


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Puspa Shrestha

Reading

After the World Trade Centre

Before you read

- What do you see in the given pictures?
- Have you heard/read about September 11, 2001 attack on the twin towers in the USA? If yes, share your ideas to the class.



Read the following text about the effects of 9/11 on family and friends and do the given tasks.

In 1999, soon after moving to the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn, my wife and I were befriended by Frank and Nicole De Martini, a couple whose lives were closely twinned with the towers of the World Trade Center. Both Frank and Nicole are architects. As Construction Manager of the World Trade Center, Frank's offices were on the 88th floor of Tower 1. Nicole is an employee of the engineering firm that built the World Trade Center, Leslie E. Robertson Associates. Hired as a "surveillance engineer", she was a member of a team that conducted year-round structural integrity inspections of the twin towers. Her offices were on the 35th floor of Tower 2.

Frank is forty-nine, sturdily-built, with wavy salt-and-pepper hair and deeply-etched laugh lines around his eyes. His manner is expansively avuncular and nothing pleases him more than when the conversation turns to a subject on which he can offer his expert advice. For Frank, the twin towers were both a livelihood and a passion: he would speak of them with the absorbed fascination with which poets sometimes speak of Dante's canzones. Nicole is forty-two, blonde and blue-eyed, with a gaze that is at once brisk and friendly. She was born in Basel, Switzerland, and met Frank while studying 'design' in New York. They have two children, Sabrina, 10, and Dominic, 8, who are unusually well-matched with mine, in age, gender and temperament: it was through our children that we first met.

Frank and Nicole's relationship with the World Trade Center was initiated by the

basement bomb explosion of 1993. Shortly afterwards, Frank was hired to do bomb damage assessment. An assignment that he had thought would last only a few months, turned quickly into a consuming passion. “He fell in love with the buildings,” Nicole told me. “For him they represented an incredible human feat; he was awed by their scale and magnitude, by the innovative design features, and by the efficiency of the use of materials. One of his most-repeated sayings about the towers is that they were built to take the impact of a light airplane.”

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Frank and Nicole dropped their children off at their school, in Brooklyn Heights, and then drove on to the World Trade Center. Traffic was light and they arrived unexpectedly early, so Nicole decided to go up to Frank’s office for a quick cup of coffee. It was about a quarter past eight when they reached Frank’s office. A half hour later, Nicole pushed back her chair and stood up to go. She was on her way out the door, when the walls and the floor suddenly heaved under the shock of a massive impact. Frank’s office commanded a panoramic southwards view, looking towards the Statue of Liberty and the harbour. Now, through the thick plates of glass, she saw a wave of flame bursting out overhead, like a torrent spewing from the floodgates of a dam. The blast was clearly centered on the floor directly above: she assumed that it was a bomb. Neither she nor Frank was unduly alarmed: very few people knew the building’s strength and resilience better than they. They assumed that the worst was over and the structure had absorbed the impact: it was now a question of coping with the damage. Sure enough, within seconds of the initial tumult, a sense of calm descended on their floor. Frank herded Nicole and a group of some two dozen other people into a room that was relatively free of smoke. Then, he went off to scout the escape routes and stairways. Minutes later he returned to announce that he had found a stairway that was intact: they could reach it fairly easily, by climbing over a pile of rubble.

The bank of rubble that barred the entrance to the fire escape was about knee-high. Just as she was about to clamber over, Nicole saw that Frank was hanging back. She stopped beside him and begged him to come with her, imploring him to think of the family. He shook his head and told her to go on, without him. There were people on their floor who’d been hurt by the blast, he said; he would follow her down as soon as he had helped the injured on their way. She could tell that she would have no success in swaying her husband; his belief in the building was absolute; he was not persuaded that the structure was seriously harmed - nor for that matter was she, but now she could only think of her children. She joined the people in the stairway while Frank stayed behind to direct the line.

Frank must have gone back to the Port Authority offices shortly afterwards for he made a call from his desk at about nine o’clock. He called his sister Nina on West 93rd street in Manhattan and said: ‘Nicole and I are fine. Don’t worry.’

Nicole remembers the descent as quiet and orderly. The evacuees went down in single

file, leaving room for the firemen who were running in the opposite direction. All along the way, people helped each other, offering water and support to those who needed them. On every floor, there were people to direct the evacuees and there was never any sense of panic. In the lower reaches of the building, there was even electricity. The descent took about half an hour, and on reaching the plaza Nicole began to walk in the direction of the Brooklyn Bridge. She was within a few hundred feet of the Bridge when the first tower collapsed. "It was like the onset of a nuclear winter," she recalls. "Suddenly everything went absolutely quiet and you were in the middle of a fog that was as blindingly bright as a snowstorm on a sunny day."

