411

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What is 411?
- Have you used 411?

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

Reading

Sue was going on vacation. Her plan was to visit the state of Texas. She 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.

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

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

The operator asked, “What city please?”
Sue replied, “Austin, Texas.”
The operator asked, “What name?”
Sue replied, “Mary Black.”

The operator then gave Sue the phone number.

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

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