

HONEYDEW: LESSON – 1
THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN THE WORLD

Vocabulary building

Scorch marks (noun) – burn marks

Restore (verb) – repair

Trenches (noun) – long deep ditches

Burned out (verb) – destroyed by fire

Marzipan (noun) – sweet covering on a cake

Q.1 What did the author find in a junk shop?

Ans. The author found a very old 19th century roll-top desk in a junk shop. It was made of oak. It was in a very bad condition. The roll-top was broken into several pieces. One of the legs was clumsily mended and there were scorch marks down one side.

Q.2 What did he find in a secret drawer? Who do you think had put it in there?

Ans. In a secret drawer of a roll-top desk, the author found a small tin box. There was a piece of lined note paper cello-taped to its top. It said, “Jim’s last letter, received January 25, 1915. To be buried with me when the time comes”, written on it.

Most likely, it was put there by Mrs. Connie Macpherson, who was Jim’s wife. Her name and address were on the envelope inside the box.

Q.3 Why was the letter written? What was the wonderful thing that had happened?

Ans. Jim wrote the letter to tell his wife about a wonderful thing that had happened on Christmas day. The British and the Germans were engaged in a war. Both the troops met in no man's land. It was a thing of wonder because right in the middle of a war, the warring soldiers were making peace. They celebrated Christmas together and played a friendly football match.

Q.4 Why did the author go to Bridport?

Ans. The author went to Bridport because that was the address where Mrs. Macpherson lived. The address on the letter read ‘Mrs Jim Macpherson, 12 Copper Beeches, Bridport, and Dorset’. He wanted to give that letter back to her. He was feeling guilty for opening her letter.

Q.5 What is Connie’s Christmas present? Why is it ‘the best Christmas present’ in the world?

Ans. When the narrator came to return Connie's letter and her box, she mistook him for her husband Jim, due to memory loss and old age. She thought that Jim had come back home for Christmas. That delusion was Connie's Christmas present.

It was the best Christmas present in the world for her because Jim had written in the letter that he would come home on Christmas. She had read that letter several times every day to feel that he was near her. Now that he was finally there with her, she was extremely happy.

Q.6 Do you think the title of this story is suitable for it?

Ans. It was Christmas when the narrator went to see Mrs. Macpherson. He went to return her husband's letter to her. The letter was precious to her, but even more precious was her illusion that the narrator was her husband Jim, whom she believed had returned as promised on a Christmas day. This was the best Christmas present in the world for her.

NOTICE WRITING

A notice is a piece of information regarding an important event that is about to happen. It is a short piece of communication written in formal style. It is publicly displayed.

How to Write a Notice

Features :

- The notice must contain complete information related to the subject including date, time and place
- It is written in a box.
- The name of the issuing authority is written on the top.
- The word NOTICE should be mentioned and should be underlined.
- A precise, eye catching title, preferably a phrase and not a sentence should be given to indicate what the Notice is about.
- The Notice must be simple and concise and the tone must be impartial and formal.
- On the bottom left corner of the Notice, the name and designation of the person writing the notice must be mentioned.

A well written Notice must inform the readers about the 5Ws:

- What is going to happen? (the event)
- Where it will take place.
- When it will take place. (the date and time)
- Who can apply or is eligible for it?
- Whom to contact or apply to (the issuing authority)

Format:

<p>NAME OF THE ISSUING AUTHORITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOTICE</u></p> <p>DATE(Alpha numeric)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>HEADING</u></p> <p>This is to inform the students of classes VI to X that a</p> <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ for whom is the notice▪ What is the notice about▪ When, where will it be held▪ How will it be conducted▪ Last date to submit the name & to whom <p>.....for more information contact the undersigned.</p> <p>Name of the writer</p> <p>Designation</p>
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Sample Question:1

You are a student of Delhi Public School, Gandhinagar. You are asked to draft a notice in about 50 words for a slogan writing competition to be held in the auditorium of the school. Add other necessary details.

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL , GANDHINAGAR
NOTICE

27 April 2020

SLOGAN WRITING COMPETITION

This is to inform all the students of classes VI to X that a slogan writing competition will be held on 30th April 2020 in the school's auditorium in the activity periods (6th & 7th). The topic for the competition is 'Save Water'. Interested participants can give their names to their respective English teachers latest by 29th April 2020. For more information contact the undersigned.

Akash Shah
Student Class VIII A

SAMPLE QUESTION:2

On the occasion of National Science and Technology Day, Delhi Public School, New Delhi has decided to organize a Science Fair. Vikram, the secretary of the Science Society, wants to call a meeting of all the office bearers of the society to discuss the arrangements for the fair. Write a notice in not more than 50 words.

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, NEW DELHI

NOTICE

27th April 2020

MEETING OF SCIENCE SOCIETY

This is to inform all the students that on the occasion of the National Science and Technology Day, the school has decided to organize a fair. All office bearers are requested to attend a meeting in the School Library on 30 April 2020 at 10 am to discuss the arrangements for the fair. For more information contact the undersigned.

Vikram Singh

Secretary, Science Society

Practice Question: 1

You are Ashwani Sachdeva. The President of the Literary Club of Shiva Shiksha Sadan, Dhanbad. The Literary Club is organizing an Inter-School Debate Competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of your school. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing the students of your school about the competition. Put the notice in a box.

Practice Question: 2

Your school is organizing a carnival. **Write a notice inviting students to donate their old pieces of clothing, books, and other articles to be sold in the carnival.** Sign yourself as a member of the social club of your school.

