

# The Visitor

A short story  
for English  
learners



*ManWrites*

ENGAGING STORIES. REAL ENGLISH.

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# Introduction

1. Have you ever lost contact with someone you used to be close to? What happened?
2. How would you feel if an old friend suddenly appeared at your door after many years?
3. Do you think people can completely change over time? Why or why not?
4. What would you do if someone seemed desperate to talk to you, but you didn't fully trust them?
5. Do you believe we are responsible for helping people from our past — even if we no longer know them?

# The Visitor

I was at home. It was late in the evening. And I was wasting time scrolling through total nonsense on my phone.

And just as I forced myself to stop doing that and go to bed, there was a knock at the door.

Not so much a knock as rapid banging on the door.

I ran to the hallway and tried to peer through the frosted glass to see who it could be. I was about to ask who was there when a voice called out.

“I can see you. I need to talk to you.”

I opened the door, just a crack, to see who it was.

Outside stood a man — slightly stocky build, shaved head, pale face. No one I knew.

The man looked at me, a nervous look in his eyes.

“I don’t know if you remember me. My name is Sean. We were at college together.”

I shook my head, trying to process what was happening.

Sean? Sean who?

Then it came back to me.

Sean Blackwood.

Of course.

I could see it now.

He had put on some weight since we were at college. His hair was now much shorter than it was back then. Before, he had long hair.

But there was something familiar in his face. The same expression.

“Sean!” I said. I smiled back at him. But he was not smiling.

“I need to talk to you about something,” he said.

The urgent look on his face, his dishevelled clothes. Something was wrong.

I stepped further out, blocking the doorway. I let the door swing closed behind me, leaving a smaller gap between my house and this man that I had not seen for so many years.

“What is it, Sean?”

I tried to keep the friendly, positive beat in my voice. I smiled.

He looked down the street and my eyes followed.

Nothing there. No other people on the street. No police lights.

“Could we — could I come in for a second?”

There it was.

At college, Sean had always been kind of quiet. He kept himself to himself. Then in the third year, he disappeared.

He just didn’t come back.

People mentioned it a couple of times, but that was the end of it. They had their own things to deal with, and so Sean was forgotten.

I was his only real friend at college. And that was because we were roommates in the first year. We were thrown together.

“Sean, I can’t let you in right now,” I said. “The kids have just gone to bed. It’s late...”

I shook my head. A clear no.

And I put one hand behind my back to pull the door closed.

He saw it and came nearer. His face was very close to mine.

I could see the fear in his eyes. The sense of urgency. The glint of something unbalanced in his personality.

“You have to let me in,” he said. “Please.”

He was around the same height as me. But he was carrying more weight. And even back in college, he always struck me as being strong.

Plus, he looked desperate.

“I can’t do that,” I said. The tone in my voice gave me away.

He was clearly at an advantage.

He shoved at me, trying to get a grip on the doorframe. To get into my house.

My kids were upstairs. My wife too. No way I could let this man who I had not seen for so long into my house.

“You have to let me in.” His voice was now threatening. “I have something I need to show you.”

I managed to push back.

Then, from behind me, my wife’s voice.

“What’s going on? Who are you talking to?”

My heart jumped into my throat. I didn’t want her to see

this. And I didn't want this man — a stranger to me now — to see her.

“Get back!” I called out to her over my shoulder.

Now, he was struggling hard with me. The two of us scuffling on the doorstep.

With one final push, I managed to shove him away from the door. It took all my strength. He was much stronger than me.

He took a few steps back and faced me.

I waited for him to come running at me. To try and barge his way into our home.

My wife was right behind me now. I could feel her there.

Without looking, I yelled at her.

“Get indoors! Shut the door!”

But I knew she would not do that. She would want to stay with me and try to help.

This man I had not seen for so long — Sean Blackwood — screamed at me.

“Please. You need to see this,” he said, fumbling in his pocket.

I took one step closer to him, preparing myself for him to rush at me.

Then, the sound of sirens. Blue flashing lights bouncing off the houses in our quiet little street.

Within seconds, uniformed police were at the gate.

“Don’t do it, Sean!” one of them yelled at his back.

I fully expected him to come at me. But he didn’t.

Instead, he crumpled to his knees.

I stood, helpless, watching this man I had not seen for twenty years being dragged away by the police. My wife behind me, her arms holding me in a reassuring grip.

