

# comprehension

## Maria's school bus trip – Hard

Maria was very excited as she waited for the school bus. She was starting school again after the long summer holiday. She had not seen her friends for six weeks and couldn't wait to play with them again.

While Maria waited for the bus to arrive, she noticed Hasim, a boy in the class below her. He was playing around very close to the kerb. Maria was worried that passing traffic might hurt Hasim so she tapped him on the shoulder and told him to move away from the kerb. Hasim listened and then moved well back from the edge of the road.

When the bus arrived, Maria waited patiently in line with all the other students. They waited until the bus came to a complete stop and the doors opened. Then everyone in the line boarded the bus carefully. Maria chose a seat next to the window, put her bag under her seat and put on her seat belt.

Once the driver was sure all the children were on board he pulled away from the bus stop and began the drive to school.

Emma, Maria's friend, got on the bus at the next bus stop. Emma was so excited to see Maria that she started to rush towards her. Then Emma stopped suddenly and remembered she was supposed to take her seat on the school bus quickly and quietly.

She sat next to Maria and they began to tell each other about what they had done during the school holiday. Maria and Emma chatted quietly so they didn't distract the driver.

Before the school holiday began they had watched a DVD in class that told them how important the bus driver's job was. Bus drivers were responsible for getting Maria and Emma to school and home safely. If there was noise, or if children misbehaved and didn't sit in their seats, the driver found it harder to concentrate on driving the bus.

Emma and Maria remembered that the DVD had told them to stay seated and to make sure they kept their school bags away from the bus aisle.

Once Maria and Emma arrived at school they waited for the bus to come to a complete stop before they picked up their bags and got off the bus. They moved well away from the bus and waited for it to leave before they started to cross the road.

They stopped and then looked left and right to check for any approaching traffic. They spotted a car coming towards them and waited for it to pass. Then they looked left and right again. They also listened for any approaching traffic.

Then Maria and Emma thought carefully. Was the road clear? Was it safe to cross? Could they hear anything coming? Could they see anything coming? When the road was clear, they crossed quickly.

After school, Maria couldn't wait to go home and tell her parents all about her first day back at school. She lined up again with the other children waiting for the school bus to arrive.

A group of older students approached. They started pushing each other, just as the bus arrived. A teacher supervising the children at the bus stop separated the older boys and girls and reminded them that it was very dangerous to play around near the school bus and near the road.

On the bus, Maria and Emma chatted about their first day back at school. When it was time for Maria to get off she waited for the bus to stop and then got off.

She stopped, looked and listened for traffic.

Maria could see her Mum parked on the other side of the road and she knew that she had to be very careful crossing the road again.

She waited until the bus had moved off and she could see the road clearly. Maria's Mum had warned her that cars and motorbikes often looked further away than they really were but they could travel fast. So Maria made sure there was no traffic near her before she started to cross.

Once Maria saw that the road was completely clear of any moving traffic, she knew it was safe to go. So she crossed quickly, and she kept looking left and right and kept listening.

Once Maria reached the other side of the road she gave her Mum a big hug. She couldn't wait to tell her about all the great things she had learned at school that day.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Maria worried about Hasim?
2. What did Hasim do to stay safe after he spoke to Maria?
3. What did Maria do after she had taken her seat?
4. Why did Emma suddenly stop rushing towards Maria on the bus?
5. What did the DVD tell Maria and Emma they should do when they were on the bus to help the driver?
6. What did Emma and Maria do when they got off the school bus?
7. What did the two girls do before they began to cross the road?
8. Why was it dangerous for the group of older boys and girls to be pushing each other near the school bus?
9. On the way home from school, why did Maria wait for the bus to leave before she crossed the road to meet her Mum?
10. What did Maria look and listen for before she started to cross?
11. When did she know it was safe to cross?
12. How did Maria cross the road?

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## Solutions

### Maria's school bus trip – Hard

**1. Why was Maria worried about Hasim?**

He was close to the kerb and she was worried that passing traffic might hurt him.

**2. What did Hasim do to stay safe after he spoke to Maria?**

He moved away from the edge of the pavement and stayed back from the edge of the road.

**3. What did Maria do after she had taken her seat?**

She put on her seatbelt and put her schoolbag under her seat.

**4. Why did Emma stop rushing towards Maria on the bus?**

She remembered that you are not supposed to run or push on the school bus.

**5. What did the DVD tell Maria and Emma that they should do when they were on the bus to help the driver?**

To stay quiet, stay seated if a seat is available, not to distract the driver and to keep the bus aisle clear of bags.

**6. What did Emma and Maria do when they got off the school bus?**

They moved well away from the bus.

**7. What did the two girls do before they began to cross the road?**

They waited for the bus to go and then looked left and right to check for approaching traffic.

**8. Why was it dangerous for the group of older boys and girls to be pushing each other near the school bus?**

They might fall in front of the school bus, or onto the road, and be hurt by the bus or passing traffic.

**9. On the way home from school, why did Maria wait for the bus to leave before she crossed the road to meet her Mum?**

So she could see the road clearly before trying to cross.

**10. What did Maria look and listen for before she started to cross?**

She watched for approaching traffic.

**11. When did she know it was safe to cross?**

When the road was clear of approaching traffic.

**12. How did Maria cross the road?**

She crossed quickly, kept looking left and right and kept listening for traffic.