Understanding One Another

Pre-reading

Questions:

- Have you ever met someone who speaks a different language than you? When? How did you communicate with him or her?

Definitions:

- Understanding – to know the meaning of something
- Communicate – to share thoughts, feelings, or information by talking, writing, and/or using actions
- Shy – afraid to talk with people
- Break time – a short time to stop work
- Logo – a design printed on paper
- Nod – to move your head up and down

Reading

It’s break time at the turkey plant. Workers are visiting with one another in the break room. Reem is shy about talking with co-workers. She does not know much English.

“Hi,” says a co-worker. “My name is Val. What is your name?” Val points to Reem as she asks the question. “Reem,” says Reem.

“It’s nice to meet you, Reem. I’m new here. How long have you worked at the turkey plant?” asks Val. “Me no English,” says Reem. Val tries again. “One week. I have worked here one week.” She points to the plant logo on a sheet of paper. “How long have you worked here?”

Reem nods her head to show she understands. She says, “One month.” Val replies, “We are both new to the job.” They smile.

Level 2.0
Understanding

1. Where do Val and Reem meet? _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

2. Who does not speak much English? __________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

3. What does Val do to help Reem understand her? ______________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

4. What does Reem do to show Val that she understands her? _____________________________
   _______________________________________________________

5. How long has each woman worked at the turkey plant? _______________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about a time when someone did not understand you. What did you do?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________