For the next hour, we sat in our living room, two uniformed police taking statements, asking me how I knew this man, Sean Blackwood.

And as I faltered and choked out my words, my mind filled with the two of us at college. His smiling face making jokes and laughing.

“What happened to him?” I asked the police. But they just glanced at each other, knowing everything but giving nothing away.

They left, and my wife made a cup of tea. Tea. The universal calming agent at times like this.

Hours later, the street all dark, I opened the door again.

That slight paranoid thought in my head that this man — Sean Blackwood — would be standing there.

But nothing.

I was about to close the door, when I saw the light reflecting off something on the ground.

I bent down and saw a USB memory stick. Cold to the touch.

I slipped it into my pocket without a word.

# Essential Vocabulary

|              |             |              |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| wasting time | shoved      | crumpled     |
| nonsense     | scuffling   | helpless     |
| frosted      | shove       | reassuring   |
| urgent       | threatening | statements   |
| dishevelled  | fumbling    | faltered     |
| doorway      | preparing   | choked       |
| blocking     | sirens      | paranoid     |
| personality  | flashing    | reflecting   |
| desperate    | uniformed   | memory stick |
| advantage    |             |              |

## Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

- 1. Write** each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook.
- 2. Look up** the meaning of each word in your dictionary. Write a clear and simple definition next to the word.
- 3. Create** your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Try to make the sentence meaningful and

connected to your own life or experiences.

## Examples

**Shoved** – pushed something or someone with force.

*Example sentence:* He shoved the door open with his shoulder because his hands were full.

**Nonsense** – words or ideas that are silly, foolish, or not true.

*Example sentence:* She said the ghosts were real, but I thought it was just nonsense.

## Why do this?

Doing this regularly will help you improve all areas of your English — **reading, writing, speaking, and listening.**

By writing definitions and making your own examples, you are actively using the language, which helps it stick in your memory.

# Reading Comprehension Questions

The following questions will help you understand the story ***The Visitor*** more deeply.

Try to answer each question in your own words.

You don't need perfect grammar — just focus on showing your understanding of the text.

***You can find model answers at the end of this lesson plan.***

## Section 1

1. What was the narrator doing before the knock at the door?
2. What kind of knock did the narrator hear?
3. How did the narrator try to see who was at the door?
4. What did the voice outside say?

## Section 2

1. How did the narrator describe the man at the door?
2. What name did the man give?
3. Did the narrator remember Sean immediately?

4. What was Sean's full name?

### **Section 3**

1. How had Sean changed since college?
2. What was the narrator's reaction when he recognised Sean?
3. How did Sean look?
4. What did Sean say he needed?

### **Section 4**

1. Why did the narrator step outside?
2. What did the narrator see when he looked down the street?
3. What did Sean ask?
4. How did the narrator try to sound when he spoke?

### **Section 5**

1. What was Sean like at college?
2. When did Sean disappear?
3. Did many people talk about Sean after he left?
4. Why were the narrator and Sean friends?

## **Section 6**

1. Why didn't the narrator want to let Sean in?
2. What did the narrator do with his hand?
3. How did Sean react when he saw this?
4. What did the narrator notice in Sean's eyes?

## **Section 7**

1. What did Sean try to do to the narrator?
2. Why was the narrator especially concerned about letting Sean in?
3. How did Sean's voice change?
4. Who appeared behind the narrator?

## **Section 8**

1. Why didn't the narrator want his wife to come closer?
2. What were the two men doing on the doorstep?
3. How did the narrator finally stop Sean?
4. What did the narrator expect Sean to do next?

## **Section 9**

1. What did the narrator tell his wife to do?

2. Did he think she would obey him?
3. What was Sean doing as he spoke?
4. What sound interrupted the confrontation?

## **Section 10**

1. What did the police say to Sean?
2. What did the narrator think Sean would do?
3. How did Sean actually react?
4. What did the narrator remember while giving his statement?

## **Section 11**

1. What question did the narrator ask the police?
2. How did the police respond?
3. What did the narrator's wife do after they left?
4. What did the narrator find outside?

# The Visitor — story and reading comprehension questions

## Reading Comprehension Questions

The following questions will help you understand the story *The Visitor* more deeply.

Try to answer each question in your own words.

You don't need perfect grammar — just focus on showing your understanding of the text.

*You can find model answers at the end of this lesson plan.*

## Section 1

I was at home. It was late in the evening. And I was wasting time scrolling through total nonsense on my phone.