Class-VIII
English Study Material
TENSES

TENSE		SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PRESENT	FORM	S+V in the Present form	S+am/is/are+ V 'ing' form	S+has/have+ past participle form of the verb	S+has/have+ been+ 'ing' form
	AFFIRMATIVE	He writes a letter.	He is writing a letter.	He has written a letter.	He has been writing a letter.
	NEGATIVE	He does not write a letter.	He is not writing a letter.	He has not written a letter.	He has not been writing a letter.
	INTERROGATIVE	Does he write a letter?	Is he writing a letter?	Has he written a letter?	Has he been writing a letter?
PAST	FORM	S+V in the Past	S+was/were+ 'ing' form	S+had+past participle	S+had+been+ 'ing' form.
	AFFIRMATIVE	He wrote a letter.	He was writing a letter.	He had written a letter.	He had been writing a letter.
	NEGATIVE	He did not write a letter.	He was not writing a letter.	He had not written a letter.	He had not been writing a letter.
	INTERROGATIVE	Did he write a letter?	Was he writing a letter?	Had he written a letter?	Had he been writing a letter?
FUTURE	FORM	S+will/shall+ root verb	S+will/shall+be+ 'ing' form	S+will/shall+ have+past participle	S+will/shall+ have+been+ 'ing' form
	AFFIRMATIVE	He will write a letter.	He will be writing a letter.	He will have written a letter.	He will have been writing a letter.
	NEGATIVE	He will not write a letter.	He will not be writing a letter.	He will have not written a letter.	He will have not been writing a letter.
	INTERROGATIVE	Will he write a letter?	Will he be writing a letter?	Will he have written a letter?	Will he have been writing a letter?

PRACTICE EXERCISE – 1

Change the following sentences into the negative and the interrogative.

1. I have a house in Shimla.
2. The train leaves in two hours.
3. Jatin plays cricket every evening.
4. The Brahmaputra is the longest river in the country.
5. Manu and Bunty are good friends.
6. Utpal is the tallest boy in the team.
7. Revising your lessons helps you perform better in exams.
8. What the creature looks like is a mystery.
9. Suman gets tired very easily.
10. Cutting of trees in the forest is illegal.

EXERCISE – 2

Do as directed.

1. Sheetal baked a cake. **(Change to Past Perfect Continuous)**
2. We live in Kolkata. **(Change to Present Perfect)**
3. I have been teaching for ten years. **(Change to Past Perfect)**
4. I dance. **(Change to Simple Future)**
5. Manu will have selpt. **(Change to Future Perfect Continuous)**
6. Arifa was a lawyer. **(Change to Simple Present)**
7. Twinkle made a Buddha statue with clay. **(Change to Present Continuous.)**
8. Rainwater seeps in through a crack in the tiles. **(Change to Past Continuous)**
9. Did Maurice serve in the army before becoming a businessman?
(Change to Past Perfect)
10. I visited seventeen countries. **(Change to Present Perfect)**

HONEYDEW- 1.1 – THE ANT AND THE CRICKET

Q.1 The cricket says, "Oh! What will become of me?" When does he say it, and why?

Ans. The cricket said the given line when it found that its cupboard was empty and winter had arrived. It could not find a single crumb to eat on the snow covered ground and there were no flowers or leaves on the tree. It wondered what would become of it because it was getting cold and since there was nothing to eat, it would starve and die.

Q.2 Find in the poem the lines that mean the same as "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" (Shakespeare).

Ans. The lines in the poem that mean the same as "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" are 'But we ants never borrow; we ants never lend.'

Q.3 What is your opinion of the ant's principles? ((Practice Questions)

Ans. I agree with what the ant says first that one should save something for the future so that he does not need to borrow or lend. Maybe he knows the cricket very well that he is a lazybone and does not work.

But I don't agree with the ant's principle what he told later. If he says he is a friend of cricket then he should also help the cricket at the time of distress. On the other hand I believe that a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Q.4 The ant tells the cricket to "dance the winter away". Do you think the word 'dance' is appropriate here? If so, why? (Practice Questions)

Ans. The ant told the cricket to "dance the winter away" because when it asked the cricket what it did in the summers and why it had not stored any food for winters, the cricket answered that it sang through the warm and sunny months of summers. Therefore, in reply to this, the ant asked the cricket to "dance" the winter away just like it "sang" all through the summers and did not bother to store food for winters.

The word 'dance' is appropriate to use here for a careless, irresponsible person like the cricket who is least bothered of the rainy day and keeps enjoying his life.

Q.5 (i) Which lines in the poem express the poet's comment?

(ii) Write the comment in your own words

Ans. (i) The lines in the poem that express the poet's comment are "Folks call this a fable. I'll warrant it true."

(ii) This comment by the poet means that this poem is indeed a fable as it had a moral behind it. The cricket did not have anything to eat during the winters because it did not bother to store some food during summers. It was negligent and sang all through the summers. The ant, on the other hand, had built a nice home for itself and had stored food so that it would not starve during winters. It worked hard during summers to achieve this. Thus, the moral of the poem is to be prepared for the adverse times and always work hard instead of being negligent. Or else face the consequence like the cricket.

HONEYDEW – 4: GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Words meaning:

Inevitable (adjective) - that cannot be avoided

Haphazard (adjective) - without plan or order

Delineated (verb) – shown/describe

Logic (noun) - reasoning

Q.1 Find three or four phrases in stanzas one and two which are likely to occur in a geography lesson.

Ans. Some phrases that are likely to occur in a Geography lesson are 'the city had developed the way it had', 'it scaled six inches to the mile', 'cities where the rivers ran', and 'the valleys were populated' 'more sea than land'.

Q.2♣ Mention two things that are:

(i) clear from the height.

(ii) not clear from the height.

Ans. (i) From the height, it was clear that there are populated cities and valleys of the countries near the rivers. It was also clear that the earth was round and that it had more sea than land.

(ii) From the height, it was not clear why men on the earth found reasons to hate each other. It was also not understandable why men had to build walls across cities and why they had to kill. When Nature has not made any boundaries why man is trying to divide the beautiful world by walls.

Q.3 Which of the following statements are examples of “the logic of geography”? (Practice)

Ans. (i) There are cities where there are rivers. “the logic of geography.”

(ii) Cities appear as they are not from six miles above the ground.

(iii) It is easy to understand why valleys are populated. “the logic of geography.”

(iv) It is difficult to understand why humans hate and kill one another.

(v) The earth is round, and it has more sea than land. “the logic of geography.”

Q.4♣ What lesson of Geography did the poet learn when he flew above his city?

Ans. As the poet flies in a jet, he notices that the cities below were not properly planned. He could see why it was so. From a height of 10,000 feet he noticed that valleys were populated. It was quite reasonable and understandable. It was the compulsion of geography that people should settle down in places with flat land and plenty of water and food. It is quite illogical why people hate and kill one another. It is greatly inhuman.

