

“A Service of Love”

‘O. Henry’

Introduction

“A Service of Love” is a short story written by an American author William Sydney Porter. He wrote all his stories under the pen name, ‘O. Henry’. He was very famous for his witty narrations and twisted endings. His characters are always determined to solve problematic situations through ordinary wit and creativity. This always leaves the readers in complete awe.

Background

O.Henry is often categorized as a realist writer by many critics. Realism is an artistic and literary movement developed during the 19th century. It unfolded everyday concerns in contemporary settings. The aim was to present the real image of all social classes in a true manner inclusive of all unpleasant aspects of life.

Common people were the main subject of O.Henry’s writings. Everyone could relate to the struggles of his characters. Setting of his stories was realistic. Readers could connect with it on a deeper level.

Joe and Delia both were from the working class, striving hard to maintain the flow of money. They were doing it for the sake of each other’s art, their struggles were similar to any human trying to earn a good fortune. The decisions which they made in their situation were what any other human being would make.

Overview

This story features a young man and a young girl. The male protagonist Joe Larrabee belonged to Midwest, who had a talent for pictorial art. The female protagonist Delia Caruthers was from South, who was a pianist. In order to pursue their dreams, they both set off to New York City. They met at an art studio and fell for each other. Their passion for art bonded them together and they got married.

They did not have all the luxuries of life and lived in a simple apartment. Although they were poor, they felt mighty (richer than Bill Gates). To them, love and support were more important than any other thing in the world.

Joe joined an expensive class with a famous art master. Delia started taking classes with a famous pianist. They both wanted to make their future bright in the field of art. Joe wanted to be able to paint masterpieces that old wealthy men would like to buy for

generous sums of money. Delia wanted to become a member of a famous band, so she could be celebrated as a diva.

A Service of Love Summary

As the story opens the narrator says, ‘when one loves one’s art no service seems too hard’. While this story is based on this proposition, it ends up proving it wrong. The male protagonist, Joe Larrabee was a young, ambitious artist from the Middle West. He drew his first painting at the age of six, which was then hung in a pharmacy. After he turned twenty, he moved to New York to pursue his dream of studying art.

Then we are introduced to the female leading character, Delia, who was a skillful pianist from a village in the south. She was really good at playing the piano. Her family gathered up the money to send her to New York City to further polish her skills.

Joe and Delia met each other at an art studio in New York. Different art novices had gathered there to learn and talk about various forms of art. Joe and Delia grew fond of each other in a short time and tied the knot soon after. They began spending their life in a plain and simple apartment. They were extremely happy together in each other’s company.

Joe joined an expensive course with the famous Magister. He wanted to become a professional and renowned painter. His aim was to sell art pieces to rich old men with a good taste in art. Delia started taking her lessons with a famous pianist, Rosenstock, to refine her skills. They both had a clear vision regarding their careers and interests.

Their life was going smooth until they ran out of their savings. Delia decided to give piano lessons to earn some money for Joe. She wanted him to continue his painting classes. Delia’s decision upset him because he did not want her to work and give up on her own dreams. He thought about finding some work and quitting his classes. Delia disagreed and insisted he continues his classes.

One day Delia came home happily and exclaimed with joy that she had found a student. She told Joe that she would be giving music classes to the daughter of wealthy General Pinkney. Her name was Clementina. They would be paying her five dollars per class and she would take three classes per week. She described to Joe how lavish their house was and how sweet was her new pupil.

By the end of the week, Delia was very proud of her earnings. She placed fifteen dollars on the table. After seeing her salary Joe told Delia that he sold one of his sketches to a rich man. He made eighteen dollars out of it. They both were overjoyed for the money they earned and decided to have a small celebration.

Next week Joe arrived home earlier than Delia. Delia came home after half an hour. Joe was quick to notice her bandaged hand. He gently inspected her hand and inquired about it. Delia told him that her student accidentally spilled some hot food on it. She told Joe there was nothing serious to worry about.

He figured out that there was something which Delia was keeping from him. He asked her about the time of the accident, upon which she told him that it took place around five o'clock. Joe asked Delia to sit down and tell him honestly what exactly was she doing the past two weeks. She was a bit hesitant at first but eventually told him the truth. She explained to him that she could not find any student to give classes to, so she decided to start ironing clothes at a laundry. She had to lie because she didn't want him to give up on his dreams. This was the reason for which she took that job and tried to keep the money coming.

Delia then inspected how Joe caught her lie, upon which he revealed that no one bought his sketches. In reality, he had been firing the engine in the same laundry for the last two weeks. Joe explained to her that he was the one who sent the cotton with the ointment upstairs. He was told that a girl burned her hand with a hot iron. They both laughed it off as they knew they lied to each other, but it was purely out of love.

The gist of the story lies in the theory, 'When one loves one's Art no service seems too hard'. Though the story revolves around this premise, it ends up proving it wrong which is the point intended to be made by the writer. The title of the story, 'A Service of Love', supports the author's narrative that both the characters were serving love and not art. Joe and Delia started their journey from small towns. Joe was from the Midwest and Delia was from the South. They moved to New York to achieve a better and brighter future.

A Tale of Two Bullocks

Munshi Premchand

Munshi Premchand's short story "A Tale of Two Bullocks" (originally "Do Bailon Ki Katha") is a heart-touching narrative that reflects the deep bond between humans and animals, while also highlighting themes of loyalty, freedom, injustice, and rural life in India.

The story revolves around two bullocks, Heera and Moti, who belong to a poor farmer. These bullocks are not merely animals of labor but beloved companions, almost like family to the farmer. They are intelligent, hardworking, and loyal. Each has its own temperament—Moti is somewhat serious and dutiful, while Heera is playful and spirited. Despite their differences, they share a deep friendship and mutual understanding, working together harmoniously in the fields.

One day, misfortune strikes when the poor farmer, compelled by financial need, decides to sell the bullocks to a village moneylender. The separation from their master is painful, but the bullocks endure it silently. However, their new life proves to be harsh and unjust.

At their new owner's house, they are forced to work tirelessly, pulling heavy loads and enduring cruelty. The moneylender's wife, greedy and harsh, tries to exploit them beyond their capacity. The bullocks, who were once treated with affection and respect, now find themselves in an environment where only their labor is valued, not their well-being. Despite their patience, they cannot bear the injustice for long.

When they are yoked to carry an extremely heavy cart, they stumble under the burden. Instead of sympathy, they are beaten mercilessly. Their spirit of resistance awakens—they refuse to move, defying the cruelty of their new masters. The moneylender's wife, in her arrogance, climbs onto the cart herself to show that the load isn't too heavy. But the bullocks, in an act of dignity and rebellion, bolt forward suddenly, causing her to tumble into the dust. Humiliated and furious, she beats them again.

At last, unable to endure the inhuman treatment, Heera and Moti decide to escape. With remarkable intelligence and unity, they break free and run away from the moneylender's house. Their journey back is full of determination, guided by the memory of their true master and the love they had once received.

Finally, they reach their old home. The poor farmer, overwhelmed with emotion, sees his bullocks return. Though he has nothing material to offer them, he embraces them with affection, restoring their dignity. The bond between man and animal, tested by hardship, proves stronger than greed and exploitation.

Themes

1. **Bond between Humans and Animals** – The story beautifully portrays animals as sentient beings with emotions, loyalty, and dignity.

2. **Injustice and Exploitation** – It criticizes the greed and cruelty of the moneylender class towards both men and animals.

3. **Freedom and Resistance** – Heera and Moti's refusal to submit to oppression reflects the universal desire for dignity and justice.

4. **Compassion and Humanity** – Through the farmer's love, Premchand emphasizes the moral responsibility humans have toward animals.

5. **Rural Life of India** – The story vividly depicts the struggles of peasants and their dependence on cattle in agrarian society.

Characters

• **Heera and Moti** – The central bullocks, symbolic of loyalty, strength, and resistance against injustice.

• **The Farmer (their master)** – A poor yet compassionate man who treats them as family.

• **The Moneylender and his Wife** – Symbols of greed, cruelty, and the exploitative class of rural India.

Conclusion

A Tale of Two Bullocks is not just a story of two animals but a mirror of human society. With tenderness and irony, Premchand presents a world where even mute creatures resist injustice and value love over oppression. The story ends on a hopeful note, affirming that true bonds—whether human or animal—are eternal.

She Walks in Beauty

Lord Byron

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

"She Walks in Beauty" is a famous poem by British Romantic poet Lord Byron, first published in 1815. The poem praises and seeks to capture a sense of the beauty of a particular woman. The speaker compares this woman to a lovely night with a clear starry sky, and goes on to convey her beauty as a harmonious "meeting" between darkness and

light. After its discussion of physical attractiveness, the poem then portrays this outer beauty as representative of inner goodness and virtue.

“She Walks in Beauty” is a famous short lyrical poem written by the British Romantic poet Lord Byron (George Gordon Byron). He wrote it in the year 1814 when he was 26 years old. Later it was published in the month of April, 1815 in “Hebrew Melodies”.

Lord Byron’s poem “She Walks in Beauty” was written in praise of a beautiful woman. History holds that the poem was inspired by the poet’s meeting with Mrs. Anne Beatrix Wilmot, wife of Byron’s first cousin, sir Robert Wilmot. On 11 June, 1814, Byron attended a party in London and there he met with her. She wore a sprangled black dress. Byron was struck by her unusual beauty. He went home and next day he wrote this poem.

The title of the poem “She Walks in Beauty” is also the first line of the poem. It represents female beauty, a portrait of a woman through someone else’s eyes. The beauty of the woman is in both her external appearance and her inner goodness. In fact, the lady’s beauty is in harmony to her overall existence.

Inner and outer beauty

The poem “She Walks in Beauty” highlights female beauty. The speaker presents absolute beauty of a woman, both in her outer appearance and inner goodness. These two are interlinked with each other. Indeed, the woman’s outer appearance is read as a sign of her inner serenity, peacefulness and innocence. The woman’s face is depicted as the site on which her thoughts are “expressed”. The poem depicts a kind of beauty that combines both physical appearance and character.

The poet is perhaps of the opinion that only physical appearance doesn’t make a woman perfectly beautiful. Outer expressions like her smile and happiness are deeply linked with the emotions which come from inside. According to the speaker, outer beauty is a reflection of inner purity – both are in harmony with each other.

Stanza 1

One of the beautiful poems of Lord Byron opens up with the praise of one’s beauty. The speaker begins by describing the beauty of an unnamed woman. He refers her only by the pronoun “she”. The words “walks in beauty” indicates that her movement and every spring in her step make her more beautiful. Actually, she is not just a pretty face as shown in a portrait, it’s the whole living, breathing, walking woman that’s beautiful.

In the next line, she is compared to something cosmic as “night of cloudless climes and starry skies”. Thus, the woman who is the subject of this poem is as flawlessly beautiful as a clear and starlit night sky. It seems not just a personal beauty, but a celestial, almost spiritual quality.

Everything that is great about both “dark” and “bright” come together in that woman’s ‘aspect’ and especially her eyes. She’s got the best of both in a harmonious blend. Here “aspect” can mean her looks, facial expression and her overall appearance. Her eyes are the best part of creating some kind of harmony between “dark” and “bright”.

She is neither too dark like the night, nor too light like the day. Instead, she radiates tender light. This is less “gaudy” or less flashy than the light which we get during the day. Thus, nature seems to have blessed the woman with a perfect balance

Stanza 2

In this second stanza of “She Walks in Beauty”, the speaker reiterates that the woman has the perfect balance of beauty. A touch of shade more, or even one ray of light less could mess everything up.

Her grace and beauty which can’t be defined by words (nameless grace) is visible in every lock of her black hair (A raven is a dark bird and ‘tress’ means long lock of hair). She also has the right amount of “shade” and “rays” balanced in the look of her face.

Midway through the poem, the speaker now shifts his attention to describe the woman’s inner beauty. The serene (quiet) thoughts of her mind are so sweet that they make her countenance delighted in joy. In other words, the expression in her face indicates how sweet her thoughts and emotions are.

The speaker now wonders how pure and precious (dear) the “dwelling-place” of the lady’s thoughts must be. Here the “dwelling place” might indicate the woman’s head where the thoughts originate from, or her heart, the source of all emotions, or even the lady’s overall physique. Anyway, the speaker indicates to the woman’s overall beauty and innocence.

Stanza 3

Our speaker is awfully struck by the lady’s looks. He finds the winning smiles and the glowing shades of emotional expressions on her cheeks and brow so soft and measured and yet so fluent (eloquent). The smiles on her face and the blushes that glow on her cheeks show that her days are spent well. It is reflective of her clarity of mind and inner goodness.

Besides being beautiful, soft and calm, the woman is also kind and good. Her “mind” is “at peace with all below”. This is indicative of the lady’s humble and down-to-earth nature. Again, her heart is very pure and love is innocent. In other words, her love is genuine and not attached to any selfish desire. All of these qualities, physical and spiritual, make the lady worthy of praise that the speaker showers upon her.

Fire and Ice

Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favor fire.

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

Fire and Ice is a poem by Robert Frost that explores the themes of desire and hatred as two opposing forces that can lead to destruction. The poem begins with the speaker contemplating the end of the world, pondering whether it will be consumed by fire or frozen in ice.

