

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-9 The Accidental Tourist
Test Paper-04

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follows:

1. "I cannot tell you the number of times that I have gone looking for the lavatory in a cinema, for instance, and ended up standing in an alley on the wrong side of a shree times a day and asking what my room number is."
 - a. Who is 'I' in the given extract?
 - b. "Elflocking door. My particular specialty now is returning to hotel desks two" - Is 'I' so much confused?
 - c. What is the meaning of 'alley'?
 - d. How author feel about his mischiefs?
2. "So, you will understand, I trust, when I tell you how much I ache to be suave."
 - a. Who is 'I' and 'you' in the given extract?
 - b. Why does he say this?
 - c. Do you think he really ache to suave? Give reason.
 - d. What is the meaning of 'suave'?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. Why didn't the author get his air miles to Australia?
4. What happens when the zip of the author's bag gives way?
5. How does Bill Bryson end up in a "crash position"?
6. Why does the author sit very quietly when he is travelling alone?
7. Do you think that the author has an accidental nature?
8. How does the author knock a soft drink to a lady sitting behind?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Write a short summary of "The Accidental Tourist".
10. What are the reactions of the author's wife at his mischiefs.

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Answers

1. a. 'I' refers to the author- Bill Bryson.
b. Yes, he is easily confused.
c. 'Alley' means a narrow passage-way between or behind buildings.
d. The author aches to suave. He wanted to be like others.
2. a. 'I' refers to the author and 'you' refers to the readers.
b. Because, the author wanted to be like any other. But it is not so.
c. He would love, just once in his life, to rise from a dinner table without looking as if he has just experienced an extremely localised seismic event, get in a car and close the door without leaving 14 inches of coat outside.
d. 'Suave' means sophisticated, polite.
3. The clerk shook her head when the author presented his card and told that he was not entitled to any. Because, the ticket is in the name of B. Bryson and the card is in the name of W. Bryson.
4. The side of the bag flew open and everything within — newspaper cuttings and other loose papers, a 14- ounce tin of pipe tobacco, magazines, passport, English money, film — was extravagantly ejected over an area about the size of a tennis court.
5. Once on an aeroplane, the author leaned over to tie his shoelace just at the moment someone in the seat ahead of him threw their seat back into full recline, and the author was pinned helplessly in the crash position.
6. When the author is alone he won't eat, drink or lean over to tie his shoelaces, and never put a pen anywhere near his mouth. He just sits very, very quietly, sometimes on his hands to keep them from flying out unexpectedly and causing liquid mischief.
7. Yes, the author has an accidental nature. He definitely makes a mischief. Once while he was tying his shoelace, the person in the seat ahead of him threw his seat back into full recline. The author was in a crash position. Once he knocked soft drink on a lady, and once he made his teeth and gum navy blue.
8. Once, the author knocked a soft drink onto the lap of a sweet little lady sitting beside him

in a flight. The flight attendant came and cleaned her up, and brought him a replacement drink, and instantly he knocked it onto the woman again. To this day, the author doesn't know how he did it.

9. The author, Bill Bryson, was a person with an accidental nature. He got easily confused, he returned to hotel desk two-three times to ask what his room number was. On Easter, he was flying to England. On reaching airport he tried to take his card out from the carry-on bag but the zip was jammed. So, he opened with grunts and frowns. The zip gave way and everything within got ejected. He gashed his finger in this process. On another occasion, he knocked a soft drink on the lady sitting beside him. When the flight attendant cleaned her and brought a replacement drink he instantly knocked it again on to the same lady.

He was so unaware that he sucked the end of his pen and leaked it. His teeth and gums were then a scrub resistant navy blue. He never got his air miles. Once he planned to get zillion airmiles on a flight to Australia but there was a trouble. The clerk shook her head when the author presented his card and said that he was not entitled to any because the ticket was on the name of B. Bryson and on the card it was written W. Bryson.

10. When the carry-on bag's zip gave way all the things in the bag-newspaper cuttings and other loose papers, a 14- ounce tin of pipe tobacco, magazines, passport, English money, film — was extravagantly ejected. The author cried, thinking what he would have to pay for that much tobacco in England and then changed his cry to as he discovered that he had gashed his finger and was shedding blood in a lavish manner. It was at this point that his wife looked with an expression of wonder - not anger or exasperation, but just simple wonder -and said, "I can't believe you do this for a living."

When the food is delivered in plane, his wife used to say "Take the lids off the food for Daddy" or "Put your hoods up, children. Daddy's about to cut his meat". This is because she knows that her husband would do some kind of mischief. So, to prevent that she says this to her children.