Q.5♣ Sum up the main ideas of the poem in about 50 words.

Ans. The poet flew over the city in a jet plane. He found the city spread in a disorderly manner. But he knew it was unavoidable. From the height of 10,000 feet, he saw the rivers and valleys. He well understood why the valleys were populated. The land and water facilities attract people. It was the logic of geography.

From a height of six miles, he noticed that the earth was round and had more sea than land. But he failed to understand why people hated each other, divided the land into separate units and killed each other.

TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

A Transitive Verb is a Verb that speaks of an action which passes from the doer (Subject) to the receiver (object). A Transitive Verb requires an object.

Example: I **bought** some wonderful books.

An Intransitive Verb is a verb that speaks of an action which does not pass on to an object.

Example: Parul **ran** fast.

- There are some Verbs which can only be used intransitively. This is because the actions described by these Verbs cannot be passed on to an object.

Examples of such Verbs are: go, come, die, sleep, fall, lie, live, happen, exist, snore, etc.

Example: It was so hot, all the plants died.

- Some Verbs can be used only transitively, because they always require an object.

Examples of such verbs are: merit, select, recognise, admire, appreciate etc.

This **merits** an answer.

SAMPLE EXERCISE

Ex. Underline the verbs and write whether the verbs in the following sentences are used transitively or intransitively.

1. The soldiers fought the enemy.
2. The gunshot killed the man.
3. The soldiers fought bravely.
4. Zora drove the car.
5. He laughed heartily.
6. The horn blew loudly.
7. He killed the tiger.
8. The moon shines dimly.
9. The plants grew in the greenhouse.
10. Birds fly in the air.

Answers

1. Fought- Transitive
2. Killed- Transitive
3. Fought- Intransitive
4. Drove- Transitive
5. Laughed- Intransitive
6. Blew- Intransitive
7. Killed- Transitive
8. Shines- Intransitive
9. Grew - Intransitive
10. Fly- Intransitive

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Identify the correct verb:

- 1 I **worked** all night.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 2 He **gave** the book to the teacher.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 3 They **laughed** at the joke.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 4 She **slept** for eight hours.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 5 We **lived** in Mexico for two years.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 6 I **like** her.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 7 We **clean** our room every day.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 8 My brother **moved** to another city.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 9 My brother **moved** his car.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive
- 10 Those people **painted** their house blue.
(i) Transitive (ii) Intransitive

IT SO HAPPENED - CHAPTER - 2: CHILDREN AT WORK

Words meaning

Wobbly (adj.) – unsteady

Livelihood (noun) – means of securing the necessities of life

Grimace (adj.) – twisted expression due to pain

Glumly (adv.)- sadly

Shove (verb) - push

Q.1♣ Velu stood on the platform but he felt "as if he was still on a moving train". Why?

Ans. Velu, who had run away from his home to Chennai, catching the Kanyakumari Express had never travelled in a train so he felt as if he was still on a moving train because his legs were still wobbly and shaky after the journey to Chennai. Usually, the effect of a moving train stays for some time after the end of the journey.

Q.2♣ What made him feel miserable?

Ans. Velu felt miserable and exhausted because he had run away from his village two days ago fed up of his drunkard father. He had not eaten anything except some peanuts and a piece of jaggery for the last two days. And in this big city he did not know what to do.

Q.3 Why had Velu run away from home?

Ans. Velu belonged to a poor family. He and his sibling had to earn for their living. But his drunkard father used to beat him every day. His father would also spend the money earned by Velu and his sister on drinking. So, fed up of all such things he ran away from home.

Q.4 Why did he decide to follow the 'strange' girl?

Ans. He decided to follow the 'strange' girl because he did not know where to go and what to do in a big city like Chennai. At the same time, he was extremely hungry and he had not eaten anything for the last two days.

Q.5♣ Do you think Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with a sense of humour? Find instances of her courage, kind nature and humour in the text.

Ans. Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with sense of humour. She was of Velu's age. She was a rag picker and knows how to live in the city. Jaya knows her way around Chennai, which is a fairly big city. She knows from where to find food. She knows that one has to be careful to not get caught by the police.

Jaya is also a very sensitive and kind girl as she helps Velu in all possible ways. She gives him a pair of shoes because his feet burnt in the burning sun on tar road.

Jaya is also of a humorous nature. When she sees Velu sitting on the platform, she asks him if he is there to become rich. When Velu is not able to cross the road, she drags him to the other side of the road.

Q.6♣ What one throws away as waste may be valuable to others. Do you find this sentence meaningful in the context of this story? How?

Ans. The story 'Children at work' gives a vivid picture of the plight of the slum dwellers basically the children. It tells us about the cruel reality that what is thrown out as rubbish can become a source of living for others. People throw away bottles, paper, leftover of food which these children pick and earn some money. Our waste is valuable and blessing for them as their life depends on them. Circumstances force them to do such thing.

HONEYDEW – CHAPTER 3: THE TSUNAMI

Words meaning

Recede (verb) – move back from where it was

Traumatised (verb) – greatly shocked and distressed

Hysterical (adj.) - without control on oneself

surge (verb)- force

Refuge (noun) – shelter or protection from danger

Q.1 Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Ans. Tilly Smith's family came from England to celebrate Christmas at the beach resort in Southern Thailand.

Q.2 What were the warning sign that both Tilly and her mother saw?

Ans. Tilly's mother saw that the water was swelling and the beach was getting smaller and smaller. Tilly saw that the sea was slowly rising, bubbling and forming a whirlpool.

Q.3♣ How are Meghna and Almas' stories similar?

Ans. Both Meghna's and Almas' families had got washed away in tsunami but they were the only members from their respective families who had survived. Both of them kept floating in the sea for days. Meghna floated in the sea for two days holding on to a wooden door. She was brought to the shore by a wave. Similarly, Almas climbed on to a log of wood and fainted.

She woke up in a hospital. Both the girls were traumatised after the incident. While Meghna was seen walking on the seashore in daze, Almas does not talk about the incident to anyone.

Q.4♣ What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behaviour? What would you have done if you were in their place?

Ans. Tilly's parents could have sensed the danger which was making her frightened by something. If they had paid more attention, they could have rushed to a safer place and saved themselves.

