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In the Domestic Sphere “*The Lost Word*” Esther Morgan

P. K. Satapathy

Structure

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- 1.10 *Key to Check your Progress Exercises*
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1.1 Introduction

In this Unit we are going to discuss a short poem “The Lost Word” by the British poet Esther Morgan. She was born in 1970. This particular poem is taken from her first collection of poems called *Beyond Calling Distance*, published in 2001. Many of the poems in this collection are full of people who are unable to find their voices and affirm their independent identities.

1.2 Learning Objectives

After going through this unit you will be able to:

- ◆ Understand the nature of poetic language.
- ◆ Critically analyze the poem in terms of its theme and style.



- ◆ Engage with the hidden biases within language itself.
- ◆ Understand the issue of voice and identity.
- ◆ The marginal position of women in traditional societies.

1.3 Poetic Language and How to Read a Poem

You will find some discussion on poetic language in Unit 3A (Amalkanti) in this Module and you are advised to read the points mentioned there as well. We will make some broad observations here that will help you read a poem without much difficulty. Poetry is primarily suggestive and has layers of meaning. Reading poetry is like peeling an onion which has several layers but hardly a core. So instead of looking for a core meaning we should try to understand the various layers of meanings that a poem contains. To begin with we must try and understand that the words in a poem are like clues in a treasure hunt. One clue leads to another. But unlike the treasure hunt where the objective of the hunt is to find the treasures in poetry the objective is not to find the hidden meaning but to find the network of clues that give the poem its form and substance. Thus, while reading a poem, we should try to figure out all the possible clues that are hidden in the words.

1.4 The Title of the Poem *The Lost Word*

Let us begin our treasure hunt with the title of the poem. This poem, as the title tells us, is about a lost word. Does it sound a little strange? Yes, it does sound strange if we take the title literally. We often lose things, but a word is not a thing. How can we lose a word? But we must admit that the image of a lost word is striking because we never hear of a word being lost. Obviously we cannot take this literally. There must be a deeper meaning which is not stated but implied. Let us then probe a little more. When we lose a thing we cannot use it for our needs. So when we cannot use a word we can regard it as lost to us. How do we lose words? We lose words if we forget them or do not use it for a very long time. At the same time if we have not learnt to use a word then it is as good as a lost word. But our learning and using of words is largely dependent on the society we live in. We don't use words that the society does not allow us to use. Later on in the unit we will discuss the relationship between language and society. But for now let us conclude that in the title of the poem the word 'lost', refers to a word which the woman has not learnt to use or has forgotten how to use.



1.4.1 Check Your Progress

- a. What does the title “The Lost Word” tell us about the poem?

1.5 Critical Commentary (Stanza 1)

*She's lost a word
and searches for it everywhere-
behind the sofa, at the back
of dusty cupboards and drawers.
She picks through the rubbish sacks.*

In the first stanza of the poem we find a woman searching for a word she has lost. And she is searching for it in places which are hidden from view or places where we keep our rubbish. But isn't it unusual to look for a word in places where we find things? The hidden places mentioned here are places which do not require our attention on a day-to-day basis; places we tend to ignore in our daily lives, places which are difficult to reach. The poet then seems to suggest that the woman has lost this word in the world of her domesticity. This domestic world is not just a physical world it also is a mental world. The woman is so preoccupied in this world that she fails to remember this word which is certainly an important word.

Like we have observed in section 1.4, we should try to go beyond the literal meaning and explore the things that are implied. This is especially so in this case where the thing lost is not a thing at all but a word. Like these physical spaces which are hidden we all have mental spaces which are hidden as well. And they remain hidden because we do not choose to speak about them, or we are afraid to speak about them. Often, we are afraid to speak about things that are not acceptable to the people and society we live in and consequently we push these thoughts to the back of our minds. The back of the mind is a place to hide thoughts like the back of a sofa to hide things. All of us have some experience of hiding our feelings or not saying things or even lying about things. This is especially true in case of women in traditional societies. From our childhood we are told about what is acceptable and what is not. And we learn to avoid speaking. Much of this has to do with structures of power that exist in our families and the society we live in. For instance, in our society the father remains the head of the family and we are supposed to obey him even when he is wrong. This is especially true for girls. They are supposed to concentrate on cooking and learning how to keep the house because they are expected to



be home makers when they grow up. They are not allowed to have a voice in the sense of having an independent identity. The woman in this poem seems to be trapped in the power structure of her world. So much so that she has forgotten something vital to herself.

1.5.1 Check Your Progress

- a. Why is it difficult for women to have a voice?

1.6 Critical Commentary (Stanza 2)

*Under the carpet she finds lots of others
She'd forgotten she'd swept under there
But not the one she's looking for.
The trouble is it's small- only two letters
Though no less valuable for that.*

In the second stanza the same theme of the lost word is continued. We see her looking under the carpet and there she finds many other words that she had swept under the carpet but not the one she was looking for. The phrase 'swept under the carpet' is used to indicate that something was hidden deliberately. What are these words that 'She' had swept under the carpet? We tend to sweep under the carpet things we don't want others to see or things that embarrass us. And we tend to hide or suppress things when we are not very confident about them. The woman here seems to be in the habit of sweeping many words under the carpet. It shows that she is not a very confident person. She has hidden and suppressed or forgotten to use many words because she is not confident about using them.

Using language is the beginning of our socialization process. Language is not just a vehicle for communication, it is also something that transmits values. For instance, we always use good before bad and in opposition to bad. This is a system of hierarchy. We always use day before night, man before woman, God before Devil and so on. What it implies is that, day is superior to night, man is superior to woman, and so on. We learn these things as children and carry them for most of our lives. We must examine the search for the 'lost' word in this context. There are some words that give us a sense of independent identity. 'Yes' and 'No' are such words. We often hear our parents use these words to control us. The power to say yes/no comes with authority. It seems the 'She' of the poem is a woman without much authority and that is why she needs to sweep words under the carpet. It is also quite possible that she does not have much authority because



she is a woman. What word is she looking for now? It is a word that is very valuable. The last two lines of this stanzas throw more light on the nature of the particular word that she is looking for now. It is a very small, two letter word.

1.6.1 Check Your Progress

- a. Do you think the woman is troubled by the word she has lost?

1.7 Critical Commentary (Stanza 3)

*She stands racking her brains
for the last time she used it
but all that comes to mind
are failed attempts
when her mouth was full
of someone else's tongue*

In the third stanza she takes a break from this frantic search to think about the word. She tries to remember the last time she had used this word. This is a very common way of remembering about things which are lost or misplaced. But this attempt also ends in failure. She can hardly remember the last time she used it. The only thing that she remembers now is not the use of the word but the failure to use it, though she had tried several times. And she had failed to use it because her mouth was full of someone else's tongue. When the poet says that her mouth was full of someone else's tongue it does not mean that she did not have a tongue of her own. Tongue here is used in the sense of a voice. When the woman tries to remember the word she has lost she is unable to do so because she had been using not her own but someone else's words. She was saying what others wanted her to say.

The ending of this poem does not give us any definite clues about the word she is looking for. If we probe further and think about the word she is looking for we will realize that it is a two letter word and that it is an important word. The woman, it seems, has never been able to use the word because she has never used her own voice. We know that voice, or in other words the freedom to choose and express ideas and opinions, gives us an identity. And the loss of this results in loss of identity. Thus, we can guess that the word she is looking for would be a word which could give her an identity. Words like "me", "am", "no", assert one's individuality. Perhaps it is one of these words that she is looking for. Is she looking for the word "no"? We know that the ability to say "no" gives us a sense of freedom. Perhaps she



has never been able to say “no” in her life. If we look at the position of women in traditional societies we will realize that for a woman to say “no” is, often, a great challenge. And they often fail to say “no” because they are taught to obey what others ask them to do. Perhaps, the woman here is looking for the word “no”, so that she can regain her voice. But her attempt ends in failure once again because when we lose our voice we have nothing more to say. The poem ends on this abrupt note to suggest that when we adopt the tongue of others and speak in their voice, it is very difficult to break free and find one’s own tongue. So, we end up having very little to say and the only option that is open is silence.

1.7.1 Check Your Progress

- a. Can you guess the two-letter word the woman has lost? Could it be one of these words: do, be, me, am, no, it, us? Does the meaning of the poem change if it is one word or the other?
- b. What does the last line of the poem ‘when her mouth was full of someone else’s tongue’ suggest?

1.8 Let Us Sum Up

After reading the poem we have learnt a few things. Let us summarize all that we have learnt so far:

- ◆ The title of the poem is unusual and sounds strange if we take the title literally. However, if we go deeper, we realize that the poet is suggesting that, like any other thing, when we cannot use a word, we can regard it as lost to us. How do we lose words? We lose words if we forget them or do not use them for a very long time.
- ◆ The ‘She’ in the poem is searching for a very important word that is lost to her.
- ◆ It seems like she is not a very confident woman and that she has been hiding many words over the years because she is afraid to use them.
- ◆ Language is not value neutral. It instils values in us in our childhood and these are values that are accepted by the society at large.
- ◆ We grow up following these values and it is very difficult to either question or break these value systems.
- ◆ Women have occupied a subservient position in our societies for a long time and it becomes very difficult for them to break free. Consequently, most women learn to hide their feelings and try not to challenge the established order.



- ◆ Having a voice is an indication of having an independent identity. Consequently, it is important for the women to have a voice. But they are constantly denied this and are pushed to the margins. Women are expected to remain within the domestic world and find their identity within the confines of this world. That is why it is important for the woman in this poem to remember a word that is vital to her identity but lost to her.
- ◆ Words like “me”, “am”, “no”, assert one’s individuality. Perhaps it is one of these words that she is looking for.
- ◆ But her attempt ends in failure once again.
- ◆ Her mouth was full of someone else’s tongue does not mean that she did not have a tongue of her own. Tongue here is used in the sense of a voice. When the woman tries to remember the word, she has lost she is unable to do so because she had been using not her own but someone else’s language. She was saying what others wanted her to say.
- ◆ The poem ends on an abrupt note to suggest that when we adopt the tongue of others and speak in their voice, it is very difficult to break free and find one’s own tongue.

1.9 Glossary

<i>Rubbish</i>	Waste material, garbage
<i>Carpet</i>	A thick heavy covering, made of wool or synthetic fibre, for the floor
<i>Valuable</i>	A thing of great worth
<i>Racking</i>	To think very hard
<i>Confines</i>	Enclosure, to keep someone within boundaries
<i>Abrupt</i>	Sudden and unexpected
<i>Subservient</i>	Inferior, secondary position obedient
<i>Marginal</i>	Minor and not important
<i>Vital</i>	Absolutely necessary
<i>Frantic</i>	Hurried and anxious and often disorganised

1.10 Key to Check your Progress Exercises

Key to Exercise 1.4.1

- a. The title of the poem sounds a little strange if we take the title literally. We often lose things, but a word is not a thing. We must try to find the implied meaning. When we lose a thing, we cannot use it for our needs. Similarly, we lose words if



we forget them or do not use them for a very long time. At the same time if we have not learnt to use a word then it is as good as a lost word. So this poem is about a word which is lost because it was either not used for a long time or was forgotten due to circumstances and is now lost.

Key to Exercise 1.5.1

- a. In traditional societies women have always been placed in a subservient position. From their childhood they are told about what is acceptable and what is not. Much of this has to do with structures of power that exist in our families and the society we live in. Women are supposed to concentrate on cooking and learning how to keep the house because they are expected to be home makers when they grow up. They are not allowed to have a voice in the sense of having an independent identity. Thus, it is difficult for a woman to have a voice.

Key to Exercise 1.6.1

- a. Yes, the woman is troubled by the word she has lost. The woman here seems to be in the habit of sweeping many words under the carpet. It shows that she is not a very confident person. She has hidden and suppressed or forgotten to use many words because she is not confident about using them. She now wants to use the word that is important to her but it is lost now and she is unable to find it.

Key to Exercises 1.7.1

- a. We can guess that the word she is looking for would be a word which could give her an identity. Words like “me”, “am”, “no”, assert one’s individuality. Perhaps it is one of these words that she is looking for. Is she looking for the word “no”? We know that the ability to say “no” gives us a sense of freedom. Perhaps she has never been able to say “no” in her life. If we look at the position of women in traditional societies, we will realise that for a woman to say “no” is, often, a great challenge. And they often fail to say “no” because they are taught to obey what others ask them to do. Perhaps, the woman here is looking for the word “no”, so that she can regain her voice.

The meaning of the poem will change if we replace the word ‘no’ or ‘me’ with a word like ‘us’. ‘Us’ is a collective pronoun and can in no way fit in with the overall scheme of the poem. Similarly, the other words in the list do not fit into the scheme and if we use them, they will change the meaning of the poem substantially.



- b. When the poet says that her mouth was full of someone else's tongue it does not mean that she did not have a tongue of her own. Tongue here is used in the sense of a voice. When the woman tries to remember the word, she has lost she is unable to do so because she had been using not her own but someone else's language. She was saying what others wanted her to say. When we adopt the tongue of others and speak in their voice, it is very difficult to break free and find one's own tongue.

1.11 Activity (Writing)

In this Unit we have discussed the gender biases that are built into language. We have pointed out the system of hierarchy that always treats men as superior to women. Try and write a paragraph about such biases, be it gender or caste or class that you find in the various units of this book.



In the Domestic Sphere

Squiggle Gets Stuck: All about Muddled Sentences

Natasha Sharma

Nalini Prabhakar

Structure

- 1.1 *Introduction*
- 1.2 *Learning Objectives*
- 1.3 *The Plot*
- 1.4 *Squiggle Teaches Doodle Dude to make a Perfect Sentence*
- 1.5 *Grammar Exercises*
- 1.6 *Further Exercises (From- Developing Language Skills 1)*
- 1.7 *Diary Writing and Blog Post*

1.1 Introduction

This is a short story about two doodles – Squiggle and Doodle Dude. Squiggle is a character in a book titled “Squiggle Takes a Walk”. By accident both the doodles get stuck in the Oxford Dictionary. How can anyone get stuck in a dictionary? After all a dictionary is a book and consists of pages! Well, to unravel this mystery, you must first know what a “doodle” is. Often, when you are bored or absent – minded, let’s say, in a classroom, you tend to make rough drawings, which may not be of any importance. This activity of absent – minded drawing is known as “doodling”. The two characters in this book are a result of such doodling. You must remember that doodles exist only on paper and they can get stuck quite easily inside a big fat dictionary.

This book is in a story form, and uses dialogues between Squiggle, Doodle Dude and Oxford Dictionary to help you understand the basics of sentence construction.

1.1.1 Check Your Progress

- a. What is this story about?
- b. Name the two doodles in the story.
- c. What is “doodling”?



1.2 Learning Objectives

This lesson will enable you to:

- a. Understand the basic sentence structure in English Language.
- b. Know the eight parts of speech, and how to use them to make correct sentences.

1.3 The Plot

The book “Squiggle takes a Walk”, in which Squiggle is a character, is standing next to a huge pile of books and right on top of this pile is the Oxford Dictionary. Books toppling over is a common occurrence. This huge pile crashes on poor Squiggle, and soon she realizes that she is no longer free, and is stuck inside something. Another character who is in a similar position is Doodle Dude and he has been there for quite some time. Doodle Dude has a problem, he cannot make correct sentences and uses “muddled” sentences. After much difficulty, Squiggle learns from Doodle Dude that they are stuck inside the Oxford Dictionary. The only way out is by making a correct sentence, from the bottom – left corner of the page to the top right corner of the page. Doodle Dude has been there for a long time because he is unable to make a correct sentence. Oxford Dictionary now steps in and tells Squiggle that she should help Doodle Dude make a correct sentence and then both can make their exit.

1.3.1 Check Your Progress

- a. How does Squiggle get stuck inside Oxford Dictionary?
- b. Why is Doodle Dude unable to make his exit?
- c. What task is given to Squiggle by Oxford?

1.4 Squiggle Teaches Doodle Dude to make a Perfect Sentence

Let us now look at the method by which Squiggle helps Doodle Dude make a correct sentence.

1.4.1 Sentence

A sentence is a group of words that makes sense on its own.

Simply putting words together does not make a sentence. To make sense words in the sentence must be arranged in a certain way. This is what is known as the grammar of a language. Each language has a different grammar, in other words a different set of rules



by which sentences are constructed. The basic sentence structure of English language is S–V–O (Subject – Verb – Object).

1.4.1.1 A sentence must have a subject A sentence is about someone or something. That someone or something is the subject of the sentence. The subject in therefore either a noun or a pronoun.

Noun: a word that refers to a person, animal, place or thing.

The noun picked by Doodle Dude for the perfect sentence is **“WORMS”**.

A subject must have a verb connected to it.

Verb: A word used to describe an action, state of being or occurrence. e.g. (1) Someone Slapped Doodle Dude. (2) He is hanging upside down. (3) The monkey is here. (4) What will become of him? The verb chosen by Doodle Dude for the subject “WORMS” is **“WRIGGLING”**.

Helping Verb:

The “WORMS” “WRIGGLING” however will not hold together, what they need is a helping verb. A helping verb links the subject and the verb.

Squiggle provides the helping verbs – does, have, am, are, is, was, be, may, should, would – for Doodle Dude to choose from. Squiggle also gives a tip – when the subject is plural, the helping verb must also be plural.

After many errors, Doodle Dude finally finds the right helping verb **“ARE”** and so the sentence is complete.

“The worms are wriggling”.