And just as I forced myself to stop doing that and go to bed, there was a knock at the door.

Not so much a knock as rapid banging on the door.

I ran to the hallway and tried to peer through the frosted glass to see who it could be. I was about to ask who was there when a voice called out.

“I can see you. I need to talk to you.”

## Reading Comprehension Questions

What was the narrator doing before the knock at the door?

What kind of knock did the narrator hear?

How did the narrator try to see who was at the door?

What did the voice outside say?

## **Section 2**

I opened the door, just a crack, to see who it was.

Outside stood a man — slightly stocky build, shaved head, pale face. No one I knew.

The man looked at me, a nervous look in his eyes.

“I don’t know if you remember me. My name is Sean. We were at college together.”

I shook my head, trying to process what was happening.

Sean? Sean who?

Then it came back to me.

Sean Blackwood.

Of course.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

How did the narrator describe the man at the door?

What name did the man give?

Did the narrator remember Sean immediately?

What was Sean's full name?

## **Section 3**

I could see it now.

He had put on some weight since we were at college. His hair was now much shorter than it was back then. Before, he had long hair.

But there was something familiar in his face. The same expression.

“Sean!” I said. I smiled back at him. But he was not smiling.

“I need to talk to you about something,” he said.

The urgent look on his face, his dishevelled clothes. Something was wrong.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

How had Sean changed since college?

What was the narrator’s reaction when he recognised Sean?

How did Sean look?

What did Sean say he needed?

## **Section 4**

I stepped further out, blocking the doorway. I let the door swing closed behind me, leaving a smaller gap between my house and this man that I had not seen for so many years.

“What is it, Sean?”

I tried to keep the friendly, positive beat in my voice. I smiled.

He looked down the street and my eyes followed.

Nothing there. No other people on the street. No police

lights.

“Could we — could I come in for a second?”

There it was.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

Why did the narrator step outside?

What did the narrator see when he looked down the street?

What did Sean ask?

How did the narrator try to sound when he spoke?

## **Section 5**

At college, Sean had always been kind of quiet. He kept himself to himself. Then in the third year, he disappeared.

He just didn't come back.

People mentioned it a couple of times, but that was the end of it. They had their own things to deal with, and so Sean was forgotten.

I was his only real friend at college. And that was because we were roommates in the first year. We were thrown together.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

What was Sean like at college?

When did Sean disappear?

Did many people talk about Sean after he left?

Why were the narrator and Sean friends?

## Section 6

“Sean, I can’t let you in right now,” I said. “The kids have just gone to bed. It’s late...”

I shook my head. A clear no.

And I put one hand behind my back to pull the door closed.

He saw it and came nearer. His face was very close to mine.

I could see the fear in his eyes. The sense of urgency. The glint of something unbalanced in his personality.

“You have to let me in,” he said. “Please.”

He was around the same height as me. But he was carrying more weight. And even back in college, he always struck me as being strong.

## Reading Comprehension Questions

Why didn’t the narrator want to let Sean in?

What did the narrator do with his hand?

How did Sean react when he saw this?

What did the narrator notice in Sean’s eyes?

## Section 7

Plus, he looked desperate.

“I can’t do that,” I said. The tone in my voice gave me away.

He was clearly at an advantage.

He shoved at me, trying to get a grip on the doorframe. To get into my house.

My kids were upstairs. My wife too. No way I could let this man who I had not seen for so long into my house.

“You have to let me in.” His voice was now threatening. “I have something I need to show you.”

I managed to push back.

Then, from behind me, my wife’s voice.

“What’s going on? Who are you talking to?”

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

What did Sean try to do to the narrator?

Why was the narrator especially concerned about letting Sean in?

How did Sean’s voice change?

Who appeared behind the narrator?

## **Section 8**

My heart jumped into my throat. I didn’t want her to see this. And I didn’t want this man — a stranger to me now — to see her.

“Get back!” I called out to her over my shoulder.

Now, he was struggling hard with me. The two of us scuffling on the doorstep.

With one final push, I managed to shove him away from the door. It took all my strength. He was much stronger than

me.

He took a few steps back and faced me.

I waited for him to come running at me. To try and barge his way into our home.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

Why didn't the narrator want his wife to come closer?

What were the two men doing on the doorstep?

How did the narrator finally stop Sean?

What did the narrator expect Sean to do next?

## **Section 9**

My wife was right behind me now. I could feel her there.

