

Choose the best answer.

It was a dark, starless night. We were in the Northern Pacific ocean, on a calm sea. There was no wind at all, and our little ship was not moving. Our exact position I do not know. For a week, the sun had been hidden by a (1) **skinny / thin / slim / narrow** mist which had seemed to float (2) **below / across / through / above** us, about the height of our (3) **masts / roof / ceiling / clouds**, sometimes descending to cover the surrounding (4) **lake / land / sea / river** like a blanket.

As there was (5) **not / no / none / nothing** wind, there was little to do, (6) **but / then / and / because** I was the only man on (7) **decking / floor / ground / deck**. The crew, consisting of two men (8) **also / with / and / then** a boy, were sleeping in their (9) **room / cabin / carriage / seats**, while Will – my friend and the (10) **boss / captain / coach / head** of our boat – was asleep in (11) **an / a / some / the** other cabin.

Suddenly, from out of (12) **near / black / the / terrible** darkness, came a cry:

‘Schooner, ahoy!’

(13) **It / That / What / I** was so unexpected that I did (14) **not have / not / never / had not** answer immediately. It came again – a (15) **speech / noise / voice / sound** strangely low and inhuman, calling from (16) **anywhere / somewhere / nowhere / where** on the dark sea to our (17) **left / boat / behind / mast**.

‘Schooner, ahoy!’

‘Hello!’ I cried. ‘What – (18) **So / How / Which / What** are you? What do you want?’

‘(19) **You / Do / Don’t / Have** need not be afraid,’ answered the (20) **strange / surprising / familiar / uncommon** voice, having probably noticed some uncertainty (21) **about / of / on / in** my words. ‘I am only an (22) **antique / ancient / old / mature . . .** man.’

The pause sounded odd, but (23) **that / then / it / there** was only afterwards that I considered (24) **it’s / its / it / it is** importance.

‘Why don’t you come nearer (25) **than / then / to / from?**’ I asked, annoyed that he thought (26) **it / I’m / I / that** was afraid.

‘I – I can’t. It (27) **couldn’t / wouldn’t / shouldn’t / mustn’t** be safe. I –’ He stopped, and (28) **then / so / just / when** there was silence.

‘What do you (29) **say / mean / think / do?**’ I asked. ‘Where are you?’

I (30) **listened / heard / looked / watched** for a moment, but there was no answer. A sudden suspicion I could not explain came over me, and I quickly got a lighted lamp and knocked on the deck with my foot to wake up Will. Then I was at the side of the boat, throwing the yellow stream of light into the silent darkness.

I heard a slight, low cry and then the sound of a splash, as if someone had dipped oars into the water. Yet I cannot be certain I saw anything, except that with the first flash of light, there had been something on the water, where now there was nothing.

28. then	19. You	10. captain	1. thin
29. mean	20. strange	11. the	2. above
30. listened	21. in	12. the	3. masts
	22. old	13. it	4. sea
	23. it	14. not	5. no
	24. its	15. voice	6. and
	25. then	16. somewhere	7. deck
	26. I	17. left	8. and
	27. wouldn't	18. What	9. cabin