Punctuation used at the end of the sentence is a “.”, full-stop.

Although Doodle Dude has made a correct sentence, his troubles are not over yet, the sentence does not reach the top of the page, so Doodle Dude has to make the sentence longer to reach the top of the page.

1.4.1.2 Check Your Progress

Make five sentences using Noun, Verb and Helping Verb.

1.4.2 Extending a simple sentence

Squiggle Explains to Doodle Dude that by using other Parts of Speech like Adjective, Preposition, Adverb, Interjection, and Conjunction a sentence can be lengthened.



Adjective – A word used to describe the noun e.g. The **Squishy** worms are wriggling.

Preposition – A word used with noun or pronoun to show place, position, time, or method.
e.g. The Squishy worms **within** Oxford's pages are wriggling.

Adverb – A word or phrase that gives more information about the adjective, verb, or another adverb.

e.g.

- ◆ The Squishy worms within Oxford's pages are wriggling **very fast**.
- ◆ This is **very** confusing
 - ◆ Adverb of degree
- ◆ I want to stop **now**
 - ◆ Adverb of time
- ◆ Listen **carefully**
 - ◆ Adverb of manner
- ◆ I want to get out of **here**
 - ◆ Adverb of place

Interjection – A word or phrase that expresses emotions. They are used to Exclaim, Protest or command.

E.g. Stop!

Fantastic!

Yipee!

Hey!

Look! The Squishy worms within Oxford's pages are wriggling very fast.

1.4.2.1 Check Your Progress

Extend the 5 sentences you have made by adding Adjective, Preposition, Adverb and Interjection

1.4.3 Squiggle and Doodle Dude have so far used 6 of the 8 Parts of Speech – Noun/Verb/Adjective/Preposition/Adverb/and Interjection in that order.

Squiggle suggests that they should now use the other two parts of speech namely pronoun and conjunction. At this point Doodle Dude softly says, "They will soon be out of here." This again is a complete sentence made by Doodle Dude and this time he manages on his own without any help.



Pronoun – A word that works in the place of a noun. e.g. He, She, They, It, Him, Her

Conjunction – A word used to connect/join sentences, clauses, phrases, or words e.g. And, But, Or, For, Also, Else, Since, Which, That, Either and or, Not only and but also.

So Squiggle and Doodle Dude have two complete sentences:

- (1) Look! The squishy worms within the Oxford’s pages are wriggling very fast.
- (2) **They (pronoun)** will soon be out of here.

They connect the two sentences with the conjunction “AND” and now they have a really long sentence and can now exit the Oxford’s pages. **Look! The Squishy worms within the Oxford’s pages are wriggling very fast and they will soon be out of here.** The story however does not end here. Doodle Dude after being trapped in the Dictionary for 10 years, does not wish to leave. For him the huge dictionary has become home and so Oxford Dictionary allows him to stay. Squiggle makes her exit.

1.4.3.1 Check Your Progress

- 1. Using a Pronoun make 5 more sentences related to the sentences you have made.
- 2. Connect the sentences using appropriate Conjunctions.

1.5 Grammar Exercises

Exercise 1: HELP DOODLE DUDE WITH HIS NOUNS

Doodle Dude can’t seem to think of the noun that best fits what he wants to say. Help him fill in the blanks. Remember, there may be two or more words that mean the same thing. These are called synonyms and any of them can be the answer. Don’t forget the full stop at the end!

Oxford, they’re putting you back on the _____

We don’t get any air from the _____

We’re being placed next to the _____

I can see seven _____ made on it.

Ooh! I can see _____ down there.

The _____ has come in to read.

He is sitting on the _____.

He’s picking up Squiggle’s book in his _____



Exercise 2: A CONFUSION OF COLLECTIONS

Doodle disaster! Oxford's asked me to match the groups below to the correct collective noun. All I know is the first one: A litter of puppies. Please help with the rest! (Psst ... a noun that is the name of a group of similar things or persons is called a collective noun.)

Group	Collective noun
A littler of	beavers
A bunch of	experts
A colony of	puppies
A culture of	wood
A pack of	notes
A leap of	stairs
A panel of	bacteria
A stack of	leopards
A flight of	keys
A wad of	thieves

Exercise 3: UNDERLINE THE ADJECTIVES

The heavy monsoon rains bring all the worms out of the Squishy mud.

The green snake slithered down the long corridor while sticking out its forked tongue.

I am the Slimy, dirt covered, Wriggling, worm that made Natasha screech.

Exercise 4: HOW OR WHAT ARE YOU?

Verbs are not just doing words. They tell us about somebody or something; the state of being. These are verbs like am, is, was, are, were, has and have.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of verb from the choices in brackets.

1. In her first book, Squiggle (had, have) an adventure amidst punctuation.
2. She (is, are) a clever doodle.
3. Doodle Dude and Squiggle (was, were) able to make the sentence slope.
4. They (is, are) a fun pair.
5. Do you (have, has) a friend like Doodle Dude?
6. I (am, is) thinking of Squiggle's next adventure.



7. Who (has, have) illustrated this story?
8. His name. (is, am) Vikram Nandwani.
9. Do you (has, have) a pencil?
10. (Is, Are) you ready to draw? Keep a look out for the activity when Vikram shows you how to draw!

Exercise 5: IT'S AN -ING THING!

Verbs ending with -ing need a helping verb (is, are, am, was and were; hard at work again!) unless they are being used as an adjective. For example:

Squiggle was smiling. ('Was' is the helping verb for 'smiling'.)

Squiggle has a smiling face. (Here 'smiling' is an adjective for the noun 'face'.)

In the sentences below, identify the -ing word as an adjective (a) or verb (v). If it's a verb, also underline the helping verb.

- Oxford was yelling at Squiggle and Doodle Dude. (a) (v)
- Doodle Dude has an interesting hairstyle. (a) (v)
- The words in the dictionary were peering at the doodles. (a) (v)
- The girls are reciting their poems. (a) (v)
- The dictionary frowned at the chattering doodles. (a) (v)
- The doodles are trying to find their way out. (a) (v)
- Doodle Dude was singing a terrible song. (a) (v)
- The drawing class begins at 10 a.m. (a) (v)
- The children will draw exciting pictures. (a) (v)
- A little boy was kicking the stone. (a) (v)

Exercise 6: READ THIS CAREFULLY AND FILL IN THE ADVERBS QUICKLY!

Adverbs can be of four kinds:

- ◆ Adverb of manner: Tells you how an action is done.
- ◆ Adverb of place: Tells you where the action is done.
- ◆ Adverb of time: Tells you when something happened or when somebody did something.
- ◆ Adverb of degree: Tells you how the action is being done in comparison.

Fill in the blanks with the suitable adverb. You must do the riddle alongside Doodle Dude if you want to have some fun!



‘think of a number from 1 to 9’, said Squiggle to Doodle Dude. (quickly, boldly)
 ‘OK. I’ve thought of a number’, said Doodle Dude. (now, then)
 ‘Multiply it by 9,’ said Squiggle. (carefully, carelessly)
 ‘Add the two digits of the number you get multiplying.’ (after, ago)
 ‘ subtract 5 from this number. Calculate’. (now, soon) (faster, urgently)
 ‘Yes, but I might run,’ said Doodle Dude. (down, away)
 ‘You’re doing ! Now whatever number you’ve got to, figure out the corresponding letter in the alphabet. So 1 is A, 2 is Band so on: (terribly, well)
 ‘I’m waiting for the final result,’ said Doodle Dude. (eagerly, poorly)
 ‘Now think of a country’s name beginning with that letter’, said Squiggle, chuckling . (loudly, peacefully)
 ‘Think of an animal beginning with the last letter of the country’s name,’ said Squiggle, bouncing . (high, low)
 ‘think of a fruit beginning with the last letter of the animal’s name,’ said Squiggle. (now, before)

Exercise 7: STICK TOGETHER! IT’S TIME FOR CONJUNCTIONS!

Circle the conjunction in the sentences:

1. Arjun and Ari are coming to visit today.
2. You can’t play with them until you finish your homework.
3. The teacher is strict but fair.
4. My friend will not enter since she is afraid of dogs.
5. I’d tie him up but I can’t find the leash.
6. You can either eat ice cream or have a soda.
7. Drink the soda if you are thirsty.
8. Eat some fruit while lunch is cooking.
9. Though it is late, you may stay awake to watch the finals.
10. They hopped and yelped with joy.

Exercise 8: BECOME A PRO AT PRONOUNS!

Natasha’s first book was Icky, Yucky, Mucky.



Icky, Yucky, Mucky is the story of a disgusting royal family.

Maharaja Icky has terrible table manners.

Maharani Yucky nibbles fingernails and spits the nails out.

When matters couldn't get worse, the Maharaja and Maharani had a baby, Princess Mucky.

Princess Mucky has a horrendous habit as well.

Icky, Yucky, Mucky is this royal family's story.

Exercise 9: WHAT'S WRONG?

These sentences all have some problem. Fix what is wrong and rewrite them. The first one has been done for you.

The dog was bark at the cat.

The dog was barking at the cat.

The cat look down from its spot on the wall.

She stretched her legs and arch her back.

The dog could not believes his eye.

The pretend the dog was not there.

He bared his tooth, growled and pounce.

The cat merely yawn.

Her had no fear.



A pack of dog came running.

The cat hissed, annoyed with them barks.

Finally, she stick a tongue out at the dog and walked away.

Exercise 10: JABBER JABBER WITH PREPOSITIONS!

Once Squiggle was back to her book, the punctuation marks had much to say! Fill in their conversation with appropriate prepositions from the brackets.

Remember, prepositions are usually placed before a noun or pronoun (its object) to show a relationship between the object and another word in the sentence. The relation could be about place, position, time, manner or reason, among other things.

1. An adventure words! (through, amidst)
2. What was Doodle Dude doing you got there? (before, later)
3. The world this book is a dangerous place. (above, outside)
4. You were not disheartened Doodle Dude’s lack of grammar, words and understanding. (of, by)
5. I’d have torn Oxford’s pages. (from, through)
6. Squiggle deserves an award the following reasons: (by, for)
7. Squiggle stayed Doodle Dude as he learnt. (beside, before)
8. She built the sentence slope the page. (beneath, across)
9. She bravely leapt the slope, (inside, off).
10. The brackets on this page are full prepositions! (with, of)
11. ‘You are the hallowed pages of the English language:’ Hee hee hee. (without, within)
12. Uh ... Is that dictionary teetering us ... (below, above)

1.5.1 Key to Grammar Exercises

Exercise 1:

Bookshelf, fan, atlas, continents, Squiggle, boy, chair (or anything else that you would sit on!), hands.

**Exercise 2:**

A litter of puppies, a bunch of keys, a colony of beavers, a culture of bacteria, a pack of thieves, a leap of leopards, a panel of experts, a stack of wood, a flight of stairs, a wad of notes.

Exercise 3:

The heavy monsoon rains bring all the worms out of the squishy mud.

The green snake slithered down the long corridor while sticking out its forked tongue.

I am the slimy, dirt-covered, wet, pink, wriggling worm that made Natasha screech.

Exercise 4:

1) had 2) is 3) were 4) are 5) have 6) am 7) has 8) is 9) have 10) Are

Exercise 5:

Was yelling (v), interesting (a), were peering (v), are reciting (v), chattering (a), are trying (v), was singing (v), drawing (a), exciting (a), was kicking (v)

Exercise 6:

Quickly, now, carefully, after, now, faster, away, well, eagerly, loudly, high, now.

Exercise 7:

1. Arjun and Ari are coming to visit today.
2. You can't play with them until you finish your homework.
3. The teacher is strict but fair.
4. My friend will not enter since she is afraid of dogs.
5. I'd tie him up but I can't find the leash.
6. You can either eat ice cream or have a soda.
7. Drink the soda if you are thirsty.
8. Eat some fruit while lunch is cooking.
9. Though it is late, you may stay awake to watch the finals.
10. They hopped and yelped with joy.

**Exercise 8:**

Her, it, he, she, them, they, she, their

Exercise 9:

The cat looked down from its spot on the wall.

She stretched her legs and arched her back.

The dog could not believe his eyes.

She pretended the dog was not there.

He bared his teeth, growled and pounced.

The cat merely yawned.

She had no fear.

A pack of dogs came running.

The cat hissed, annoyed with their barks.

Finally, she stuck her tongue out at the dogs and walked away.

Exercise 10:

Amidst, before, outside, by, through, for, beside, across, off, of, within, above.

1.6 Further Exercises (From - *Developing Language Skills 1*)

1.6.1 Prepositions

Explanation: Prepositions occur before nouns, noun phrases or pronouns. They show the link between these and another word or element in the sentence. Some prepositions may also occur at the end of a sentence.

Prepositions may also be used as adverbs without a following noun or noun phrase or pronoun.

There are prepositions which consist of only one word but there are others which may consist of two or more words or a phrase.

Many verbs get strongly associated with certain prepositions in one of the following two ways:

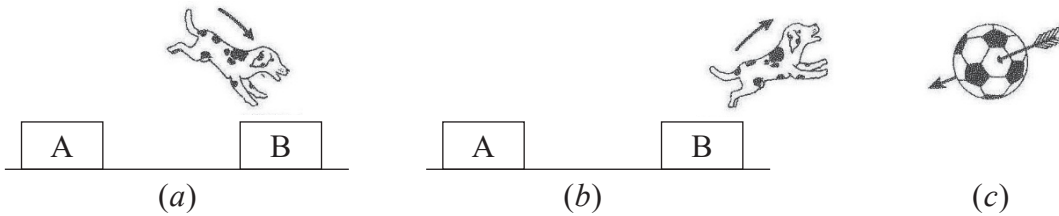
1. With verb and prepositions keeping their basic meanings, e.g. 'He kept *looking out of* the window for hours together.'



2 As a compound having an idiomatic meaning, i.e. when we cannot guess the meaning from the two parts e.g. ‘Look out Peter, that step is not safe!’

Every good dictionary lists compounds made with prepositions or adverbial particles under the verb. *Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English* (Vol. 1) is particularly useful, as it is exclusively devoted to this area.

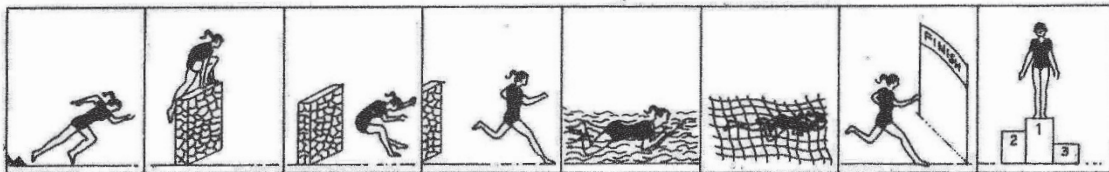
Exercise 1: Look at the pictures and complete the sentences given below:



- (a) The dog jumped _____ A _____ B.
- (b) The dog is jumping _____ A _____ B.
- (c) You can see the arrow pass _____ the ball.

[Answer Key: a) from, to ; b) from, towards ; c) through]

Exercise 2: Here is a series of drawings showing a girl participating in an obstacle race. Study the illustrations and fill in the blanks in the sentences given below using the following prepositions:



over, across, under, on, onto, off, near, away from

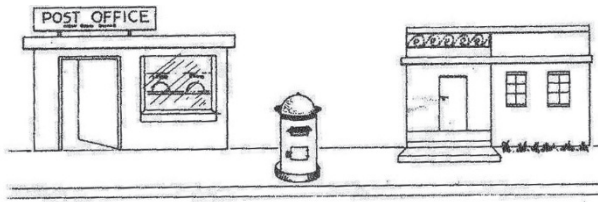
- (a) The girl is running _____ the starting block.
- (b) The girl is climbing _____ the wall.
- (c) The girl is jumping _____ the ground.
- (d) The girl is running _____ the wall.
- (e) The girl is swimming _____ the pond.
- (f) The girl is crawling _____ the net.



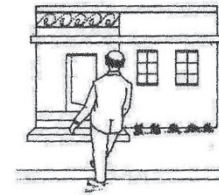
- (g) The girl is _____ the finishing line.
 (h) The girl is standing _____ the victory stand.

[Answer Key: (a) from, (b) over, (c), on, (d), away from, (e) across, (f) off, (g) near, (h) on]

Exercise 3: Look at pictures (a) to (e) and fill in the blanks in the following sentences using 'between', 'out of', 'into', 'in front of' and 'behind'



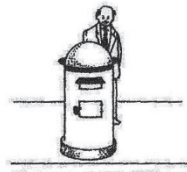
(a)



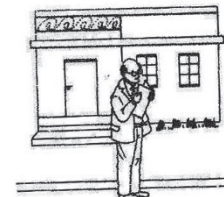
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

- (a) The letterbox is _____ the post office and Mr. Wagle's house.
 (b) Mr. Wagle is going _____ his house.
 (c) Mr. Wagle is coming _____ the post office.
 (d) Mr. Wagle is _____ the letterbox.
 (e) Mr. Wagle is _____ his house.

[Answer Key: (a) between, (b) into, (c) out of, (d) behind, (e) in front of]

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using suitable prepositions:

- (a) What did you do _____ your birthday?
 (b) It is cool _____ night.
 (c) It will be ready _____ Thursday.



- (d) How do you go _____ college?
 (e) Keep _____ the grass.
 (f) You are _____ time.
 (g) The cup fell _____ the shelf.
 (h) He is _____ Serious trouble.
 (i) I'll meet you _____ the New Delhi Railway Station.

