

Practice Exercise 11

Natasha loved the journey itself: the wind in her face, the sense of careless freedom, the sight of red and yellow leaves swirling in the sunlight. She loved the knowledge that someone not herself would cook their meal and wash the dinner dishes. She could hardly bear the certainty that they would stay for a night in a room with two beds instead of one. The thought of a bell to call a waiter who would bring them a bedtime cup of tea was delightful. Perhaps they could order a bit of vodka in an ice-filled tumbler and drink it slowly with grunts of complete pleasure. Even the cost—three rubles for the night—did not bother her, so long as they had a few kopecks left for food.

1. You can infer that Natasha is
 - a. a poor Russian housewife.
 - b. a young Austrian girl.
 - c. a wealthy Spanish matron.
 - d. an elderly Frenchwoman.
2. What certain inference can you make about the reason for Natasha's journey?
 - a. She is on her honeymoon.
 - b. She is taking a brief vacation.
 - c. She is traveling to visit relatives.
 - d. No certain inference can be made.
3. Natasha's thoughts of vodka suggest that
 - a. she is an alcoholic.
 - b. vodka represents a rare treat.
 - c. she prefers tea but will take a little vodka to be polite.
 - d. no other beverage is available.
4. Underline the phrase that supports the inference that Natasha is traveling in the autumn.