If I was in their place, I too would have listened to her and realised that there was a danger approaching. Consequently, I too would have rushed away from the beach.

Q.5♣ What are the two different ideas about why so few animals were killed in the tsunami? Which idea do you find more believable?

Ans. The first idea is that the animals have a sixth sense. They know when the earth is going to shake. The second idea is that the animals have a more acute sense of hearing. This helps them to hear or feel the earth's vibration. In this way they sense the coming disaster much before the human beings. So, they run away to safer places.

This is scientifically proven that animal can hear the approaching natural disturbances as they can hear sound with low frequency which we can't. This idea is more reasonable.

Q.6♣

When he felt the earthquake, do you think Ignésious immediately worked about a tsunami? Give reasons of your Answer. Which sentence in the text tells you that the Ignésious family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunamistruck?

Ans.

No, when he felt the earthquake, Ignésious, did not think about the tsunami. He thought only about the tremors. That was why he took his television off the table and put it on the ground. In fact, the Ignésious family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after tsunami struck. That was why there was only chaos and confusion. The following sentence tells it clearly: “In the chaos and confusion, two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother’s father and mother’s brother and rushed in the opposite directions.”

Class-VIII

VOICE- ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

In Active Voice, the sentence begins with the Subject of the action and the object is at the end of the sentence as it is acted upon – Subject + Verb + Object

Example- Some girls were helping the wounded women.

In Passive Voice, the sentence begins with the object and the subject is at the end.

Example- The wounded women were being helped by some girls.

Please refer your Grammar Book For explanation of all the rules related to Active and Passive Voice(Chapter 19-Pg. 151 of Grammar Book)

Answers-Page 151, Ex. A

- 1 Hot tea was served at the restaurant by the waiter.
- 2 His stories were readily believed by the superstitious villagers.
- 3 My rude behaviour has been forgiven by my mother.
- 4 We were shocked by the noise of the crackers.
- 5 Has the date of the annual function been announced by the school?
- 6 Classes are conducted by my friend twice a week.
- 7 The accused has been found innocent of all charges by the jury.
- 8 We were advised to practise daily by the instructor.
- 9 The sitar is being played by Lee.
- 10 The dishes were being washed by Rukun when you came.
- 11 The script was written by the director.
- 12 A phone was left in the theatre by someone.
- 13 The lawn will be watered by him tomorrow.
- 14 Clean drinking water had been promised for all by the politicians before the elections.
- 15 My directions must be followed by Rohit.
- 16 Have all the rules been explained by her?
- 17 Water may be discovered on Mars by astronauts.
- 18 Flowers are being plucked from the garden by the children.
- 19 An alternative to petrol will have been discovered by the scientists by the year 2050.
- 20 Have the fruits been put in the basket by you?

PARAGRAPH WRITING

A paragraph is a group of sentences organized around a central topic. In fact, the cardinal rule of paragraph writing is to focus on one idea. A solidly written paragraph takes its readers on a clear path, without detours.

Important points to write a paragraph:

A basic paragraph structure usually consists of five sentences: the topic sentence, three supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.

Introduction: the first section of a paragraph; should include the topic sentence and any other sentences at the beginning of the paragraph that give background information or provide a transition.

Body: follows the introduction; discusses the controlling idea, using facts, arguments, analysis, examples, and other information.

Conclusion: the final section; summarizes the connections between the information discussed in the body of the paragraph and the paragraph's controlling idea.

SAMPLE QUESTION:1

Write a Paragraph in about 100-150 words on the following topic: -

LIFE IN A BIG CITY

A big city is always crowded and noisy. Life in a big city is busy and fast. People are always in a hurry. A big city is full of smoke, dust and noise. The peace which we find in a village or a small town is absent in a big city. The poor people lead a miserable life in big cities. There are slums where people live in a bad condition. There is also a crime in big cities and the lives of people are not much safe. There are many accidents because of the rush of traffic. But a big city has its attractions also. There are big buildings, cinema houses and markets. There are big and modern hospitals. A person suffering from the disease can hope to get the best treatment. There are big schools and colleges where students can get all kinds of education. There are buses, taxis, cars and local trains to carry people from one place to the other in no time. Thus life in a big city has both its dark and bright sides.

Sample Question 2:

There's a lot of indiscipline in your school. It is not liked by the school authorities. They ask you, the vice Head Boy, to talk to the junior children about the 'Value of Discipline' so as to make them understand the importance of discipline in one's life. Write a paragraph on the above mentioned topic.