[Answer Key: a) on, b) at, c) by, d) to, e) off, f) on, g) off, h) in, i) at]

Exercise 5: First underline the verb in List A. Next choose the appropriate preposition from List B which goes with this verb and then complete the sentence choosing an appropriate phrase from List C:

Example: I borrowed some money from the bank.

<i>List A</i>	<i>List B</i>	<i>List C</i>
(a) When did you get rid	against	authority.
(b) He has just recovered	to	voting.
(c) The students can hardly wait	from	your servant?
(d) She has to apologize	of	a long illness.
(e) No student should abstain	for	the holidays to begin.
(f) Deepak belongs		being so rude.
(g) Young people rebel	at	a rich family.

Answer Key:

- a) When did you get rid *of* your servant?
 b) He has just recovered *from* a long illness.
 c) The students can hardly wait *for* the holidays to begin.
 d) She has to apologize *for* being so rude.
 e) No student should abstain *from* voting.
 f) Deepak belongs *to* a rich family.
 g) Young people rebel *against* authority.

Exercise 6: First underline the adjective in List A. Next choose the appropriate preposition from List B which goes with this adjective and then complete the sentence choosing an appropriate phrase from List C:

Example: The first few rows of the cinema hall were full.



<i>List A</i>	<i>List B</i>	<i>List C</i>
(a) It is different	of	school.
(b) My beliefs are contrary	for	the company's products are good.
(c) Few	to	what I had expected.
(d) Vedant was late		the beliefs of others.
(e) It was a bad decision		scented soap.
(f) I am allergic	from	boycott the elections.
(g) All the students absent	on	the list was my friend's name.
(h) They were aware		all the rules of the game.
(i) And last		that day were fined.

Answer Key: (adjectives are underlined and prepositions are italicized in the answers given below.)

- a) It is different *from* what I had expected.
- b) My beliefs are contrary *to* the beliefs of others.
- c) Few *of* the company's products are good.
- d) Vedant was late *for* school.
- e) It was a bad decision *to* boycott the elections.
- f) I am allergic *to* scented soap.
- g) All the students absent *on* that day were fined.
- h) They were aware *of* all the rules of the game.
- i) And last *on* the list was my friend's name.

Exercise 7: Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using suitable prepositions. (*You can check your answers from the key provided below*):

- (a) This woman has been charged _____ the murder of her husband.
- (b) The Prime Minister was accompanied _____ his wife.
- (c) We expect to come back _____ a week.
- (d) I bought this pen _____ two rupees.
- (e) At the age of 60, my mother still takes a bath _____ cold water.
- (f) I go to my college _____ foot. (on)
- (g) She prefers coffee _____ tea. (over)
- (h) Applicants for this post must have a good command _____ English.



- (i) The Seminar on Rural Development will commence _____ Monday.
- (j) The Minister showed concern _____ the rising incidents of violence in the city.
- (k) All those present were fascinated _____ her new hair style.
- (l) I shall get _____ at the next bus-stop.
- (m) My friend is very good _____ writing radio plays.
- (n) Please do inform me _____ the details of the training course.
- (o) John's marriage _____ his first wife did not last long.

[Answer Key: a) with, b) by, c) within, d) for, e) with, f) on, g) over, h) over, i) from, j) at, k) with, l) off, m) at, n) about, o) with]

Exercise 8: Unnecessary use of prepositions as illustrated below *must be noted and avoided*. Rewrite the following sentences after making corrections: (A few solutions have been given. Try doing the rest on your own).

- (a) Just before elections you will find people discussing *about* politics.

Just before elections you will find people discussing politics.

- (b) The candidates should contact *on* our office between 9 and 11 a.m.

The candidate should contact our office between 9 and 11 a.m.

- (c) She has already approached *to* the bank for a loan.

She has already approached the bank for a loan.

- (d) Priya was awarded *with* a prize for the best essay.

- (e) The police decided to investigate *into* the crime.

- (f) My house is opposite *to* the post office.

- (g) Science has greatly benefited *to* mankind.



- (h) She said she would not bow *down* to their demands.

- (i) The principal is going to call *for* a meeting of the staff to discuss about this matter.

- (j) Students should contact *with* the class teacher for further instructions.

- (k) The course comprises *of* seven study areas.

- (l) The car hit *against* the tree.

- (m) In this poem the poet describes *about* his experience of nature.

- (n) We were really surprised when he entered *into* the room.

- (o) Can you find *out* some job for me?

- (p) Please follow *after* me.

- (q) We have already ordered *for* four cups of tea.

- (r) Please list *down* the main points for discussion.

- (s) He has come to meet *with* the principal.

- (t) The students are making too much *of* noise.

- (u) Why do you pick *up* a quarrel with everyone?



(v) We will not reach *at* the station in time.

(w) He resembles *with* his father.

(x) After retirement, he intends to settle *down* in Shimla.

(y) She stitched *up* that dress.

(z) He was wearing a torn *out* shirt.

1.6.2 Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that link other words, phrases, clauses, or sentences together. Conjunctions enable you to form complex, elegant sentences and avoid multiple short sentences.

For example: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so, both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only/ but, whether/or, after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though, because, before, by the time, even if, even though, if, in order that, in case, in the event that, lest, now that, once, only, only if, provided that, since, so, supposing, that, than, though, till, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, whether or not, while*

In a sentence:

- ◆ I tried to hit the nail *but* hit my thumb instead.
- ◆ I have two goldfish *and* a cat.
- ◆ I bought a new bag *for* my upcoming trip.
- ◆ You can have peach ice cream *or* a brownie sundae.
- ◆ *Neither* the black dress *nor* the gray one looks right on me.
- ◆ My dad always worked hard *so* we could afford the things we wanted.
- ◆ I try very hard in school *yet* I am not getting good grades.
- ◆ He just brought a puppy *and* a kitten home with him.
- ◆ Meera does not like to swim, *but* she does enjoy cycling.
- ◆ I want to go for a hike *but* I have to go to work today.



- ◆ They do not smoke, *nor* do they play cards.
- ◆ I'm getting good grades *because* I study every day.
- ◆ *Although* he speaks seldom, he says meaningful words.
- ◆ She is very funny *whereas* he is boring.
- ◆ She speaks three languages *besides* Hindi.
- ◆ Jack is completely *unlike* his father.
- ◆ She came first, *therefore* she got a good seat.
- ◆ They can listen to music *provided* they do not disturb others.
- ◆ You don't need to go *unless* you want to.
- ◆ I can pass *after* the green light is on.
- ◆ I went to bed at 10 pm *as* I had a plane to catch at 7 am.
- ◆ I hate brinjal *as much as* I hate cauliflower.
- ◆ My work must be finished *before* afternoon.
- ◆ People burn forests *in order that* they have more land.
- ◆ You must study hard *lest* you fail.

Conjunctions in the above sentences have already been marked for you. Keeping these examples in mind, underline the conjunctions in the sentences given below:

1. Once I start eating, I must continue.
2. I will go to cinema provided the others go.
3. You can borrow the PC provided that you promise to give it back in time.
4. I go to theater weekly rather than monthly.
5. Since I was ill for two months, I lost my job.
6. She was too late so she could not apply for the job.
7. Supposing you had a dog, what would you do with it?
8. She runs faster than me.
9. Though it is raining, they swam in the pool.
10. Please stay at home till afternoon.
11. I waited up for her until eleven o'clock.
12. I was watching tv when she came in.
13. You can come whenever you want.



14. She was eating in the kitchen, where there was table.
15. She is very funny whereas he is boring.
16. We can meet you wherever you want.
17. I worry about whether She'll be a good person.
18. I found the article which was very important.
19. While I was playing with the children, he came to the park.
20. I visited Ali who was ill.
21. She asked him why he was playing football.
22. She usually eats at home, because she likes cooking.
23. I'm very hungry, but the fridge is empty.
24. Seats are limited so you should apply as soon as possible.
25. I'm feeling better after taking medicine.
26. He never went to a hotel even though he could afford it.
27. I have not seen him since he went away.
28. He went to college but returned soon.
29. I would rather die than beg.
30. He will not do it until you ask him.
31. She cries as if she were beaten.
32. Stay here or go away.
33. Work hard or you will fail.
34. He knows how to drive.
35. I know how to write fiction.
36. I had hardly gone to bed when my friend arrived.
37. Ali is both brother and friend to me.
38. He asked if I knew it.
39. Although he is poor yet he is honest.
40. Two years have passed since he came.
41. She behaved as his brother did.



42. No sooner did he come than I rushed out to meet him.
43. He works hard so that he may pass the examination.
44. I shall go whether you accompany me or not.
45. He walked fast so that we might catch the train.
46. It is nothing else but a fraud.
47. So long as you have money, there is no dearth of friends.
48. He yells as if he were mad.
49. I shall not go unless you allow.
50. As he is needy, I shall help him.
51. He will not do it until you ask him.
52. I feared lest I should fail again.
53. When he comes, I shall leave.
54. If he fails to come, what will you do?
55. He is not only wise but also handsome.
56. Although he is rich yet he is miser.
57. He drowned since no one came to save him.
58. I don't like such boys as are lazy.
59. Walk with care lest you should slip.
60. You are neither fool nor rogue.
61. As I am busy, I cannot go there.
62. Do not leave the place until he comes back.
63. There is a cash prize for whoever completes the task.
64. Do not sleep so much lest you should fall ill.
65. Some people like junk food, whereas others hate it.
66. My friend studies Computer Science while I study English literature.
67. I can go wherever she likes.



1.6.3 Modifiers

Modifiers, as their name implies, are words that modify. Specifically, they're words that modify their sentences' meanings. Take a look at these two examples:

- A man is standing.
- A *tall* man is standing *on the street*.

The second sentence is more descriptive because of the modifiers it contains. Fundamentally, modifiers' purpose is to make sentences more descriptive or detailed.

For example:

- ◆ We waited *until the last minute* to mention our concerns.
- ◆ The kid *with green sneakers* kicked the ball.
- ◆ My sister won the contest, *as she had hoped*.
- ◆ The pedestrian, *who had been waiting for fifteen minutes*, didn't step aside.
- ◆ My *calico* cat is always by my side.
- ◆ The girls ordered a pizza *without sauce*.
- ◆ He bought a *bright blue* van.
- ◆ I told the students to listen *carefully* to the lecture.
- ◆ We built a house for them *out of bricks*.
- ◆ They bought a car *that they call Pumpkin* for my sister.
- ◆ We built a house *out of bricks* for them.
- ◆ *After reading the book*, I thought the movie was great.
- ◆ *Before leaving*, I watched a squirrel cross the sidewalk.
- ◆ The building that was *taller than the others* was prone to power outages.
- ◆ Our *generally aloof* cat surprised us by accepting the new kitten.
- ◆ The woman *with blue hair* bought four apples.
- ◆ All the fish *in the lake* play a role in the ecosystem.
- ◆ We went *to the beach* on our vacation *last year*.
- ◆ Mohan *always* asks me how work is going.
- ◆ Kamala grew tomatoes *that were bigger than everybody else's*.



- ◆ Before school starts, the teachers all drink *iced* tea.
- ◆ We produced our movie *on a tight budget*.
- ◆ John heard her *clearly* when she whispered.
- ◆ His *slow* driving becomes annoying.

1.7 Diary Writing and Blog Post

1.7.1 Diary Writing

Diary entry is an activity which is very personal. It helps you maintain a record of thoughts and feelings in relation to your day to day experiences. Maintaining a diary does not require any formal skills of writing as it does not come with a prescribed format. All that you require, is an eagerness to write and express yourself.

Some general pointers for diary writing:

1. Every entry that you make in the diary must have date, day, time, and location at the time of your writing. This will help you contextualize it when you read it at a later date.
2. You may begin your entry with the salutation “Dear Diary”.
3. It can be on any topic:
 - ◆ A scene you have witnessed
 - ◆ Any interesting encounter you’ve had
 - ◆ A particular occasion – wedding, festival etc.
 - ◆ Opinion on something you’ve read
 - ◆ It could also simply be a space where you vent your anger and frustration
4. It is not essential to have a heading.
5. The tone and style are usually casual and informal; but could be serious and formal depending on the subject under consideration.
6. You are free to use any language you’re comfortable with.
7. It is not necessary to write every day, neither is it necessary to maintain continuity between entries.



For example:

Saturday, March 3, 2012

9:45 p.m., Home

Dear Diary,

I'm so upset!! I don't even know where to begin!

To start off, I think I completely failed my geometry test, which I know I should've studied more for...my dad's not gonna be happy about that. :(Then, we had a surprise test in history on the reading homework from last night, and I completely forgot most of what I read, which made me even more upset because I actually did the reading! But what really made me mad was the note that Sargam slipped into my bag during lunch period. She said she was sad that I've been hanging out with Jasmine more lately and thinks that I don't want to be her friend anymore. I can't believe she thinks that, especially after talking with her on the phone for hours and hours last month! Just because I've been hanging out with Jasmine a little more than usual doesn't mean I'm not her friend anymore. She completely blew me off at lunch, and when I told Jasmine, she thought that Sargam was being a 'drama queen.'

This is just what I need! My parents are getting on my case about doing more extra-curricular activities, I have a huge project due for my English class soon, and I can't understand a thing in Sanskrit! The last thing I need is for my best friend to think I hate her and barely text me back anymore.

Ughh! I can't concentrate on anything right now because of it. I hope she gets over it!!!

Goodnight,

Kanna.

From the Web



Tuesday, March 6, 2012

10:00 p.m., Home

Dear Diary,

Sorry I didn't get to write last night! It was such a busy day, and I was too tired to write anything...

I was right about Sargam not being okay. Yesterday, she barely spoke to me, and anything she did say was a 'yes' or 'no' answer. I tried so hard to get her to cheer up, but of course she just kept saying, 'I'm fine, I'm fine.' Uggh! I wish she would just be honest with me! I'm always honest with her! It's not fair!

Jasmine also seemed mad all day because she could tell that Sargam was being fake nice to her. I hate being in the middle of all of this. What am I supposed to do? Sargam's been my friend since forever, and Jasmine is my new friend, and I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings! But I think that Jasmine is right about Sargam. I think Sargam sometimes gets too dramatic about things. She's being kind of a brat about all of this, but I don't want to tell her that to her face, she'd never forgive me.

I wish things were simple like they were in play school. :(:(:(

Night,

Kanna

From the Web

1.7.2 Blog Post

A blog is an informal diary style writing published on the internet. It is basically a webpage that is created by individuals, companies, etc. to reach out to a large audience, who can take an interest in the posts and comment on them. In this respect, a blog is very unlike a diary which is mostly personal and not meant for an audience. Since blog is a webpage, it gives the blogger a lot of opportunity to experiment with the posts. A blogger can provide hyperlinks to other webpages on similar topics; he can also add images, videos, etc. to make the blog more interesting.



Some important pointers for writing a good blog:

1. Attractive interesting headline.
2. Subsections with clear headings.
3. Interesting topic.
4. Informative and engaging content.
5. Relevant internal and external links.
6. Relevant pictures, images, videos.

There are many types of blogs, and bloggers make a lot of money by regularly writing blogs on areas of their interest. Some popular types of blogs are:

- Personal blogs
- Fashion blogs
- Travel and Lifestyle blogs
- Food blogs
- News blogs
- Review blogs (especially of brands and products)

Check out the links given below for sample blogs:

- ◆ <https://www.legalnomads.com/>
- ◆ <https://uncorneredmarket.com/>
- ◆ <http://www.thebeautyofitis.com/>



In the University: Introducing Oneself

Dr. Seema Suri

Structure

- 1.1 *Learning Objectives*
- 1.2 *Introducing Oneself; Dialogues*
- 1.3 *Interviews*
- 1.4 *Preparing a CV*
- 1.5 *Study Guide: Tales of Historic Delhi: A Walk Through its Many Cities*

1.1 Learning Objectives

This part of the Study Material will help you prepare the following topics in Unit-2 of your syllabus.

- ◆ Introducing oneself, dialogues
- ◆ Interviews, both formal and informal
- ◆ Preparing a CV

In addition to the above, this part of the lesson also includes a brief study-guide to the recommended reading for this unit:

Tales of Historic Delhi: A Walk through its Many Cities. Written and illustrated by Premola Ghosh.

1.2 Introducing Oneself; Dialogues

You meet new people almost every day; in class, while waiting for the bus, at a friend's birthday party or standing in line to pay for your groceries. We chat with people and even joke with total strangers without asking their names or introducing ourselves. But when you know that you will be interacting with people on a regular basis in the future, such as classmates, neighbors or teachers, you must introduce yourself and get to know them. An introduction is a way to establish a relationship with a new person.

What do you say when meeting people for the first time in an informal situation? I will start with a very simple example. You are waiting at the metro station for your train,



and you recognize a girl from your college, standing next to you. You would like to be friends with her. This is how you could begin:

Ritika : Hi! I'm Ritika, first year BA student. I have seen you in the college canteen.

Chitra : Of course, you have. Hi! I'm Chitra and I'm in the first year of B.Com.

This is just one example of how to begin an informal, casual conversation with someone your own age. However, you sometimes need to introduce yourself to people who are older than you or your seniors at the workplace. In such situations you will have to change your tone. You will not introduce yourself to your friend's grandfather or your teacher in the same way you will introduce yourself to your sister's friend.