This poem was written and published in 1920, and eventually republished in Frost's 1923 volume, *New Hampshire*. It was reportedly inspired greatly by Dante's *Inferno*, particularly in the descriptions of Hell (interestingly described as having nine layers or rings in the story – and 'Fire and Ice' being a poem of nine lines). *Inferno* also describes the deepest aspects of Hell as being simultaneously burning with flame and being submerged in unbreakable ice.

Another event of note is a recollection by American astronomer Harlow Shapley, who recalled meeting with Robert Frost and discussing the end of the world. Shapley claims to have told Frost that the world would end either when the sun exploded and incinerated the planet, or when the sun exploded and failed to incinerate the planet, leaving all remaining life on the planet to wither, freeze, and die.

For Frost in 1920, life had certainly had its good days and bad days. During this time in his life, he had begun teaching and writing as full-time professions while he lived on a farm in New Hampshire. 1920 was also the year he needed to commit his sister to a mental hospital, which marked the beginning of a difficult time for the family, which had

already seen its fair share of grief, as, by this time, Frost's parents had both passed away, and Frost himself was battling depression amidst everything else. In this context, it is hardly surprising that his work took on a grim look at the world, and that a topic such as the end of the world should rise out of these hard times. Despite this, it manages to be a powerful and thought-provoking work of art that has remained relevant and remembered decades after its original printing.

The first few lines describe the disagreement in general society on the topic of how the world ends. In a modern sense, "fire" and "ice" could well be stand-ins for "nuclear disaster" and "climate change." Frost's use of "fire" and "ice," however, is largely a metaphoric decision that opens the poem up to different kinds of interpretation. Ice and fire, of course, are opposites of one another, suggesting that most people have entirely opposing views on the apocalypse – after all, the world can't end in ice and fire at the same time. Ice and fire also represent two extremes which, on a grand enough scale, could cause immense damage, and are fitting metaphors for harbingers of death.

Here, the speaker provides their own opinion – they equate fire with desire, which is to suggest that it is equal with passions, with greed, with rage. Fire is being used as a metaphor for strong, consuming emotions such as desire. It is a fitting analogy – in a candle or a fireplace, fire shows a person the way. It is warmth and light. In the same way, small desires are no trouble at all and can guide a person to the things they want in life. On a large scale, however, fire consumes and destroys, and so too does desire. The speaker recalls their experiences with a strong desire and tends to believe that it is those kinds of emotions and impulses that lead the world down its irrevocable path. For the speaker, the world will end in fire. Desire is transformed through metaphor into something which is meant to be experienced through taste. This creates a sense of indulgence, reflecting the idea of desire itself.

As a close opposite to the burning desires the speaker sees as being so dangerous, the ice is also a concern in their mind. They believe the world will burn, in one form or the other, and that would end it – but if it didn't end, and the fire wasn't enough, the remainder of the poem says, then they believe the ice could manage the feat as well. As an opposite to a burning flame, a chilling sheen of ice represents hatred to the speaker. They think of it as something that would chill the world, slow it down, and isolate each individual enough that the human race simply couldn't survive it. The potential for ice "would suffice," and even though they tend to believe in the destructive power of desire, they see no reason to believe that hate couldn't end the world just as easily.

The final two lines of this poem are short, featuring significantly less syllables than the preceding lines. This almost creates a sense of bathos, as the speaker resigns themselves to the eventual, assured destruction of the earth. Frost furthers this effect through the clinical language of "suffice", which embodies the cold, indifferent nature of ice.

Animal Farm

George Orwell

Chapter I

As the novella opens, Mr. Jones, the proprietor and overseer of the Manor Farm, has just stumbled drunkenly to bed after forgetting to secure his farm buildings properly. As soon as his bedroom light goes out, all of the farm animals except Moses, Mr. Jones's tame raven, convene in the big barn to hear a speech by Old Major, a prize boar and pillar of the animal community. Sensing that his long life is about to come to an end, Major wishes to impart to the rest of the farm animals a distillation of the wisdom that he has acquired during his lifetime.

As the animals listen raptly, Old Major delivers up the fruits of his years of quiet contemplation in his stall. The plain truth, he says, is that the lives of his fellow animals are "miserable, laborious, and short." Animals are born into the world as slaves, worked incessantly from the time they can walk, fed only enough to keep breath in their bodies, and then slaughtered mercilessly when they are no longer useful. He notes that the land upon which the animals live possesses enough resources to support many times the present population in luxury; there is no natural reason for the animals' poverty and misery. Major blames the animals' suffering solely on their human oppressors. Mr. Jones and his ilk have been exploiting animals for ages, Major says, taking all of the products of their labor—eggs, milk, dung, foals—for themselves and producing nothing of value to offer the animals in return.

Old Major relates a dream that he had the previous night, of a world in which animals live without the tyranny of men: they are free, happy, well fed, and treated with dignity. He urges the animals to do everything they can to make this dream a reality and exhorts them to overthrow the humans who purport to own them. The animals can succeed in their rebellion only if they first achieve a complete solidarity or "perfect comradeship" of all of the animals against the humans, and if they resist the false notion spread by humans that animals and humans share common interests. A brief conversation arises in which the animals debate the status of rats as comrades.

Major then provides a precept that will allow the animals to determine who their comrades are: creatures that walk on two legs are enemies; those with four legs or with wings are allies. He reminds his audience that the ways of man are completely corrupt: once the humans have been defeated, the animals must never adopt any of their habits; they must not live in a house, sleep in a bed, wear clothes, drink alcohol, smoke tobacco, touch money, engage in trade, or tyrannize another animal. He teaches the animals a song called "Beasts of England," which paints a dramatic picture of the utopian, or ideal,

animal community of Major's dream. The animals sing several inspired choruses of "Beasts of England" with one voice—until Mr. Jones, thinking that the commotion bespeaks the entry of a fox into the yard, fires a shot into the side of the barn. The animals go to sleep, and the Manor Farm again sinks into quietude.

Chapter II

Three nights later, Old Major dies in his sleep, and for three months the animals make secret preparations to carry out the old pig's dying wish of wresting control of the farm from Mr. Jones. The work of teaching and organizing falls to the pigs, the cleverest of the animals, and especially to two pigs named Napoleon and Snowball. Together with a silver-tongued pig named Squealer, they formulate the principles of a philosophy called Animalism, the fundamentals of which they spread among the other animals. The animals call one another "Comrade" and take their quandaries to the pigs, who answer their questions about the impending Rebellion.

At first, many of the animals find the principles of Animalism difficult to understand; they have grown up believing that Mr. Jones is their proper master. Mollie, a vain carriage horse, expresses particular concern over whether she will be able to continue to enjoy the little luxuries like eating sugar and wearing ribbons in the new utopia. Snowball sternly reminds her that ribbons symbolize slavery and that, in the animals' utopia, they would have to be abolished. Mollie halfheartedly agrees.

The pigs' most troublesome opponent proves to be Moses, the raven, who flies about spreading tales of a place called Sugarcandy Mountain, where animals go when they die—a place of great pleasure and plenty, where sugar grows on the hedges. Even though many of the animals despise the talkative and idle Moses, they nevertheless find great appeal in the idea of Sugarcandy Mountain. The pigs work very hard to convince the other animals of the falsehood of Moses's teachings. Thanks to the help of the slow-witted but loyal cart-horses, Boxer and Clover, the pigs eventually manage to prime the animals for revolution.

The Rebellion occurs much earlier than anyone expected and comes off with shocking ease. Mr. Jones has been driven to drink after losing money in a lawsuit, and he has let his men become lazy, dishonest, and neglectful. One day, Mr. Jones goes on a drinking binge and forgets to feed the animals. Unable to bear their hunger, the cows break into the store shed and the animals begin to eat. Mr. Jones and his men discover the transgression and begin to whip the cows. Spurred to anger, the animals turn on the men, attack them, and easily chase them from the farm. Astonished by their success, the animals hurry to destroy the last remaining evidence of their subservience: chains, bits, halters, whips, and other implements stored in the farm buildings.

After obliterating all signs of Mr. Jones, the animals enjoy a double ration of corn and sing “Beasts of England” seven times through, until it is time to sleep. In the morning, they admire the farm from a high knoll before exploring the farmhouse, where they stare in stunned silence at the unbelievable luxuries within. Mollie tries to stay inside, where she can help herself to ribbons and gaze at herself in the mirror, but the rest of the animals reprimand her sharply for her foolishness. The group agrees to preserve the farmhouse as a museum, with the stipulation that no animal may ever live in it.

The pigs reveal to the other animals that they have taught themselves how to read, and Snowball replaces the inscription “Manor Farm” on the front gate with the words “Animal Farm.” Snowball and Napoleon, having reduced the principles of Animalism to seven key commandments, paint these commandments on the side of the big barn. The animals go to gather the harvest, but the cows, who haven’t been milked in some time, begin lowing loudly. The pigs milk them, and the animals eye the five pails of milk desirously. Napoleon tells them not to worry about the milk; he says that it will be “attended to.” Snowball leads the animals to the fields to begin harvesting. Napoleon lags behind, and when the animals return that evening, the milk has disappeared.

Chapter III

The animals spend a laborious summer harvesting in the fields. The clever pigs think of ways for the animals to use the humans’ tools, and every animal participates in the work, each according to his capacity. The resulting harvest exceeds any that the farm has ever known. Only Mollie and the cat shirk their duties. The powerful and hard-working Boxer does most of the heavy labor, adopting “I will work harder!” as a personal motto. The entire animal community reveres his dedication and strength. Of all of the animals, only Benjamin, the obstinate donkey, seems to recognize no change under the new leadership.

Every Sunday, the animals hold a flag-raising ceremony. The flag’s green background represents the fields of England, and its white hoof and horn symbolize the animals. The morning rituals also include a democratic meeting, at which the animals debate and establish new policies for the collective good. At the meetings, Snowball and Napoleon always voice the loudest opinions, though their views always clash.

Snowball establishes a number of committees with various goals, such as cleaning the cows’ tails and re-educating the rats and rabbits. Most of these committees fail to accomplish their aims, but the classes designed to teach all of the farm animals how to read and write meet with some success. By the end of the summer, all of the animals achieve some degree of literacy. The pigs become fluent in reading and writing, while some of the dogs are able to learn to read the Seven Commandments. Muriel the goat can read scraps of newspaper, while Clover knows the alphabet but cannot string the letters together. Poor Boxer never gets beyond the letter D. When it becomes apparent that many

of the animals are unable to memorize the Seven Commandments, Snowball reduces the principles to one essential maxim, which he says contains the heart of Animalism: "Four legs good, two legs bad." The birds take offense until Snowball hastily explains that wings count as legs. The other animals accept the maxim without argument, and the sheep begin to chant it at random times, mindlessly, as if it were a song.

Napoleon takes no interest in Snowball's committees. When the dogs Jessie and Bluebell each give birth to puppies, he takes the puppies into his own care, saying that the training of the young should take priority over adult education. He raises the puppies in a loft above the harness room, out of sight of the rest of Animal Farm.

Around this time, the animals discover, to their outrage, that the pigs have been taking all of the milk and apples for themselves. Squealer explains to them that pigs need milk and apples in order to think well, and since the pigs' work is brain work, it is in everyone's best interest for the pigs to eat the apples and drink the milk. Should the pigs' brains fail because of a lack of apples and milk, Squealer hints, Mr. Jones might come back to take over the farm. This prospect frightens the other animals, and they agree to forgo milk and apples in the interest of the collective good.

Chapter IV

By late summer, news of Animal Farm has spread across half the county. Mr. Jones lives ignominiously in Willingdon, drinking and complaining about his misfortune. Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick, who own the adjoining farms, fear that disenchantment will spread among their own animals. Their rivalry with each other, however, prevents them from working together against Animal Farm. They merely spread rumors about the farm's inefficiency and moral reprehensibility. Meanwhile, animals everywhere begin singing "Beasts of England," which they have learned from flocks of pigeons sent by Snowball, and many begin to behave rebelliously.

At last, in early October, a flight of pigeons alerts Animal Farm that Mr. Jones has begun marching on the farm with some of Pilkington's and Frederick's men. Snowball, who has studied books about the battle campaigns of the renowned Roman general Julius Caesar, prepares a defense and leads the animals in an ambush on the men. Boxer fights courageously, as does Snowball, and the humans suffer a quick defeat. The animals' losses amount only to a single sheep, whom they give a hero's burial.

Boxer, who believes that he has unintentionally killed a stable boy in the chaos, expresses his regret at taking a life, even though it is a human one. Snowball tells him not to feel guilty, asserting that "the only good human being is a dead one." Mollie, as is her custom, has avoided any risk to herself by hiding during the battle. Snowball and Boxer each receive medals with the inscription "Animal Hero, First Class." The animals discover Mr.

Jones's gun where he dropped it in the mud. They place it at the base of the flagstaff, agreeing to fire it twice a year: on October 12th, the anniversary of the Battle of the Cowshed—as they have dubbed their victory—and on Midsummer's Day, the anniversary of the Rebellion.

Chapter V

Mollie becomes an increasing burden on Animal Farm: she arrives late for work, accepts treats from men associated with nearby farms, and generally behaves contrary to the tenets of Animalism. Eventually she disappears, lured away by a fat, red-faced man who stroked her coat and fed her sugar; now she pulls his carriage. None of the other animals ever mentions her name again.

