Here is your number. Please wait over there,” said the employee.

Maria was number ten. She sat in the waiting area and read a book. **Eventually**, they called her number. She went to the desk and spoke with a different employee. “Would you like to be an organ donor?” asked the clerk. “Yes, I would,” replied Maria. Maria **selected** the lighthouse as her background picture. She then paid the fifteen dollars. They took her picture after she paid.

“Maria, your license is ready,” called the employee. Maria got up and received her license from the clerk. She was **amused** by her picture because she had forgotten to smile! Maria then left the DMV to go meet her family for lunch.

Questions:

1. What was Maria not expecting at the DMV?
2. What two forms of identification did Maria bring to the DMV?
3. Why did Maria laugh at her license?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the vocabulary word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the vocabulary word.

1. What does “**expecting**” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 3*)
2. What does “**employee**” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 1*)
3. What does “**eventually**” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 3*)
4. What does “**selected**” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 7*)
5. What does “**amused**” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 3*)