Let us say your friend, Sarvesh, has come to meet you, Alok. Now imagine you have to introduce Sarvesh to your mother. How will you do it? There are certain social conventions, also known as etiquette, to be followed in such situations. The basic protocol of introductions requires that,

- ◆ younger people be introduced to older,
- ◆ men to women, and
- ◆ junior to senior.

So, in this case, you will first introduce your friend to your mother.

Alok : Mom, I want you to meet Sarvesh. He is in my class in college. Sarvesh, meet my mom.

Mother : Hello, Sarvesh. How are you? I have heard a lot about you from Alok. He told me you are from Jaipur.

Sarvesh : Yes, aunty. My family lives there and I am in the college hostel.

Mother : It must be difficult living away from your family. You can come and have lunch with us sometime.

Sarvesh : I would really like that. I miss my mother's cooking so much.

In our country, younger people address almost all those who are older than them as 'uncle' or 'aunty,' even if they are not their relatives. People usually don't address older people by name or surname. You would not call your friend's father, Mr. Pandey. It could be considered rude. But in formal situations you should always say the full name, irrespective of the age. If you are introducing a new colleague to the managing director of your company, you will introduce him/her with the full name and the position held.

You : Sir, I would like you to meet Ms. Archana Pandit, the new architect in our company. Ms. Pandit, this is Mr. Rajan Nambiar, our Managing Director.



Mr. Nambiar : Pleased to meet you, Ms. Pandit. I hope you are enjoying working with us.

Ms. Pandit : Yes, sir. This is my first job, and I am very excited to be working here.

As you must have observed, in such formal situations, the full name with a Mr./Ms. is used whereas in informal situations just the first name is enough. It would be very amusing if Ms. Pandit called the Managing Director of her company ‘uncle.’

After the introductions are over you can continue the conversation. Most people get nervous when they talk to new people. This lack of confidence is mainly due to a lack of fluency in English. But with a bit of practice, it can be learnt. Just keep a few basic rules in mind.

- ◆ Keep your tone friendly and maintain eye contact. Nobody likes talking to a person who is looking somewhere else.
- ◆ Be mindful of the situation and choose your words carefully. Avoid personal questions.
- ◆ Don’t say too much. At the same time, don’t answer questions with a simple ‘Yes’ or ‘No.’
- ◆ Speak slowly so that the other person can follow your words.
- ◆ Pay attention to what the other person is saying and take an interest in them.
- ◆ Do remember to say, ‘Nice to have met you’ or ‘I enjoyed talking to you,’ after the conversation is over.

Talk about neutral, general topics that will help others feel comfortable. This is known as ‘small talk.’ Here are some common topics that you could talk about in informal conversations.

- Living
 - Where do you live?
 - Is it far away?
 - Do you travel by the Metro?
 - Where are you from?
 - Do you like living in Delhi?
- Studies
 - What is your favourite subject?
 - Have you been to the college library?
 - Are you attending any coaching classes?
 - Have you completed your Economics assignment?
 - How are you preparing for the exams?



Family

- What does your mother/father do?
- How many brothers/sisters do you have?
- Are they younger than you?
- Do you live with your parents?

Work

- What do you do for work?
- How long have you been working here?
- What are your future plans?
- Are you happy working here?
- Is the food in the office canteen good?

Entertainment

- Do you watch YouTube?
- Have you seen the latest episode of Bigg Boss?
- Who is your favourite actor?
- Are you fond of travelling?
- Are there any good eating joints around here?

These days there is hardly any conversation between two people where the topic of social media doesn't come up. I am sure you discuss these things with your friends.

Social Media

- Are you on Facebook? or Twitter?
- Do you Instagram?
- Can I add you to my WhatsApp group?

It is natural for human beings to be curious about each other but remember that there are some questions that should be avoided in conversations with people you have just met, don't know too well or in formal situations.

- ◆ How old are you?
- ◆ What is your salary?
- ◆ Why are you wearing a red shirt?
- ◆ Are those shoes expensive? How much did you pay for them?
- ◆ Do you have a girlfriend/boyfriend?

In many cultures it is not considered polite at all to ask a person's age, income or relationship status in the first meeting. However, in our country, such unwritten rules are



rarely followed. People sitting next to you on the train or in the waiting room of the dentist's clinic will ask you all sorts of questions; not only that, they will also happily volunteer information about their families, distant relatives, health problems, and political beliefs. Each society has its own, peculiar culture and it is not necessary to follow rules observed in foreign countries. At the same time, such topics are best avoided until you get to know people well.

Now let us come back to the girls on the platform of the Metro station. After they have introduced themselves, the conversation would be something like this:

Ritika : Hi! I'm Ritika, first year B.A. student. I think I have seen you in the college canteen.

Chitra : Of course, you have. Hi! I'm Chitra and I'm in the first year of B.Com.

Ritika : Nice to meet you, Chitra. Where do you live?

Chitra : I live in Noida. What about you?

Ritika : I live in Kirti Nagar. So, will you also change trains at Rajiv Chowk?

Chitra : Yes. I am glad I met you. We can talk on the way. Otherwise, it is boring to travel alone.

Ritika : Which school are you from? I was at the Government School in Ramesh Nagar.

Chitra : I went to Somerville in Noida. Are you having fun in college?

Ritika : Yeah. There are many girls from my school in this college. I like it here.

Chitra : Could I have your mobile number? Is it o.k. if I call you sometime?

Ritika : Sure. It's 98xxxxxx87. Give me a missed call and I'll add you to my contacts.

As you will agree, it is not difficult to write down an imaginary conversation between two friends or people of the same age group. But sometimes you need to talk to people who are older than you: teachers, employers, or elderly neighbors. Your words should convey respect. Suppose your neighbor, Mr. Jha has come over to your house:

Mr. Jha : Hi! Shankar, could you do me a favor, please.

Shankar : Of course, sir. Tell me how I can help you.

Mr. Jha : I am expecting a delivery from Amazon today but I have to go the bank. Are you at home today?

Shankar : Yes, I am. There are no classes in college today. I can collect it on your behalf.



Mr. Jha : You are so helpful, Shankar. Don't worry about the payment. It's taken care of.

Shankar : I will bring the packet over to your house in the evening. Have a good day, sir.

It is not only your school or college teachers who should be addressed as sir/madam. People who are much older than you can also be addressed as sir/madam although, these days, it is becoming fashionable to avoid these terms.

ACTIVITY 1.1

Write a dialogue between two friends, who have studied together in school, and are meeting each other after many years. Each speaker should have ten sentences.

1.3 Interviews

What exactly is an interview? An interview is a conversation where one person asks questions and the other person provides answers. In traditional interviews, the journalist prepares the list of questions beforehand, after doing a thorough research of the celebrity's background, personal life, awards, future projects, and achievements. There is hardly any one amongst us who wouldn't be interested in the lives of rich, successful and famous people: film stars, TV actors, singers, sportspeople and entrepreneurs. We love to read or watch interviews with them in newspapers, e-newspapers, TV chat shows or YouTube. In our country, interviews with film stars and cricketers are the most popular ones.

ACTIVITY 1.2

Do read or watch the interviews of some famous people and make a list of the questions asked. Here are some that you will love to watch:

1. How to be a Better Manager – An interview with N.R. Narayana Murthy (<https://hbrascend.org/topics/how-to-be-a-better-manager-an-inteiew-with-n-r-narayana-murthy/>)
2. Interview with Neha Kakkar (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/brunch/songstress-neha-kakkar-reveals-that-marshmallow-describe-her-best/story>)

After reading some interviews you will observe that there are many questions that keep on reappearing. I have prepared one such list but please note that these questions are from interviews with people from the entertainment industry or sportspeople.



- Early life
- Tell us about yourself. When did you decide to take up acting/singing as a career?
 - Who inspired you to take up boxing?
 - Did you act in plays when you were in school?
 - How do you find living in Mumbai after Patna?

Questions about work, upcoming projects, and achievements are always asked.

- Work
- Your team won the semifinal against New Zealand? How does it feel?
 - Your movie *Stree* is releasing this Friday. Are you nervous?
 - How do you prepare for a role?
 - Badminton is a tough sport. How do you keep yourself so fit?

- Leisure
- How do you like to relax after work?
 - What is your favourite holiday destination?
 - Which is your favourite book/movie/song?

Nowadays there is hardly any interview where celebrities are not asked about how they handle negative and critical comments on social media. Here are some questions that are frequently asked:

- ◆ How do you respond to negative comments online? Do trolls* bother you?
- ◆ We heard that you now have more than five million followers on Instagram. How does it feel?
- ◆ Is it true that you talk to all your fans on Twitter?

(*Troll: A troll is someone who deliberately puts negative comments about people/events on the Internet.)

All these questions are from real interviews but if you are going to write questions and answers for an imaginary one, remember a few things:

- ◆ Be relevant. You will not ask a cricketer if he liked to sing as a child.
- ◆ Be sensitive. Don't ask questions that could offend or hurt.
- ◆ Avoid controversial topics like opinions on current political or religious issues.
- ◆ Try to frame questions that bring out the human side of the celebrity; their innermost thoughts.
- ◆ Keep it light.



Almost all interviews have some questions that are fun.

- What is your favourite junk food?
- Tell us something about yourself that nobody knows about?
- What is your favourite outfit at home?
- Would you like to tell us about an embarrassing incident?

Here is a small excerpt from an interview with famous Bollywood actor, Akshay Kumar.

What would we find in your fridge right now?

Crates of Thums Up, of course.

How many pairs of blue jeans do you have?

Maybe, some 25 pairs.

Where did you spend last summer?

Dubai and Goa. I know I am lucky but it was a well- deserved break.

Here is another extract I would like you to read. It is from an interview with Smriti Mandhana, Captain of the Indian Women's cricket team.

When did you realize that you wanted to turn your passion for cricket into your profession?

When I was nine . . . that's when my father decided to take me for selection trials.

You were part of the Indian team that played the 2017 Women's Cricket World Cup Final. Have you noticed changes in support of women's cricket since?

Definitely! Now people are more aware of the Indian Women's Cricket team and our achievements.

What do you do on your day off?

Sleep and watch movies.

Your favourite junk food?

Pineapple on pizza.

[<https://www.redbull.com/in-en/interview-with-Smriti-Mandhana>]

**ACTIVITY 1.3**

You are the reporter for a sports magazine. Interview a budding sports star for your magazine. Ask ten questions that he/she answers.

Formal Interviews

The type of questions listed so far would not be suitable if you were going to interview a successful entrepreneur or political candidate. You would not ask them questions like: What is your favourite junk food? In such interviews, the questions will be serious and sometimes technical.

- ◆ How did you get the idea to start this business?
- ◆ How many employees do you have at present?
- ◆ What are your company's goals?
- ◆ What are some of the mistakes you wish you could have avoided?
- ◆ What are the qualities of a good leader?
- ◆ If you had just one piece of advice for someone just starting out, what would it be?

The questions are mostly related to their professional lives, their work or business. It's not that interviews with government officials or famous entrepreneurs don't include personal questions; they do. Read this extract from an interview with Vandana Luthra, founder of famous Indian beauty brand Vandana Luthra Curls and Curves.

What prompted you to start VLCC and what were the challenges you faced as a woman entrepreneur?

In my family we were encouraged to take decisions and be independent....From the start I was clear in my mind that whatever venture I get into should benefit the society and be accessible to all segments.

What are the important things to keep in mind to become a successful entrepreneur?

I believe in order to be a successful entrepreneur one has to have an indomitable spirit, tremendous self-belief...People management skills are also very important.

(You can read the full interview at <https://m.economictimes.com/opinion/interviews>)

Interviews for Jobs

Everyone has to face an interview for a job at some stage and even when they want to change jobs. There are many questions asked of candidates by a selection committee. Some of these could be:



- ◆ What is your educational background? Do you have any special skills?
- ◆ Why did you select this company?
- ◆ Are you planning to study further in the future?
- ◆ Tell us about yourself. What are your strengths/weaknesses?
- ◆ What were your responsibilities in your last job? Tell us in detail.
- ◆ Tell us why we should hire you?
- ◆ What was your salary in the previous organization?

As you may have guessed, the types of questions being asked would depend on the job and the candidate. Here is an example of a candidate appearing for an interview for the post of an elementary school teacher. When the candidate enters the room there would be two to three people there to interview her/him. All of them would have read her CV (see page-11).

- Interviewer-1 : Come in, Laxmi. Please be seated.
- Laxmi : Good morning, everyone.
- Interviewer-2 : Laxmi, I see that you have applied for the post of a teacher in the Hindi department.
- Laxmi : Yes, madam that is right.
- Interviewer-3 : You have taught in two schools before applying here. Why did you leave those jobs?
- Laxmi : They were both temporary positions. I was kept as a substitute for teachers who were on leave. I am now looking for a permanent post in a reputed school.
- Interviewer-2 : Have you thought about studying further?
- Laxmi : Yes, I have. I want to join the M.A. Hindi course at IGNOU next year.
- Interviewer-1 : How will you manage if you start teaching here?
- Laxmi : The classes are held on Sundays so it won't be a problem. If I teach here, I won't allow my studies to disturb my work.
- Interviewer-2 : Are you familiar with the Hindi curriculum followed in our school?



- Laxmi : Yes, madam. I read all about it on the school website.
- Interviewer-3 : How do you handle children when they get naughty?
- Laxmi : I don't like to scold them. It's better to talk and explain why they should not be naughty in the classroom.
- Interviewer-1 : Would you agree to put in extra time during school functions?
- Laxmi : I would love that. I acted in a lot of plays in college and I could help the children put up a play.

The people on the interview board will keep on asking such questions before asking the candidate to leave.

ACTIVITY 1.4

Prepare ten questions and answers for the interview of a hotel management graduate, applying for the job of an assistant manager in a hotel.

1.4 Preparing a CV

What is a CV? CV is short for the Latin phrase 'Curriculum Vitae,' meaning 'course of life.' A CV is a two- or three-page long document that summarizes your educational qualifications, work experience and other achievements. It is attached to applications for jobs, internships or scholarships and submitted to the administrative head of the organization/institution. In our country the word Resumé is also used to describe such a document; the only difference between them is that of length. Whereas a resumé is one or, at the most, two pages long a CV can be much longer because it includes more detailed information.

What should you include in a CV?

- Personal information : Name, age, contact details
- Educational : School, college, professional courses
- Special Skills : Typing, knowledge of computers, languages known
- Achievements : Awards, scholarships, fellowships
- Work Experience : Details of past and present positions
- Extra-Curricular : Special hobbies, talents, prizes won in competitions

Let us look at a sample of a CV. Pay attention to the font size and layout.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Laxmi Gowda
43/12, Anna Nagar (East)
Chennai-600106
Phone : + 919xxxxx82
e-mail : lgowda@hotmail.com

Career Objective

To find a position as a primary school teacher in a progressive school that allows teachers to be creative with the syllabus.

Educational

Course	College/University/Board	Year	Marks
B.Ed.	Indira Gandhi National Open University	2018	63%
BA(H) Hindi	Kirori Mal College, Delhi University	2016	60%
XII	St. Marks School, Delhi	2013	85%

Work Experience

- ◆ Taught at St. Mary's School, Delhi Cantt. from July to December 2019. I taught Hindi to classes I- V.
- ◆ Taught at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Janakpuri, from October 2018 to June 2019.

Achievements

- ◆ Got second position in BA(H) Hindi in Delhi University, 2016.
- ◆ Acted in plays produced by the theatre group of my college 'Drishti'.

Personal

Date of birth : 2 July, 1995
Gender : Female
Marital status : Single
Nationality : Indian
Languages known : Tamil, Hindi, English



Extra-Curricular

- ◆ Acting is my hobby and I can teach it to the students, if required.
- ◆ Fond of travelling and writing.

References

1. Professor Rita Sharma	2. Dr Pradeep Kumar
Department of Hindi	Principal
University of Delhi	Central School, Janakpuri
Delhi-110007	New Delhi 110058
988xxxxxx7 rsharma58@gmail.com	88xxxxxx49 pradeepk@rediffmail.com

Here are some important guidelines to follow while preparing a CV.

- ◆ Always follow the reverse chronological order when writing about your educational qualifications or work experience. For instance, your most recent degree must come first, and so on.
- ◆ When you write about your achievements, list specific ones. Avoid statements like ‘I love to read’ or ‘I am very hard working’.
- ◆ Always mention dates (both beginning and ending) and exact duration of previous jobs, internships, etc.
- ◆ Don’t use abbreviations. For instance, write Delhi University, not DU.
- ◆ Mention only those awards that are five years old. You don’t need to mention prizes you won when you were in junior school.

There is no fixed format for a CV. What is important is that all the relevant, professional information about yourself should be presented in a clear way and nothing important should be left out. You can think of a CV as a kind of comprehensive introduction you are giving to someone who might employ you.

This is the CV of a student who is applying for an internship as an accountant. You will notice that, in the next CV, there are no References, nor are the marks scored in the school/college exams mentioned. It is because the student is applying for an internship and in such cases, he/she would not have any work experience.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Vikas Rastogi

+ 91880XXXXX00 | vrastogi@gmail.com

56/ 43, Chanakya Place

Uttam Nagar-110059

New Delhi

Career Goal

To work in a reputed organization and gain experience in book-keeping and managing financial data.

Academic Qualifications

B. Com, School of Open Learning, Delhi University, 2018.

XII, Central School, Vikas Puri, 2015.

Technical Skills

Familiar with Tally, ERP, Quickbooks.

Experience

Worked as an intern with Luthra & Associates from May to August 2017.