During the cold winter months, the animals hold their meetings in the big barn, and Snowball and Napoleon's constant disagreements continue to dominate the proceedings. Snowball proves a better speaker and debater, but Napoleon can better canvass for support in between meetings. Snowball brims with ideas for improving the farm: he studies Mr. Jones's books and eventually concocts a scheme to build a windmill, with which the animals could generate electricity and automate many farming tasks, bringing new comforts to the animals' lives. But building the windmill would entail much hard work and difficulty, and Napoleon contends that the animals should attend to their current needs rather than plan for a distant future. The question deeply divides the animals. Napoleon surveys Snowball's plans and expresses his contempt by urinating on them.

When Snowball has finally completed his plans, all assemble for a great meeting to decide whether to undertake the windmill project. Snowball gives a passionate speech, to which Napoleon responds with a pathetically unaffecting and brief retort. Snowball speaks further, inspiring the animals with his descriptions of the wonders of electricity. Just as the animals prepare to vote, however, Napoleon gives a strange whimper, and nine enormous dogs wearing brass-studded collars charge into the barn, attack Snowball, and chase him off the farm. They return to Napoleon's side, and, with the dogs growling menacingly, Napoleon announces that from now on meetings will be held only for ceremonial purposes. He states that all important decisions will fall to the pigs alone.

Afterward, many of the animals feel confused and disturbed. Squealer explains to them that Napoleon is making a great sacrifice in taking the leadership responsibilities upon himself and that, as the cleverest animal, he serves the best interest of all by making the decisions. These statements placate the animals, though they still question the expulsion of Snowball. Squealer explains that Snowball was a traitor and a criminal. Eventually, the

animals come to accept this version of events, and Boxer adds greatly to Napoleon's prestige by adopting the maxims "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right."

These two maxims soon reinforce each other when, three weeks after the banishment of Snowball, the animals learn that Napoleon supports the windmill project. Squealer explains that their leader never really opposed the proposal; he simply used his apparent opposition as a maneuver to oust the wicked Snowball. These tactics, he claims, served to advance the collective best interest. Squealer's words prove so appealing, and the growls of his three-dog entourage so threatening, that the animals accept his explanation without question.

Chapter VI

For the rest of the year, the animals work at a backbreaking pace to farm enough food for themselves and to build the windmill. The leadership announces that working on Sundays is voluntary, but sneakily contradicts their own declaration by saying that any animal who refuses to do so will have their rations cut by half. But because they believe what the leadership tells them—that they are working for their own good now, not for Mr. Jones's—they are eager to take on the extra labor. Boxer, in particular, commits himself to Animal Farm, doing the work of three horses but never complaining.

Even though the farm possesses all of the necessary materials to build the windmill, the project presents a number of difficulties. The animals struggle over how to break the available stone into manageable sizes for building without picks and crowbars, which they are unable to use. They finally solve the problem by learning to raise and then drop big stones into the quarry, smashing them into usable chunks. By late summer, the animals have enough broken stone to begin construction.

Although their work is strenuous, the animals suffer no more than they had under Mr. Jones. They have enough to eat and can maintain the farm grounds easily now that humans no longer come to cart off and sell the fruits of their labor. But the farm still needs a number of items that it cannot produce on its own, such as iron, nails, and paraffin oil. As existing supplies of these items begin to run low, Napoleon announces that he has hired a human solicitor, Mr. Whymper, to assist him in conducting trade on behalf of Animal Farm. The other animals are taken aback by the idea of engaging in trade with humans, but Squealer explains that the founding principles of Animal Farm never included any prohibition against trade and the use of money. He adds that if the animals think that they recall any such law, they have simply fallen victim to lies fabricated by the traitor Snowball.

Mr. Whymper begins paying a visit to the farm every Monday, and Napoleon places orders with him for various supplies. The pigs begin living in the farmhouse, and rumor

has it that they even sleep in beds, a violation of one of the Seven Commandments. But when Clover asks Muriel to read her the appropriate commandment, the two find that it now reads “No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets.” Squealer explains that Clover must have simply forgotten the last two words. All animals sleep in beds, he says—a pile of straw is a bed, after all. Sheets, however, as a human invention, constitute the true source of evil. He then shames the other animals into agreeing that the pigs need comfortable repose in order to think clearly and serve the greater good of the farm.

Around this time, a fearsome storm descends on Animal Farm, knocking down roof tiles, an elm tree, and even the flagstaff. When the animals go into the fields, they find, to their horror, that the windmill, on which they have worked so hard, has been toppled. Napoleon announces in appalled tones that the windmill has been sabotaged by Snowball, who, he says, will do anything to destroy Animal Farm. Napoleon passes a death sentence on Snowball, offering a bushel of apples to the traitor’s killer. He then gives a passionate speech in which he convinces the animals that they must rebuild the windmill, despite the backbreaking toil involved. “Long live the windmill!” he cries. “Long live Animal Farm!”

Chapter VII

In the bitter cold of winter, the animals struggle to rebuild the windmill. In January, they fall short of food, a fact that they work to conceal from the human farmers around them, lest Animal Farm be perceived to be failing. The humans refuse to believe that Snowball caused the destruction of the windmill, saying that the windmill’s walls simply weren’t thick enough. The animals deem this explanation false, but they nevertheless decide to build the walls twice as thick this time. Squealer gives ennobling speeches on the glory of sacrifice, but the other animals acquire their real inspiration from the example of Boxer, who works harder than ever.

In order to feed the animals, Napoleon contracts to sell four hundred eggs a week. The other animals react with shock—one of Old Major’s original complaints about humans focused on the cruelty of egg selling, or so they remember. The hens rebel, and Napoleon responds by cutting their rations entirely. Nine hens die before the others give in to Napoleon’s demands.

Soon afterward, the animals hear, to their extreme dismay, that Snowball has been visiting the farm at night, in secret, and sabotaging the animals’ efforts. Napoleon says that he can detect Snowball’s presence everywhere, and whenever something appears to go wrong by chance, Snowball receives the blame. One day, Squealer announces that Snowball has sold himself to Mr. Frederick’s farm, Pinchfield, and that the treacherous pig has been in league with Mr. Jones from the start. He recalls Snowball’s attempts at the Battle of the Cowshed to have the animals defeated.

The animals hear these words in stupefied astonishment. They remember Snowball's heroism and recall that he received a medal. Boxer, in particular, is completely baffled. But Napoleon and Squealer convince the others that Snowball's apparent bravery simply constituted part of his treacherous plot. They also work to convince the animals of Napoleon's superior bravery during that battle. So vividly does Squealer describe Napoleon's alleged heroic actions that the animals are almost able to remember them.

Four days later, Napoleon convenes all of the animals in the yard. With his nine huge dogs ringed about him and growling, he stages an inquisition and a purge: he forces certain animals to confess to their participation in a conspiracy with Snowball and then has the dogs tear out these supposed traitors' throats. The dogs, apparently without orders, even attack Boxer, who effortlessly knocks them away with his huge hooves. But four pigs and numerous other animals meet their deaths, including the hens who rebelled at the proposal to sell their eggs.

The terrible bloodshed leaves the animals deeply shaken and confused. After Napoleon leaves, Boxer says that he would never have believed that such a thing could happen on Animal Farm. He adds that the tragedy must owe to some fault in the animals themselves; thus, he commits to working even harder. Clover looks out over the farm, wondering how such a glorious rebellion as theirs could have come to its current state.

Some of the animals begin to sing "Beasts of England," but Squealer appears and explains that "Beasts of England" may no longer be sung. It applied only to the Rebellion, he says, and now there is no more need for rebellion. Squealer gives the animals a replacement song, written by Minimus, the poet pig. The new song expresses profound patriotism and glorifies Animal Farm, but it does not inspire the animals as "Beasts of England" once did.

Chapter VIII

A few days after the bloody executions, the animals discover that the commandment reading "No animal shall kill any other animal" now reads: "No animal shall kill any other animal without cause." As with the previous revisions of commandments, the animals blame the apparent change on their faulty memories—they must have forgotten the final two words. The animals work even harder throughout the year to rebuild the windmill. Though they often suffer from hunger and the cold, Squealer reads continuously from a list of statistics proving that conditions remain far superior to anything the animals knew under Mr. Jones and that they only continue to improve.

Napoleon has now taken the title of "Leader" and has dozens of other complimentary titles as well. Minimus has written a poem in praise of the Napoleon and inscribed it on the barn wall. A pile of timber lies unused on the farm, left over from the days of Mr.

Jones, and Napoleon engages in complicated negotiations for the sale of it to either Mr. Frederick or Mr. Pilkington. When negotiations favor Mr. Frederick, the pigs teach the animals to hate Mr. Pilkington. When Mr. Pilkington then appears ready to buy the timber, the pigs teach the animals to hate Mr. Frederick with equal ferocity.

Whichever farm is currently out of favor is said to be the hiding place of Snowball. Following a slew of propaganda against Mr. Frederick (during which Napoleon adopts the maxim “Death to Frederick!”), the animals are shocked to learn that Mr. Frederick eventually comes through as the buyer of the timber. The pigs talk endlessly about Napoleon’s cleverness, for, rather than accept a check for the timber, he insists on receiving cash. The five-pound notes are now in his possession.

Soon the animals complete the construction of the windmill. But before they can put it to use, Napoleon discovers to his great outrage that the money Mr. Frederick gave him for the timber is simply a stack of forgeries. He warns the animals to prepare for the worst, and, indeed, Mr. Frederick soon attacks Animal Farm with a large group of armed men. The animals cower as Mr. Frederick’s men plant dynamite at the base of the windmill and blow the whole structure up. Enraged, the animals attack the men, driving them away, but at a heavy cost: several of the animals are killed, and Boxer sustains a serious injury. The animals are disheartened, but a patriotic flag-raising ceremony cheers them up and restores their faith somewhat.

Not long afterward, the pigs discover a crate of whisky in the farmhouse basement. That night, the animals hear singing and revelry from within, followed by the sound of a terrible quarrel. The next morning the pigs look bleary-eyed and sick, and the animals hear whisperings that Comrade Napoleon may be dying. By evening, however, he has recovered. The next night, some of the animals find Squealer near the barn, holding a paintbrush; he has fallen from a ladder leaned up against the spot where the Seven Commandments are painted on the barn. The animals fail to put two and two together, however, and when they discover that the commandment that they recall as stating “No animal shall drink alcohol” actually reads “No animal shall drink alcohol to excess,” they once again blame their memories for being faulty.

Chapter IX

Wearily and weakly, the animals set about rebuilding the windmill. Though Boxer remains seriously injured, he shows no sign of being in pain and refuses to leave his work for even a day. Clover makes him a poultice for his hoof, and he eventually does seem to improve, but his coat doesn’t seem as shiny as before and his great strength seems slightly diminished. He says that his only goal is to see the windmill off to a good start before he retires. Though no animal has yet retired on Animal Farm, it had previously been agreed that all horses could do so at the age of twelve. Boxer now nears this age,

and he looks forward to a comfortable life in the pasture as a reward for his immense labors.

Food grows ever more scarce, and all animals receive reduced rations, except for the pigs and the dogs. Squealer continues to produce statistics proving that, even with this “readjustment,” the rations exceed those that they received under Mr. Jones. After all, Squealer says, when the pigs and dogs receive good nourishment, the whole community stands to benefit. When four sows give birth to Napoleon’s piglets, thirty-one in all, Napoleon commands that a schoolhouse be built for their education, despite the farm’s dwindling funds. Napoleon begins ordering events called Spontaneous Demonstrations, at which the animals march around the farm, listen to speeches, and exult in the glory of Animal Farm. When other animals complain, the sheep, who love these Spontaneous Demonstrations, drown them out with chants of “Four legs good, two legs bad!”

In April, the government declares Animal Farm a republic, and Napoleon becomes president in a unanimous vote, having been the only candidate. The same day, the leadership reveals new discoveries about Snowball’s complicity with Jones at the Battle of the Cowshed. It now appears that Snowball actually fought openly on Jones’s side and cried “Long live Humanity!” at the outset of the fight.

The battle took place so long ago, and seems so distant, that the animals placidly accept this new story. Around the same time, Moses the raven returns to the farm and once again begins spreading his stories about Sugarcandy Mountain. Though the pigs officially denounce these stories, as they did at the outset of their administration, they nonetheless allow Moses to live on the farm without requiring him to work.

One day, Boxer’s strength fails; he collapses while pulling stone for the windmill. The other animals rush to tell Squealer, while Benjamin and Clover stay near their friend. The pigs announce that they will arrange to bring Boxer to a human hospital to recuperate, but when the cart arrives, Benjamin reads the writing on the cart’s sideboards and announces that Boxer is being sent to a glue maker to be slaughtered. The animals panic and begin crying out to Boxer that he must escape. They hear him kicking feebly inside the cart, but he is unable to get out.

Soon Squealer announces that the doctors could not cure Boxer: he has died at the hospital. He claims to have been at the great horse’s side as he died and calls it the most moving sight he has ever seen—he says that Boxer died praising the glories of Animal Farm. Squealer denounces the false rumors that Boxer was taken to a glue factory, saying that the hospital had simply bought the cart from a glue maker and had failed to paint over the lettering. The animals heave a sigh of relief at this news, and when Napoleon gives a great speech in praise of Boxer, they feel completely soothed.

Not long after the speech, the farmhouse receives a delivery from the grocer, and sounds of revelry erupt from within. The animals murmur among themselves that the pigs have found the money to buy another crate of whisky—though no one knows where they found the money.