It was early evening by the time Nicole reached her home in Fort Greene. She had received calls from several people who had seen Frank on their way down the fire escape, but he had not been heard from directly. Their children stayed with us that night while Nicole sat up with Frank's sister, Nina, waiting by the telephone. It was decided that the children would not be told anything until there was more news.

Next morning, Nicole decided that her children had to be told that there was no word of their father. Both she and Nina were calm and perfectly collected when they arrived at our door; although they had not slept all night, neither their faces nor their bearing betrayed the slightest sign of what they had lived through. Nicole's voice was grave but unwavering as she spoke to her children about what had happened the day before. I was awed by her courage: it seemed to me that this example of everyday heroism was itself a small victory - if such could be imagined - over the unspeakable horror the city had witnessed the day before.

The children listened with wide-eyed interest, but soon afterwards they went back to their interrupted games. A little later, my son came to me and whispered: "Guess what Dominic's doing?"

"What?" I said, steeling myself.

"He's learning to wiggle his ears."

This was, I realised, how my children - or any children, for that matter - would have responded: turning their attention elsewhere, during the age that would pass before the news began to gain purchase in their minds.

At about noon, we took the children to Fort Greene Park. It was a bright, sunny day and the children were soon absorbed in riding their bicycles and scooters. In the meanwhile, my wife Deborah and I sat on a shaded bench and spoke with Nicole. "An hour passed between the blast and the fall of the building," she said. "Frank could easily have got out in that time. The only thing I can think of is that he stayed back to help with the evacuation. Nobody knew the building like he did and he must have thought he had to do it."

Nicole paused. "I think it was only because Frank saw me leave, that he decided that he could stay," she said. "He knew that I would be safe and the kids would be looked

after. That was why he felt he could go back to help the others. He loved the towers and had complete faith in them. Whatever happens, I know that what he did was his own choice.”

- Amitav Ghosh

Working with words

A. Match the words with their definitions/meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a. passion | i. like an uncle |
| b. surveillance | ii. powerful attraction |
| c. integrity | iii. the power or ability of a material to return to its original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched |
| d. avuncular | iv. any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling, as love or hate |
| e. livelihood | v. an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area in all directions |
| f. fascination | vi. an idea, practice, or object that is perceived as new |
| g. innovation | vii. the removal of people or things from an endangered area |
| h. panorama | viii. continuous observation of a place, person, group, or ongoing activity in order to gather information |
| i. resilience | ix. a means of supporting one's existence |
| j. evacuation | x. the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished |

B. Define the following professionals. One has been done for you.

architect, civil engineer, mechanical engineer, aerospace engineer, automobile engineer, electronic engineer, electrical engineer, computer engineer, food engineer, chemical engineer, biomedical engineer.

Example: *An architect is an engineer who designs buildings and advises in their construction.*

C. With the help of your teacher or a dictionary, pronounce these words. What vowel sounds do they contain? Make a list of them.

but, cut, sun, lust, fun, gun, run, jump, bulb, blood	top, lot, job, sob, box, bomb, dog, hot	the, ago, again, alike, father	caught, bought, thought, taught, naught, sought, born, torn	bird, first, fur, turn, girl, sir, firm, germ, learn, verb
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Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

- a. Where were Frank and Nicole employed?
- b. How does the author describe Frank's attachment to the twin towers?
- c. How did the two families become intimate with each other?
- d. What, according to Nicole, did Frank think of the towers?
- e. Why did Frank want to help the people in the tower after the attack?
- f. Why did Frank not follow Nicole's request even after knowing that the building was on fire?
- g. Who did Frank call from the building after the attack?
- h. How did Nicole feel after the collapse of the first tower?
- i. Were Frank's children serious as soon as they heard the news of their missing father? Why?

Critical thinking

- a. Many innocent people lose their lives in ruthless attacks every year. What do you think the governments should do to protect their people from such attacks and make the world a safer place to live? Discuss with your friends.
- b. Revenge and violence are the integral parts of the history and civilization. They can't be ignored, only managed. Do you agree or not with this statement? Present your logic.

Writing

- A. Write a description of an event that you have recently witnessed.
- B. Human life does not pass as one expects. You might have also gone through different but memorable incidents. Write an essay on 'An Unforgettable Event in my Life' in about 500 words.

