

UNIT

2

THE QUEEN OF BOXING

M.C. Mary Kom

PROSE

About the Author

Author	: Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom
Born	: 1st March, 1983 - Kangatheri.
Interests at School	: • Hockey • Football • Athletics • Boxing
Outstanding Achievements	: • Gold at the 1998 Asian Games in boxing • Silver in 2001 • 6 times World Amateur Boxing Champion • Qualified for 2012 Summer Olympics, World Champion, 2018
Awards	: • Padma Shri, 2006. • Padma Bhushan, 2013.
Autobiography	: 'Unbreakable' - 2013.



Warm Up

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- ❖ We use various sports equipment to play different indoor and outdoor games. Now, associate the following sports equipment with their corresponding sports and games.

spear	javelin throw	racket	badminton and tennis
pawns	chess	puck	ice hockey
stump	cricket	bow and arrow	archery
club	golf	oar	boating
striker	carrom	sabre	fencing
dice	backgammon	baton	relay race

- ❖ Have you won any medals? What are the levels to be accomplished to become an international sportsman?

Yes, I have won medals in intra-mural games and district level games.

The various levels to become an international sportsman are:

- ◆ Participating in intramural sports and games.
- ◆ Joining the school team and playing games in the divisional level.
- ◆ Winning the championship cup in the district level tournament.
- ◆ Winning the state level championship.
- ◆ Getting selected for the state team and playing well in the national tournaments.
- ◆ Selection for the national team.

- ❖ What is your favourite sport? Do you play any sport?

My favourite sport is short distance running.

- ❖ In India the number of women pursuing careers in sports is considerably less when compared to men. What do you think are the reasons? Discuss with a partner and share the ideas with the class.

Indians are basically tradition-bound. The role assigned to women in society is to take care of the family. So they have their own limitation to pursue sports beyond a certain level. Lack of

sponsorship is another reason. It is not easy for any woman to continue the sports activities without sponsorship. As the sports arena is male-dominated, sponsors hesitate to take up the cause of sportswomen. By nature they are shy and feel inhibited. They do not come forward to exhibit their skills in public. Even their family members hesitate to send them outside for participation in sports.

- ❖ **Regardless of the challenges faced, some women have achieved great success in the field of sports. Here is a list of Indian women celebrities who are accomplished in the field of sports and games.**

Names of personalities	Sports / Games
PV Sindhu	badminton
Geeta Phogat	wrestling
Koneru Humpy	chess
Karnam Malleshwari	weightlifting
Anjali Bhagwat	shooting
Sania Mirza	tennis
Dipika Pallikal	squash

Names of personalities	Sports / Games
Bula Choudhury	swimming
P.T. Usha	athletics
Saba Anjum Karim	hockey
Akanksha Singh	basketball
Mithali Raj	cricket
Sharmila Nicollet	golf
Deepika Kumari	archery

SUMMARY

'The Queen of Boxing' is an excerpt from Mary Kom's autobiography 'Unbreakable'. She is a woman boxer from India, winner of five World Boxing Championship. She won an Olympic Bronze Medal in 2012. In this excerpt she explains the financial difficulties she had in the beginning to take up Boxing as her profession.

This lesson begins with her selection to the World Women's Boxing Championship in Pennsylvania, USA. Her father was not rich enough to send her to USA on his own but he managed to collect Rs. 2000. Then with the help of some of her friends and two MPs she traveled to Pennsylvania. Though she wanted to go around the country she could not do so. She had to go straight to the sporting arena from the airport. She had enough rest to face her first opponent and she easily won the match. She got her confidence that she could win any boxer. She reached the finals but lost it.

She realised that her greatest disadvantage was her loss of appetite. It was difficult for her to eat the food there. Probably this was the reason for her loss in the finals. Though she lost the gold the coaches appreciated her for the silver. The whole country was happy about that. When she returned to Delhi, she was given a grand reception. She had a felicitation ceremony in Lamgol. In the course of her career, she travelled to many countries. She tried to follow the custom of those countries.