Chapter X

Years pass. Many animals age and die, and few recall the days before the Rebellion. The animals complete a new windmill, which is used not for generating electricity but for milling corn, a far more profitable endeavor. The farm seems to have grown richer, but only the many pigs and dogs live comfortable lives. Squealer explains that the pigs and dogs do very important work—filling out forms and such.

The other animals largely accept this explanation, and their lives go on very much as before. They never lose their sense of pride in Animal Farm or their feeling that they have differentiated themselves from animals on other farms. The inhabitants of Animal Farm still fervently believe in the goals of the Rebellion—a world free from humans, with equality for all animals.

One day, Squealer takes the sheep off to a remote spot to teach them a new chant. Not long afterward, the animals have just finished their day's work when they hear the terrified neighing of a horse. It is Clover, and she summons the others hastily to the yard. There, the animals gaze in amazement at Squealer walking toward them on his hind legs. Napoleon soon appears as well, walking upright; worse, he carries a whip. Before the other animals have a chance to react to the change, the sheep begin to chant, as if on cue: "Four legs good, two legs better!"

Clover, whose eyes are failing in her old age, asks Benjamin to read the writing on the barn wall where the Seven Commandments were originally inscribed. Only the last commandment remains: "all animals are equal." However, it now carries an addition: "but some animals are more equal than others." In the days that follow, Napoleon openly begins smoking a pipe, and the other pigs subscribe to human magazines, listen to the radio, and begin to install a telephone, also wearing human clothes that they have salvaged from Mr. Jones's wardrobe.

One day, the pigs invite neighboring human farmers over to inspect Animal Farm. The farmers praise the pigs and express, in diplomatic language, their regret for past "misunderstandings." The other animals, led by Clover, watch through a window as Mr. Pilkington and Napoleon toast each other, and Mr. Pilkington declares that the farmers share a problem with the pigs: "If you have your lower animals to contend with," he says, "we have our lower classes!"

Mr. Pilkington notes with appreciation that the pigs have found ways to make Animal Farm's animals work harder and on less food than any other group of farm animals in the county. He adds that he looks forward to introducing these advances on his own farm. Napoleon replies by reassuring his human guests that the pigs never wanted anything other than to conduct business peacefully with their human neighbors and that they have taken steps to further that goal.

Animals on Animal Farm will no longer address one another as "Comrade," he says, or pay homage to Old Major; nor will they salute a flag with a horn and hoof upon it. All of these customs have been changed recently by decree, he assures the men. Napoleon even announces that Animal Farm will now be known as the Manor Farm, which is, he believes, its "correct and original name."

The pigs and farmers return to their amiable card game, and the other animals creep away from the window. Soon the sounds of a quarrel draw them back to listen. Napoleon and Pilkington have played the ace of spades simultaneously, and each accuses the other of cheating. The animals, watching through the window, realize with a start that, as they look around the room of the farmhouse, they can no longer distinguish which of the card players are pigs and which are human beings.

Overall Summary

Old Major, a prize-winning boar, gathers the animals of the Manor for a meeting in the big barn. He tells them of a dream he has had in which all animals live together with no human beings to oppress or control them. He tells the animals that they must work toward such a paradise and teaches them a song called “Beasts of England,” in which his dream vision is lyrically described. The animals greet Major’s vision with great enthusiasm. When he dies only three nights after the meeting, three younger pigs—Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer—formulate his main principles into a philosophy called Animalism. Late one night, the animals manage to defeat the farmer Mr. Jones in a battle, running him off the land. They rename the property Animal Farm and dedicate themselves to achieving Major’s dream. The cart-horse Boxer devotes himself to the cause with particular zeal, committing his great strength to the prosperity of the farm and adopting as a personal maxim the affirmation “I will work harder.”

At first, Animal Farm prospers. Snowball works at teaching the animals to read, and Napoleon takes a group of young puppies to educate them in the principles of Animalism. When Mr. Jones reappears to take back his farm, the animals defeat him again, in what comes to be known as the Battle of the Cowshed, and take the farmer’s abandoned gun as a token of their victory. As time passes, however, Napoleon and Snowball increasingly quibble over the future of the farm, and they begin to struggle with each other for power and influence among the other animals. Snowball concocts a scheme to build an electricity-generating windmill, but Napoleon solidly opposes the plan. At the meeting to vote on whether to take up the project, Snowball gives a passionate speech. Although Napoleon gives only a brief retort, he then makes a strange noise, and nine attack dogs—the puppies that Napoleon had confiscated in order to “educate”—burst into the barn and chase Snowball from the farm. Napoleon assumes leadership of Animal Farm and declares that there will be no more meetings. From that point on, he asserts, the pigs alone will make all of the decisions—for the good of every animal.

Napoleon now quickly changes his mind about the windmill, and the animals, especially Boxer, devote their efforts to completing it. One day, after a storm, the animals find the windmill toppled. The human farmers in the area declare smugly that the animals made the walls too thin, but Napoleon claims that Snowball returned to the farm to sabotage the windmill. He stages a great purge, during which various animals who have allegedly participated in Snowball's great conspiracy—meaning any animal who opposes Napoleon's uncontested leadership—meet instant death at the teeth of the attack dogs. With his leadership unquestioned (Boxer has taken up a second maxim, "Napoleon is always right"), Napoleon begins expanding his powers, rewriting history to make Snowball a villain. Napoleon also begins to act more and more like a human being—sleeping in a bed, drinking whisky, and engaging in trade with neighboring farmers. The original Animalist principles strictly forbade such activities, but Squealer, Napoleon's propagandist, justifies every action to the other animals, convincing them that Napoleon is a great leader and is making things better for everyone—despite the fact that the common animals are cold, hungry, and overworked.

Mr. Frederick, a neighboring farmer, cheats Napoleon in the purchase of some timber and then attacks the farm and dynamites the windmill, which had been rebuilt at great expense. After the demolition of the windmill, a pitched battle ensues, during which Boxer receives major wounds. The animals rout the farmers, but Boxer's injuries weaken him. When he later falls while working on the windmill, he senses that his time has nearly come. One day, Boxer is nowhere to be found. According to Squealer, Boxer has died in peace after having been taken to the hospital, praising the Rebellion with his last breath. In actuality, Napoleon has sold his most loyal and long-suffering worker to a glue maker in order to get money for whisky.

Years pass on Animal Farm, and the pigs become more and more like human beings—walking upright, carrying whips, and wearing clothes. Eventually, the seven principles of Animalism, known as the Seven Commandments and inscribed on the side of the barn, become reduced to a single principle reading "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." Napoleon entertains a human farmer named Mr. Pilkington at a dinner and declares his intent to ally himself with the human farmers against the laboring classes of both the human and animal communities. He also changes the name of Animal Farm back to the Manor Farm, claiming that this title is the "correct" one. Looking in at the party of elites through the farmhouse window, the common animals can no longer tell which are the pigs and which are the human beings.

1. IDIOMS AND PHRASES: MEANINGS AND USAGES

I. EXERCISE PRACTICE

Worksheet 1:

1. You are also new to this place and I am also new to this place. So, I guess, we both are _____.

- a) **In the same boat**
- b) better late than never
- c) hang in there
- d) at loggerheads

2. Under peer pressure to bunk the class, I _____.

- a) Bite the bullets
- b) **stuck to my guns**
- c) left no stone unturned
- d) called it a day

3. They decided to _____ to save for future.

- a) be better late than
- b) beat the bush never
- c) Steal someone's thunder
- d) **cut the corners**

4. Helen took every care to _____ so as to avoid any mistake in her viva.

- a) **walk on eggshells**
- b) let time slip
- c) make two ends meet
- d) snowed under

5. Erwin says he dislikes travelling. However, I think the _____ for him.

- a) **grapes are sour**
- b) bananas are brown
- c) apples are rotten
- d) guavas are sweet

6. After spending the Sunday at zoo, Henry and his friends _____.

- a) **called it a day**
- b) break someone's bubble
- c) sit on the fence

7. For the mother, her child was _____.

- a) smash hit
- b) silver screen
- c) **apple of her eye**
- d) twinkle of her eye

8. The new house cost James _____.

- a) **an arm and a leg**
- b) set the record straight
- c) penny for his thoughts
- d) piece of cake

9. Ricky could not go to the picnic because he was feeling _____.

- a) teacher's pet
- b) sweet tooth
- c) tickled pink
- d) **under the weather**

10. Eddie was hurt by the comments of his jealous classmate so his best friend advised him to take it _____.

- a) **with a pinch of salt**
- b) take each day as it comes
- c) the moment of truth
- d) this day and age

11. After weeks of preparation, it was finally time for the school play. Shelly was feeling nervous, but her teacher reassured her, saying "Remember, it's just _____".

- a) **with a pinch of salt**
- b) take each day as it comes
- c) the moment of truth
- d) this day and age

12. With so much technology available, children these days are growing up in _____.

- a) with a pinch of salt
- b) take each day as it comes
- c) the moment of truth
- d) **this day and age**

13. After failing his first attempt at the driving test, Jonas's father advised him to stay positive and _____.

- a) with a pinch of salt
- b) **take each day as it comes**
- c) the moment of truth
- d) this day and age

14. When Alice received criticism for her painting, her art teacher told her to consider the feedback _____.

- a) **with a pinch of salt**
- b) take each day as it comes
- c) the moment of truth
- d) this day and age

15. After Scarlet's presentation didn't go as planned, her mother comforted her, saying _____.

- a) hit the nail on the head
- b) in hot water

- c) off the hook
- d) every cloud has a silver lining**

16. When Manuel was late for the meeting, his boss reminded him that _____.

- a) actions speak louder than words
- b) don't cry over spilt milk
- c) Rome wasn't built in a day
- d) the early bird catches the worm**

17. Despite the heavy rain, the football match continued _____.

- a) under the weather
- b) against all odds**
- c) through thick and thin
- d) the calm before the storm

18. After the long journey, Enna felt _____ and wanted nothing more than to relax.

- a) on cloud nine**
- b) in a nutshell
- c) on pins and needles
- d) down in the dumps

19. When Jimmy asked his father for advice on the problem, he simply replied _____.

- a) actions speak louder than words**
- b) all bark and no bite
- c) apple of my eye
- d) bite the bullet

20. Despite facing difficulties, the team decided to _____ and continue with their project.

- a) keep their chin up
- b) cry over spilt milk
- c) take the bull by the horns**
- d) sit on the fence

21. I'm not sure if this investment is a good idea, so I'd like to _____ until I see the results.

- A) take it with a grain of salt**
- B) break the ice
- C) call it a day
- D) cut to the chase

22. The new policy is complex, but _____, it aims to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

- A) in a nutshell**
- B) on the same page
- C) give someone a run for their money

23. The team has been working hard to _____ and meet the project deadline.

- A) burn the midnight oil**
- B) cut to the chase

- C) give someone a run for their money
- D) take the high road

24. After the disagreement, he _____ and stopped talking to her for a while.

- A) gave her the cold shoulder
- B) took the high road
- C) rose to the occasion
- D) beat around the bush

25. I'm feeling really tired, I think I'll _____ and go to bed early tonight.

- A) call it a day
- B) cut to the chase
- C) give someone a run for their money
- D) take the high road

26. The new policy is complex, but _____, it aims to increase productivity.

- A) in a nutshell
- B) on the same page
- C) beat around the bush
- D) cost an arm and a leg

27. She's been _____ on this project for months and it's finally paying off.

- A) burning the midnight oil
- B) cutting her teeth
- C) giving someone the cold shoulder
- D) taking the high road

1. Homonyms and Homophones: Meanings, types and usages.

Worksheet 2: PART A:

1. "He simply sat down on the ledge and forgot everything _____ [*accept* or *except*] the marvellous
2. mystery."— Lawrence Sargent Hall
3. "I live in the Oakland Hills in a tiny house on a street so windy you can't drive more than ten miles per hour. I rented it because the _____ [*ad* or *add*] said this: 'Small house in the trees with a garden and a fireplace. Dogs welcome, of course.'"— Pam Houston
4. "Francis wondered what _____ [*advice* or *advise*] a psychiatrist would have for him."— John Cheever
5. "The _____ [*aid* or *aide*] gets out of the way, picking her skirt out of the rubble of children at her feet."— Rosellen Brown
6. "He seemed to want to recapture the cosseted feeling he'd had when he'd been sick as a child and she would serve him flat ginger _____ [*ail* or *ale*], and toast soaked in cream,

and play endless card games with him, using his blanket-covered legs as a table."— Alice Elliott Dark

7. "He sat down and leaned forward, pulling the chair's rear legs into the _____ [*air, ere, or heir*] so that the waitress could get by."— Stanley Elkins
8. "[T]he stewardess was moving down the _____ [*aisle, I'll, or isle*], like a trained nurse taking temperatures in a hospital ward, to see that they were all properly strapped in for the take-off."— Martha Gellhorn
9. "Mrs. Parmenter laughed at his _____ [*allusion or illusion*] to their summer at Mrs. Sterrett's, in Rome, and gave him her coat to hold."— Willa Cather
10. "In the long years between, she had fashioned many fine dresses—gowned gay girls for their conquests and robed fair brides for the _____ [*altar or alter*]."— Mary Lerner