Grammar

Prepositions

- A. Look at the following examples. Which parts of speech do the words in bold belong to?
 - a. She was born **in** Basel Switzerland and met Frank while studying design **in** New York. Frank's offices were **on** the 88th floor of the tower.
 - b. My wife and I were befriended by Frank and Nicole **in** 1999. **At** about noon, we took the children to Fort Green Park.
 - c. He suddenly saw Sue **across** the room.

- d. I'd seen them walking **along** the road past my window several times before.
- e. The castle sat in the mountains **above** the town.
- f. She stood **among** all her friends in the room and felt very happy.
- g. He sneezed **during** the performance.
- h. You can't catch a big fish **with** a small rod like that.
- i. Do not throw stones **at** the dogs. They may bite you.

B. Complete these sentences with the correct prepositions.

- a. The relationshipthe two boys has changed significantly over the past few years.
- b. In Nepal, many girls get marriedan early age.
- c. I'm notthe mood for such silly games.
- d. There were no security personnel.....duty at that time.
- e. The new smartphone is similarthe one I bought a few years ago.
- f. My dad insisted taking the later train.
- g. People ambition always try to achieve their goals, no matter what happens.
- h. Mr Jenkins has been disabled all his life as a result a childhood illness.
- i. We bought the TV because it was sale.
- j. She has no understanding how computers really work.
- k. I gave him my new T-shirt in exchange a few cigarettes.
- l. The company is run two people who hardly ever meet.
- m. All the celebrations and parties were called because of the tragic accident.
- n. There was a great need volunteers at the site of the crash.

C. Complete the following text with correct prepositions.

What are we seeing here? One very real possibility is that these are the educational consequences of the differences..... parenting styles that we talked about the Chris Langan chapter. Think back to Alex Williams, the nine-year-old whom Annette Lareau studied. His parents believe.....concerted cultivation. He gets taken.....museums and gets enrolledspecial programs and goessummer camp, where he takes classes. When he's bored.....home, there are plenty of books to read, and his parents see it as their responsibility to keep him actively engagedthe worldhim. It's hard to see how Alex would get better.....reading and math the summer.

Simple future, future continuous, future perfect and future perfect continuous

A. Study the following sentences. Notice the verb forms in bold.

- a. She will **win** the competition.
- b. She will be **waiting** when we arrive.
- c. I will have **finished** this work by next week.
- d. I will have been **living** here for one-year next month.

B. Make sentences from the given clues as stated in brackets.

- a. Who/pass the exam? (future simple)
- b. How/you/get home? (future continuous)
- c. I/come later. (future simple)
- d. She/catch the train by 3 pm. (future perfect)
- e. It/rain tomorrow. (future simple)
- f. John/sleep at 4 am. (future continuous)
- g. How long/you/see your boyfriend when you get married? (future perfect continuous)
- h. It/rain in Kathmandu next week. (future continuous)
- i. How long/you/work here when you retire? (future perfect continuous)
- j. He / not / finish the cleaning by the time she gets home. (future perfect)

C. Complete the following sentences with the correct future tense form of the verbs in the brackets.

- a. It (snow) in Brighton tomorrow evening.
- b. On Friday at 8 o'clock, I (to meet) my friend.
- c. Wait! I (to drive) you to the station.
- d. When they get married in March, they (to be) together for six years.
- e. You're carrying too much. I (to open) the door for you.
- f. Do you think the teacher (to mark) our homework by Monday morning?
- g. When I see you tomorrow, I (show) you my new book.
- h. After you take a nap, you (to feel) a lot better
- i. I (to let) you know the second the builders finish decorating.
- j. We (to wait) in the shelter until the bus comes.
- k. I'm very sorry, Dr. Jones (not be) back in the clinic until 2pm.
- l. This summer, I (to live) in Birgunj for four years.
- m. I don't think you (to have) any problems when you land in Pokhara.

- n. The baby should be due soon, next week she (to be) pregnant for nine months.
- o. By the time we get home, they (to play) football for 30 minutes.
- p. When you get off the train, I (to wait) for you by the ticket machine.
- q. This time next week, I (ski) in Switzerland!
- r. Now, I (to check) my answers.

Listening

A. Look at the picture and answer these questions.

- a. Who is the person in the picture?
- b. What is the most terrible incident that took place in his tenure as the president?