Without looking, I yelled at her.

"Get indoors! Shut the door!"

But I knew she would not do that. She would want to stay with me and try to help.

This man I had not seen for so long — Sean Blackwood — screamed at me.

"Please. You need to see this," he said, fumbling in his pocket.

I took one step closer to him, preparing myself for him to rush at me.

Then, the sound of sirens. Blue flashing lights bouncing off the houses in our quiet little street.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

What did the narrator tell his wife to do?  
Did he think she would obey him?  
What was Sean doing as he spoke?  
What sound interrupted the confrontation?

## **Section 10**

Within seconds, uniformed police were at the gate.  
“Don’t do it, Sean!” one of them yelled at his back.  
I fully expected him to come at me. But he didn’t.  
Instead, he crumpled to his knees.

I stood, helpless, watching this man I had not seen for twenty years being dragged away by the police. My wife behind me, her arms holding me in a reassuring grip.

For the next hour, we sat in our living room, two uniformed police taking statements, asking me how I knew this man, Sean Blackwood.

And as I faltered and choked out my words, my mind filled with the two of us at college. His smiling face making jokes and laughing.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

What did the police say to Sean?  
What did the narrator think Sean would do?  
How did Sean actually react?  
What did the narrator remember while giving his statement?

## Section 11

“What happened to him?” I asked the police. But they just glanced at each other, knowing everything but giving nothing away.

They left, and my wife made a cup of tea. Tea. The universal calming agent at times like this.

Hours later, the street all dark, I opened the door again.

That slight paranoid thought in my head that this man — Sean Blackwood — would be standing there.

But nothing.

I was about to close the door, when I saw the light reflecting off something on the ground.

I bent down and saw a USB memory stick. Cold to the touch.

I slipped it into my pocket without a word.

### Reading Comprehension Questions

What question did the narrator ask the police?

How did the police respond?

What did the narrator’s wife do after they left?

What did the narrator find outside?

# True or False

## True or False – Comprehension Check

Test your understanding of *The Visitor* with this True or False activity.

Read each statement carefully and decide if it's true or false based on the story.

This exercise helps reinforce key details while building reading confidence.

***Check your answers at the back of the lesson plan.***

The narrator was watching TV when someone knocked at the door.

The man at the door introduced himself as Sean Blackwood.

Sean and the narrator had been classmates at university.

The narrator immediately recognized Sean when he opened the door.

Sean looked exactly the same as he had at college.

The narrator let Sean into the house after a short

conversation.

Sean was the narrator's only real friend in college.

Sean asked to come inside because he wanted to show something.

The narrator's wife appeared during the struggle at the door.

Sean pulled a knife from his pocket before the police arrived.

The police arrived before Sean could force his way inside.

Sean was arrested without resisting the police.

The narrator asked the police what had happened to Sean.

The story ends with the narrator receiving a letter from Sean.

At the very end, the narrator finds a USB stick outside his door.

# What is the Correct Synonym?

## Synonyms Matching Exercise

This activity will help you build your vocabulary by matching words from the story ***The Visitor*** with words that have a similar meaning (synonyms).

Look at both lists carefully and try to find the best match for each word.

***You can check your answers at the end of the lesson plan.***

### List A – Words from the Story

1. dishevelled
2. urgent
3. scuffling
4. disappeared
5. reassuring
6. crumpled
7. threatening
8. fumbling
9. faltered
10. dragging

### List B – Synonyms

- A. calming
- B. vanished

- C. collapsed
- D. rummaging
- E. pulling
- F. untidy
- G. wrestling
- H. warning
- I. hesitated
- J. Important

# What is the Correct Antonym?

## Antonyms Matching Exercise

In this activity, you will practise understanding opposites by matching words from ***The Visitor*** with their antonyms (words with opposite meanings).

Read both lists carefully and find the best match for each word.

***You can find the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.***

### List A – Words from the Story

1. afraid
2. closed
3. late
4. shouting
5. heavier
6. strange
7. forget
8. strong
9. dark
10. outside

### List B – Antonyms

- A. early
- B. light

- C. weak
- D. remember
- E. bright
- F. quiet
- G. familiar
- H. brave
- I. open
- J. inside

# Gap-Fill Exercise

## Gap-Fill Vocabulary Exercise

This exercise will help you practise using vocabulary from ***The Visitor*** in context.

Read each sentence carefully and choose the correct word from the word list to complete the gap.