11. "On a Saturday morning soon after he came to live with her, he turned over her garbage while she was at the grocery store and _____ [*ate or eight*] rancid bacon drippings out of a small Crisco can."— Pam Durban
12. "The barn was bigger than a church, and the fall's fresh hay _____ [*bails or bales*] were stacked to the roof in the side mows."— John Updike
13. "Her two spare dresses were gone, her comb was gone, her checkered coat was gone, and so was the mauve hair- _____ [*band or banned*] with a mauve bow that had been her hat."— Vladimir Nabokov
14. "Without the shelter of those trees, there is a great exposure—back yards, clotheslines, woodpiles, patchy sheds, and barns and privies—all _____ [*bare or bear*], exposed, provisional looking."— Alice Munro
15. "This was the time when outfields were larger than they are today and well-hit balls would roll for a long time, giving runners ample time to round the _____ [*bases or basis*] for a home run."— Deidre Silva and Jackie Koney
16. "The conductor had his knotted signal cord to pull, and the motorman _____ [*beat or beet*] the foot gong with his mad heel."— Saul Bellow
17. "Nancy held the cup to her mouth and _____ [*blew or blue*] into the cup."— William Faulkner

18. "A pigeon landed nearby. It hopped on its little red feet and pecked into something that might have been a dirty piece of stale _____ [*bread* or *bred*] or dried mud."— Isaac Bashevis Singer

19. "He was wearing a new hat of a pretty biscuit shade, for it never occurred to him to _____ [*buy*, *by*, or *bye*] anything of a practical colour; he had put it on for the first time and the rain was spoiling it."— Katherine Anne Porter

Part B: Choose the correct word

-
1. I CAN'T WAIT TO (**MEET** / MEAT) MY COUSIN AT THE AIRPORT.
 2. HE HURT HIS (**HEEL** / HEAL) DURING THE MATCH.
 3. THEY WATCHED THE (PLAIN / **PLANE**) TAKE OFF.
 4. THE (**SUN** / SON) IS VERY BRIGHT TODAY.
 5. SHE TIED HER HAIR WITH A RED (**BOW** / BOUGH).
 6. WE HAD TO (**WAIT** / WEIGHT) A LONG TIME.
 7. THE KNIGHT WORE HIS SHINING (**ARMOR** / AMOUR).
 8. I'LL (**WRITE** / RIGHT) A LETTER TO MY FRIEND.
 9. THE CAT CHASED ITS (**TAIL** / TALE).
 10. PLEASE CLOSE THE (**GATE** / GAIT) BEFORE THE DOG ESCAPES.

PART C: FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE CORRECT HOMONYM

1. The wind will _____ the leaves. (**blow** / blue)
2. She bought a new _____ of shoes. (**pair** / pear)
3. The teacher asked us to read the next _____. (sent / cent / **sentence**)
4. I need to _____ this package. (**mail** / male)
5. We saw a _____ in the forest. (**dear** / deer)

PART D: IDENTIFY THE HOMONYMS IN EACH SENTENCE

1. The **BAT** flew out of the cave, and he also used a **BAT** to hit the ball.
2. The **BANK** was crowded, so we walked along the river **BANK**.
3. He **left** the gift on the **LEFT**side of the table.
4. She can **BEAR** the pain, but she also saw a **BEAR** in the woods.
5. I saw the **TEAR** in her eye as she tried not to **TEAR** the letter.

3. Phrasal Verbs

Worksheet 3:

PART A:

1. We need to **think through** all the potential risks before launching the product.
2. After hours of discussion, they finally **ironed out** a compromise.
3. The entire disagreement really **boils down to** a misunderstanding.
4. She **called out** her colleague for constantly missing deadlines.
5. We had a great idea, but the plan **fell through** due to lack of funding.
6. He refused to **back down**, even when he knew he was wrong.
7. Let's **map out** a clear strategy before the meeting.
8. I'm sure we can **come up with** a creative solution if we work together.
9. We're planning to **branch out** into new international markets next year.
10. You should **jot down** those ideas before you forget them.
11. The manager asked to **bounce off** the proposal before presenting it to the board.
12. I'm sorry I'm late — traffic really **held up** me.
13. You can't avoid the issue forever; you need to **face up to** your mistakes.
14. He had to **walk back** his statement after public backlash.
15. We need someone to **step up** and lead this project.
16. I **ran into** my old professor at the conference yesterday.
17. The negotiations **dragged on** for hours without any real progress.
18. We need to **scale up** our marketing efforts if we want to expand globally.
19. The company had to **lay off** over 100 employees due to budget cuts.
20. Our merger plans **fell through** after the investors pulled out.
21. She always starts projects but never **follows through** them.
22. The researcher is trying to **zero in on** the root cause of the failure.
23. Let's **build on** the momentum from last quarter and push forward.
24. I had to stay late to **catch up** on the work I missed while traveling.

PART B:

1. They're trying to (bounce off / **branch out** / walk back) into the Asian tech market this year.
2. He had to (**step up** / fall through / drag on) when the team leader suddenly resigned.
3. Let me (**jot down** / iron out / hold up) the main points before the meeting ends.
4. Their CEO was forced to (**walk back** / build on / catch up) his controversial remarks.
5. The speaker didn't (face up to / get around to / **hold up**) the audience with irrelevant details.
6. We (**built on**/built in) the idea by adding new features.
7. He (**held up**/held on) the process for over 20 minutes.
8. They (**zeroed in on**/zeroed out) the most profitable areas.
9. She **came up with**/came out a brilliant idea for the project.
10. The job offer **fell through**/fell in at the last minute.

4. One-word substitution

Worksheet 4:Set A:

01	A person who helps others without expecting anything in return.	Altruist
2.	Showing great skill or expertise in a task.	Adept

3.	The act of lying or deceiving someone to gain an advantage.	Deceit
4.	Someone who talks too much about unimportant things.	Garrulous
5.	A person who announces the coming of something.	Harbinger
6.	Being fair and not taking sides in a dispute	Impartial
7.	Careful to avoid wasting money or resources.	Frugal
8.	A feeling of longing for things that happened in the past.	Nostalgia
9.	A person who is famous and highly respected in their field.	Eminent
10.	A person who is immature or childish in behaviour.	Juvenile
11.	Someone who is extremely careful and pays attention to detail.	Meticulous
12.	Showing eagerness or enthusiasm for something.	Keen
13.	Hostile and ready to fight.	Belligerent
14.	Feeling slow and lacking energy.	Lethargic
15.	Honest and straightforward in speech.	Candor

Set B:

1. The scientific study of living organisms

a. Biochemistry (b) **Zoology** (c) Organic Chemistry (d) Biology

2. Lasting only for a short while

a. **Temporary** (b) Temporal (c) Transparent (d) Template

3. Something that cannot be taken away

a. **inalienable** (b) edible (c) Illegible (d) natural

4. Careful and through enquiry

a. **Investigation** (b) Interview (c) Examination (d) Exploration

5. Sudden and violent change

a. **Cataclysm** (b) Catalysis (c) Catacombs(d) Catechism

6. To look at someone in an angry or threatening way

a. **Glower** (b) Gnaw (c) Gnash (d) Grind

7. A continuous process of change

a. transformation (b) metamorphosis (c) **flux** (d) dynamism

8. To struggle helplessly

a. **flounder** (b) founder (c) fumble (d) finger

9. Impossible to describe

a. miraculous (b) **ineffable** (c) stupendous (d) appalling

10. Bad beyond reform

a. irreversible (b) irrevocable (c) **irredeemable** (d) irreparable

11. One who offers his service without charging for it

a. philanderer (b) **volunteer**(c) mercenary (d) missionary

12. *Having a tendency to break the law to do socially unacceptable things*
 a. **delinquent** (b) frank (c) juvenile (d) guilty
13. *A place where a lot of people go on holiday or vacation*
 a. casino (b) beach (c) **resort** (d) museum
14. *Living at the same time*
 a. concurrent (b) **contemporary** (c) coincident (d) concomitant
15. *Practice of employing spies in war*
 a. esplanade (b) espadrille (c) estrangement (d) **espionage**
16. *A broad road bordered with trees*
 a. boudoir (b) **boulevard** (c) avenue (d) façade
17. *Detaining and confining someone*
 a. interruption (b) interrogation (c) **internment** (d) intermittent
18. *One who criticizes popular beliefs which he/she thinks is a mistake or unwise*
 a. **philistine** (b) iconoclast (c) imposter (d) cannibal
19. *Violation of something holy or sacred*
 a. profanity (b) sedition (c) **sacrilege** (d) slander
20. *The act of giving up sovereign power*
 a. relinquish (b) renounce (c) **abdicate** (d) resign
21. *Branch of medicine dealing with the health and care of old people*
 a. obstetrics (b) paediatrics (c) calisthenics (d) **geriatrics**
22. *Hard to understand*
 a. punctilious (b) obtuse (c) absurd (d) **abstruse**
23. *A noisy and bombastic speech addressed to a large assembly*
 a. **rhetoric** (b) cacophony (c) harangue (d) oration
24. *That which is out of place*
 a. anachronistic (b) **obsolete** (c) incongruous (d) archaic
25. *That never fails*
 a. irrelevant (b) **infallible** (c) indelible (d) inaudible
26. *The study of ancient writings*
 a) annals (b) **palaeographic** (c) calligraphy (d) archaeology
27. *A dogmatic person*
 a. nomadic (b) elite (c) **zealot** (d) swash buckler
28. *An odd, a typical or eccentric trait*
 a. harangue (b) hyperbole (c) **idiosyncrasy** (d) elegy
29. *A cluster of houses in a village*
 a. fleet (b) **hamlet** (c) monument (d) constellation
30. *The time when two people have a romantic relationship before they get married*
 a. snobbery (b) **courtship** (c) estrangement (d) polyphony
31. *Matter written by hand*
 a. handwritten (b) **manuscript** (c) proof (d) amnesty
32. *One who promotes the idea of absence of government of any kind, when every man should be a law unto himself*
 a. agnostic (b) iconoclast (c) belligerent (d) **anarchist**
33. *A person who constantly thinks, he is sick is a*
 a. **hypochondriac** (b) misogynist (c) misanthrope (d) hypopituitary
34. *Responsible according to law*
 a. eligible (b) legitimate (c) legalized (d) **liable**
35. *A statement that can have a double meaning*
 a. verbose (b) ambivalent (c) epigraph (d) **ambiguous**
36. *Anything written in a letter after it is signed*

- a. corrigendum (b) Manuscript(c) **postscript** (d) unmanageable
37. *Which is bound to be done*
a. soliloquy (b) **indispensable**(c) sinecure (d) indelible
38. *money paid to a man for his labour*
a. sacrilege (b) rent(c) bunting (d) **remuneration**
39. *A fixed territory in which authority can be exercised*
a. juristic (b) **jurisdiction** (c) jurisprudence (d) juristic
40. *One who has obstinate and narrow religiousviews*
a. fanatic (b) theologian (c) **bigot** (d) egotist
41. *Specialised in nose disease*
a. **rhinologist** (b) philologist(c) endocrinologist (d) gerontologist
42. *Animals who lives in herds*
a. sociable (b) **gregarious** (c) carnivorous (d) social
43. *An unexpected piece of good fortune*
a. **windfall** (b) philanthropy (c) benevolence (d) turnstile
44. *An emolument over and above fixed income orsalary*
a. honorarium (b) sinecure(c) prerogative (d) **perquisite**
45. *The doctor known as an eye-specialist*
a. orthodontist (b) orthopaedist (c) **ophthalmologist** (d) obstetrician
46. *The practice of pretending to have feelings thatone does not really have*
a. treachery (b) villainy (c) **hypocrisy** (d) inundates
47. *To run away with a lover*
a. deceives (b) cheat (c) escape (d) **elope**
48. *A system of government controlled by persons ofhigh intellectual ability*
a. oligarchy (b) democracy(c) **meritocracy** (d) theocracy
49. *Young one of horse*
a. piglet (b) lamb (c) calf (d) **colt**
50. *One who does not follow the usual rules of sociallife*
a. egoist (b) frank (c) **bohemian** (d) reveille

Worksheet 5: Tenses and Its Agreement:

- Aaruth _____ television every day.
a) watching b) watched c) **watches** d) watch
- Students _____ their notebooks.
a) writes b) are write c) **write** d) writing
- Anjali had already finished her task when his boss _____.
a) arrives b) **arrived** c) arriving d) none of these
- Identify the tense: "It snows in Muree."
a) **Simple Present** b) Simple Past c) Present Continuous d) Simple Future
- Maryia always _____ apple jam in her breakfast.
a) eat b) **eats** c) ate d) eating

6. **I _____ gifts for children every Eid.**
a) buying **b) buy** c) buys d) bought
7. **Water _____ of hydrogen and oxygen.**
a) consist b) consisting **c) consists** d) consisted
8. **Kalpana is _____ typing right now.**
a) typing b) typed c) has typed d) is being typing
9. **My classmates _____ practicing.** (choose correct present continuous helping verb)
a) is **b) are** c) were d) was
10. **Akshatha has already _____ football.**
a) play b) playing c) plays **d) played**
11. **I _____ already eaten today.**
a) am b) is c) has **d) have**
12. **"Nandini watched a drama serial on T.V." This sentence belongs to:**
a) Present Perfect **b) Simple Future** c) Future Perfect d) Future Perfect Continuous
13. **I _____ Shivu's brother.**
a) am not knowing **b) don't know** c) not know d) does not know
14. **The Prime Minister _____ talking about the economic situation.**
a) is b) are c) had d) has
15. **Yum! this burger _____ good.**
a) tasting b) taste **c) tastes** d) tastes
16. **The children are being awfully _____ today.**
a) sick b) hungry **c) noisy** d) none of these
17. **Hens _____ eggs.**
a) lay b) lie c) laying d) lays
18. **I _____ Mr Rita at nine last night, but he was not at home.**
a) call **b) called** c) calling d) has called
19. **I _____ a new laptop four days ago.**
a) buy b) was buying **c) bought** d) buys
20. **He's _____ bragging about himself.**
a) forever b) always c) frequently **d) constantly**
21. **He is _____ upstairs his book.**
a) get b) got **c) getting** d) getting up

