



ATTINGAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT  
STANDARD X  
ENGLISH - WS-10  
THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE

Read the following passage from the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' and answer the questions that follow.

On the second day, out from New York, while making the round of the promenade deck, I suddenly became aware that one of the passengers was watching me closely, following me with his gaze every time I passed. I wanted to rest, to avoid the tedium of casual and importunate ship-board contacts. I gave no sign of having noticed the man. Yet there was nothing importunate about him. On the contrary, he seemed affected by a troubled, rather touching diffidence. He was in his early 40s, rather short in build, with a fair complexion and clear blue eyes. His thin hair had begun to recede from his forehead. His dark suit, sober tie and rimless spectacles gave evidence of a serious and reserved disposition. At this point the bugle sounded for dinner, and I went below. On the following forenoon, I again observed my fellow voyager watching earnestly from his deck chair. Now a lady was with him, obviously his wife. The situation by this time had begun to intrigue me. I discovered from my steward that they were Mr and Mrs John S\_ from a small suburb of London. When another day passed without event, I began to feel certain that Mr S\_ would remain too shy to carry out his obvious desire to approach me. However, on our final evening at sea Mrs S\_ decided the matter. With a firm pressure on his hand and a whispered word in his ear, she urged her husband towards me as I passed along the deck.

1. From whom did Cronin get information about Mr. John and his wife?
2. The narrator set out for a journey from New York on a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Pick out the word from the passage which means 'lack of confidence'.
4. Do you think the narrator was curious to know about the couple? Pick out the sentence from the passage to justify your answer.
5. Describe the appearance of Mr. John.
6. Why did the narrator give no sign of noticing the man on the deck?
7. Identify the **describing word (adjective)** in the following sentence.  
His thin hair had begun to recede from his forehead.

8. Fill in the blanks with the **appropriate forms** of phrasal verbs given in bracket.

While A J Cronin was walking on the deck he \_\_\_(a)\_\_\_ a young man. The man wanted to \_\_\_(b)\_\_\_ something to Cronin. Usually the doctor doesn't \_\_\_(c)\_\_\_ shipboard contacts. So he deliberately \_\_\_(d)\_\_\_ from the young man.

(turn away ,come across, put on, put across ,put up with)

9. Mr. John offered his visiting card to A J Cronin to see if the name meant anything to him. Unfortunately A J Cronin couldn't make out anything from the name. Mr. John decided to have a word with him. Prepare the likely **conversation** between them. (You may make use of the hints given below.)

**Hints for attempting the conversation**

- Identify the persons engaged in the conversation
- Conversation should have a good opening. ( e.g., Excuse me....Sir, )
- Conversation should be relevant to the topic ( about the visiting card, his first visit to America with his wife, not a holiday trip, inspect the summer recreational camps, etc..)
- Use of contracted forms ( I'm, I didn't.....)
- Use of Question tags.
- Use of different kinds of sentences (statement, question, request, order, etc...)
- Language should be appropriate for the conversation.
- Good conclusion of the conversation...