Think about the meaning of the sentence and which word fits best.

***Check your answers at the end of the lesson plan.***

### Word List

shoved

vanished

urgent

reassuring

dishevelled

threatening

fumbling

scuffling

faltered

crumpled

### Gap-Fill Sentences

He gave me a \_\_\_\_\_ smile that helped me calm down.

The note was torn and \_\_\_\_\_ in her hand.

The thief \_\_\_\_\_ through his pockets, trying to find the stolen wallet.

His tone became more \_\_\_\_\_ when I refused to cooperate.

They were \_\_\_\_\_ in the hallway, trying to wrestle the bag from each other.

She \_\_\_\_\_ slightly before answering the officer's question.

The stranger looked \_\_\_\_\_, as if he'd been walking in the rain all night.

Without warning, the girl \_\_\_\_\_ the door open and ran outside.

The sound of her voice was \_\_\_\_\_ — something was wrong.

By the time help arrived, the attacker had \_\_\_\_\_ into the night.

# Words and Meanings

## Word and Meaning Matching Exercise

In this activity, you'll match vocabulary from *The Visitor* with their correct meanings.

This will help you better understand how these words are used in the story.

Read both the word list and the meaning list carefully, then draw a line or write the letter of the correct meaning next to each word.

*You can find the answer key at the end of the lesson plan.*

### Words:

1. glance
2. doorway
3. urgency
4. reassure
5. stare
6. hesitate
7. drag
8. block
9. grip
10. vanish

### Meanings:

- A. to disappear suddenly

- B. to pause before doing something, often due to uncertainty
- C. a feeling that something must be done quickly
- D. to calm someone or make them feel less worried
- E. the entrance space of a room or building
- F. to hold tightly
- G. to pull something along with effort
- H. to stop movement or access
- I. to look quickly or briefly
- J. to look at something with fixed eyes for a long time

# Discussion Questions

## Class Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to help you think more deeply about the story ***The Visitor*** and explore your own opinions and experiences.

There are no right or wrong answers — just share your thoughts honestly and listen respectfully to others.

***You can discuss these in pairs, small groups, or as a whole class.***

1. How would you react if someone you hadn't seen in 20 years showed up at your door late at night?
2. Do you think the narrator made the right decision not to let Sean into the house? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Sean chose to come to the narrator instead of someone else?
4. What clues in the story made you feel something was wrong with Sean?
5. Have you ever lost contact with someone and wondered what happened to them?
6. Do you believe people can change completely over time? Why or why not?
7. What do you think was on the USB stick?

8. How would you have handled the situation differently if you were the narrator's wife?
9. Was there a moment in the story that made you feel nervous or tense? Describe it.
10. Should the narrator feel guilty about not helping Sean? Why or why not?
11. If you were Sean, what would you have done differently?
12. Do you think the police should have explained what was going on to the narrator?
13. Why do you think Sean said, "You need to see this"?
14. Have you ever felt unsafe around someone you used to know? What did you do?
15. How does the story explore the idea of trust?
16. What do you think happened to Sean after the police took him away?
17. Why do you think the narrator opened the door again later that night?
18. What would you do if you found a USB stick outside your house?
19. What would you say is the main theme or message of this story?
20. How would you describe the mood or atmosphere of the story in one word? Explain your choice.

# Role Play

This is a role play activity.

## Role Play Activity – “The Visitor at the Door”

### Roles:

- Student A – The Narrator (the person inside the house)
- Student B – Sean Blackwood (the unexpected visitor)

### Scenario:

It's late in the evening. The narrator is about to go to bed when Sean, an old college roommate who disappeared years ago, suddenly knocks on the door. He looks different — heavier, tired, anxious — and he wants to come in to talk.

But the narrator has a family upstairs and doesn't feel safe. Sean insists that it's important.

### Instructions:

Each student should stay in character and improvise the

conversation that might have happened during this scene.  
The dialogue should include:

- A polite but cautious greeting
- Sean trying to explain why he came
- The narrator refusing to let him in
- A rising emotional argument or plea
- A final line where something mysterious is hinted at (but not fully explained)

### **Role Prompts (to guide the interaction)**

#### **For Student A (Narrator):**

- You're confused and cautious.
- You haven't seen Sean in over 20 years.
- You remember that he disappeared from college suddenly.
- You want to protect your family and not let him inside.
- You want to know what he wants but feel nervous.