22. **She is in the kitchen _____ dishes.**
a) **washing** b) washed c) wash d) none of above
23. **Portugal _____ to the west of Spain.**
a) lay b) lie c) laying d) **lies**
24. **Breakfast is an important meal. I _____ breakfast.**
a) am always eat b) **always eat** c) eating d) both a and b
25. **Have you ever _____ a toy?**
a) break b) broke c) **broken** d) breaking
26. **Suhas has been here _____ the 22nd of June.**
a) **since** b) for c) both a and b d) none of above
27. **Last February, I _____ for the first time in Muree.**
a) see b) **saw** c) seen d) has saw
28. **I _____ at least seven E-mails to the Deputy Director.**
a) **have sent** b) has sent c) have send d) has sending
29. **Growing flowers _____ her hobby.**
a) are b) **is** c) has d) has been
30. **Twenty dollars _____ too much to pay.**
a) are b) **is** c) both a and b are correct d) none of these are correct
31. **Zoya _____ watch a movie on television tomorrow.**
a) had b) has c) **will** d) is
32. **I will already _____ read the newspaper when my father arrives.**
a) has b) **have** c) had d) has been
33. **Will they _____ from the university by July 2025?**
a) graduate b) graduating c) graduates d) **graduated**
34. **“Tania will have been sleeping for two hours.” The tense is:**
a) Future Continuous b) Future Perfect c) **Future Perfect Continuous** d) Simple Future
35. **I think Sita _____ studying a book.**
a) has been b) **will be** c) being d) be
36. **Tomorrow at this time, I will be _____ bored at the office.**
a) get b) got c) gotten d) **getting**
37. **We won't be _____ super tomorrow before 8 o'clock.**
a) have b) had c) **having** d) has

38. **Pakistan will win this match. Identify the tense.**
a) Simple past **b) Simple Future** c) Simple Present d) None of above
39. **This team is definitely _____ to win the competition.**
a) go b) gone **c) going** d) goes
40. **For how many hours Fred _____ painting the house when the ladder _____.**
a) been, fell b) is, fallen c) was, falling d) had, fall
41. **When I reached home my mother had been _____ the house for two hours.**
a) clean b) cleaned c) cleans **d) cleaning**
42. **Shanthu _____ as if he had done something terrible.**
a) look b) is looking **c) looked** d) looks
43. **When we arrived the ceremony _____ already finished.**
a) is **b) had** c) was d) has
44. **_____ they playing tennis when you reached?**
a) Are **b) Were** c) Is d) Have
45. **His cigar _____ irritating me.**
a) was b) were c) has d) had
46. **We've been waiting for a good offer to buy a Mercedes _____ March.**
a) since b) for c) from d) None of these
47. **She's been crying in her room _____ half an hour now.**
a) for b) since c) an d) the
48. **The day before yesterday I _____ a lion.**
a) see **b) saw** c) seen d) seeing
49. **The officer had _____ the documents carefully before to _____ it.**
a) read, sign b) reads, signed **c) read, signed** d) reads, signs
50. **The train _____ before we reached the railway station.**
a) left **b) had left** c) have left d) none of these

Worksheet 6: Subject-Verb Agreement

1. Each of the students **is**(is/are) responsible for their assignments.
2. The dog **barks** (bark/barks) in the backyard.
3. My friends **are**(is/are/has) coming over for dinner tonight.
4. Nobody **is** (is/am/are) allowed to leave early.

5. The book, along with its notes, **was**(were/was) on the table.
6. One of the players **is** injured during the game. (is/are)
7. The team **is** practicing for the championship. (are/is)
8. Ten dollars **is** enough for the meal. (is/did/are)
9. A bouquet of flowers **was** delivered to her office. (were/was)
10. The keys **are** on the kitchen counter. (was/are)
11. The data **are** being processed as we speak. (are/do/did/is)
12. Neither the captain nor the players **was** responsible for the delay. (were/was)
13. The cattle **are** grazing in the field. (is/are)
14. The team members **are** arguing among themselves. (are/is)
15. Most of the movie **is** shot in black and white. (is/are)
16. Every one of the players **is** wearing the team jersey. (is/are)
17. The number of cars on the road **is** increasing daily. (is/are)
18. The pair of glasses **is** lying on the shelf. (is/are)
19. The board of directors **is** meeting to finalize the decision. (is/are)
20. Half of the class **has** already completed the test. (has/have)
21. Some of the cake **was** eaten. (were/was)
22. Several of the cars **were** parked illegally. (was/were)
23. Few **are** aware of the situation. (is/are)
24. All of the milk **is** spilled on the floor. (is/are)
25. The pair of shoes **is** in the closet. (are/is)
26. The teacher **has** completed this chapter. (has/have)
27. Ram and Shyam **are** business partners. (are/is)
28. She **reaches** her office by 9 a.m. daily. (reaches/reach)
29. Rahul and his friends **were** also invited to the party. (were/was)
30. Neither you nor your sister should **talk** to them. (talk/talks)
31. Twenty years **is** the minimum age to fill this form. (are/is)
32. A bouquet of flowers **is** required for the event. (is/are)
33. A pair of socks **has** been missing from my wardrobe. (has/have)
34. Much **has** been said in the news reports. (has/have)
35. The information provided to you **was** wrong. (were/was)
36. The company **thinks** of its stakeholders now. (thinks/thought)
37. Either of the two dresses shall **look** good. (look/looks)
38. Each and every member **has**to vote. (have/has)
39. A large number of soldiers **have** died for the country. (have/has)
40. Half of the class **was** empty. (was/were)
41. Physics **is** difficult to understand. (is/are)
42. Neither of the candidates **has** responded. (has/have)
43. He **enjoys** cooking in his leisure time. (enjoys/enjoy)
44. The book 'Management Principles' **is** quite insightful. (is/are)
45. Two dollars **is** a small amount. (is/are)
46. A lot of startups **have** started in the past few years. (has/have)
47. Politics **is** been one of the debatable topics. (are/is)
48. Neither Rishi nor Rhea **was** helpful. (was/were/are)
49. A series of seminars **was** conducted. (was/were)
50. All means of communication **have** shut down. (has/have)

Spotting the Errors: Rules and Usages.

He speak the English	He speaks English.
Anderson went to abroad.	Anderson went abroad.
Though she is weak but she is active.	Though she is weak, she is active.
One of the employee has got the award.	One of the employees has got the award
Children prefer mobile games than story books.	Children prefer mobile games to story books.
Though she is ill, but she attends the class.	Though she is ill, she attends the class.
The manager with all the employees are present.	The manager with all the employees is present.
A group of twelfth students are travelling together.	A group of twelve students is travelling together.
He goes to school by feet..	He goes to school on feet.
. Sun rises in the east.	The Sun rises in the east.
I am a doctor, isn't I?	I am a doctor, aren't I?
Neither Sachin nor Dravid are playing cricket.	Neither Sachin nor Dravid is playing cricket.
The luggages are very heavy.	The luggages is very heavy.
Tom admitted that he was in fault.	Tom admitted that he was at fault.
He gave away smoking	He gave up smoking.
They reached London in train.	They reached London by train.
Cow is a useful animal	The cow is a useful animal
We are unable to identify the error.	We are unable to locate the error.
He is a man of letter.	He is a man of letters.
Rosy is best student in our college.	Rosy is the best student in our college.
No one know the answer.	No one knew the answer.
She is my cousin sister	She is my cousin.
If I was a bird, I would fly.	If I were a bird, I would fly.
His father gave me a lot of advices.	His father gave me a lot of advice.
If he had contacted me, I would help him.	If he had contacted me, I would have helped him.
Please have your meals here.	Please have your meal here.
Variety is spice of life.	Variety is the spice of life.
I am overwhelmed with his sense of humour.	I am overwhelmed by his sense of humour.
Everyone raised their hands.	Everyone raised his hands.
It is quarter past seven now	It is a quarter past seven now.
Both civilians and army men joined I world war.	Both civilians and army men joined the First World War.
Mark was elected as a captain of the team.	Mark was elected as captain of the team.
He has read several poetries.	He has read several poems.
She is learning a new poetry.	She is learning a new poem
Do you like poem?	Do you like poetry?
The English is a brave peoples.	The English are brave people.
There are many different people in India.	There are many different peoples in India
What a beautiful scenery!.	What a beautiful scence!
It is a beautiful scenery.	It is a beautiful sight.

Such sight are not very common.	Such sights are not very common.
These news is good.	These news is good.
We hear many good news nowadays.	We hear a lot of good news nowadays
All the tables are destroyed.	All the table is destroyed
Six pieces of furnitures were kept.	Six pieces of furniture were kept.
I have bought any food.	I have bought some food.
46. I have not bought some bread.	I have not bought any bread.
Little money is better than none.	A little money is better than none.
Bring me any water to drink.	Bring me some water to drink.
I have no any books to read.	I have no books to read
We have little time left.	We have a little time left.
Cat has many life.	Cat has many lives.
None of the boy is very intelligent.	None of the boys is very intelligent.
I bought four dozens apples.	I bought four dozen apples.
One of my sister is poor.	One of my sisters is poor.
The three first songs were delightful.	The first three songs were delightful
I brought him two scarfs.	I brought him two scarves.
My bedroom is full of mouses.	My bedroom is full of mice.
She owns may house.	She owns my houses.
59. He has two mother-in-laws.	He has two mother-in-law.
60. They are thirty in numbers.	They are thirty in number.
61. He has two steps-daughter.	He has two step-daughter.
62. He is an alumini of the Oxford University.	He is an aluminus of the Oxford University.
63. Where are the axis of the Moon and the Earth.	Where are the axes of the Moon and the Earth.
64. Sunrise is a great phenomena.	Sunrise is a great phenomenon.
65. This cattle is yours.	These cattle are yours.
66. Please send me all these informations.	Please send me all this information.
67. He has two dozens of eggs.	He has two dozen of eggs.
68. Please lend me a five-dollars note.	Please lend me a five-dollar note
69. This is a five years-old baby.	This is a five-year-old-baby.
70. She gave me many advice.	She gave me much advice.

Exercises - Wrong Adjectives

71. They did not give us some money.	71: They did not give us any money.
72. Any women came here.	72: Some women came here.
73. Few persons are millionaires.	73: A Few persons are millionaires.
74. Any ten men were present.	74: Nearly ten men were present.
75. A several men visited.	75: Several men visited.
76. He has an enough money.	76: He has enough money.
77. Has he had some bread?	77: Has he had any bread?.
78. Did you pick some flowers?	78 : Did you pick any flowers?.
79. She came each two hours.	79: She came every two hours.
80. 15th August is a historical day.	80: August the Fifteenth is a historical day.
81. You can take each side.	81 : You can take either side.

82. Which mobile is that?	82: What mobile is that?
83. What mobile do you like best?	83: Which mobile do you like the best?
84. She went by the train down.	84: She went by the down train.
85. This is a chair to sit.	85: This is a chair to sit on.
86. She is my older sister.	86 : She is my elder sister.
87. Give me the one pen.	87: Give me one pen.
88. He lost one pen he had.	88: He lost the one pen he had.
89. The good old man was a simpleton.	89: The good old man was very simple.
90. This is number three lesson	90: This is the lesson number three.

. Exercises - **Wrong Prepositions** / The improper usage of preposition.

91. She ordered for cook's dismissal.	91: She ordered the cook's dismissal.
92. This girl resembles to my sister.	92: This girl resembles my sister.
93. He will inform to your brother.	93: He will inform your brother.
94. This lesson has benefited to me much.	94: This lesson has benefited me much.
95. Has he disposed the application?.	95: Has he disposed of the application?
96. He must compensate this loss.	96: He must compensate me for this loss.
97. Don't boast your success.	97: Don't boast of your success.
98. Don't violate against the rules.	98: Don't violate the rules.
99. Don't sign on the contract.	99 : Don't sign the contract.
100. She dispensed my services.	100 : She dispensed with my services.
101. Please assist to him in this matter.	101: Please assist him in this matter.
102. They will not listen your request.	102: They will not listen to your request.
103. Don't muse your losses	103: Don't muse on your losses
104. He is not fit to manage for this job..	104: He is not fit to manage this job.
105. Don't discourage her to learn French..	105: Don't discourage her against learning French.
106. She has a passion for studying.	106: She has a passion for academics.
107. Don't despair to succeed.	107: Don't despair as succeed.
108. He is confident of win.	108: He is confident of winning..
109. Don't resign yourself to fail.	109: Don't resign yourself to failure
110. I insist on you to go.	110: I insist on your going.
111. Insist to have your fee paid.	111 : Insist on have your fee paid.
112. Don't check me to borrow money.	112: Don't check me from borrowing money.
113. Presist to do this.	113: Presist in doing this.
114. Work in accordance to rule.	114: Work in accordance with rule.
115. He did it according with your orders.	115: He did it according to your orders.
116. I am concerned about your health.	116: I am concerned for your health.
117. I am concerned on this business.	117: I am concerned in this business
118. Columbus invented America.	118 : Columbus discovered America.
119. Advice him for his misbehaviour.	
120. Do not initiate from others.	

