

Advanced Short Stories – “Getting a New Job”

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



Anna is a senior in college. She is in search of a job. She lives in New York City. Life there can be very difficult. It is expensive. Her parents are going to stop giving her money after college. This morning, she read in the newspaper about a job downtown. The job sounded like it would hold her attention and offered good pay. She decided to get more information about applying to the job.

“I want to apply for this job I read about in the paper. What do I need to do?” asked Anna. “You will need to fill out the application. Then, you will need to prepare a resume,” said Anna’s college counselor. “Do I need a cover letter?” asked Anna. “Yes, you should make that part of your application as well,” replied the counselor.

Anna filled out the application. Then she typed a resume. The person she shares a room with was kind enough to edit it for her. She then typed her cover letter. When it was finished, she mailed it. In a week she received a phone call.

“Anna, this is Mr. Smith. I am calling about your application. We would like to invite you to come in for an interview,” said Mr. Smith. “Oh that is great. I can come in any time this week,” replied Anna. “How about tomorrow morning at ten?” asked Mr. Smith. “That is perfect. See you then,” said Anna.

The next day Anna had her interview. It went well and she was happy with the result. Mr. Smith called her the next day and offered her the job.

Advanced Version

Anna is a senior in college. She is in search of a job. She lives in New York City. Life there can be very difficult. It is expensive. Her parents are going to stop giving her money after college. This morning, she read in the paper about a job downtown. The job sounded *interesting* and offered good pay. She decided to get information about applying to the job.

“I want to apply for this job I read about in the paper. What do I need to do?” asked Anna. “You will need to fill out the application. Then, you will need to prepare a resume,” said Anna’s college counselor. “Do I need a cover letter?” asked Anna. “Yes, you should *include* that in your application as well,” replied the counselor.

Anna filled out the application. Then she typed a resume. Her *roommate* was kind enough to edit it for her. She then typed her cover letter. When it was finished, she mailed her application. In a week she received a phone call.

“Anna, this is Mr. Smith. I am calling *in reference to* your application. We would like to invite you for an interview,” said Mr. Smith. “Oh that is great. I can come any time this week,” replied Anna. “How about tomorrow morning at ten?” asked Mr. Smith. “That is perfect. See you then,” said Anna.

The next day Anna had her interview. It was *successful*. Mr. Smith called her the next day and offered her a job.

Questions:

1. Why is living in New York City difficult for Anna?
2. What does Ann Nora need in order to apply for the job?
3. How does Anna find out about the available job?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the 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 word.

1. What does “*interesting*” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 7*)
2. What does “*include*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 6*)
3. What does “*roommate*” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 3*)
4. What does “*in reference to*” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 2*)
5. What does “*successful*” mean? (*paragraph 5, sentence 2*)