

## 1

**IT WAS A HOT**, early summer, afternoon and there

was a carnival atmosphere in Castle Square. A balloon seller, with **garishly** coloured Disney characters **bobbing** on the breeze above his head, was surrounded by a **throng** of excited children. By Zygmunt's Column, a crowd had gathered to cheer on a troupe of break-dancers. Under the tree by the castle, the horses stood with their noses in their feedbags, while the carriage drivers **cooled their heels** in the shade.

The doors of the **Register Office** in the far corner of the square **swung open**. As the newly-married bride and groom came out, their waiting guests **showered** them with coins. After ritually picking them up, Inspector Robert Nowak and his wife, Marta Nowak-Jones, waved to their guests and walked over to the car that would take them to their wedding **reception**. The **best man**, Sergeant Pawluk, opened the door for the bride and helped her in, while the groom swung himself into the driver's seat.

"It's the first time I've been in your Saab as your wife," Marta said, giving her husband a **peck** on the cheek. "Perhaps you'll let me drive it now."

Nowak looked at her with a serious face, "I'm quite happy to share everything else with you, dear, but the Saab is mine."

"Okay, I accept. I can see I have no choice. But I expect you to be my **chauffeur** whenever I require your services. Now, Sir, drive me to my reception."

"Yes, Madam!" Nowak grinned, saluting his wife.

As the engine came to life, the guests all began to wave energetically. The car picked its way carefully through the crowds, in the direction of the Victoria Hotel. As it was **edging** past Zygmunt's Column, the break-dancer crowd turned suddenly and several people shouted out. Nowak drove slowly on.

"Are they cheering us?" he asked.

"I don't think so," said Marta, turning round to see what had drawn the people's attention.

"What's going on?" Nowak asked.

Marta **gasped**.

"What is it?" Nowak asked her.

**garishly**

– jaskrawie

**to bob** – kiwać

się, drgać

**throng** – tłum,

rój

**to cool****one's heels**

– wyczekiwiać

**heel** – pięta**Register Office**

– Urząd Stanu

Cywilnego

**to swing open**

– otworzyć się

na oścież

**to shower**

– zasypywać,

obrzucać

**reception**

– przyjęcie

**best man**

– drużba

**peck** – całus**chauffeur**

– kierowca,

szofer

**to edge**

(through)

– przeciskać się,

poruszać się

powoli

**to gasp**

– westchnąć

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**1. Choose the best answer a, b or c.**

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**1. Who was not in Castle Square?**

- a. street performers
- b. random kids
- c. cab drivers

**2. Upon getting into the car Marta was...**

- a. apologetic
- b. sarcastic
- c. hurt

**3. The man in the park looked like...**

- a. a thug
- b. a benign beggar
- c. a desperate homeless person

**4. The husband in the park seemed rather...**

- a. sensible
- b. narrow-minded
- c. opportunistic

**5. The man from the other room, upon seeing Nowak, was...**

- a. shocked
- b. overwhelmed
- c. surprised

## 5

## IN THE HOUR AFTER

Nowak had spoken to Klik, there had been **numerous** toasts and the dancing was getting wilder and wilder. Nowak, who had spent most of the time on the dance floor, in the arms of various women, was standing by one of the windows taking a **breather**. From outside, there came the **blare** of approaching sirens. Nowak pulled back the net curtain and looked out to see six or seven vehicles with flashing blue lights coming down the street at speed. The police cars and vans **came to a halt** outside the hotel, blocking the road. The doors opened and a group of twenty or so policemen came running into the building.

Soon after, there was a **commotion** outside the ballroom, loud enough to be heard above the music. Nowak went over to Pawluk.

“Should we go and take a look?”

“No, not today, we’re **off duty** – you especially.”

“Okay, but let’s just put our heads out of the door and see what’s going on.”

“Robert,” Marta shouted, as the two detectives **headed** towards the door, “where are you going?”

“Don’t worry, we’re just having a quick look. I promise.”

Klik remained outside the other ballroom as the Police entered. When he saw Nowak and Pawluk, he came over.

“Who called the Police?” Pawluk asked.

“I did,” replied Klik, explaining. “It’s nothing serious, though. Just standard procedure. You saw what it was like in there,” he said to Nowak. “They’ve all been drinking and the favourite’s just been beaten. There was a lot of money **riding on** him. And I suppose they’re a bit frustrated. Best to let the Police **deal with it**.”

The three men stood by the door of the small ballroom and watched events **unfolding** across the corridor. After a couple of minutes, the Police led two bloodied men out of the room in **handcuffs**. Nowak recognised the second, who was now **shirtless**, as one of the darts players he’d seen on the stage earlier.

“I **presume** he’s the loser,” Nowak said to Klik.

“No,” said Klik laughing, “he’s the winner. Anyway, it looks like the police have calmed things down. I’d better have a wander over and see what the situation’s like inside.” 🗨️

**numerous**

– liczny

**breather**

– chwila

przerwy

**blare** – ryk**to come to****a halt**

– zatrzymać się,

**commotion**

– zamieszanie,

zgielk

**off duty**

– po służbie

(nie na służbie)

**to head**

(somewhere)

– podążać

dokądś

**to ride on**

– zależeć od,

(o postawio-  
nych pieni-  
dzach)**to deal with****sth** – załatwić

coś

**to unfold**

– rozwijać się

**handcuffs**

– kajdanki

**shirtless** – bez

koszulki, z nagą

piersią

**to presume**

– zakładać,

przypuszczać

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**1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).**

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1. Klik's message was perplexing.
2. Pawluk was rude enough to disturb Nowak's conversation with his wife.
3. Pawluk and Nowak had a very busy day at work.
4. Klik was told off by his superior.
5. Pawluk suspected Nowak was up to something.
6. Nowak got caught up in traffic on his way to the meeting point.
7. Nowak felt he owed something to Klik.
8. Klik suggested public tenders are completely transparent.
9. The hotel lobby was crowded when Nowak entered it.
10. The Chinese contractors flew in the previous day.
11. The music stopped as soon as the game was about to start.
12. All the Chinese present in the hotel were workers.
13. Both darts players were stressed out about the final game.
14. Klik had a seizure in the cubicle.
15. The paramedics knew what had happened to Klik.

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### 1. Match the two halves of the sentence.

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1. Nowak's first intention was

a. to no avail.

2. Nowak hesitated whether

b. they look for a translator.

3. Nowak suggested

c. to conceal his involvement in the case.

4. Doctors tried to resuscitate Klik,

d. to enjoy a drink on his way home.

5. Nowak told the policeman he had come to the hotel

e. to tell Marta about what had happened.

6. Nowak lied to the policeman

f. to keep all the people away from the crime scene.

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### 2. Match the phrase with its Polish equivalent.

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1. predicament

a. kabina

2. to bring on

b. kłopotliwe położenie

3. to pop in

c. uderzać

4. rubble

d. gruz

5. to strike

e. leżący na uboczu

6. secluded

f. na początek

7. cubicle

g. powodować

8. for starters

h. wpadać