Reading Comprehension EXERCISES:

Passage: 1

Every moment of life is precious. Time is the essence of life. It is the wealth given to us by Nature. Everyday all of us get 24 hours; nothing less, nothing more. Now, it is up to us how we use it. People who know how to make the best use of every moment easily open the doors of success in their lives and those who misuse time get failures one after the other. There is a saying that, “Spent time and spent words cannot come back.” Everybody is tied by the limits of time; even God respects the boundaries of time.

Work wins appreciation only when it gets completed in a requisite time frame. Beyond the time allotted, work loses all its utility however good may have been its quality. Just as falling of rains after the crops have dried up have no use; likewise, when the time is past the deadline, the work loses its importance and value. When iron is hot it can be cast into whichever shape we want. Once it gets cold nothing can be made out of it, however, much we may beat the same. In the same way, a person who has learnt to wisely use his time and has understood how to cast himself according to the need of the time has actually learnt the true mantra of life.

Shakespeare wrote in one of his plays, “I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.” It is true that a person who wastes even a little bit of time loses wonderful opportunities that he could have otherwise availed of by utilizing that time. All the great leaders have one thing in common. They wisely utilize every moment of their time. When other people are busy in wasting time in laziness, great men are busy in making plans for the future. There is no person in history who wasted his time and still managed to achieve greatness.

Therefore, there is great need to manage time wisely. “Careful Time Management” refers to careful planning of time and sincere execution of this plan. This is the only mantra to attain success in any endeavour. A simple change in outlook and some modification in one’s daily routine can result in a big jump forward towards greater achievements.

Questions

- (a) **What is the essence of life?**

Time is the essence of life.

- (b) **What kind of work loses its utility ?**

The work which is completed beyond the time allotted loses its utility.

- (c) **What is needed for careful time management ?**

Careful planning of time and sincere execution of this plan is needed for careful time management.

- (d) **What kind of people open the doors of success of their life ?**

The people who know how to make the best use of every moment open the doors of success.

- (e) **When does the work lose its importance and value ?**

When the time passes the deadline, the work loses its importance and value.

Passage-2

Medicines have become an element of surprise and a cause of concern. This is because they have begun to aggravate diseases instead of curing them. No one has a solution. The doctors are perplexed and the patients are annoyed. The outcome of intensive research and in-depth studies has startled everyone. These findings show that unnecessary use of medicines has created a trend in which people not only take medicines for every small ailments, but also advise others to do so. This habit is now a fashion, a passion and a mark of being educated and aware. Sometimes, it is even considered a status symbol. People think that they should take strong drugs, irrespective of whether the disease is minor or major. Nowadays, a shelf of medicines is found in every house.

This practice is not merely confined to general medicines, but has now spread even to antibiotics. The literal meaning of the word antibiotics is – ‘against life’. In fact, due to their misuse, they have really begun acting against our life. Experts say that unnecessary consumption of antibiotics is increasing the longevity of the microbes on the one hand, while adversely affecting the patient’s health on the other. This is because due to the overuse of these medicines the resistance of microorganisms is increasing, while the immunity of the individuals is decreasing. The medical experts have now begun to accept openly that neither the doctors refrain from prescribing the antibiotics for even simple ailments, nor the patients observe restraint in consuming them.

It is a matter of concern that these medicines are used excessively without understanding their side-effects. Recently, the World Health Organization has also issued an advisory to the Southeast Asian countries, including India. It has warned that if the unrestricted use of antibiotics continues, the coming times may witness a substantial rise in the number of deaths occurring due to ‘microbial resistance.’

Antibiotics either destroy the disease-causing bacteria completely or prohibit their growth. However, their prolonged use gives rise to mutation in the bacteria, which makes them resistant towards these drugs. Consequently, they stop having any effect on them. This situation is termed by medical experts as ‘microbial resistance’. Various researches and studies carried out in this context also lead to the conclusion that medicines are becoming poisonous.

The chief cause of this situation is the unrestrained use of antibiotics. Studies have revealed that sometimes strong antibiotics are taken even for treating simple problems.

Questions

- (a) Why have medicines become an element of surprise ?
- (b) What is the literary meaning of the word antibiotics ?
- (c) What is the adverse effect of overuse of antibiotics ?
- (d) What do antibiotics do with the disease causing bacteria ?
- (e) What is warned by WHO ?

Answers

- (a) **Medicines have become an element of surprise because they have begun to aggravate diseases instead of curing them.**
- (b) **The literary meaning of the word antibiotics is 'against life'.**
- (c) **The decrease the immunity of the body against diseases.**
- (d) **Antibiotics either destroy the disease causing bacteria completely or prohibit their growth.**
- (e) **It is warned by WHO that if the unrestricted use of antibiotics continues, the coming time may witness a substantial rise in the number of deaths occurring due to 'microbial resistance.'**

Passage:3

Married life has a significant place in our Indian culture. It is the life of a householder that nurtures and enhances the society. The nation gets its future generation owing to this. Hence it is very important that married life is sweet and pleasant. However, it is seen that there is more of bitterness and tension in the relationship owing to incessant quarrels and differences of opinion. Husband and wife get disconnected from each other. The children become orphaned emotionally and the family disintegrates. There are small tips and habits which, when incorporated in daily life, can restore the sweetness of family life and may even lead to a blissful life of togetherness.

Each and every person leading a married life has his own individual life. One's habits, interests, way of life and perspective towards life can be temporarily changed, but cannot be modified permanently. This is the main reason for married life to be smooth for some time and unrest crawling in after prolonged periods. This is the very reason why each of them should allocate sufficient time to each other so that they not only understand each other, but also do a thorough self-introspection and lead a life of their own choice.

Being honest in marriage is very important. This is the foundation for faith in the relationship. Honesty in talking, honesty in discharging one's responsibilities, honesty in fulfilling promises and honesty in all interactions is the key to strengthening the relationship and enhancing the personality of both husband and wife. For the couple to understand each other well, it is important that they are able to leave their fears and speak out their minds to each other. They should discuss freely; and even when they are upset with one another, it should be sorted out as soon as possible. There may be differences of opinion, but this should never lead to disruption of harmony in mind.

There is one habit that is noticed largely in people. They seem to have many complaints against all things in the world. This is primarily because of a facet in their personality which makes them focus on the negative aspects of others rather than looking at the positive ones. If we are prone to this habit, then we should ensure that this is kept under check so that our personality is not perceived as dissatisfied and irritable.

Questions

- a) Why is married life important ? 1
- b) What is called a kind of bad habit ?
- c) What is the key to strengthening the relationship ?
- d) What can be temporarily changed ?
- e) What is important for society ?

Answers

- a. Married life is important for the nation gets its future generation owing to it.**
- b. To have a host of complaint against all things in the world is called a kind of bad habit.**
- c. Honesty in everything is the key to strengthening the relationship.**
- d. One's habits, interests, way of life and perspective towards life can be temporarily changed.**
- e. Happy married life is important for society.**

Passage:4

Vitamin C is an essential ingredient for human beings. It is required for the synthesis of intercellular cement "collagen", which is responsible for keeping various cells of the human body together. As an oxidant, it acts like a cop in the body, apprehending the rowdy molecules called free radicals that are naturally formed during various chemical reactions in the body and have the potential to damage. Vitamin C is also required for dentine formation in the teeth and it also aids in the absorption of iron from the body.

Rats have the capacity to synthesise vitamin C with their body whereas human beings are required to provide it through diet. The richest source of vitamin C is *amla*. The other sources are lemon, orange, papaya, pineapple, cabbage, cauliflower, green peas and tomato. While cooking above 70 degreecentigrade vitamin C gets destroyed.

Scurvy is a disease caused by the deficiency of this vitamin. Due to its deficiency, gums are swollen or bleeding, bones are weak and readily fractured, delayed wound healing and poor teeth formation in children result. A balanced diet with vitamin C is the requirement to avoid scurvy. For pregnant or lactating mothers vitamin C is the remedy.

Each adult is required to consume 75 mg per day; an infant 30 mg per day; a pregnant woman 100 mg per day; a lactating mother 150 mg per day. Doctors use vitamin C for the treatment of infections, healing of ulcers, burns and trauma, quick healing of fractures, etc.

However, taking vitamin C tablets on a long-term basis is not without side-effects, like the reformation of oxalates, kidney stones, diarrhoea, abnormal heart rhythm, damage to the outer layer of teeth and rebound scurvy if tablets are stopped abruptly.

Amla with honey is a supertonic, particularly when treated with solar rays since honey is an ingredient

that provides instant energy without consuming insulin for its absorption in the body. A newly born child in India is first provided with honey to purify his/her internal system since it acts as antibiotic and also without side-effects.

Most of us are not aware that during World War II a lot of food material was sent to the British army fighting for and on behalf of the British Government in different parts of the world. In this food material *amla* was one of the main ingredients to protect fighting forces from scurvy disease since during day-time they had to live in bunkers and during night-time they had to fight. Therefore, they were generally deprived of sunlight which is a major source of vitamins for human body.

Therefore, vitamin C in the form of *amla* is the best for human health.

Questions

- a) Why is vitamin C important for us ? 1
- b) What are the sources of vitamin C ? 1
- c) What is the cause of the disease scurvy ? 1
- d) How can the disease scurvy be prevented ? 1
- e) What are the side effects of taking vitamin C tablets on long term basis ? 1

Answers

- (a) **Vitamin C is important because it is required for the synthesis of intercellular cement “collagen”, which is responsible for keeping various cells of the human body together.**
Amla, lemon, orange, pineapple, cabbage, cauliflower, green peas and tomato, etc.,
- (b) **are the sources of vitamin C.**
- (c) **The disease scurvy is caused due to deficiency of vitamin C.**
- (d) **The disease scurvy can be prevented by taking a balanced diet enriched with vitamin C.**
- (e) **The side effects of taking vitamin C tablets on long term basis are — reformation of oxalates, kidney stones, diarrhoea, abnormal heart rhythm, etc.**

Passage:5

Most people find their lives purposeless, wasted and worthless. That is why with an ordinary illness or some slightly unfavourable situation, the individual prays for an end to his life. In the opinion of one psychologist, every person thinks of committing suicide more than once in his life. It is a different thing that he does not develop enough courage to end his life. Even then some impulsive individuals commit suicide because of petty reasons like failing in examination, losing a job, quarrels in the family or defeat in a court of law. The number of people committing suicide because of such reasons is on the increase.

Why do people commit suicide ? Psychologists give various answers to this question. Some people say that a man gets such a disappointing atmosphere everywhere around him that he does not find any solution except this. According to some psychiatrists, people with violent tendencies who are unable to

express them, destroy themselves by these tendencies.

Some persons find themselves so much lonely and helpless that they find no benefit in living and they think, 'Why not to commit suicide ? After all what is there in life ?' Some persons think of committing suicide during emotional excitement and prepare a plan for suicide during such a condition.

The main reason for suicide is said to be depression due to physical illness or failure in examination, love or competition. A tendency of revenge is also said to be behind suicides. According to this opinion some people commit suicide because of a burden of feeling guilty, since they are unable to find a solution to get rid of guilty feelings. Many others commit suicide because they are fed up of old age, rejection by spouse, unemployment, court cases, etc.

The reason for suicide is the experience of worthlessness of this life. It is also true that each person-not just once but many times- thinks of his life as worthless and many times a burden. To free himself from this burden, the person thinks of self destruction. The question arises, 'Is life so much worthless that on account of disappointment in small matters, one should think of ending it ?' If a self analysis is made seriously, it will be found that every person finds many times that his life is worthless and burdensome. Whatever the reason, but the worthlessness of life is felt with such intensity that by ending it, no difference is felt. Life is like a river, which keeps on flowing from its source to its merger into the sea.

Questions

- a) With what is life compared ?
- b) When do people with violent tendency commit suicide ?
- c) When do some impulsive individuals commit suicide ?
- d) How do most people find their lives ?
- e) What is the main reason responsible for depression ?

Answers

- (a) **Life is compared with a river which keeps on flowing from its source to its merger into the sea.**
- (b) **People with violent tendency commit suicide when they are unable to express them.**
- (c) **Some impulsive individuals commit suicide when they fail in examination, lose a job, quarrel in the family or are defeated in a court of law.**
- (d) **Most people find their lives purposeless, wasted and worthless.**
- (e) **The main reason of depression is physical illness or failure in examination, love or competition.**

Passage:6

Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasised that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasised the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

The Constitution of India has conferred on women equal rights and opportunities – political social, educational and of employment—with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

Women's education has not received due care and attention from the planners and policy makers. The National Commission for Women has rightly pointed out that even after so many years of independence, women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in overall development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are living in the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents them from participating in the process of national and societal progress. Various committees and commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate the progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women.