#### **For Student B (Sean):**

- You're desperate and scared.
- You believe the narrator is the only one who can help.
- You are not dangerous, but you are emotionally unstable.
- You are carrying something important (a USB stick) but don't want to explain everything at the door.

- You try to convince the narrator to let you in, without revealing too much.

# **Class Discussion**

This is a class discussion activity.

## **Class Discussion Activity: “Friendships from the Past”**

### **Objective:**

To reflect on and discuss friendships that were once important but are no longer part of our lives. Students will explore emotions, changes over time, and how people grow apart.

### **Format:**

Ideal for pairs, small groups, or whole-class discussion. Each student shares their ideas based on a set of open-ended prompts.

Use a timer (3–5 minutes per question in small groups).

After discussion, invite a few volunteers to share with the whole class (optional).

### **Discussion Prompts:**

Can you describe a friendship you had in the past that no longer exists today?

Why do you think some friendships fade over time?

Do you think it's natural for people to grow apart? Why or why not?

Have you ever lost touch with a friend and wished you could reconnect?

If a friend from long ago suddenly appeared at your door, how would you feel?

What are some reasons old friends might come back into your life?

Have you ever tried to reconnect with someone from your past? What happened?

Do you believe friendships from childhood or college are stronger than adult friendships?

How do you think social media affects friendships — especially those from the past?

Would you want to meet someone from your past who changed a lot? Why or why not?

## **Reflection Prompts (Optional Writing or Group Share)**

What makes a friendship meaningful to you?

Have you ever regretted ending a friendship?

How can we know when it's time to let a friendship go?

# Writing

**This is a creative writing exercise.**

Here's a writing exercise that invites students to creatively continue ***The Visitor***, picking up where the story left off — with the narrator holding the mysterious USB stick.

## Writing Exercise: “What’s on the USB?”

### Instructions:

Continue the story *The Visitor* from where it ended:

*I bent down and saw a USB memory stick. Cold to the touch. I slipped it into my pocket without a word.*

**You are the narrator.**

Write the next part of the story, imagining:

- What’s on the USB stick?
- Why was Sean so desperate for you to see it?
- What do you do with it? Do you plug it in right away? Do you tell your wife?
- Is it something dangerous, sad, shocking, or personal?
- Does it change the way you think about Sean?

- Do you feel regret? Relief? Fear?

### **Your Task:**

Write 150–300 words continuing the story. Try to include:

- Suspense or emotional detail
- A discovery or decision
- A final sentence that leaves your reader thinking

### **Optional Prompts to Spark Ideas:**

- The USB contains a video. What do you see?
- It holds files that are part of a secret investigation.
- It contains an apology, a confession, or something meant only for you.
- There's a message asking you to do something.

# Reading Comprehension Questions — Answers

## Model Answers – Guidance for Students

These are model answers to help you check your understanding of the story. Your answers might not be exactly the same, and that's okay — if your response is close in meaning, it's good enough. There is no single “true” answer for many of these questions. If you're unsure, ask your teacher for advice or feedback.

### Section 1

1. What was the narrator doing before the knock at the door?

He was scrolling through nonsense on his phone, wasting time.

2. What kind of knock did the narrator hear?

It was not a gentle knock but rapid banging on the door.

3. How did the narrator try to see who was at the door?

He peered through the frosted glass in the hallway.

4. What did the voice outside say?

The voice said, “I can see you. I need to talk to you.”

### Section 2

1. How did the narrator describe the man at the door?  
He had a slightly stocky build, a shaved head, and a pale face. He was unfamiliar at first.
2. What name did the man give?  
He said his name was Sean.
3. Did the narrator remember Sean immediately?  
No, he was confused at first and didn't recognise him right away.
4. What was Sean's full name?  
His full name was Sean Blackwood.

### **Section 3**

1. How had Sean changed since college?  
He had put on weight and had much shorter hair.
2. What was the narrator's reaction when he recognised Sean?  
He smiled and greeted him by name.
3. How did Sean look?  
He looked nervous, dishevelled, and serious.
4. What did Sean say he needed?  
He said he needed to talk to the narrator about something.

### **Section 4**

1. Why did the narrator step outside?  
To block the doorway and put space between Sean and his home.
2. What did the narrator see when he looked down the

street?

Nothing — no people or police lights.

3. What did Sean ask?

He asked if he could come in for a second.

4. How did the narrator try to sound when he spoke?

He tried to sound friendly and positive.

