

411

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What is 411?
- Have you used 411?

Definitions:

- Contact – to get in touch with; make a connection with



Reading

15 Sue was going on vacation. Her plan was to visit the state of Texas. She
30 thought of Mary. Mary was a classmate from high school. They had not seen each
other in five years. Sue decided to try and contact Mary.

41 She knew that Mary lived somewhere in Austin, Texas. She did not have her
55 address. She did not have her phone number. How could Sue find Mary? She used
70 411.

73 411 is like a huge telephone book. It has phone numbers of people and places
90 all over the country. Sue called 411:

99 The operator asked, “What city please?”

105 Sue **replied**, “Austin, Texas.”

109 The operator asked, “What name?”

114 Sue replied, “Mary Black.”

118 The operator then gave Sue the phone number.

126 It was fast and easy. Sue gave the operator Mary’s first and last name. She
141 also provided the city and state where Mary lived. The operator then found the
155 correct phone number very quickly.

160 411 calls are not free. Sue had to pay for the service. Each call costs about
178 \$1.50.

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Understanding

1. Where does Mary live? _____

2. How does Sue know Mary? _____

3. What information did Sue need to tell the operator? _____

4. What does the word **reply** mean? _____

5. About how much does a 411 call cost? _____

6. When would a person use 411? _____

Writing

Choice A: Summarize Mary's experience.

Choice B: Write about a time you used 411.