Personal

Date of Birth : 5th December, 1997

Gender : Male

Nationality : Indian

Languages known : Hindi, English

1.5 Study Guide: *Tales of Historic Delhi: A Walk Through its Many Cities***Introduction**

You must have read or heard stories about talking animals. Indian mythology and folk tales are full of such creatures. All of you would remember the stories of the *Panchatantra*: the hare and the tortoise and the elephant and the mouse are some of the famous ones, which every Indian child would have heard from his/her mother or grandmother.



This book is an entertaining introduction to the history of Delhi. In it, a group of animals from Ranthambore in Rajasthan travel to Delhi and visit its many monuments, forts and parks. At each place they exchange information about the history of the place.

Dr. Kamala is the only human in this group and the founder of Janwar Dosti, the club the animals are a part of. All the animals have been given names that are funny and easy to remember; Tunnu the tiger, Bula the bear, Bandar the monkey and Tota the parrot. There is an owl with a rather filmy name; Pandit Ooo Lala. All the animals talk and behave like humans. They travel, go shopping, make fun of each other, search for information on the Internet, send emails to friends and also give lectures on history. They travel all over Delhi and have fun like typical tourists.

The writer has a very clear objective; to make the history of Delhi as entertaining as possible. In addition to the funny animals, the most appealing aspect of the book are the colourful illustrations. If you look at them carefully you will find many funny drawings; Tunnu the tiger wearing sunglasses and riding a cycle-rickshaw in Chandni Chowk or the rabbit, Lucky getting scared of the ghosts of the Mongol warriors at Siri Fort.

History is not a subject that many people find interesting but, in this book, the author has made it so. People who visit Delhi or even those who have been living here for many years can learn so many new things about their city. It is full of interesting facts and information.

Summary

Ch. 1-3

Each of the twelve chapters has a brief paragraph in the beginning that provides details about the dates of construction and the rulers who built the monuments the animals visit.

In the first chapter Dr. Kamala informs her animal friends that the city of Delhi will be a hundred years old in 2011; the year they visit the city. When she notices that the animals seem to be getting interested in Delhi, she offers to take them on a visit there. They travel by train and get off at the New Delhi railway station. They first visit the Purana Qila where the animals learn that though it was built by the Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri, in the 16th c. it is believed that it was built over the ancient city of Indraprastha, built by the Pandava brothers in 2500 BC.

After that the animals visit the Qutb Minar (Ch. 2), the tallest minaret in the world. It was built by India's first Muslim ruler, Qutbuddin Aibak, in the fourteenth century and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. There Mayurdas, the peacock who is a very learned bird tells the other animals about the different structures in the Qutb complex.



There, they meet an elephant named Ekmukhi who is also very learned and spiritual. He calls himself a follower of the Sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki; after whom the Qutb Minar is named. The elephant joins them in their visits to other monuments in Delhi.

In the next chapter (Ch. 3) the group of animals visit Siri Fort. There, it is Tunku the tiger who narrates some very interesting facts about the origin of the name Siri (Siri means head). We learn that this fort was built by Alauddin Khilji as a defense against Mongol warriors from Central Asia. It is believed that the fort is built on the severed head of 8,000 soldiers killed in the war.

- i. What do the animals see when they get off at New Delhi Railway Station?
- ii. What do the animals see at Siri Fort that frightens them?
- iii. Who is Pandit Ooo Lala?

Ch. 4-6

As you must have observed, in each chapter, it is a different animal who contributes to the narration. On their visit to the dargah of Nizamuddin Auliya, the famous Sufi saint; Ekmukhi, Pandit Ooo Lala and Mayurdas take turns to tell the others about the saint. The famous Persian poet Amir Khusrau and Mirza Ghalib are also buried there.

The next place they visit is the impressive Tughlaqabad Fort, built in 1321 by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq but abandoned in 1325. According to popular belief the Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya had cursed the city built by the arrogant Sultan; predicting that it would only be inhabited by nomads. His prediction came true and the city was abandoned after Ghiyasuddin's death in 1325. In the next chapter (Ch. 6) the animals go to Hauz Khas village. It is the site where Alauddin Khilji built a water tank to supply water to his city, Siri. Later, the very learned Mughal ruler Feroze Shah Tughlaq built a world-famous madrasa there.

Now Hauz Khas village is an upmarket shopping centre, with many shops and restaurants. The animals shop for souvenirs and there is a funny incident where Bandar the monkey uses a trick to catch a thief who tries to run away with Zero, the giraffe's shopping bags.

- i. Write a few lines about Nizamuddin Auliya, the famous Sufi saint.
- ii. Who built Hauz Khas and why?
- iii. How does Bandar catch the little thief?



Ch. 7-9

The animals go to the famous Lodi Gardens in the heart of Delhi, where the tombs of Muhammad Shah and Sikander Lodi are located. The garden is a very popular place for the rich and important people of Delhi; retired diplomats, fashionable women and foreigners. They also spot some Buddhist monks practicing meditation.

After Lodi Garden they go to another famous tomb, that of Emperor Humayun. (Ch. 8) Compared to the simple tombs in Lodi Garden, Humayun's tomb is large and beautiful. Humayun built some impressive structures in Dinpanah, the city he built at Purana Qila. Next on their list is the Lal Qila (Ch. 9) built by the Emperor Shahjahan. The city built by him was known as Shahjahanabad. It is one of the largest monuments in Delhi and was the capital of the Mughals till 1857. The Lal Qila later served as a military camp for the British. Inside the fort, there are gardens, intricate marble architecture and thrones. There are also barracks built for the British soldiers that spoil the beauty of the fort.

- i. Describe a funny incident from chapter 7.
- ii. How did Humayun die? Who built his tomb?
- iii. Who was the last Mughal emperor?

Ch. 10-12

By this time the animals are tired of all the history lectures and they decide to visit Chandni Chowk, one of Delhi's oldest markets. It used to be beautiful and world-famous but now it is extremely congested. A local guide tells them that it declined after the Uprising of 1857 when the last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, was sent to jail in Rangoon, and the British built a railway line through the city.

The animal friends have a lot of fun in Chandni Chowk; eating food at the famous eateries and enjoying riding in cycle-rickshaws. In the next chapter (Ch. 11) they visit yet another tomb; that of Safdarjung, Nawab of Awadh. It is also set in a garden. For the first time, Lahorimal the lion shares some interesting information. Safdarjung was an influential man and has a tomb built in his honour even though he wasn't a king. Lahorimal also tells them about the colourful lives of Mughal rulers in the 18th c., such as Jahandhar Shah and Muhammad Shah Rangeela. Although the Mughal empire was declining around this time; poetry and music flourished under their patronage.

In the last chapter the animals go to Connaught Place or C.P., as it is popularly known (Ch. 12). After the forts, tombs and gardens they get to see a modern side of the city. They learn that this D-shaped market was designed by Edward Lutyens, a famous British architect. In addition to C.P., Lutyens designed Rashtrapati Bhawan and the two



secretariat buildings. That is why this part of the city is also known as Lutyen's Delhi. The British influence and contribution to the architecture of the city is visible here. The city built by the Britishers is around the Civil Lines area.

Delhi is a modern city now, with multistorey buildings, shopping malls, flyovers and the Delhi Metro. In the end Dr. Kamala tells the animals about two places in the city that are very peaceful and quiet: the Lotus temple and Buddha Jayanti Park. The book ends with a prayer for the welfare of mankind, by the well-known Buddhist monk Santideva.

- i. What is the name of the famous 17th c. mosque in Chandni Chowk?
- ii. Before 1911, where was the capital of India?
- iii. Who gifted the golden statue of Lord Buddha in Buddha Jayanti Park to India?

Conclusion

This little book introduces us to the rich history of Delhi. We learn that many of the most well-known monuments in the city were built by Mughal rulers; Lal Kot, Tughlaqabad, and Dinpanah are some of the cities built by them. Places every person in Delhi has heard about were once centres of trade and learning. Chandni Chowk was a world-famous trading centre and Hauz Khas village was once the site for a world-famous madrasa built by the learned Mughal ruler, Feroze Shah Tughlaq.

The legends associated with the Sufi saint, Nizammudin Auliya and his struggle with Sultan Ghiyasuddin are some of the most fascinating stories in the book. It is interesting to read about the cursed city, at Fort Tughlaqabad, where no one lives. There are countless little facts about the city that are fun to read about and you must have enjoyed reading about the animals and their funny encounters.



In Public Places *Amalkanti* Nirendranath Chakrabarty

Dr. Neeta Gupta

Structure

- 1.1 *Introduction*
- 1.2 *Learning Objectives*
- 1.3 *A Note on 'Amalkanti'*
- 1.4 *Critical Commentary (Stanza 1)*
- 1.5 *Critical Commentary (Stanza 2)*
- 1.6 *Critical Commentary (Stanza 3)*
- 1.7 *Critical Commentary (Stanza 4)*
- 1.8 *Let Us Sum Up*
- 1.9 *Glossary*
- 1.10 *Key to Check your Progress Exercises*
- 1.11 *Writing*

1.1 Introduction

Understanding poetry is a very different exercise from understanding narrative because a poem is a very concentrated piece of writing. A poem is generally short because the poet does not have the luxury of space that a novelist may have. So, a great deal is said in very few words. Whatever is left unsaid is implied and we must read between the lines or understand the implications of the various images, symbols and metaphors used by the poet. Even the ordering of words or repetition of some words can carry a thought in a poem. Words are chosen with great care not only for their meaning but also for their sound. A good deal of thought goes into the structuring of words because in a poem words are used keeping in mind their connotations and subtle nuances of meaning too. For example, in 'Amalkanti' the title of the poem, which means radiance, is itself a guide to an understanding of the poem for it gives us an idea of what the poet's response is towards the subject of the poem. In



fact, it is very important to remember that a poem is written not just to be read but to be read aloud so the sound of the words used becomes important as it can help create the entire atmosphere and tone of the poem. At times the tone of the poem is itself an indicator of what the poet is actually trying to say. For instance, in ‘Amalkanti’ the tone of the poem reveals that there is a distinction between the viewpoints of the speaker and the poet and the same creates an irony within the poem.

By now you probably have some idea of the things to be alert to while reading a poem. Let’s move on then to the poem under consideration and take a detailed look at it.

1.2 Learning Objectives

After you have finished reading this lesson you will be able to:

- ◆ Recognize some key elements of poetry.
- ◆ Identify how poetry is different from narrative or prose.
- ◆ Read between the lines.
- ◆ Identify differences in points of view.
- ◆ Recognize and understand irony.
- ◆ Understand the given poem ‘Amalkanti’ and appreciate the difference in a translated and original piece of writing that is at times difficult to overcome.

1.3 A Note on ‘Amalkanti’

‘Amalkanti’ is a poem written originally in Bengali by Nirendranath Chakrabarti but made available to all non-Bengali but English knowing speakers in an English translation of the same by Sujit Mukherjee and Meenakshi Mukherjee. The poem deals with a very common situation in the lives of school-going children who often discuss what each one of them wants to be when grown-up. Amalkanti is a friend of the speaker and the two are classmates. The speaker tells us that Amalkanti was not very bright and in fact was quite dull at studies. But he had a dream unlike any other student in class. He wanted to become sunlight! While the rest of the students followed conventional paths and had common expectations in life which even got fulfilled, Amalkanti’s dream was very different. ‘He wanted to be sunlight’. This desire is very strong in Amalkanti’s heart but the poem ends by telling us that he could not become sunlight. In fact, he got a poorly paid job in a printing press and worked in a dark and dingy room. It is left to the reader to read between the lines and determine as to who are the successful people in this poem. Is it



the group of those youngsters who become doctors and lawyers without caring too deeply about it or is it Amalkanti who is content with his lot even though not at all successful in the conventional sense?

1.4 Critical Commentary (Stanza 1)

*Amalkanti is a friend of mine,
we were together at school.
He often came late to class
and never knew his lessons.
When asked to conjugate a verb,
he looked out of the window
in such puzzlement
that we all felt sorry for him.*

The poet begins the poem by introducing us at once to the person who is going to be the focus of the whole poem. He begins by telling us that Amalkanti is a friend of [his] and they were together at school. When asked to do even a simple grammar exercise as ‘conjugate a verb’, he would look puzzled and would look out of the window. All his classmates felt sorry for him.

The poem begins in first person and the speaker addresses the readers directly. At this time however, we cannot be sure whether it is the poet speaking. The lines are short and the tone is conversational. The way Amalkanti is introduced defines very clearly that the relationship between the speaker and this boy is neither too close nor too distant. There is a mixture of closeness and distance. He is neither his closest friend nor his best friend. But he is nevertheless a friend. The stanza progresses with a confident and amused tone and the speaker describes how Amalkanti was a weak student, and he often came late to school and almost never knew his lessons. In the concluding line we must take into account what is left unsaid. In any normal classroom situation if a student fails to provide an answer to a simple question, rest of the students often make fun of him. But here the case is different. The speaker tells us that ‘we all felt sorry for him. ‘The reason for this is obviously Amalkanti. He looks lost and so confused that he invokes a response of pity rather than ridicule from his classmates. The poet coins a special word ‘puzzlement’ to convey the lost and bewildered look on Amalkanti’s face which evokes a sympathetic response from his classmates.



1.4.1 Check Your Progress

- a. How does the speaker introduce Amalkanti?
- b. What are we told about Amalkanti?
- c. Why do Amalkanti's classmates feel sorry for him?
- d. Is the poet's use of the word 'puzzlement' effective?

1.5 Critical Commentary (Stanza 2)

*Some of us wanted to be teachers,
some doctors, some lawyers.
Amalkanti didn't want to be any of these.
He wanted to be sunlight –
the timid sunlight of late afternoon,
when it stops raining
and the crows call again,
the sunlight that clings like a smile
to the leaves of the jam and the jamrul.*

The speaker continues in the same confident tone and tells us next about the dreams and desires of his classmates. Most of these students have conventional expectations from life – some just want to become teachers, some doctors and some lawyers. It is only Amalkanti who stands apart with his dream. He does not want to follow any of the conservative professions. Instead, he wants to become sunlight! He wants to become the kind of sunlight that we see in late afternoons when it has stopped raining and the crows start calling again. He wants to be the warm sunlight that one sees reflected on the leaves of the *jaam* and the *jamrul* trees.

The speaker's tone is casual when he tells us the common and conservative goals of his classmates. They all wanted to take up conventional professions – so some want to be teachers, some lawyers and some doctors. The speaker does not name any particular student who would want any particular profession except Amalkanti. For the rest of them it didn't matter what they became as long as it was one of the conventional lines of work. Amalkanti however stands out from the rest in wanting to become sunlight!



When the speaker begins describing the kind of sunlight that Amalkanti wanted to be, the tone of the poem becomes full of wonder, it becomes soft and lyrical. This should make us stop and think whether in these lines it is the speaker who has suddenly changed his attitude or whether it is the poet who has stepped in to give a different perspective on the situation. Amalkanti wants to become sunlight says the speaker, but it is the poet who tells us that he wants to become “the timid sunlight of late afternoon, when it stops raining and the crows call again, the sunlight that clings like a smile to the leaves of the *jaam* and the *jaamrul*.”

While on the one hand the above quoted lines alert us to the change in tone and perspective, on the other hand they also underline the fact that Amalkanti’s desire is to spread the happiness associated with sunlight. That is why it is described as the ‘timid sunlight of late afternoon ‘that ‘clings like a smile.’ The poet has conveyed his point of view through a skillful use of the image of sunlight that he has created. Look at the careful choice of words. The adjective ‘timid’ aptly describes the softness of the sunlight. In late afternoon the sun’s intensity is on the declining side. Thus all the harshness that can be equally associated with sunlight is removed from Amalkanti’s dream. In his dream there is only softness and happiness associated with sunlight and the same is achieved using the image of sunlight clinging like a smile.

In the above stanza it becomes clear that there is a difference in perspectives of the poet and the speaker of the poem and the two are not the same. The speaker has a casual attitude towards Amalkanti, even full of pity at times, but the poet’s attitude is full of wonder.

1.5.1 Check Your Progress

- a. How is Amalkanti’s desire different from the rest of his classmates?
- b. Do you think Amalkanti’s desire is foolish?
- c. Describe the kind of sunlight that Amalkanti wanted to be. What does this tell us about the dual perspective in the poem?

1.6 Critical Commentary (Stanza 3)

*Some of us have become teachers,
some doctors, some lawyers.
Amalkanti couldn’t become sunlight.
He works in a poorly lit room*



for a printer

*He drops in now and then to see me,
chats about this and that
over a cup of tea, then gets up to go.
I see him off at the door.*

In the third stanza, the speaker returns to tell us how everybody else's dream gets fulfilled except Amalkanti's. We are told that from that group of students, some have become teachers, some lawyers and some doctors. But Amalkanti couldn't become sunlight. In fact, we are informed that he works in a 'poorly lit room for a printer'. We are further told that Amalkanti still tries to stay in touch with his friend, the speaker of the poem, for he drops in 'now and then' to see him and chats about 'this and that' over a cup of tea and then gets up to go and the speaker sees him off at the door.

The tense of the poem changes at this point. From past we now move into the present. The **irony** is obvious in the lines that tell us that the boy who wanted to become sunlight now works in a poorly lit room and is obviously engaged in a low-paying job. The speaker's attitude towards his friend at this point is almost patronizing. You must notice that it is always Amalkanti who makes the effort to meet his school-friend. These visits are not very important for the speaker and his attitude is extremely casual. That is why he mentions that his friend drops in 'now and then' and chats about 'this and that', and then leaves.