B. Listen to the audio and tick the correct answer.

- a. Which of the following professionals did NOT suffer casualty in the attack?
 - i. military
 - ii. businessmen
 - iii. politicians
- b. What according to the speaker was NOT seen after the terrorist attack?
 - i. Pictures of aeroplanes flying in the buildings
 - ii. Huge structures falling
 - iii. Piercing shrieks of the victims
- c. How many cities were affected by the terrorist attack?
 - i. 2
 - ii. 3
 - iii. 4
- d. Which of the following foundations will remain untouched in the terrorist attacks?
 - i. The foundation of the nation
 - ii. The foundation of the buildings
 - iii. The foundation of the bridges
- e. What is the speaker's attitude towards the military?
 - i. Praise
 - ii. Anger
 - iii. Aversion
- f. Who do you think is the speaker?
 - i. The army chief
 - ii. The home minister
 - iii. The head of the state

C. Listen to the audio again and state whether the statements are *True* or *False*.

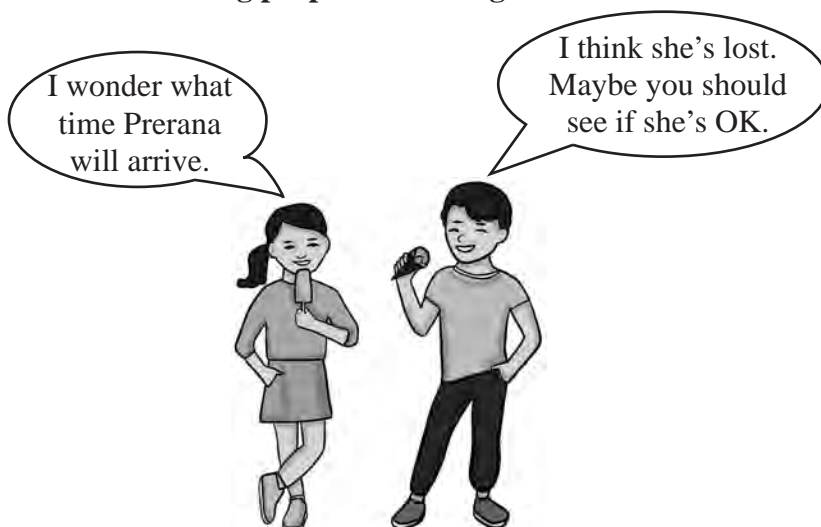
- a. The speaker is addressing the nation at the daybreak.
- b. The attack is directly targeted to American freedom.
- c. The speaker cautions the nationals of the possible future attacks.
- d. The world community is acknowledged by the speaker.
- e. All the Americans were asked to pray for the peace.
- f. The Americans are going to forget the incident as soon as possible.

D. Imagine you are a witness of this incidents. Narrate it as a witness.

Speaking

Speculation

A. See what the following people are talking.



B. Read the following dialogue. Underline the expressions that express speculations.

- Kripa : Have you heard the story about the recent acid attack on a young woman in Biratnagar?
- Bijay : No, that sounds horrible! Can you tell me more about the incident?
- Kripa : Well, her husband threw acid on her face.
- Bijay : Her husband? Why would he do that?
- Kripa : He could be a victim of depression.
- Bijay : No, that's crazy. Instead, I dare say he was not satisfied with dowry.
- Kripa : Yeah, that's quite likely. Or, it seems to me that he wanted a male

child from his wife.

Bijay : Definitely! That's most likely.

Kripa : I believe recent changes in law will help mitigate all sorts of acid attacks against women.

Bijay : Let's hope so.

C. Choose the correct option for each of the gaps below.

- It be a good idea, but I doubt it. (must/ probably/ possible/ could)
- It's going to happen. (definitely/sure/hardly/well)
- There's a fifty percent of rain in the afternoon. (gamble/chance/ odds/bet)
- There's a possibility of rain. (slight/medium/middle/wide)
- It might break down. (well/may be/certainly/have)

D. Work in pairs and take turns to speculate in the following situations. Use the structures from the box.

- What kind of food is most popular in your country?
- Why is fast food more popular among youths?
- Why isn't organic food more popular?

... seems / looks (like)
I guess / I imagine
..... is obviously / probably
.... might / may/ maybe / perhaps
I'm not sure exactly but
I suppose / I'm fairly sure
I expect

Project work

Visit a library and find a book about the history of Nepal. Find an event which had caused the loss of many people. Study the event and prepare a report including the information based on the following questions. Present your report to the class.

- What is the event?
- When did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- What were the consequences?