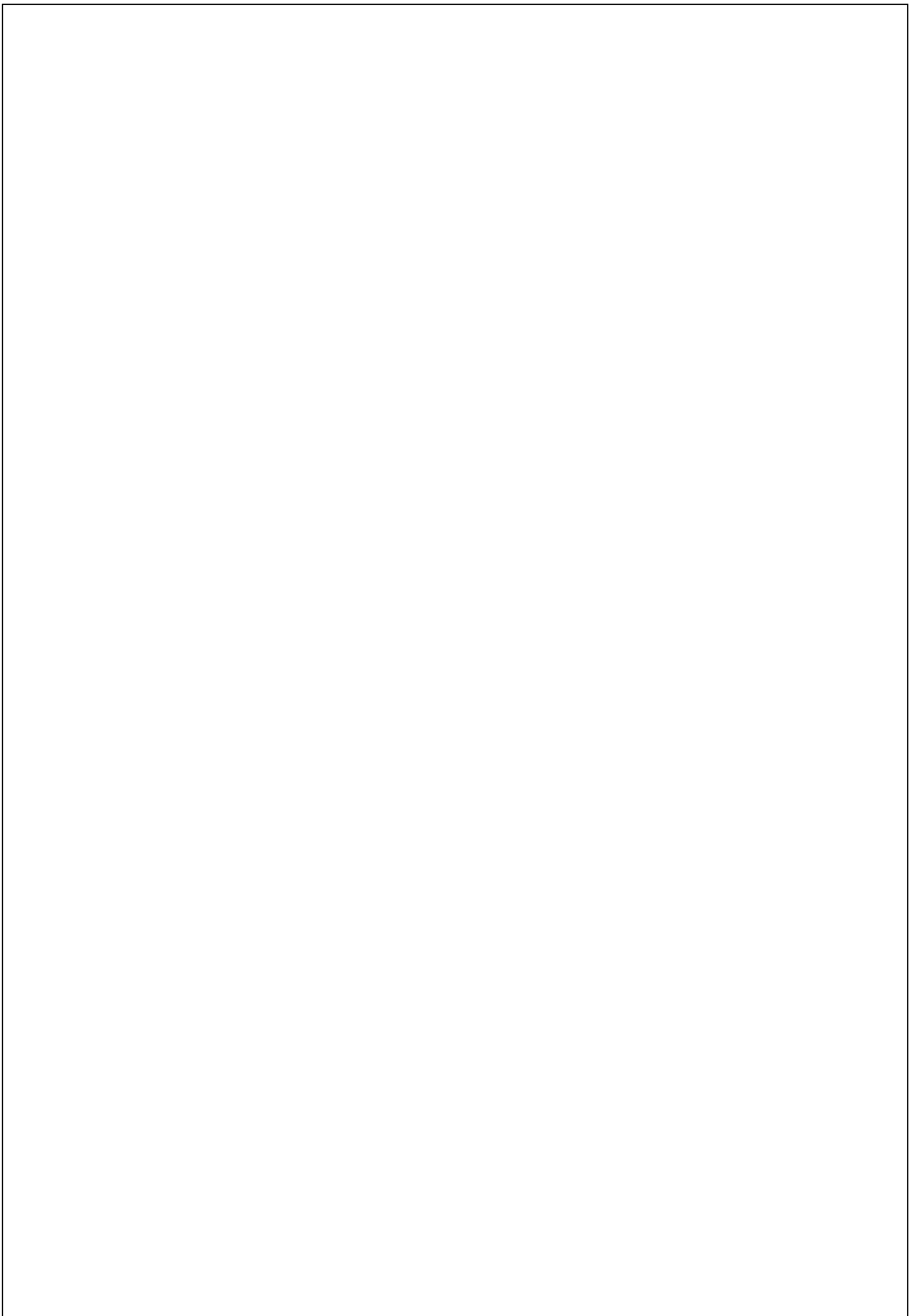
Value of Discipline

Discipline is the law of nature. It is in man's best interest to observe discipline in all walks of life. Discipline is the backbone of character. Without discipline, nothing great can be achieved in life. A man who does not observe discipline in life has to suffer. He becomes lethargic and arrogant. He is disliked by all. A student who does not obey his teachers and does not do his homework does not get success. An employee who does not work sincerely in office may be sacked any time. If sportsmen do not observe discipline cannot hope to win any match. In the army, discipline is of utmost importance. Discipline leads to harmony whereas indiscipline leads to confusion. No life is worth living without discipline. A disciplined person is an asset to himself, to his family, to his society, to the nation and to mankind. Discipline works everywhere. It controls the physical movements and our morals. There is no sphere in heaven and the Earth where discipline does not dominate.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS:

.Write a paragraph in about 100-150 words on the following topics :

- 1. A Visit to a Historical Place**
- 2. The Importance of Good Health**



CHAPTER – 1: HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP IT SO HAPPENED)

Vocabulary building

Djinn (noun) – a spirit

Yoke (noun) – a wooden beam

Remonstrated (verb) – protested

Panchayat (noun) – meeting

Trot (verb) – to proceed at a pace

Q.1 What tasks, do you think, were assigned to the dog and the ox?

Ans. Different animals were assigned different tasks. The dog was assigned the task of fetching and carrying sticks as he was carrying sticks in his mouth. The ox was assigned the task of ploughing as there was a yoke hanging from his neck.

Q.2 Why did the camel live in the middle of the desert?

Ans. The camel was the laziest animal who did not want to do any work and help man. So it lived in the middle of the desert so that it would not get any task. It ate sticks, thorns, and prickles, and when anybody spoke to it, it said “Humph!” and nothing more.

Q.3 What made the dog, the horse and the ox very angry?

Ans. The man told the dog, the horse and the ox that since the camel did not work, he would leave him alone. But somehow the work assigned to him had to be done. So the three of them would have to work double-time to make up for the work not done by the camel. This made the three of them very angry.

Q.4 The camel was looking at his own reflection in the pool. What does it suggest to you about the camel?

Ans. The camel was looking at his own reflection in the pool shows that he was proud of his appearance, especially his back. He liked admiring himself.

Q.5 The camel said, "Humph" repeatedly. How did it affect him?

Ans. While the Djinn was trying to remind him for being lazy and avoiding his work, the camel kept saying “Humph!” repeatedly. Even the Djinn warned him not to say so. His back puffed up into a big hump as a result of his repeating the word and by not working.

Q.6 What, according to the Djinn, was the use of the "Humph"?

Ans. According to the Djinn, as the camel missed its work for three days, it would be able to do work for three days without eating. The hump would help the camel in storing the food and use it during its work without eating anything for a long period.

Q.7 "...he has never yet learnt to behave". In the light of this, what is the writer's opinion about the camel?

Ans. According to the writer, the camel is still a very lazy animal that is unwilling to work. After he got the hump, the Djinn asked him to go out of the desert to help the other three animals. It seems that the camel still did not behave himself and worked lazily in the desert itself. It is for this reason that he was still unable to complete the pending work of those three missed days; and he continued carrying the hump and living in the desert.

DIARY ENTRY

Diary writing is one of the most personal and informal category of writing. Diary writing usually involves the regularized recording of personal feelings and reflections on a topic. Sometimes the events of the day leave one with a sense of joy or hurt or even anger which one can give vent to, through a brief diary recording, usually, at the end of the day.

Generally, diary is used to bounce off ideas, to unburden one. However, it can be regarded as a sign of personal growth. An entry is made in the diary, so that, the day with its accompanying emotions may be remembered.

FORMAT:

Since diary writing is very personal, it follows no set rules. However, the following points can be mentioned.

