

LISTENING ACTIVITY

1/3



THE GIFT FROM MAGI

1  Listen to the audio and complete the text.
Choose the right word in the basket below.

- hugged • mirror • cheapest • touched • carpet • tomorrow
- sign • apartment • below • rent

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. Della counted it three times. She was very careful with money and bought only the **1** food. But she only had one dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day was Christmas. There was nothing to do so she sat down and cried. Della lived in New York City in a poor, little **2** The **3** was \$8 a week. The name on the front door was "Mr James Dillingham Young". In the past he earned \$30 a week, but now he earned only \$20 a week. When he came home after work Della always **4** him. And this was good.

Della stopped crying and dried her face. She stood by the window and looked at a gray car on the gray street.

"**5** will be Christmas Day and I have only one dollar and eighty-seven cents to buy Jim a Christmas present," she thought. She wanted to buy him something fine and beautiful. She wanted to show him that she loved him a lot.

There was a small **6** on the wall and Della stood in front of it. Her eyes were bright. She pulled down her beautiful long hair. It went **7** her knees.

Now, the James Dillingham Youngs had two very special things. One was Jim's gold pocket watch. It belonged to his father and before that, to his grandfather. The other special thing was Della's hair.

She put up her hair again. A tear or two fell on the old red **8** Then she put on her old brown coat and her old brown hat and quickly went out with her eyes still shining.

She stopped in front of a door with a **9** : *Madame Sofronie, Hair Goods*. Della opened the door and saw a big woman.

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame Sofronie. "Take your hat off and show me your hair."

Della's beautiful brown hair fell down.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame Sofronie and she **10** the long hair with her expert hand.

"Cut it off, quickly! And give me the money," said Della

During the next two hours Della went to many stores and looked for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It was perfect for Jim: a simple gold chain for his pocket watch. He was proud of his pocket watch but it had no chain.

The gold chain cost twenty-one dollars, and Della hurried home happily with it and the eighty-seven cents. When she got home she looked at her very short hair in the mirror.

"Oh dear, what can I do with my hair?" she thought.

(from Chapter One)



LISTENING ACTIVITY

2/3



2 Choose the correct answer – a, b or c.

1. How many times did Della count her money?

- a. once
- b. twice
- c. three times

2. Every week James Dillingham Young now earned

- a. \$20
- b. \$30
- c. \$23

3. Della's beautiful long hair

- a. went to her shoulders.
- b. went to her feet.
- c. went below her knees.

4. What did Madame Sofronie do?

- a. She was a hairdresser.
- b. She bought women's hair.
- c. She sold pocket watches.

5. James Dillingham Young's pocket watch

- a. didn't have a chain.
- b. was old and broken.
- c. belonged to his uncle.