## **Section 5**

1. What was Sean like at college?

He was quiet and kept to himself.

2. When did Sean disappear?

He disappeared in the third year of college.

3. Did many people talk about Sean after he left?

No, people only mentioned it briefly and then forgot.

4. Why were the narrator and Sean friends?

Because they were roommates in their first year and were thrown together.

## **Section 6**

1. Why didn't the narrator want to let Sean in?

Because it was late, and his kids had just gone to bed.

2. What did the narrator do with his hand?

He put one hand behind his back to pull the door closed.

3. How did Sean react when he saw this?

He came closer, putting his face near the narrator's.

4. What did the narrator notice in Sean's eyes?

He saw fear, urgency, and something unbalanced.

## Section 7

1. What did Sean try to do to the narrator?

He shoved him and tried to grab the doorframe to get inside.

2. Why was the narrator especially concerned about letting Sean in?

Because his wife and kids were upstairs, and Sean seemed unstable.

3. How did Sean's voice change?

It became threatening.

4. Who appeared behind the narrator?

His wife spoke from behind him.

## Section 8

1. Why didn't the narrator want his wife to come closer?

Because he didn't want her to see the situation or for Sean to see her.

2. What were the two men doing on the doorstep?

They were struggling and scuffling as Sean tried to get in.

3. How did the narrator finally stop Sean?

With one final push, he shoved Sean away from the door.

4. What did the narrator expect Sean to do next?

He expected Sean to run at him and try to force his way in.

## Section 9

1. What did the narrator tell his wife to do?

He told her to get indoors and shut the door.

2. Did he think she would obey him?

No, he thought she would want to stay and help him.

3. What was Sean doing as he spoke?

He was screaming and fumbling in his pocket.

4. What sound interrupted the confrontation?

The sound of sirens.

## **Section 10**

1. What did the police say to Sean?

One officer shouted, "Don't do it, Sean!"

2. What did the narrator think Sean would do?

He thought Sean would come at him again.

3. How did Sean actually react?

He dropped to his knees and didn't resist.

4. What did the narrator remember while giving his statement?

He remembered Sean's smiling face and their time at college.

## **Section 11**

1. What question did the narrator ask the police?

He asked, "What happened to him?"

2. How did the police respond?

They looked at each other but didn't explain anything.

3. What did the narrator's wife do after they left?

She made a cup of tea.

4. What did the narrator find outside?

He found a USB memory stick on the ground.

# True or False — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. False

Correction: The narrator was scrolling through his phone, not watching TV.

2. True

3. True

4. False

Correction: The narrator didn't recognise Sean immediately. It took him a moment to remember.

5. False

Correction: Sean had changed—he had put on weight and had shorter hair, but his expression was still familiar.

6. False

Correction: The narrator refused to let Sean into the house and physically stopped him from entering.

7. True

8. True

9. True

10. False

Correction: Sean did not pull a knife; he fumbled in his pocket, possibly to show something, before the police arrived.

11. True

12. True

13. True

14. False

Correction: The story ends with the narrator finding a USB stick outside, not receiving a letter.

15. True

# What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. dishevelled → F. untidy
2. urgent → J. important
3. scuffling → G. wrestling
4. disappeared → B. vanished
5. reassuring → A. calming
6. crumpled → C. collapsed
7. threatening → H. warning
8. fumbling → D. rummaging
9. faltered → I. hesitated
10. dragging → E. pulling

# What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. afraid → H. brave
2. closed → I. open
3. late → A. early
4. shouting → F. quiet
5. heavier → B. light
6. strange → G. familiar
7. forget → D. remember
8. strong → C. weak
9. dark → E. bright
10. outside → J. inside

# Gap-Fill Exercise — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. reassuring
2. crumpled
3. fumbling
4. threatening
5. scuffling
6. faltered
7. dishevelled
8. shoved
9. urgent
10. vanished

# Words and Meanings — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

1. glance → I. to look quickly or briefly
2. doorway → E. the entrance space of a room or building
3. urgency → C. a feeling that something must be done quickly
4. reassure → D. to calm someone or make them feel less worried
5. stare → J. to look at something with fixed eyes for a long time
6. hesitate → B. to pause before doing something, often due to uncertainty
7. drag → G. to pull something along with effort
8. block → H. to stop movement or access
9. grip → F. to hold tightly

10. vanish → A. to disappear suddenly

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