What does this tell us about Amalkanti? Surely it indicates that he still values his friendship with the speaker and therefore makes the effort to meet his friend. He must be a warm, caring and emotional person.

At this point in the poem, we as readers too feel sorry for Amalkanti. For a person who wanted to be sunlight it must be a big disappointment to be engaged in a low paying job and be working in room where there is not even enough light.

1.6.1 Check Your Progress

- a. Are the students in the poem able to achieve their goals? Is Amalkanti able to fulfil his dream?
- b. How do we know that Amalkanti still values his friendship with the speaker?
- c. What effect do phrases like 'now and then', 'this and that' have on the tone of the poem?
- d. What is the poet trying to tell us when he says that Amalkanti works in a poorly lit room or a printer?



1.7 Critical Commentary (Stanza 4)

*The one among us who's a teacher
could easily have become a doctor.
If the one who'd wanted to be a doctor
had become a lawyer,
it wouldn't have made much difference to him.
All of us got more or less what we wanted,
all except Amalkanti –
who used to think so much about sunlight
that he wanted to become sunlight.*

The speaker tells us where the future years took these students. Some became doctors, some lawyers and some teachers. For those of them who had become doctors and lawyers, it wouldn't have made much difference if their achievements had interchanged, and the doctor had become a lawyer or vice versa. All of them got 'more or less' what they wanted except Amalkanti 'who used to think so much about sunlight that he wanted to become sunlight.'

The last stanza changes the whole perspective on the situation. Once again, the distinction between the speaker and the poet gets blurred. The speaker's tone is not so confident in the concluding stanza. There is no amusement in the words now, no patronizing tone. It is only wonder at a person who can desire something so deeply that he wishes to become that thing itself. In contrast, none of the rest of the classmates is so deeply desirous of anything. In fact, to them it hardly matters if they become teachers or doctors or lawyers. What is implied here is obviously that as long as the aspirant is able to join a conventionally respectable and well-paying profession it matters little what it is. On the other hand, there is Amalkanti whose desire to become sunlight is so deep that he is constantly thinking about it. This is what makes Amalkanti special and very different from the rest. It is almost as though he stands out from the crowd. He may not be successful in conventional terms; he may not be rich or materially well off but he is not ready to compromise with his heart's deepest desire and in some sense he is even able to achieve it.

There is an irony in the situation being described here. On the literal level, Amalkanti may be a failure and he may be earning very little and working in dingy surroundings. But the work he does is that of spreading the light of knowledge through books. It is



mentioned that he works for a printer even though in a ‘poorly-lit’ room. He may be far from sunlight, but he is engaged in a task which can be likened to that of spreading light—the light of knowledge. While we may think that Amalkanti could not achieve his heart’s desire, we would be far from the truth because in that group of boys it is probably only Amalkanti who has been able to get a little close to what he wanted from life. Far from being a failure, he is moderately successful in his own eyes even though not in conventional terms. The poem is giving us yet another perspective on success and failure. In ‘Amalkanti’ the poet is giving us a perspective on success. *Success cannot be measured by the amount of money you earn or by seeing how well-known you are. Success also means being able to get what you most desire even though in worldly terms you may appear to be a failure.*

1.7.1 Check Your Progress

- a. What does the speaker mean when he says that ‘All of us got more or less what we wanted’?
- b. What is the poet’s attitude towards Amalkanti?
- c. Do you think Amalkanti is a failure? How is the poet defining success here?
- d. Does the name ‘Amalkanti’ help in the subtle working of irony in the poem?

1.8 Let Us Sum Up

After reading the poem ‘Amalkanti’ we have learnt a few things. Let us try and sum up all that we have learnt:

- ◆ We have seen how a poem is to be read and how it is different from a narrative.
- ◆ We have seen what poetic language is and how it uses symbols, images and associations to make simple words resonate with meanings.
- ◆ We have also seen how a poem when translated fails to catch some of the nuances that would be evident in the original for example Amalkanti’s name itself.
- ◆ In the poem we discovered how there can be a difference in the point of view of the poet and the first person speaker which in turn alerts us to the irony that works in the poem throughout.



- ◆ The poet's sympathetic attitude towards Amalkanti vis a vis the speaker's condescending one becomes apparent only after we have understood the difference in their points of view. We have therefore learnt the important technique of deciphering meaning by reading between the lines.
- ◆ Thus we have learnt to read between the lines and catch the irony in the poem.
- ◆ Though on the surface the poem seems fairly simple – about two classmates who have grown up and gone their separate ways, yet it offers a very different dimension to how success can be defined in this world. Being able to do what he most loves is more important to Amalkanti than being materially successful.
- ◆ We have understood the association attached to the name Amalkanti in the original and have been able to deduce the underlying theme of the poem – that one meaning of being successful is to be able to do what your heart desires most.

1.9 Glossary

<i>Conjugate:</i>	to state the different forms a verb can have, for example according to the number of people it refers to and whether it refers to the present, past, or future
<i>Timid:</i>	shy and nervous
<i>Clings:</i>	sticks
<i>Jaam:</i>	a purple coloured fruit also known as <i>jamun</i>
<i>Jamrul:</i>	water apple

1.10 Key to Check your Progress Exercises

Key to Exercise 1.4.1

- a. The speaker introduces Amalkanti as one of his classmates who is a daydreamer and quite slow in learning.
- b. The speaker tells us that Amalkanti often came late to school and was never good at studies. If asked to do a simple thing as conjugate a verb he would get so confused that his classmates all felt sorry for him.
- c. Amalkanti's classmates feel sorry for him when he is unable to give correct answers in class and gets confused. In a normal classroom situation children would have made



fun of him. But Amalkanti must have been a gentle and friendly person because instead of laughing they feel sorry for him.

- d. The word ‘puzzlement’ has been coined by the poet to indicate the confusion in Amalkanti’s mind. The word is very effective because one can almost visualize the puzzled look on Amalkanti’s face.

Key to Exercise 1.5.1

- a. Amalkanti’s dream is a very unconventional one. Other boys in his class have the usual conventional desires of becoming doctors, teachers or lawyers. But Amalkanti wants to become none of these. He wants to become sunlight. He is different and he is special. Unlike other boys. Amalkanti’s desire is so deep that he constantly dreams about it and is not ready to compromise with it.
- b. At first it does seem that Amalkanti’s desire is unrealistic as well as foolish because we know that no one can become sunlight! Our disbelief however, results from a purely literal interpretation of this unique desire. If however we try to look at it metaphorically then Amalkanti’s desire is neither unrealistic nor foolish because his desire is to brighten up the world by doing something that would bring joy into the people’s lives. He does achieve this desire partly by getting engaged in the business of printing books. Books too spread light in the metaphorical sense and also brighten up people’s world. So in a sense Amalkanti is able to achieve his dream of spreading light.
- c. We are told by the speaker that it was Amalkanti’s deepest desire to become sunlight. But then the next few lines describe for us the kind of sunlight that he wanted to be. There is a perceptible change in tone - from being condescending it becomes lyrical when we are told that Amalkanti wanted to be the soft and warm sunlight of the late afternoons when it has just stopped raining. The feeling associated with this sunlight is of happiness and warmth. We can say that the poet’s perspective is coming into play here as against the speaker’s perspective which we had seen earlier.

Key to Exercise 1.6.1

- a. The speaker tells us that except Amalkanti all the students in the class were more or less able to achieve their goals. Some became doctors, some lawyers and some teachers but Amalkanti could not become sunlight.
- b. We know that Amalkanti still values his friendship with the speaker because he comes to visit him sometimes and spends some time with him.



- c. In comparison to Amalkanti, the speaker's attitude towards life is very casual. Phrases like 'now and then', 'this and that', 'more or less' indicate that nothing matters to him very deeply.
- d. The speaker tells us that Amalkanti works in a poorly lit room for a printer. He obviously has a low paid job. Yet when he visits the speaker he never complains but seems to be quite content and talks of 'this and that.' We have to read between the lines here to understand the poet's point of view. Amalkanti wanted to become sunlight. He wanted to brighten up people's lives. By working for a printer he is involved in the process of spreading the light of knowledge through the printed word in the form of books. The poet has given us a clue in his name which if translated means 'pure radiance.' He spreads the light of knowledge. And in that sense Amalkanti has come very close to realizing his dream. He has finally become the means of spreading 'light' therefore we can say that far from being a failure he has been successful.

Key to Exercise 1.7.1

- a. The speaker is pointing out that he and his classmates were quite indifferent to the kind of professions that each followed as long as they could earn money.
- b. The poet's attitude towards Amalkanti is very different from that of the speaker's. First of all the choice of name 'Amalkanti' which means 'pure radiance' itself indicates that the poet's attitude is not very critical. In fact it is sympathetic even full of wonder. As we read the poem a change in tone has occurred in stanza 2 lines 12-17. From being amused and condescending it has become soft, lyrical and almost wishful in describing how Amalkanti wants to become the 'timid sunlight of late afternoon' and sunlight that clings like a smile. In the last stanza we notice this change in tone once again when it becomes full of wonder at the depth of Amalkanti's desire in comparison with the shallowness of his classmates. Amalkanti is very clear in his head about what he wants to be. He may be an idealist but at least he does not compromise with his heart's desire and tries to spread light in the metaphorical sense by engaging in a task that spreads knowledge.
- c. In conventional terms Amalkanti is a failure because he has not been materially successful and is not making a future. In fact he is confined to a low paying job. But in another sense he is a success because he has been able to do what he most wanted to in life and that is to spread light. If we look at his desire literally then we are missing the point that the poet is trying to make. Metaphorically Amalkanti



has been able to do what he most wanted to. Thus in this poem we are being given yet another definition of success. Success does not always mean to be rich. It also means to be able to join a profession of your choice. To be able to do what you most wanted to.

- d. Amalkanti means “pure radiance” in Bangla and Hindi. Knowing the meaning of the word certainly affects our understanding of the poem for we are able to not only catch the irony in the poem but also the attitude of the poet towards the subject. Out of the group of boys in Amalkanti’s class, it is only Amalkanti who has a clear focus and knows what he wants to become when grown up. It is as clear in his mind as his name itself suggests. Irony is working at two levels in the poem. For the speaker, it is ironical that a person who wanted to become sunlight is ultimately confined to a poorly-lit room in a low paying job. But because we have realized that there is a difference in the attitude of the speaker and the poet towards Amalkanti, we can see that the irony is working in the opposite direction too. From the poet’s point of view it is ironical that the speaker cannot see that Amalkanti has in fact been able to spread light metaphorically through books and has lived up to his name.

1.11 Writing

Writing a CV or a Resume/Biodata has already been covered in the previous Unit. Please refer to Unit 2 Section 1.4 for the same. Here we will look at how letters are written. At first, we will see how a letter of recommendation is written and then we will move on to look at how we need to write formal letters. We will focus on how to apply for a job.

1.11.1 Letter of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation is required when you may be applying for a course in higher education or for a job. It is not addressed to anyone in particular but carries the heading ‘To whomsoever it may concern.’ The letter must be written by either your former teacher or your former employer. It should briefly touch on the positive aspects of your personality and should particularly emphasize your capabilities to handle the course or job you are applying for. The example given in your textbook has been worked out for you below:

To Whomsoever It May Concern

I have known Mr. Amalkanti Guha for 30 years. Though never a high performer he has always been a meticulous worker. What is more, he truly enjoys the work he does and since he rose up to his position as Printing Press Supervisor with Ujwal Jyoti Prakashan



from the workshop floor, he is familiar with every aspect of printing. He is also creative and hard-working and therefore I would recommend him unreservedly to every reputed printer or publisher. Finally, I would add that he would prove to be an asset for any company. I wish him all the very best in the new assignment.

Sudhir Kumar Das

Advocate

Kolkata High Court.

ACTIVITY

- I. Imagine you are the English teacher in a college and one of your students wishes to apply for higher studies abroad. Write a recommendation letter for your student highlighting the abilities that he or she possesses to pursue the course of his or her choice.
- II. Try and write a paragraph or a poem on any of your classmates that you find interesting.

1.11.2 Writing Formal Letters

Letters are most commonly used forms of written communication. We write letters to communicate with the people who are away from us. Letters are written for different purposes. Some of these are:

- ◆ to inform
- ◆ to request
- ◆ to inquire
- ◆ to invite
- ◆ to place orders
- ◆ to complain
- ◆ to direct
- ◆ to apply for job, admission, etc

Letters can be broadly classified in two kinds:

1. Informal letters (Personal letters)
2. Formal letters (Business letters)



Personal letters are written to friends, family members and relatives. They can be written for anything, to say hello, to enquire about someone's health, to offer help, to congratulate, etc. The tone of personal letters is informal.

Business letters must be written more carefully in a formal manner so that they achieve the desired result.

After summarizing the steps involved in the Writing Process, Unit 21 narrows down its focus to the process of writing letters, particularly Business Letters. The format of a business letter is already provided below:

1.11.3 Formal or Business Letters

In a formal or business letter it goes without saying that one has to be careful about spellings, grammar and punctuation as well as write clearly, be precise, keep the paragraphs short and use good quality paper. In addition to all this, there are certain rules to be followed while writing a formal letter and the same are briefly described below. Formal letters follow the block format in which all of the writing is kept to the left-hand side of the page close to the left margin. There are other formats available, but this is the one most usually followed.

1. **Your Address:** This is the return address of the person writing the letter so that if the person receiving it wants to reply he/she can easily find out where to send that reply. In case you are writing on a company letterhead then this is not needed.

After writing your address you leave a line blank.

2. **Date:** Write the date on which the letter was written. The most popular format is that of Month, Day, Year e.g.: January 15, 2007.

Now once again leave a line blank.

3. **Inside Address:** This is the address of the person you are writing to along with the name of the person receiving it along with their title and company name. e.g.:

Director _____

or

Manager _____

Leave a blank line between the inside address and the salutation.

4. **Salutation:** Address the person as Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms.; Dear Director _____ or To Whom It May Concern if the recipient is unknown.

Note that there is a comma after the salutation. e.g.



Dear Mr. Raghav;

Leave a blank line between the salutation and the subject line (if there is one) or the main text or body of the letter.

- 5. Subject Line (Optional):** The subject line is optional but if included it should clearly specify the subject of the letter in one or two lines only.

After the subject line you once again leave a blank line between the subject line and the main text.

- 6. Main text:** This is the main body of the letter which carries the subject matter. Write it neatly and skip a line between each paragraph. Be careful about spellings, grammar, punctuation etc. keep it short but clear.

Once you are through with the matter you leave a blank line again before you write the formal closing.

- 7. The formal closing:** This usually ends with Yours Sincerely/Sincerely yours/Thank you and so on. If you have begun your letter with Dear Sir/Madam then you will end it with Yours faithfully/Yours truly/Truly yours. Put a comma after the end of the closing. Remember that only the first letter of the closing is written with a capital letter.

- 8. The Signature Line:** Now skip two or three lines and then write clearly the name to be signed. Women may indicate how they wish to be addressed by placing Miss/Mrs./Ms. or similar title within parenthesis before their name. e.g. (Mrs.) Mehta. The signature line may include a second line for a title if appropriate.

e.g.: (Mrs.) D. Kapoor

Director Marketing.

- 9. Signature:** The signature has to be placed in the space between the formal closing and the signature line. The signature should start directly above the first letter of the signature line.

- 10. Enclosures:** If the letter contains any other documents then write Encl. or Enclosures and then put the number of the documents included apart from the letter.

Sample: The sample format provided here is the one that is usually followed in business letters and is known as the block format. The advantage with this style is that there is no indenting to be followed in the whole letter because everything is pushed to the left hand margin. There are many other styles followed but this is by far the most popular and the easiest to remember.



BLOCK FORMAT

Return Address (Line 1)
Return Address (Line 2)
Date : (Month/Day/Year).
Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. (Full name of the recipient)
Title/Position of the Recipient.
Company Name
Address (Line 1).
Address (Line 2).
Dear Ms./Mr./Mrs. (Last Name);
Subject:
Main Text (Paragraph 1)

Main Text (Paragraph 2)

Closing (Yours sincerely),
Signature
Your Name
Your Title
Encl:



Having gone through the rules and the formats provided above you would now have a better idea about writing formal or informal letters. These days however the written form of communication can be sent across not just as a simple letter on paper but as telefax or even as an e-mail. Unit 10 begins by giving you a few examples of different types of letters that can be written and then follow a set of exercises to help you understand the art of writing good letters. Read the sample letters that have been provided and then go through the exercises, most of which have been solved for you in this study material.

Here is an application for a job. The numbers refer to those given in the format.

25 Park Street

Nehru Nagar (1)

New Delhi 110081

18 January 2006 (2)

The Personnel Manager

Infosys Pvt Ltd (4)

Bangalore-5

Dear Sir (5)

Subject: Application for the job of Assistant Manager (6)

I saw your advertisement in *The Hindustan Times* dated 10th January 2006 for the post of Assistant Manager. I would like to be considered for this post.

I am 22 years old and a first class graduate in Computer Science from Delhi University. I have also done a diploma in web-designing.

I have worked for six months in a company and I have handled various responsibilities independently. (7)

I look forward to working in your company.

I assure you that given an opportunity, I shall serve the company to the best of my ability.

Thank you.

Yours truly (8)

S/d. (9)

Neha Verma

Exercise 1: You see an advertisement for the position of Sales Executive for TEXAL company in the Times of India dated 20th October 2020. Send an application for the post.



