
UNIT 6



1. PRE-READING

Look at the picture.

- Who are the women?
- Why are they smiling?

The Baby Exchange

SELMA Scarausi looked at her baby daughter and smiled. The baby smiled back. Selma began to cry. "I love my baby very much," Selma thought. "But is she really my baby?"

Selma's baby was born in June 1985 at a hospital in São Paulo, Brazil. A few days later Selma and the baby came home from the hospital. Friends and relatives were surprised when they saw the baby. The baby didn't look like her parents. The baby had dark skin and curly hair. Selma and her husband had light skin and straight hair. "Babies change," everyone thought. "She will look like her parents when she is older."

But the baby didn't change. When she was nine months old, she still looked very different from her parents. Selma and her husband, Paulo, took the baby back to the hospital. "Are you sure this is our baby?" they asked the hospital director.

"Of course she is your baby," the director said. "Immediately after the babies are born, we give them bracelets with numbers. Your baby was number 51. You left the hospital with baby 51. A mistake is impossible."

"A mistake is possible," Selma and Paulo thought. "We have another family's baby. And somewhere another family has our baby. But São Paulo is a city of seven million people. How can we find our baby?"

Selma and Paulo went to the hospital again. A nurse at the hospital told Paulo, "I remember another couple. Their baby didn't look like the parents. The parents had dark skin, but the baby had light skin. The father had very curly hair, but the mother had straight hair." The nurse gave Paulo the couple's address.

The next day Selma took her baby to the couple's house. She knocked, and a woman opened the door. The woman took one look at Selma's baby and fainted. Selma helped her into the house. There, in the living room, was a nine-month-old baby. Selma knew that the baby was hers.

Selma and Paulo's baby was living with Maria and Luiz Souza. The Souzas also had wondered about their baby. She looked so different from them. When Maria Souza saw the baby in Selma's arms, she, too, knew the baby was hers.

The hospital made a mistake. Both babies were born at the hospital on the same day. The hospital gave both babies the number 51.

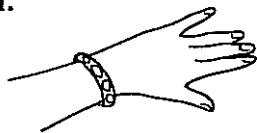
During the next weeks the two families prepared to exchange babies. First they exchanged information about the babies' habits. Then they exchanged toys and clothes. Finally, with smiles and tears, they exchanged babies.

2. VOCABULARY

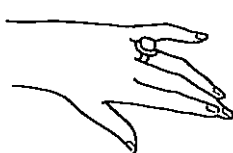
Which words or picture has the same meaning as the words in the story? Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Immediately after the babies are born, we give them *bracelets* with numbers.

a.



b.



2. Maria Souza took one look at Selma's baby and *fainted*.

a. left the house with the baby

b. fell to the floor and didn't move

3. The two families exchanged information about the babies' *habits*.

a. things people do every day

b. places people like to go

4. Finally, with smiles and *tears*, they exchanged babies.

a. water that comes from people's eyes when they cry

b. gifts that people give to babies

3. COMPREHENSION

UNDERSTANDING THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The story is about
 - a. the city of São Paulo, Brazil.
 - b. a couple who got the wrong baby.
 - c. babies' habits, toys, and clothes.
2. Selma and Paulo thought, "We have the wrong baby" because
 - a. hospitals sometimes make mistakes.
 - b. they wanted a son, not a daughter.
 - c. their baby didn't look like them.

FINDING INFORMATION

Read the questions. Find the answers in the story. Write the answer.

1. Do the Scarausis live in Brazil or in China?

They live in Brazil.

2. Did Selma have a baby girl or a baby boy?
-

3. Did the baby get a toy or a number at the hospital?
-

4. Did Selma and Paulo take their baby back to the hospital or back to school?
-

5. Is São Paulo a city of seven million people or seven thousand people?
-

6. Did the nurse give Paulo the couple's baby or the couple's address?
-

7. Who made a mistake—the hospital or the Scarausis?
-

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ____ Friends and relatives were surprised | a. because São Paulo is a big city. |
| 2. ____ Selma and Paulo went back to the hospital | b. because she knew that the baby in Selma's arms was her baby. |
| 3. ____ The hospital director said that a mistake was impossible | c. because they thought they had the wrong baby. |
| 4. ____ It was difficult for Selma and Paulo to find their baby | d. because the hospital gave each baby a number. |
| 5. ____ Maria Souza fainted | e. because the baby didn't look like her parents. |

4. DISCUSSION

Think about these questions. Discuss your answers with your classmates.

1. Selma and Paulo's baby didn't look like them. Do you look like your parents? Do you look more like your mother or more like your father? Do you look like your sisters and brothers?
2. Selma and Paulo named their baby Aline. The Souzas named their baby Ariane. In the United States some popular names for baby girls are Jennifer, Jessica, Sarah, Melissa, and Nicole. Popular names for baby boys are Michael, Jason, Matthew, Christopher, and David. What are some popular names for babies in your country? Is your name popular?

5. WRITING

The families exchanged information about the babies' habits. What are your habits? What do you do every day? Do you drink coffee every morning? Do you exercise every day?

Make a list of some of your habits.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____