- Day/ Date
- Time
- Words like 'Dear Diary' can be used. Some writers address the diary with a particular name.
- Contents in an impersonal manner
- Your name

CONTENTS:

1. Write the diary in first person since this is your personal story on account of an event.
2. Write the events in the correct order.
3. Provide important details of the place, time, people, or things that were part of the event.
4. Write about your feelings in detail and explain why you feel that way.
5. It should not record weather records, recipes or reminders etc.
6. It should be honest and truthful observation of people or oneself.
7. Even if ideas look disjointed, it should not matter.
8. You should record or write something that really inspires you and which you would like to read later.

SAMPLE

You went to Shimla during winter and experienced the snowfall. Write a diary entry of about 80-100 words about your experience that enthralls you whenever you recollect your visit.

Saturday, 4 April 2019

8:00 p.m.

I can't forget how a great joy came before me when I saw the first ever snowfall. I went to Shimla with my friends. Luckily when we were strolling leisurely in the mall and viewing the view of the mountains and greenery, the snow began to fall. Soon everything looked covered in a white sheet. We went into a playing mood, made snowballs and threw at one another. The entire scenario was simply lovely. It remains embedded in my consciousness. Whenever I recollect the scene and the time that we spent in that most joyful scene, my heart starts dancing with a great pleasure. I feel like William Wordsworth when he recollected the dancing scene of the daffodils later and derived immense pleasure.

Truly this visit was my greatest treasure of joy and bliss.

Amit

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Write a diary entry in 80-100 words about how you enjoyed the celebration of your birthday last week when several friends and relatives made the occasion lively and worth remembering.
2. Imagine you have been selected as a member of Cricket Team India and as a result you are on top of the world. Write a diary entry in about 80-100 words giving vent to your feelings and in relation to your motherland.

IT SO HAPPENED CHAPTER -3 - THE SELFISH GIANT

Words meaning

Ogre (noun) – a cruel giant

Gruff (adj.) – rough

Trespassers (noun) – those who enter somebody's lands without permission

Prosecuted (verb) – punished

Feeble – (adj.) – weak

Q.1 Why is the Giant called selfish?

Ans. The Giant is called selfish because he did not allow children to play in the garden. He built a high wall around his garden. He also put up notice board with a warning on it that no one is allowed to enter the garden.

Q.2 On one occasion the children said: "How happy we are here!" Later they said: "How happy we were there!"

What are they referring to in both the cases?

Ans. In the first case, they are referring to the Giant's garden where they would play while returning from school. They had a great time whenever they played in the garden. In the second case, they are again referring to the garden; talking about how happy they were before the Giant stopped them from playing in his garden. In both the cases, the children are referring to the Giant's garden.

Q.3 The Giant saw a most wonderful sight. What did he see?

Ans. The Giant saw that the children had entered the garden through a small hole in the wall, and were sitting on the branches of trees. There was a child on every tree. The trees had covered themselves with blossoms as they were glad to have the children back. The birds were flying about and twittering in delight, and the flowers and grass were laughing out loud.

Q.4 Why was it still winter in one corner of the garden?

Ans. In one corner of the garden, there was a tree all covered with frost and snow. The North Wind was blowing and roaring above it. A little boy was standing in front of it, but could not reach its branches. As a result, there was still winter in this part of the garden.

Q.5 Describe the first meeting of the little boy and the Giant.

Ans. The first meeting of the little boy and the Giant was beneath the tree that was covered with frost and snow. The Giant took him gently in his hands and put him up into the tree.

The tree at once blossomed, and the birds came and sang on it. The little boy stretched out his two arms, flung them round the Giant's neck, and kissed him.

Q.6 The Giant lay ~~dead~~, all covered with white blossoms. What does this sentence ~~indicate~~ about the once selfish Giant?

Ans. The sentence indicates the Giant lay dead, all covered with white blossoms. The Giant had been blessed with paradise after his death. The Giant is no longer selfish and cruel. That is why he is covered with white blossoms. White colour is a symbol of peace.

Writing Skills

Class-VIII

SHORT STORY

A short story is a fictional work of prose that usually focuses on one part, one main character (with a few additional minor characters), and one central theme.

KEY ELEMENTS OF SHORT STORY:

Title:

- Should arouse interest, evoke curiosity and focus attention on the theme of the story.

Plot:

- Planned, logical series of events having a beginning, and middle and an end.

Exposition	Conflict	Rising action	Climax	Falling Action	Resolution
Beginning of the story where characters, background setting are revealed.	Struggle between opposite forces.	Intensify the central conflict.	Turning point of the story.	Complication begin to resolve.	The final outcome of the conflict.

Theme:

- The author tries to convey the main idea.

Characters:

- Lively, real and convincing.
- Physical description.
- Direct comment from the narrator.

Mood

- What mood is created?
- Cheerful / dark or tense / dark and frightening.
- Suspense etc.

Language:

- Figurative language or words can be used.
- Avoid using words you are not fully comfortable with.

Points to remember:

- Focus on the message to be conveyed.
- Stick to the story without too many digressions.
- Don't get hung up on the hints provided. They should be used to support your writing, not the other way around.

Sample Question:

Outline: The doorbell rang. Sunil opened the door. At first, he could not recognise the tall and well-dressed man who stood before him. Then the man spoke and all of a sudden.....

Write a story in 150-200 words on the basis of its beginning provided:

The Doorbell Rang

The doorbell rang. Sunil opened the door. At first, he could not recognise the tall and well-dressed man who stood before him. Then the man spoke and all of a sudden the time-clock moved back fast. The reel of real life started rewinding itself. Could he be Arvind himself? Arvind — his elder brother. Oh yes, he was Arvind. No doubt about it. Twenty years is quite a long time. A lot of water has flowed down the Ganges since then. Sunil could never forget that unfortunate evening of the 4th of June, 1996. Arvind had failed again in Class XII. A great shock to the whole family. Father was totally a broken man. He was cursing himself, his stars and of course, his 'unworthy' eldest son, Arvind for bringing misfortune to the family. But Arvind showed no remorse — no emotion either. He was dumbfounded and stood in a corner like a statue of stone. Next morning, he was not found in the house. After three days of intense search, the police were informed. He was found nowhere. After months of weeping and mourning, the family reconciled to the inevitable. And now the same Arvind stood before them. A taller and a handsome Arvind stood well-dressed like a gentleman of importance. Mummy and Papa hugged him and wept with joy. Everyone was interested in knowing the missing links of the two-decade-old story. What emerged from the narration was the story of a self-made and hard-working man. Arvind turned over a new leaf. He did some odd jobs to sustain and educate himself. He graduated from the University of Delhi with first division. He got a decent job in a prestigious multinational company and bought a two-bedroom flat on instalments. No doubt, he was of marriageable age but preferred to remain a bachelor. They say that all is well that ends well. And it was a happy ending for the whole family as Papa and Mummy were soon busy in finding a suitable girl for their blessed son.