Solution: In this exercise you are required to write out a letter of application as well as a bio-data that needs to be enclosed with the application. Make a note of the details that have been provided in the question for the same shall be used for writing out the letter.

Details provided are as follows:

1. It has to be a letter of application.
2. The application is for the post of a Sales Executive.
3. The company's name is Texal Company.
4. Your letter is in response to an advertisement that appeared in The Times of India dated 20th January 2006.

Your Letter of Application

23, West Street
Dev Nagar
New Delhi-110042

21-October- 2020

The Personnel Manager
Texal Company
Delhi-110082

Dear Sir,

Subject: Application for the post of a Sales Executive

This is with reference to your advertisement in *The Times of India* dated 20th January 2022, for the post of a Sales Executive. I would like to be considered for this post. I am enclosing my CV for ready reference.

I assure you that given an opportunity, I shall serve the Company to the best of my ability.

Thank you,

Yours Truly

S/d ABC

Note 1: When we begin a letter with 'Dear Sir/Dear Madam', we close it with 'yours faithfully/yours truly'. When we write "Mr./Ms. + Surname/first name, we write yours sincerely.



Note 2: Some other expressions for the opening of job applications are:

- ◆ Kindly refer to your advertisement...
- ◆ This is with reference to...
- ◆ I understand that there is a vacancy... (when the source of information is not known)

Note 3: Some other expressions for closing the main body of the letter are:

- ◆ I would appreciate it very much...
- ◆ I would be grateful if...
- ◆ I would request you to consider...



In Public Places
Bhimayana
Book II Shelter
Srividya Natarajan and S. Anand

Nalini Prabhakar

Structure

- 1.1 *Introduction*
- 1.2 *Learning Objectives*
- 1.3 *Book II-Shelter: Detailed Summary and Analysis*
- 1.4 *Activity*
- 1.5 *Grammar: Tenses and Concord*
- 1.6 *Some Solved Exercises*

1.1 Introduction

Bhimayana is a graphic novel which presents certain incidents narrated by B.R. Ambedkar in his autobiographical “Notes” written in the year 1935. These notes highlight the practice of untouchability in the Indian society. *Bhimayana* begins with a frame narrative wherein a male character (unnamed) voices a common complaint of the upper castes against reservations for Dalits “these damn job quotas for backward and scheduled castes!” This is immediately challenged by another unnamed character (female) and the dialogue that follows gives us a history of caste discrimination and also the atrocities perpetrated against Dalits in India. Newspaper clippings of violence against Dalits in the recent past from across the nation are used to reinforce the point that “untouchability is alive and kicking” in India. This message is especially meant for the educated urban Indians who would like to believe, like the unnamed character that “Caste isn’t real any longer, it’s a non-issue”. The frame narrative ends here, and we move on to a graphic presentation of certain incidents narrated by B.R. Ambedkar in his autobiographical “Notes”, Books I, II and III. The frame narrative re-emerges at the end of each book.



Bhimayana is a fluid combination of three genres – novel, autobiography and graphic novel. The frame narrative at the beginning is fictional in nature and by re-emerging at the end of each book, binds the three separate autobiographical incidents into a continuous whole.

The graphic illustrations are a brilliant example of Gond art. Gond art is a form of painting which uses dots and lines, and is practised by the Gonds, one of the largest Adivasi tribes in India. They have a large presence in Madhya Pradesh and also inhabit small pockets in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

Book II “Shelter” of *Bhimayana* is prescribed for your study.

1.2 Learning Objectives

This lesson will enable you to know about:

- ◆ Ambedkar’s train journey from Bombay to Baroda and his short stay in Baroda in the year 1917.
- ◆ The reason why Ambedkar could not continue his stay in Baroda.
- ◆ The humiliation experienced by the Dalits for beings treated as less than human.
- ◆ The deep-seated nature of caste discrimination which cuts across all religions in India.

1.3 Book II-Shelter: Detailed Summary and Analysis

1.3.1 The Train Journey

Ambedkar returns from Columbia University in the year 1917 after completion of his education, sponsored by the Maharaja of Baroda. He boards a train from Bombay to Baroda with the intention of working for the Maharaja, who had made his education possible. Very early on in the journey, Ambedkar is made aware of the fact that he is a Dalit and an untouchable, a fact which he had forgotten as a student in America. His co-passenger, a Brahmin, strikes up a conversation with him on the assumption that Ambedkar belongs to the upper caste. This assumption rests solely on the premise that being well educated and well dressed, Ambedkar cannot be a Dalit.

At one point when his co-passenger says, “I wish my son could learn from you – he is a disgrace to our brahmin caste”, Ambedkar starts to correct this assumption, “I am not brah”, but stops himself and does not complete the sentence. He tells himself that an “untouchable is a problem to himself and to others” and that he should be more careful and not reveal his Dalit identity. The “problem” that Ambedkar is referring to is the deep-seated belief that the “touch” of a Dalit, either physical or of other things like



food, water etc. pollutes the purity of the upper castes and must be avoided at all times. If a Dalit rebels against this belief, he might end up being thrashed or worse lynched.

We must remind ourselves here that Ambedkar is narrating incidents that occurred in the year 1917, and over the years, especially after Independence much has changed. Untouchability has however, not been completely eradicated till date despite stringent laws against this practice. Atrocities against the Dalits continue....

1.3.1.1 Check Your Progress

- a. Why did Ambedkar undertake the journey from Bombay to Baroda?
- b. Why does Ambedkar's co-passenger assume that Ambedkar is a brahmin?
- c. "An Untouchable is a problem to himself and to others". What "problem" is Ambedkar referring to?

1.3.2 Baroda

Ambedkar travels to Baroda to take up the post of a probationer in the Accountant General's office. Upon reaching, his first task is to find a place to stay. His options are very limited. He cannot stay with friends, because he realizes that "a Dalit has no friends among other castes". He cannot stay in a Hindu hotel, because then he will have to pretend that he is upper caste and if his lie is discovered he will be "beaten up, maybe killed". This situation makes Ambedkar feel like an outsider in his own homeland, more so because he had experienced social equality for the first time in Columbia University where his best friends were his classmates and his professors. He decides to stay at an old Parsi inn, although the rooms were dirty and not well maintained. He thinks this is a safe option as Parsis being Zoroastrians do not practice untouchability. He is sadly disillusioned. The caretaker upon learning that Ambedkar was not wearing a sadra (loose shirt with a small pocket in front made of thin cotton) and kasti (braided thread tied around the sadra), and is a Hindu, asks him to leave as the inn is only for Parsis. Ambedkar, however, persuades him to let him stay under a Parsi name. The caretaker makes it very clear that Ambedkar should not expect him to "stop and chat". Once again Ambedkar is painfully made aware that he is an outsider and cannot expect even the basic human interaction between two people which is conversation, only this time because of his religion. To avoid any trouble, he decides to come back late from work.

The situation at office is no better. The others in the office "hurl" files at him, fearing his touch. To describe his existence at this point in time, Ambedkar uses the simile of an "ox in the oil press". Like the ox, he is "walking in circles, going nowhere" To escape the inn he goes to the office, and to escape the office he goes back to the inn. He is trapped in this cycle



and is unhappy, lonely and miserable. All his applications to various officers for permanent accommodation in one of Baroda's state bungalows are in vain. Four days after he takes up residence at the inn, one morning a group of Parsis with sticks march up to his room and threaten him with terrible consequences, if he does not vacate the room the same evening.

Finding himself homeless, he calls on his friends, one a Hindu and the other a Christian. His Hindu friend does not refuse outright but does so indirectly. He tells Ambedkar that his servants will leave him, if Ambedkar stays with him. His Christian friend uses the excuse of his wife to turn him away. He claims that his wife is orthodox and not liberal in these matters. What is ironical here is that both these friends first express shock at the manner in which Ambedkar was turned out of the Parsi inn, but find nothing wrong in doing exactly the same thing. It is also ironical that in the huge city of Vadodara (Baroda) named after the Banyan tree, which gives shelter to all, Ambedkar has nowhere to go and cannot find shelter. Ambedkar decides to wait in the Kamathi Baug public garden before he catches the train back to Bombay.

In all Ambedkar spent eleven days in Baroda and could not serve the Maharaja who had sponsored his education. Ambedkar learnt the hard way that a Dalit is an untouchable not only to a Hindu, but also to a Parsi and a Christian. Ambedkar laments the fact that he had turned down many well-paid jobs to repay the Maharaja's kindness and it had all come to naught.

1.3.2.1 Check Your Progress

- a. Why does Ambedkar stay at the Parsi inn and not at a Hindu hotel?
- b. When and where did Ambedkar first experience social equality?
- c. Why does the caretaker refuse to "stop and chat" with Ambedkar?
- d. In the context of Ambedkar's life at Baroda explain the simile "ox in the oil press".
- e. What are the excuses offered by the Hindu and the Christian friend to refuse accommodation?

1.3.3 Frame Narrative

The unnamed characters from the frame narrative re-emerge at this point. The female character challenges the assertion that "untouchability exists only in villages", and says that despite his education and status Ambedkar could not find a shelter in a city like Baroda. She then talks about three siblings who were thrashed by the landlord as recently as 2008 in Delhi's Mukherji Nagar, for being Dalits. Newspaper clipping of this incident in *The Hindu*, ends this section.



1.4 Activity

1. Facebook is an online social networking site. Facebook post is a comment, picture or any other media that is posted by a Facebook user on his/her wall. When you post a message, it will appear on your wall and will be visible to all your Facebook friends who can then post their comments on it.
 - a. Take any newspaper item on Dalit atrocity and write a Facebook post.
 - b. You are organizing a musical event at your college. Write a Facebook post with the relevant information inviting students to attend the event.
2. Messages sent on Twitter are Tweets. Tweets have a limit of 280 characters. You can post short messages on Twitter for those who follow you.
 - a. Write a Twitter post sharing information about weekend trip that you have organized and inviting students of your college to join.
3. People maintain a diary to keep a record not only of their daily activities but more importantly of their thoughts, feelings, opinions and experiences. Diary entries have a date as also the name of the place at the time of writing. Whatever is written in a diary is private and not meant for public view and hence one can write without fear of any kind of censure or criticism. The entry can be short or long depending on your subject. Please refer to Unit 1A Section 1.7.1 for detailed guidelines on writing a diary entry.
 - a. Have you experienced discrimination based on gender, caste, region, religion, physical looks, or disability? Make a diary entry of the same.

1.5 Grammar: Tenses and Concord

From: *Developing Language Skills - 1*

1.5.1 Subject-Verb Agreement

Last year, I had an opportunity to visit Mauritius by sea. We travelled in a big ship. There were other smaller ships going alongside. The whole fleet(1) was in formation. The captain and pilot(2) of our ship was very efficient. The journey was very comfortable. Bread and butter(3) was given to us at breakfast. Each one of us(4) was served food in plenty. I formed a useful friendship with one of the fellow passengers. We enjoyed the journey very much. Neither he nor I(5) was in a hurry to reach Mauritius. In the evening we sat on the deck with other passengers. We had a lot of conversation on politics, mathematics, love



and marriage. Someone said: 'Politics(6) is a dirty game'. Another said: 'Mathematics(6) is fascinating'. Time passed pleasantly and we reached our destination. The captain, with all his crewmembers,(7) has earned a permanent place in our memory.

Explanation 1: Observe the underlined words in the above passage. These illustrate the agreement of the verb with the subject. For instance, 'fleet' (a group of ships), though plural, takes a singular verb because it is a collective noun. Similarly, we can write: 'The Tenth Lok Sabha has chosen its speaker'. If, however, a collective noun is not thought of as one unit, but as the items which compose it, then it takes a plural verb. Thus, we write: 'The jury were divided in their opinion'.

Exercise 1: In the following sentences, supply the correct form of the verb from within the brackets so as to make it agree with the subject:

A number of candidates _____ late for the interview. (was/were)

The committee _____ agreed on the main point. (was/were)

The public _____ requested not to walk on the grass. (is/are)

The crew of the pirate ship _____ taken prisoner. (was/were)

The crowd _____ dispersed by the police. (was/ were)

A few suggestions _____ been made for the Staff Association to consider. (has/have)

(Answer Key: were, was, is, was, was, have)

Explanation 2: The second underlined phrase 'The captain and pilot' in the passage above takes a singular verb because the two nouns 'The captain' and 'pilot' refer to the same person. Similarly, we can write: 'The poet and dramatist of Bengal is dead'. If, however, the subject in such cases is made up of two nouns, both being used with 'the', it will take a plural verb. Thus: 'The poet and the dramatist are dead'.

Exercise 2: In the following sentences, choose the correct alternative from within the brackets:

The accountant and the cashier of this firm _____ run away. (has/have)

I am happy that my friend and benefactor _____ come. (has/have)

Alas! The great philosopher and statesman of our country _____ no more. (is/are)

The secretary and the treasurer of our society _____ yet to be elected. (is/are)

The storyteller and poet of our state _____ honoured recently. (was/were)

(Answer Key: have, has, is, are, was)



Explanation 3: The third underlined phrase ‘Bread and butter’ takes a singular verb because the two nouns express a single idea. Similarly, we can say: ‘The horse and carriage is at the door’.

Exercise 3: In the following sentences, use a verb in agreement with the subject:

Slow and steady _____ the race.

After his recent illness, bread and milk _____ his only food.

Time and tide _____ for no man.

The rise and fall of the tide _____ due to the effect of the moon.

The long and short of the matter _____ that you must go to Bombay tomorrow.

(Answer Key: wins, is, waits, is, is)

Explanation 4: The fourth underlined phrase ‘Each one of us’ takes a singular verb because the subject is made singular by the use ‘each one of _____’. Similarly, we can say: ‘Each one of the pupils has paid the fee’. The use of ‘every’ or ‘none’ with a plural noun also makes the subject singular. Thus: ‘None of the boys was present in my class yesterday’.

Exercise 4: In the following sentences, use a verb in agreement with the subject:

Everyone of the boys and girls _____ ready for the picnic.

None of the girls _____ more than five feet tall.

Each one of the students _____ given a prize.

When the plane exploded in mid-air, every man, woman, and child _____ lost.

Each one of the suspected persons _____ arrested by the police.

(Answer Key: is, is, was, was, was)

Explanation 5: The fifth underlined phrase ‘Neither he nor I’ takes a singular verb because the subject here is singular with the use of ‘neither nor’. Similarly, with ‘either or’ a singular verb is used. Thus we say: Either Ravi or Naeem is at fault in this matter.

Exercise 5: Make corrections, if any, in the use of the verb in the following sentences and rewrite them:

Either an officer or an assistant are needed soon.

Neither the judge nor the lawyer have arrived at the court yet.



Either Abdul or Hanif has stolen Zoya's watch.

Neither food nor water were to be found in the deserted village.

Neither the president nor the secretary were present at the meeting.

(Answer Key: is, has, has, was, was)

Explanation 6: The sixth underlined words 'Politics/Mathematics', take a singular verb ruse these two nouns, although apparently plural in form, are singular in meaning. Similarly, we can say: 'Economics is a popular subject'.

Exercise 6: Write five similar sentences of your own:

Explanation 7: The seventh underlined phrase 'The captain, with all his crew members' takes a singular verb because the real subject in this underlined phrase is 'The captain' (which is singular) and 'with all his crew members' is only additional information about the subject. Similarly, when a singular subject is joined by 'together with' or 'as well as', a singular verb is used.

Examples: (a) The governor, together with his security guards, has arrived for the function.

(b) Shalini, as well as her friends, is interested in going for a picnic.

Exercise 7: Write correct/incorrect against each of the following sentences. Rewrite the incorrect sentences after making necessary corrections:

(a) The tribal chief, with all his followers, were present at the function.

(b) Smoking, as well as drinking, is bad for health.

(c) The plane, with all the passengers, was lost in a storm.



- (d) Kindness, as well as justice, are the hallmark of a judge.
-
- (e) The cow, as well as the horse, eats grass.
-
- (f) The Prime Minister, with all his ministers, were present in the Parliament House.
-
- (g) Sunil Gavaskar, as well as Kapil Dev, deserves praise for playing great cricket.
-
- (h) The box, with all its valuable contents, was lost.
-
- (i) My wife, as well as my children, like hot curry.
-
- (j) Wholesome food, with fruits, are necessary for good health.
-

(Answer Key: was, is, was, is, eats, was, deserves, was, likes, is)

1.5.2 Simple Present and Present Continuous

- (a) This is Mr. Ashok Srivastav. He works in a college. Mr. Srivastav teaches English. He is very kind and helpful. He works hard and prepares his lesson well before going to the college. He pays special attention to weak students and holds extra classes for them. The students admire and love him.
- (b) In this picture, you are looking at Mr. Srivastav. He is sitting in his study. He is typing a letter to one of his old students.

Points for discussion

Look at the underlined verbs in the above paragraphs. The verbs in paragraph (a) are in the simple present form. Those in paragraph (b) are in the present continuous tense.

Can you say when we should use the simple present and when the present continuous form of the verb? Discuss with others in the group.

Can you think of other situations when these two verb forms are used? Make a list and compare it with that of others in the group.



Explanation: The simple present tense usually shows that an action is habitual or happens regularly, e.g. ‘The puppy *plays* with the ball every morning’. The present continuous form usually shows that the action is going on at the actual moment of speaking or writing, e.g. ‘The boy is running to school’.