Questions

- a) Mention some of the qualities of a modern woman. 1
- b) Who has conferred equal rights and opportunities on women ? 1
- c) Where and when was the Fourth World Conference of Women held ? 1

- d) Which is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality for women? 1
- e) Mention the recent World Bank study, according to the passage. 1

Answers

- (a) **There are two main qualities of a modern woman —**
- (i) **She is alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions.**
 - (ii) **She is rational in approach and careful in handling situations.**
- (b) **The Constitution of India has conferred on women equal rights and opportunities.**
- (c) **It was held in Beijing in the month of September 1995.**
- (d) **Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality for woman.**
- (e) **A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls.**

Passage:7

In India, March 8th has been Women's Day for several decades. It received a major boost during the tenure of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and later, Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi, whomade it a practice to invite a large number of 'women of substance' to a celebratory get-togetherin Delhi. As more and more Indian women become aware of their equal status and right to education and opportunity, March 8th acquires a greater and wider significance. Today, as 21st century Indian women celebrate their awesome achievements, they continue to spell out their dream for the future of the country. March 8th becomes a symbolic day for recognizing their vision and contribution to the building of India. In the last few years, Women's Day celebrations have encouraged them to come together in innumerable seminars, and networking gatherings. It is a time when powerful men from all walks of life pay rich tributes to Indian women. An example is a priceless remark made by Amitabh Bachchan. He said, "It is clear that the 21st century belongs to women. They have earned every bit of the power and glory they are enjoying and men should applaud their achievements wholeheartedly."

Indian women have discovered three magical mantras of life in the last decade! These are; *One* : Beauty and glamour are their birthright. *Two* : Women are no longer the worst enemies of women. In fact, they can network, mentor one another and reach unprecedented heights of achievement. *Three* : Energy is a stretchable concept. Based on these three discoveries, women have upgraded their goals and literally covered every field of endeavour with glory and pride. They have shown beyond doubt, that as the world opens new windows of options and opportunities at the speed of light, they are smart, beautiful and savvy enough to rise to the occasion and turn the tide of fortune in their favour. The success of India's beautiful women has also created a huge revolution in the fashion, fitness and beauty industries.

Fashion designers of the eighties, who limited their designs to various looks in the basic *Salwar Kameez*, have acquired a splendid great innovation in the last ten years. Many women designers like Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Monisha Jaisingh, Anna Singh, Neeta Lulla and others gave Indian fashion-wear a brand new definition. Today, Indian designers not only sell their collections each season in India, but they also export their styles to many countries in the UK, US, Europe and Australia and hold shows in the fashion weeks held in many of the world's fashion capitals like Milan and Paris.

Questions

- (a) What is the third magical mantra discovered by Indian women? 1
- (b) Name the fashion capitals of the world. 1
- (c) When do we celebrate Women's Day in India? 1
- (d) What is responsible for the revolution in the fashion in India? 1
- (e) When did the Women's Day celebration receive a major boost? 1

Answers

- (a) **"Energy is a stretchable concept." It is the third magical mantra discovered by Indian women.**
- (b) **Milan and Paris are the places known as fashion capitals of the world.**
- (c) **Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March every year.**
- (d) **Splendid plumage of innovation and exotica is responsible for the revolution in the fashion in India.**
- (e) **During the tenure of Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi, Women's Day celebration received a major boost.**

Passage:8

Gandhiji was a first-class nurse to the sick. Where he picked up nursing was a mystery. He certainly did not pass through a nursing school. As in many other things, when nursing became necessary to him in life, he learned it by the hard way of experience. In the Ashram at Sabarmati, all sick persons came directly under his eye and care. Doctors were, of course, consulted; but the care of the sick, Gandhiji arranged in person. It was a joke, especially among the people in the Ashram that if you wanted to see Gandhiji every day and talk to him and hear him crack jokes, you had only to be ill and get into bed ! For Gandhiji visited the sick every day, spent a few minutes at every bed-side, himself saw to things carefully and never failed to crack a joke or two with the patient. There was no day, too busy for Gandhiji to attend sick persons.

There was once a young lad who went down with dysentery. He had done his best to accustom himself to Ashram food, but failed. He had a great liking for coffee. But in the Ashram there was no coffee for him nor was coffee allowed. In good time, he got rid of his dysentery and was now recovering. Gandhiji

visited him for a few minutes every day during his usual rounds. Those few minutes were like a tonic to the poor lad.

He pined for a cup of good coffee. One day he was lying on his back dreaming of it when he heard the welcome sound of the wooden sandals of Gandhiji. A minute later Gandhiji entered with his never-failing smile and cheering word. He looked at the lad and said, "Now you are decidedly better. You must have recovered your appetite. What would you like to eat ? Ah ! some good uppama or dosai ?"

Gandhiji evidently knew all about the lad's partiality for these two good old South Indian dishes. Gandhiji was laughing. The youngster had a sudden brain-wave. "Could I have a cup of coffee, please," he blurted out. Gandhiji answered with a peal of laughter, "Oh, you old sinner, that is what you want !" And then seeing the look on the lad's face, he added, "You certainly shall have your cup of coffee. Yes, light coffee will soothe your stomach. And what will you have with the coffee ? I don't think we can make uppama or dosai, but warm toast would go well with coffee. I shall send you a tray." Gandhiji's cottage was at the other end of the Ashram. Gandhiji himself prepared the coffee because his wife was taking rest. It was an untimely hour. He did not want to give unnecessary trouble to anyone. Coffee was light but excellent. The young lad was troubled when he thought that he had given trouble to Gandhiji to prepare coffee and toast for him.

Questions:

- a) What was a mystery ?
- b) What was the joke about Gandhiji ?
- c) What was served with coffee ?
- d) Why was the young lad troubled ?
- e) Where was Gandhiji's cottage in the Ashram?

Answers

- (a) **Gandhiji's expertise as a nurse was a mystery.**
- (b) **It was that if somebody wanted to see Gandhiji, he should just be ill and get into bed.**
- (c) **Toast was served with coffee.**
- (d) **The young lad was troubled by the thought that he had given trouble to Gandhiji to prepare coffee and toast for him.**
- (e) **Gandhiji's cottage was at the end of the Ashram.**

Passage:9

Habits shape much of our daily lives—from the way we brush our teeth to how we respond to stress. According to psychologists, a habit is formed when a behaviour is repeated often enough to become automatic. This process involves a loop: a cue triggers a routine, which leads to a reward. For example,

the cue might be waking up, the routine is making coffee, and the reward is the caffeine boost.

Understanding this loop can help people change their habits. If someone wants to stop biting their nails, they need to identify the cue and replace the routine with a different behaviour—like squeezing a stress ball—while still achieving a similar reward, such as reduced anxiety.

Changing habits isn't easy, but with awareness and persistence, it's possible to create new, healthier patterns of behaviour.

Questions

1. What is the habit loop made of?
2. Why is understanding the loop helpful?
3. What is an example of changing a habit in the passage?
4. What makes changing habits difficult?
5. What one has to achieve in changing habit?

Answers

- (a) **Cue, routine, and reward.**
- (b) **It helps people replace bad habits with better ones.**
- (c) **Replacing nail biting with squeezing a stress ball.**
- (d) **It requires awareness and persistence.**
- (e) **To be reduced anxiety**

Passage:10

Prince Siddhartha, the son of king Suddhodan, lived a very happy life in the pleasure-palace. He was married to a beautiful princess, Yashodhara. There was music, dancing and pleasure all around him. He knew nothing of want, pain, disease, old age or death.

One day a veena was put on the window sill. The wind touched the strings and it produced a music. The prince heard that the Devas were playing on the veena. He heard them giving a message. The voices of the wind told the prince that he was born to save mankind. The world was waiting for him. He should leave worldly love to save humanity from miseries of life. He felt a great desire to see the vast world outside the pleasure-palace.

When the king came to know of the prince's desire, he ordered that the whole city should be decorated beautifully. The prince should not see any ugly and painful sight. No blind, sick, old person or a leper should come out. So the city of Kapilvastu was decorated in a very fine way. It looked quite clean and attractive – 'a capital of some enchanted land'. The people welcomed the prince joyfully. The prince also felt happy to see people's joy.

Then the prince saw an old man. He was wearing dirty and torn clothes. He was very lean and thin. He looked very tired and weak. He had no teeth. The prince asked his charioteer, Channa, who that man was. Channa told him that he was an old man. The prince asked if old age would come to all. Channa

told him that it would. This made the prince very sad. He ordered Channa to return to the palace. He did not take food. The entire night he was sleepless, uncomfoted.

That night the king saw a very fearful dream. He dreamed seven signs of fear. He was much disturbed. He lost all peace of mind. He called dream-readers to explain the meaning of the seven visions but none of them could explain the meaning. At last an old hermit came to the palace. He said that the seven fears were seven joys. The prince would shine like the sun. He would leave the world and give a new message of hope and love for the suffering humanity.

The king became very sad. For the prince's second trip, he doubled the number of guards at all the doors of the palace. He tried his best to divert the mind of the prince but his efforts were of no use. The Prince desired to see the city once more. The king gave permission for it. The next day, the prince dressed like a merchant and Channa in the dress of his clerk went out to see the city once more. The prince saw all kinds of people and all the common things.

The prince saw a sick man. He was painfully crying for help. He asked Channa why the man was crying. Channa told him that he (the sick man) was suffering from a fatal disease. The disease would destroy all his powers. Then he would die. Channa further told the prince that all grow old, fall sick and die.

Then the prince saw a dead body being carried towards the river bank. He saw a group of people. They were crying, 'Ram, Ram satyaha!'. The sight of the dead man and his cremation moved the prince deeply. Channa told him that no man is immortal. All must die. The prince was greatly troubled in mind. He said that he would try to remove suffering from the world. He then asked Channa to return home as he had seen enough.

Questions

- (a) How was the old man looking ?
- (b) What did the prince decide finally ?
- (c) Why did the king order to decorate the whole city beautifully ?
- (d) What did the prince not know initially ?

Answers

- a. The old man was wearing dirty and torn clothes. He was very lean and thin. He looked very tired and weak. He had no teeth.**
 - b. The prince decided that he would try to remove suffering from the body.**
 - c. The king ordered to decorate the whole city beautifully because the prince felt a great desire to see the vast world outside the pleasure-palace.**
 - d. The prince initially knew nothing of want, pain, disease, old age or death.**
- The old hermit said that the seven fears were seven joys and the prince would shine like the sun and leave the world and give a new message of hope and love for the suffering humanity. the voices of wind told the prince that he was born to save mankind.**

Passage:11

You want to be healthy. You know you need to exercise more. But if you are not ready to grunt through an hour of kick-boxing, don't despair. There is a growing agreement among exercise researchers that the intense physical activities offered by most health clubs are not the only—or even the preferable—path to better health. Indeed, the best thing for most of us may be to just walk. Yes, walk. At a reasonable vigorous clip (five to six kmph) for half an hour or so, may be five or six times a week. You may not feel the benefits all at once, but the evidence suggests that over the long term, a regular walking routine can do a world of preventive good.

Walking, in fact, may be the perfect exercise. For starters, it's one of the safest things you can do with your body. It's much easier on the knees than running and doesn't trigger untoward side effects. Dr (Miss) Johna Manson, chief of preventive medicine at a leading Harvard woman's hospital says, "If everyone were to walk briskly 30 minutes a day, we could cut the incidence of many chronic diseases by 30 to 40 per cent." She further says, "Regular physical activity is probably as close to a magic bullet as we will come in modern medicine."

And for those of us who don't have half-hour chunks of time, the news gets even better. Several recent studies suggest that walking briskly three or four times a day for 10 minutes at a time may provide many of the same benefits as walking continuously for 30 minutes.

Here's how to make the most of your walking routine. First, get into gear. Walker's shoes need to have enough room at the front for the feet to spread. Then, ease on down that road. Avoid muscle aches by starting slowly and incorporating gentle stretches into both your warm-up and cool down. You must plot your course. Some people walk at a specific time each day. Others shoe horn walking into their routines by parking the car a few minutes from the store or taking the stairs instead of the lift. Record your efforts, including how long and how far you walked. Jotting down improvements keeps you motivated and challenges you to do better.

Since walking affects you in so many ways at once, it's difficult to determine precisely why it's good for you. But much of the evidence gathered so far is compelling.

Brisk walking is good for the heart—which makes a lot of sense. The heart is a muscle after all, and anything that makes the blood flow faster through a muscle helps keep it in shape. But regular walking also lowers blood pressure, which decreases the stress on the arteries. It can boost the amount of HDL cholesterol (the good one) in our blood. It even seems to make the blood less "sticky", and therefore less likely to produce unwanted clots. This all adds up to as much as a 50 per cent reduction in the risk of suffering a heart attack.

Questions

- (a) What advice is offered to be healthy ? 1

- (b) What precautions must be taken in undertaking a walking routine ? 1
- (c) How is brisk walking useful for heart ?1
- (d) What does Dr (Miss) Johna Manson say about walking ?
- (e) What kind of walking is advised for those who don't have enough time for walking ?

Answers

- (a) **Walking is advised to be healthy.**
- (b) **Walker's shoes need to have enough room at front for the feet to spread.**
- (c) **Brisk walking makes the muscles of heart strong and helps one to keep in shape.**
- (d) **Dr (Miss) Johna Manson says that if some one walks for 30 minutes a day, chances of chronic diseases become less by 30 to 40 percent.**
- (e) **Brisk walking is advised for those who don't have enough time for normal walking.**