**Listening**

**The Niagara Falls**

One of the most interesting places in North America is the Niagara Falls. It is nine hundred metres wide and about sixty metres high. The Falls are among the natural wonders of the world.

The Niagara Falls are situated on the Niagara River between the province of Ontario in Canada and the state of New York in the United States. There are really two big waterfalls divided by a small island there. The noise of the Niagara falling waters can be heard for twenty-five kilometres. Imagine a million tons of water flowing over a cliff ninety feet high every five minutes and you will get an idea of that terrible noise. And what great power the Niagara have! They move big stones about and throw them into the boiling waters below.

Some time ago an old ship without people in it was put into the middle of the water. It sailed down the river like a toy boat. It reached the falls and dropped into the boiling water and never appeared again.

There were some people who wanted to become famous by swimming across the most dangerous part of the Niagara River. One of them was Captain Webb. He said that he wanted to swim across the river and a crowd of people came to see that. On the evening of July 24-th, 1883, Captain Webb came up to the river and jumped into the water. Many people watched him with horror. Soon he appeared in the middle of the river but then disappeared under the water forever.

In 1902, Miss Taylor decided to go over the falls in a barrel. The woman examined the barrel carefully and got into it. The barrel was closed and then thrown into the river. When it reached the falls, it was taken by the terrible force of the water. When the barrel was finally caught and opened, Miss Taylor came out alive.

Everyone comes: kings and queens, film stars and millions of ordinary people. They come to see the wonderful sight of the falls.

falls — водоспад;

boiling — той, що кипить;

drop — падати;

horror — жах;

barrel — діжка;

force — сила.

Variant I

**Listen to the text "Niagara Falls" and do the tasks. Mark the true (T) and false (F) sentences.**

1. The Niagara Falls are in Africa.

2 The Niagara Falls are situated on the bank of the river Niagara.

3. The Niagara Falls have a great power.

4. The roar of the falling water can be heard for 25 km.

5. The Niagara Falls throw animals into the boiling waters below.

6. Some time ago an old ship with some people on board was put into the water in the middle of the river.

7. The ship sailed down the river like a toy boat very quickly.

8. Captain Webb tried to sail across the Niagara in a boat.

9. He jumped into the water and never appeared again.

10. Miss Taylor wanted to swim across the falls.

11. Miss Taylor didn’t die in the water.

12. King and queens try to conquer the Niagara every year.

Variant II

**Choose the correct answer**

1. Where are the Niagara Falls situated?

a) in the USA; b) in Canada; c) both in the USA and in Canada.

2. What kind of place is the Niagara Falls?

a) exciting; b) old; c) unattractive.

3. How high is the cliff over which the Niagara waters fall?

a) 80 feet high; b) 190 feet high; c) 90 feet high.

4. What power do the Niagara falls have?

a) They move and throw big rocks.

b) The power of the Niagara Falls is not great.

c) The noise of the Falls can be heard for 40 km.

5. How much water falls from the Niagara cliff every five minutes?

a) a hundred tons; b) a thousand tons; c) a million tons.

6. What happened to an old ship that was put into the water in the middle of the river?

a) It sailed down safely.

b) It dropped into the water and never appeared again.

c) It crashed before reaching the falls.

7. What did some people do to become famous?

a) jumped into the Niagara Falls;

b) sailed over the falls in a ship;

c) swam across the Niagara River.

8. Why was a crowd of people standing near the falls one day?

a) They wanted to see the wonderful sight of the falls.

b) They watched an unknown ship crossing the Niagara River.

c) There was a man who wanted to swim across the falls.

9. What happened to Captain Webb?

a) He was never seen again.

b) He swam across the Niagara.

c) He was saved in the middle of the river.

10. In what way did Miss Taylor cross the Niagara?

a) She swam across it.

b) She went over the falls in a barrel.

c) Sha sailed in a boat.

11. What happened to Miss Taylor?

a) The woman didn’t come out alive.

b) Sha was hurt in the water.

c) She came out alive.

12. Who usually comes to watch the wonderful sights of the Niagara?

a) Only film stars and film producers.

b) Only kings and queens.

c) Different people who want to enjoy the natural wonder of the world.