Note: There are certain verbs of perception/cognition which are not normally used in the continuous form. Some of these are: abhor, agree, contain, deserve, love, like, know

Some other uses of the two tenses

<i>Simple present</i>	<i>Present continuous</i>
It is used in clauses of time and condition, e.g. ‘I will leave the office when he comes back.’ ‘If it rains I’ll not go to college.’	This form of the verb is also used: (a) to denote repeated action that occurs over a specified period of time, e.g.. ‘I am learning French this semester.’
It must be used with those verbs (verbs of perception, etc.) which cannot be used in the continuous form, e.g. ‘I see an aeroplane coming towards us.’	In such sentences the adverbial of time specifying the period of occurrence is often used; (b) for a planned action in the near future, e.g. ‘I am going to meet him tomorrow afternoon.’
It can be used for dramatic narrative, description of people and places, etc., planned future action(s), and TV/radio commentary.	(c) for a repeated action, often one which seems unreasonable to the speaker, e.g. ‘Ravi is always eating out at weekends.’

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the simple present or present continuous form of the verb given in brackets:

- (a) He usually _____ his letters in English, but today he is _____ in Hindi. (write)
- (b) Shiela often _____ her homework as soon as she is back from school. (do)
- (c) The train _____ at 9.00 p.m. but it is late today and _____ at 9.30 p.m. (leave)
- (d) Bikash _____ in the mornings but this month he _____ in the afternoons. (lecture)
- (e) He _____ only one novel this year though he usually _____ three novels in a year. (write)

(Answer Key: (a) writes, writing, (b) does, (c) leaves, is leaving, (d) lectures, is giving lectures, (e) is writing, writes)



Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous form of the verb given in brackets:

We _____ (see) two persons in this picture. They _____ (be) Mr. Reddy and Mr. Kaul. Mr. Reddy, _____ (sit) in the chair and Mr. Kaul _____ (stand) in front of him. Probably, Mr. Reddy _____ (consult) Mr. Kaul on the arrangements for the school fete next week.

As in the past, the school _____ (hold) its annual fete this year, too, and Mr. Kaul _____ (look after) the arrangements. Students usually _____ (put up) about fifty stalls and _____ (raise) a tidy sum. This time they _____ (put up) about a hundred stalls. At the moment, the student union _____ (hold) its meeting for a decision on this point.

(Answer Key: are seeing, are, is sitting, is standing, is consulting, is holding, is looking after, put up, raise, are putting up, is holding)

Exercise 3: Supply in the following pairs of sentences either the simple present or the present continuous form of the verb given in brackets:

(a) The moon _____ in the sky now. (shine)

The moon _____ in the sky at night. (shine)

(b) I _____ my scooter on Sundays. (wash)

I _____ my scooter with detergent and water. (wash)

(c) She _____ the windows when they are dirty. (dust)

She _____ the windows because they are dirty. (dust)

(d) They _____ students from the college for this offence. (expel)

They _____ five students from the college for this offence. (expel)

(e) My sister _____ how to swim. (learn)

My sister _____ how to swim. (know)

(Answer Key: a) is shining, shines b) wash, am washing c) dusts, is dusting d) expel, are expelling e) is learning, knows)

1.5.3 Simple Past, Present Perfect and Past Perfect

Look at the underlined verbs in the following paragraph:

Mr. Ashish Gupta has finished writing a story. He wrote three stories last year. He started writing stories when he was still in school. By the time he was 21, he had written twenty stories. He has written thirty stories by now.



Simple Past – Wrote

Present Perfect – Has written

Past Perfect – Had written

Points for discussion

Both the *simple past* and the *present perfect* are used for an activity which happened in the past. What then is the difference between the two tenses?

Explanation 1: *Simple past tense* indicates that the action occurred in the past. It can be a single or a repeated action, e.g.

I bathed at six this morning.

I always bathed at six when I was a boy.

It focuses our attention on the action and may also indicate when it happened. It is obligatory to use this form of the tense if an adverbial of fixed past time is used, e.g.

I bought this book yesterday. It may also be used with the adverbials of immediate past time, e.g.

I bought this book just now.

Explanation 2: The *present perfect tense* expresses the completion of an action NOW. It focuses our attention on the present relevance of a past activity and not on the activity or the time of the activity, e.g.

I have read the book (i.e. I now know what is there in it, etc.).

The present relevance of this past activity will depend on the shared knowledge of the two interlocutors.

The present perfect is not normally used with the adverbs of definite past time. We can say

I have seen him.

But it would be wrong to say

I have seen him yesterday.

But it can be used with adverbs of present time, i.e. time which is not yet over at the moment of speaking or writing, e.g.

I have seen him twice today (the day is not yet over).

It can also be used with the adverbs of indefinite past time, e.g.



I have never seen your principal.

In fact, it is often found with 'already', 'never', 'recently', etc.

Explanation 3: The past perfect tense is a sort of 'double past', or 'past before past'. It shows that two events happened in the past and stresses the sequence of their happening, e.g.

The train had left when we reached the station.

(i.e. first the train left and then we reached the station)

Notice that when two actions are completed in the past, the action which happens first is expressed in the past perfect and the other is written in the simple past.

- ◆ The past perfect is also used to express an action completed by a certain time in the past, e.g.

He had completed the job by six o'clock.

The past perfect is also used

- ◆ in a conditional clause, e.g.

If I had worked hard, I would have passed.

- ◆ to express an unfulfilled wish, e.g.

I wish I had worked harder!

- ◆ to make a grammatical change while rewriting reported speech which is in the simple past or present perfect in indirect narration, e.g.

The woman told us that she had worked hard all her life.

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the correct tense forms (simple past or present perfect) of the verbs given in brackets:

(a) Mr. Anand now owns a house in Delhi. He _____ it in 1989. (build)

(b) This party _____ the election a second time. It first _____ the election three years ago. (win)

(c) Sheila _____ (buy) the novel a year ago but she _____ it yet. (not read)

(d) Mr. Singh _____ (not see) our principal although the principal _____ the college last month. (join)

(e) Mr. Gupta _____ his first novel when he was only 21. (publish)

(Answer Key: a) built b) has won, won c) bought, has not read d) has not seen, joined e) published)



Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks with appropriate tense forms (simple past or past perfect) of the verbs given in brackets:

- (a) Mr. Hussain _____ (post) the letter before Arif _____ (arrive) here.
- (b) The woman immediately _____ (recognize) the thief because she _____ (see) him before.
- (c) The woman said, 'I wish I _____ (hit) the thief on the head when he _____ (come) through the window.'
- (d) If the police _____ (arrive) in time, they would have caught the thieves.
- (e) My sister told me that she _____ (visit) the library in the morning.

(Answer Key: (a) posted, had arrived, (b) recognized, had seen, (c) had hit, came, (d) had arrived, (e) had visited)

1.5.4 The Present Perfect Continuous

The *present perfect continuous* tense usually shows that the action began at a certain time in the past and that it is still going on at the present moment; or that it has been taking place for a certain length of time and is still doing so at the moment of speaking or writing, e.g.

I have been reading *Julius Caesar* for a week.

Note: that we use 'for' or 'since' with this tense.

Points for Discussion

Discuss with your group the distinction between the *continuous* and the *perfect continuous* tenses. How would you explain the distinction between:

I have been reading *Julius Caesar* for a week.

and

I am reading *Julius Caesar*.

Do you know that we use 'for' and 'since' in the present perfect and the perfect continuous tenses? Do you also know when we use 'for' and when we use 'since'? Discuss with the others in the group and check with the teacher.

Exercise 1: Select the correct form of the verb given in brackets in each of the following sentence:

- (a) I (am/have been) waiting for him since morning.
- (b) The commission (is/has been) submitting its report for action.



- (c) We (are/have been) training teachers for four years.
(d) Malini (has been/is) acting in films since the age of twelve.
(e) Tomorrow morning Roshni (has been/is) painting a special card for the exhibition.

(Answer Key: have been, is, have been, has been, is)

Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb 'write' using only:

- (a) write Simple present tense
(b) am writing Present continuous tense
(c) have written Present perfect tense
(d) have been writing Present perfect continuous tense

I _____ regularly for a women's magazine. I _____ every morning for about four hours. I _____ ten short stories so far. I _____ a novel now. Unfortunately, I _____ very slowly.

Although I _____ since the age of ten, I _____ not more than a few short stories till now because of this shortcoming.

(Answer Key: write, write, have written, am writing, write, have been writing, have not)

Exercise 3: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb 'play' using only:

- (a) played Simple past tense
(b) was playing Past continuous tense
(c) had played Past perfect tense
(d) had been playing Past perfect continuous tense

I _____ tennis yesterday afternoon with my neighbour. We _____ one set only when I became very tired. He _____ a very fast game because, as he told me, he _____ regularly every afternoon for the last six months. I _____ after a gap of six months so naturally I could not keep up with him.

(Answer Key: played, had played, played, had been playing, was playing)

Exercise 4: Select the correct form of the verb given in brackets in each of the following sentence:

- (a) He (went/has gone) to Bombay yesterday.
(b) I (am/have been) waiting for two hours.



- (c) They will serve you lunch if you (attend/will attend).
- (d) They had left when he (arrived/had arrived).
- (e) The bus (left/has left) an hour ago.
- (f) Had I known you were coming I (would have waited/ would wait) for you.
- (g) I (did not write/have not written) the essay yet.
- (h) She (lived/has lived) in Jaipur since 1947.
- (i) I (am not hearing/have not heard) from her for a year.
- (j) A new TV serial (has been started/was started) last Month.

(Answer Key: went, have been, attend, arrived, left, would have waited, have not written, has lived, have not heard, was started)

1.6 Some Solved Exercises

1.6.1 Simple Present and Present Continuous tense

Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate words given in the brackets:

1. He is doing (does, is doing) his home work; don't disturb him.
2. They always pay (pay, are paying) their employees by cheque.
3. I can't attend the party because it is raining. (rains, is raining)
4. He is taking (takes, is taking) tuition in English, as he wants to improve his knowledge of the language.
5. His mother is knitting (knits, is knitting) a pullover for him; it will be completed soon.
6. We're sorry you can't see Arun. He is sleeping. (sleep, is sleeping)
7. He never carries (carries, is carrying) a raincoat, but he is carrying (carries, is carrying) one now because it is likely to rain heavily.
8. They usually spend (spend, are spending) their summer vacation in Shimla, but this year they are spending (spend, are spending) their vacation in Nainital.
9. Mr. Rao usually buys (buy, is buying) only The Times of India but today he is buying (buys, is buying) The Statesman.
10. 'What are you doing, Reema?'
'I am reading (read, am reading) a story book.'



11. My friend is giving (gives, is giving) a party next week.
12. I believe he is leaving (leaves, is leaving) for Bombay sometime next month.
13. Listen! someone is knocking (knocks, is knocking) at the door.
14. The maid usually cooks (cooks, is cooking) the food. Today I am cooking (cooks, am cooking) the food myself.

1.6.2 Simple Past Tense

1. Complete the following passage about the famous Italian painter Leonardo da Vinci, filling in the appropriate forms of the verbs given in the brackets:

When Leonardo da Vinci was about 25 years old, he won (win) the patronage of Lorenzo the Magnificent, the richest and most powerful man in Florence. During the following five years he painted (paint) pictures of many subjects, especially religious subjects.

Sometime during the 1480s, Leonardo moved (move) to Milan to do painting and sculpture for Duke Ludovico, ruler of Milan. Leonardo stayed (stay) in Milan almost twenty years. There he painted (paint) the picture that is considered his greatest work.

2. Complete the following passage about Hitler by filling in the appropriate form of the verbs given in the brackets:

In jail, Hitler wrote (write) his book *Mein Kampf*. He glorified (glorify) the use of force by a great leader. He ridiculed (ridicule) peace and democracy. He preached (preach) extreme hatred against the German Jews who were blamed for all the ills of Germany. He admired (admire) war. His ideas found (find) favour with the army, the industrialists, the big land-owners and anti-republican politicians. They began (begin) to look upon Hitler as the saviour of Germany.

3. Complete the following passage about Raja Rammohan Roy, the central figure in India's freedom struggle, by filling in the appropriate forms of the verbs given in the brackets:

Raja Rammohan Roy founded (found) the Brahma Samaj in 1828. He spread (spread) the concept of 'one God of all religions and humanity.' He advised (advise) people to read the scriptures themselves and not depend on the Brahmans.

Raja Rammohan Roy attacked (attack) the caste system as inhuman. He stood (stand) for equal rights for women and advocated (advocate) the right of widows to marry. He supported (support) Macaulay on the introduction of English education



in India. He believed (believe) in the spread of modern knowledge and the modernization of Indian society.

4. Complete the following passage about Rudyard Kipling, the most popular English writer of his time, by filling in the appropriate form of the verbs given in brackets:

Kipling's father was an artist and in charge of a museum in Bombay. Kipling was born in Bombay in 1865. He went (go) to school in England, then lived (live) in India for about ten years. He wrote (write) many stories about life in India. Kipling married (marry) an American girl, and for a few years he lived (live) in Brattleboro Vermont. While there he wrote (write) some of his best stories. Millions of children have enjoyed *The Jungle Book*. Kipling received (receive) the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907. He died (die) in 1935.

1.6.3 Simple Past and Past Continuous

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words given in the brackets:

1. As soon as I saw my old friend, I recognised (was recognising, recognised) him.
2. Anil broke his tooth while he was eating (ate, was eating) betel nuts.
3. The child was trembling (trembled, was trembling) when the grandmother told him a 'ghost story.'
4. The thief ran (ran, was running) when he saw a policeman.
5. All the time he was writing (wrote, was writing) his letter, his younger brother kept shouting.
6. He entered the bus while it was moving (moved, was moving).
7. He was listening (listened, was listening) to the radio when I telephoned him.
8. The doctor was seeing (saw, was seeing) another patient, while I waited (waited, was waiting) outside in the waiting room.
9. When the Principal entered the class, all the students got up (got up, were getting up).
10. When I entered the room the child was sleeping (slept, was sleeping).

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets:

When Savita arrived (arrive) at the station, her husband was waiting (wait) for her. She was wearing (wear) a blue sari and was looking (look) very pretty. As soon as she saw (see) him she waved (wave) her hand and shouted (shout) something, but he couldn't hear what she said (say) because everybody was making (make) such a noise.



1.6.4 Simple Past and Past Perfect Tense

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words given in the brackets:

1. After the doctor had given (gave, had given) an injection, the pain became much less.
2. The train had left (left, had left) much before he arrived (arrived, had arrived) at the station.
3. They had waited (waited, had waited) for thirty minutes before the bus arrived.
4. The child went (went, had gone) to bed after he had taken (took, had taken) the food.
5. She had finished (finished, had finished) her graduation before she got (got, had got) married.
6. His finger began (began, had begun) to bleed as soon as he cut (cut, had cut) it.
7. The patient had died (died, had died) before the doctor arrived (arrived, had arrived).
8. He had checked (checked, had checked) the number in the telephone directory before he dialed (dialed, had dialed) it.
9. She started (started, had started) working as an air hostess immediately after she had left (left, had left) college.
10. She had difficulty sleeping because she had seen (saw, had seen) a horror film on television.

Rewrite the following changing the underlined verbs into the past tense. (*The answers have been provided within brackets*)

It is (was) the late afternoon June. Armando and Jorge are (were) hiding in the tall grass next to the runaway in Havana airport.

Suddenly they hear (heard) the roar of a plane. It comes (came) straight down the run way, turns (turned) round and stops (stopped) only for a minute. This is (was) their chance.

“Let’s run”, shouts (shouted) Jorge to Armando. They both dash (dashed) to the plane and start (started) climbing up the wheels of the plane.

“Hurry, we can’t have much time”, shouts (shouted) Armando. He quickly gets (got) into the compartment above the right wheel. Jorge gets (got) into the compartment above the left wheel.

The Plane starts (started) roaring again. The noise is (was) so great that Armando nearly slips (slipped). He gets (got) hold of a part of the machine in the compartment as the plane rises (rose) in the sky.



Now the right wheel is folding into the compartment. It **begins** (began) squeezing Armando against the roof of the compartment. He **can** (could) hardly breathe. The door beneath the compartment **closes** (closed) and Armando **is** (was) plunged in darkness.

1.6.5 Simple Past and Present Perfect Tense

We use the past tense for an action completed in the past. The time is indicated by words and phrases such as *yesterday*, *last week*, *an hour ago*, and by giving exact date, time or month.

In the present perfect tense we do not use these words or phrases e.g.

(a) “Have you seen Radha?”

“Yes, I have seen her. I saw her yesterday.”

(b) “Where did you go for the summer holidays?”

“I went to Shimla. I have just come back.”

Note:

We form present perfect with has/have + the past participle.

For a negative sentence, we use ‘not’ between have/has and the past participle e.g.

I have not seen Radha.

She has not eaten her food.

Fill in the blanks with the verbs in the past or present perfect tense:

1. Have you seen the Qutub Minar?

Yes, I have seen it. I saw it when I was in Class V.

2. Have you read this book?

No, I have not read it.

3. What has your mother given you for lunch?

She has given me rice and dal.

4. What did your brother get on his birthday?

He has got a bicycle.

5. Where has she kept the new chair?

She has kept it in her bedroom.

6. Has he passed his Higher Secondary examination?

Yes, he has. He passed it two years ago.



7. Have you celebrated your birthday?

Yes, I have celebrated my birthday. I celebrated it on the 10th of December.

8. Have you ever played cricket in your life?

Yes, I have played cricket when I was 12 years old.

10. Have you made plans for the summer?

No, I have not made any plans.

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