PRACTICE QUESTION: -1

“We are out camping: My parents and my younger sister and my friends Hashim and Sagar. It was quite late and we are sitting around the campfire, enjoying the peace and quiet.....”

Write the story in about 150 -200 words using the opening lines given above.

HONEYDEW - CHAPTER - 9: THE SUMMIT WITHIN

Word meaning

Panorama (noun)- view of wide area

Jubilant(adj.)-very happy because of success

Exhilarating(verb)-very exciting

Communion(verb)-state or feeling of close relationship

Resolutely(adv)-firmness

Q.1 Why is adventure, which is risky, also pleasurable?

Ans. Adventure is risky, but pleasurable. Though it presents great difficulties, man takes delight in overcoming such hurdles. Everest is the highest, the mightiest, and many attempts have been made to climb it. According to the author, when the summit is climbed, there is the feeling of “exhilaration, the joy of having done something, the sense of a battle fought and won”. There is a feeling of victory and of happiness. The physical conquest of a mountain is only one part of the achievement. It is followed by a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction. The experience is not merely physical, but it is emotional and spiritual also.

Q.2 What was it about Mount Everest that the author found irresistible?

Ans. Everest is one of the highest and mightiest mountains which drew the author towards itself by its beauty, aloofness, ruggedness and the difficulties encountered on the way. Climbing it, would take the last ounce of one’s energy as it is a brutal struggle with rock and ice. Once taken up, it cannot be given up half way even when one’s life is at stake. The passage back is as difficult as the passage onwards. Once the summit is climbed however there is the feeling of exhilaration, the joy of having done something, the sense of a battle fought and won, a feeling of victory and of happiness. All these were the reasons why he found it irresistible.

Q.3 One does not do it (climb a high peak) for fame alone. What does one do it for, really?

Ans. Climbing a peak means endurance, persistence and will power. The demonstration of these physical qualities is exhilarating for a climber. The experience, apart from being merely physical, is also emotional and spiritual. It surely presents great difficulties.

However, man takes delight in overcoming obstacles. Therefore, it is not for fame alone that one climbs a mountain. It is actually for the joy of having done something, the sense of a battle fought and won, a feeling of victory and of happiness. There is a sense of fulfilment, the satisfaction of a deep urge to rise above one’s surroundings, the eternal love for adventure in man.

Q.4 What were the ‘symbols of reverence’ left by members of the team on Everest?

Ans. On Everest, a picture of Guru Nanak was left by the author; a picture of Goddess Durga was left by Rawat; a relic of the Buddha was left by Phu Dorji. Apart from these ‘symbols of reverence’ there was also the cross that had been buried by Edmund Hillary.

Q.5 What, according to the writer, did his experience as an Everester teach him?

Ans. According to the writer, his experience as an Everester provided him with the inspiration to face life’s challenges determinedly. It taught him that the conquest of the internal summit is as worthwhile as climbing the mountain. He also concluded that perhaps the internal summits are higher than Everest.

PUNCTUATION

When we speak we use pauses, intonation and voice modulation to make our meaning clear. In writing we use punctuation marks to do so. Some punctuation marks that we commonly use are: Full stop, question mark, exclamation mark, comma, semicolon, colon, apostrophe, quotation marks, hyphen, dash.

(Explanation of the chapter from English Grammar Book)

Sr. Answers- Page 189, Ex. A (To be done in Textbook)

No

- 1 This car was bought in Bhatinda.
- 2 Did you hear the thunderclap?
- 3 Can you speak softly?
- 4 I have a great idea!
- 5 My sister has gone to the UK to study.
- 6 Do you know what a UFO is?
- 7 Everybody wants to go to America.
- 8 Piyush and Rajat live in Allahabad.

Answers- Page 191, Ex. B (To be done in the Textbook)

- 1 This is the school that I went to.
- 2 Please have some tea, Maya.
- 3 While we were waiting, we listened to some good music.
- 4 My pencil box has pens, pencils and an eraser.
- 5 The team practised hard and won the game.
- 6 Tina, my neighbour, is a pilot.
- 7 We've made the charts, put up the notices and sent out invitations for the play.
- 8 Reena, where have you kept the colours?

Answers- Page 193, Ex. C (To be done in the Textbook)

- 1 India's biggest disadvantage is its growing population.
- 2 Indians have one advantage over the Chinese: the knowledge of English.
- 3 The AC in our office has one problem: it either makes the room too cold, or it doesn't cool at all.
- 4 The speakers in today's session are: Ashalata, the leader of the Bangalore group; Neena Razdaan, the leader of the Allahabad group and Kartik, from Cochin.
- 5 It's a known fact that water boils at 100 degree centigrade.
- 6 In the new grading system, A's stand for excellent, B's for good and C's for average.

Answers: Page 195, Ex. D (To be done in notebook)

- 1 The government's economic policies appear to be a recipe for disaster.
- 2 Have you seen the new boy in class? He's really handsome.
- 3 Mother said, "Take all your things and put them away, and don't forget to put the dirty clothes in the wash."
- 4 "We'd like you to help us if you have the time in completing the project," the students said to their teacher.
- 5 Wow! What a lovely painting! Don't tell me you did it yourself.
- 6 Have we got everything: Sheets to sit on, games to play and most important, the food.
- 7 Every day after lunch we went for long walks. Do you remember the great times we had, Mira?
- 8 Gentlemen, which I doubt most of you are, please offer your seats to the ladies.

ANSWERS- Page 196, Ex. E (To be done in the Textbook)

A man of the town of Ashwapuri had a spear and a shield for sale. He loudly praised his shield: "My shield is so strong that nothing can pierce it through." He also sang praises of his spear: "My spear is so strong that it can pierce through anything."

A passer-by asked, "What would happen if your spear is used to pierce your shield?"

Can there be at the same time a shield that nothing can pierce and a spear that can pierce anything?

CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are words that join words, phrases, clauses and sentences. Based on their function, conjunctions can be classified into two: Coordinating Conjunctions and Subordinating Conjunctions.

Answers- Page 71, Ex. A (To be done in the Notebook)

1. Suman was not well, yet she came for the programme.
2. Our zoo houses both a panda and a koala.
3. Tomorrow is a holiday but some people will be working.
4. Since tomorrow is a holiday, you must finish your work today.
5. Sushil applied neither for engineering nor for medicine.
6. Kamal and Asif are on leave today.
7. You can hire a cab and drive there yourself.
8. Sunil has neither washed the plates nor watered the plants.

Answers- Page 74, Ex. C (To be done in the Textbook)

1. Subordinating
2. Subordinating
3. Subordinating
4. Coordinating
5. Coordinating
6. Subordinating
7. Coordinating
8. Coordinating
9. Subordinating
10. Subordinating

Answers- Page 74, Ex. D (To be done in the Textbook)

1. So that
2. Or/ else/ otherwise
3. If
4. Neither.....nor
5. Such.....that
6. That
7. Although
8. When
9. Neither.....nor
10. Unless

CLAUSES

A clause is a group of words which forms a part of a sentence, and which contains a subject and a predicate.

Example: Birds sing, I have a remote controlled robot.

Answers- Page 76, Ex. A (To be done in the Textbook)

CLAUSES

FINITE VERBS

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Everybody left (after the ceremony.) | Left |
| 2. | Inviting your cousin was a terrible idea. | Was |
| 3. | I love eating paratha | love |
| 4. | They expect (that Tina would do all the work.) | expect, would |
| 5. | Rohit believes (that Sima is beautiful). | Believes, is |
| 6. | Ram said (that he had to leave.) | said, had |
| 7. | Meena has submitted her paper. | Has submitted |
| 8. | (If they are deprived of oxygen,) the animals will die. | Are, will |
| 9. | He played badminton yesterday. | Played |
| 10. | (As he walked down the road), he felt calmer. | Walked, felt |
| 11. | He was tricked many times before, (but he was smarter this time.) | was tricked, was |

Answers- Page 77, Ex. B (To be done in the Textbook)

1. **The old man picked up the bottle** that was lying on the ground.
2. **Mother was alarmed to see the front door open** when she came home.
3. **You can eat** whatever you like.
4. When we were in Mumbai, **we always walked to school.**
5. **The little girl** who is singing **is my niece.**
6. **The car** that is at the gate **belongs to my friend.**
7. **The judge declared** that the defendant was innocent.
8. **Mr. Gupta makes new resolutions** which he never keeps for more than a day.

Answers- Page 80, Ex. D (To be done in the Textbook)

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Which is the house (where your uncle lives?) | where |
| 2. | I am grateful to my teacher (whose guidance helped me a lot.) | whose |
| 3. | This is the time (when we should unite against corruption.) | when |
| 4. | I don't know the man (she wants to marry.) | whom |
| 5. | A spider, (which has eight legs), is not an insect. | Which |
| 6. | His sister, (who is younger than him), is much smarter. | who |
| 7. | This is the reason (why I sent him away.) | why |
| 8. | Is this the building (that your sister designed?) | that |

- 9 The dog (**that he bought**) barks all night. **that**
10. We obeyed all the instructions (**that the teacher gave us.**) **that**

Answers- Page 81, Ex. E (To be done in the notebook)

1. I know a man **who can read a book backwards.**- Adjective Clause
2. He says **that he is a vegetarian.**- Noun Clause
3. We saw a movie **that I had seen before.** -Adjective Clause
4. Do you think **I don't know the answer?**- Noun Clause
5. Please tell me **how to bake a cake.**- Noun Clause
6. I saw **that the child was going to cry.**- Noun Clause
7. Your statement- **that 70 percent of our population is illiterate-** is not true anymore.-
Adjective Clause
8. Nishi does not know **how to answer.**- Noun Clause
9. Nobody knows **when Sumit will arrive.** - Noun Clause
10. **What he told me** was a lie.- Noun Clause
11. There is a tunnel here **that leads to the other side of the fort.**- Adjective Clause
12. Who will tell me **what this sentence means?**- Noun Clause

BEEHIVE - Chapter – 8: The Last Bargain (Poem)

Word meaning

Hire (verb) – lease

Naught (noun) – nothing

Crooked (adj.) – twisted

Pondered (verb) – think about (something) carefully

Q.1 The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. Why did he turn down the offer?

Ans. The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. However, he turned it down because he realised that money cannot give him what he actually desires. He had not till then realised that what he actually desired was happiness. When the old man was counting the gold coins, the speaker realised that once the money was finished or the work the old man wanted to hire him for was done, he would again be out of work. More than that, he would be bound in this bargain. It did not satisfy him and therefore, he turned it down.

Q.2 How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?

Ans. In the evening the man met a child who was playing with sea shells near the sea beach. After talking to the child on the beach the speaker felt extremely happy. Because by playing with him he did not lose anything.

Q.3 What is a bargain? What attempts does the man make to strike a bargain?

Ans. A bargain is an agreement in which parties promise to do something for each other. The man wants to be hired. The king tries to hire him with his power. But for the man power counts for nothing. Then a rich old man comes with his gold coins. The third person who wants to hire the man is a pretty girl. But the man does not need power, gold and sweet love. He finally strikes a bargain with a little child for no price. His satisfaction is that he will remain a free man.

Q.4 What is the speaker's last bargain? Why does he call it the best?

Ans. The speaker's final bargain is with a child playing with shells on the sea beach. The child has nothing to pay in return. Still the man strikes the deal. Playing with the child will make him a free man, not a slave or servant.

Q.5 What message does Tagore's poem convey? What does he try to highlight?

Ans. The poem has a profound message. Freedom is more desirable than power, gold or beauty. An employee becomes a slave or servant. He offers his services on payment. So, he is duty bound to work for his employer. Playing with a child ensures the man's freedom.