She received some prize money for the silver medal from the government. With that money she managed her immediate financial problem. She needed a job to find a permanent solution for her finance. After her second World Championship gold the Manipuri government offered her the post of sub-inspector. She was happy to receive the government job.

Even after her marriage she added medals to her collection. When she won the Third World Women's Boxing Championship she was given a hero's welcome at Imphal airport. Between 2001 and 2004 she won many medals. She considered her fourth world title win in New Delhi as one of the greatest moments. With the hat-trick of World Championship wins the media named her 'Magnificent Mary' and 'Queen of Boxing'.



GLOSSARY

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princely	–	very large
jet lag	–	a tired and unpleasant feeling, a person experiences, following a long flight through different time zones
appetite	–	hunger
lauded	–	appreciated
conviction	–	firm faith or belief
sate	–	satisfy
palate	–	sense of taste
felicitation	–	congratulatory address
adulation	–	appreciation
etched	–	imprinted
haul	–	taking a collection
speculation	–	guess

MEANINGS

autobiography	a book in which someone writes about his/her own life	pursuit	chase
excerpt	extract	category	group
upset	sad, distressed	expensive	costly
seek	try for	donated	gave, contributed
christened	named	sum	amount
relieved	calmed, pleased	behalf	instead of someone
confined	restricted	enormously	big way
compulsory	necessary	vanished	disappeared
vanished	disappeared	event	happening
colleagues	co-workers	accustomed	familiar
probably	likely	consoled	comforted
lauded	appreciated	career	profession
take on	compete with	chopsticks	the two sticks Chinese use (like spoon) to eat their food
arena	area	felicitated	wished
felicitation	congratulatory address	offered	gave
traditional	customary	required	compulsory
vowed	promised	retained	continue to possess
obtained	got, received	performed	carried out
tend	to be likely to do	quota	
opponent	competitor		
grand	outstanding		
exceptionally	remarkably		

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES

EXERCISE WITH ANSWER

Choose the correct synonym for each of the following from the options given.

1. With this princely sum and a little more that had been collected from people, I left for the US.
a) kingly b) large c) enough d) prince's
2. The greatest disadvantage for me was my loss of appetite.
a) faith b) belief c) hunger d) anger
3. But the coaches were kind; they consoled me and lauded me on the silver win.
a) teased b) laughed at c) told d) appreciated
4. But the biggest thing I took this championship was the conviction that I could take on any boxer.
a) belief b) commitment c) game d) trouble
5. I ate enough to sate my appetite and my palate.
a) create b) kindle c) satisfy d) taste
6. Thanks giving prayers were said and words of praise and adulation were showered on me.
a) appreciation b) wishes c) commitment d) calculation
7. The fight and all that followed are clearly etched in my memory.
a) forgotten b) erased c) imprinted d) washed
8. It put an end to speculation among my family and friends around that particular topic.
a) assumption b) rejection c) botheration d) occupation
9. My medal haul continued after my marriage.
a) heavy b) collection c) spread d) light
10. I was selected in the 48kg category for the International Boxing Association.
a) custom b) group c) sports d) games
11. I was both upset and worried because I'd heard of how expensive things were in America.
a) cheap b) good c) deep d) costly
12. With this princely sum and a little more that had been collected from people, I left for the US.
a) some b) calculation c) money d) desire
13. We were confined to the sports arena.
a) open b) ready c) playing d) restricted
14. My fear of facing new opponents quickly vanished.
a) appeared b) disappeared c) joined d) coined
15. I was not accustomed to the food there.
a) familiar b) happy c) ready d) sad

Answers

1. b	2. c	3. d	4. a	5. c	6. a	7. c	8. a	9. b	10. b
11. d	12. c	13. d	14. b	15. a					

SELF EVALUATION

Choose the correct synonym for each of the following from the options given.

1. I was both **upset** and worried because I'd heard of how expensive things were in America.
a) sad b) happy c) anxious d) satisfied ☐
2. I was **relieved** to have money in my pocket.
a) pleased b) away c) ready d) rich ☐
3. The people were **enormously** nice too.
a) small way b) large way c) simple way d) quick way ☐
4. The other team had already completed their weight in, which is **compulsory** for all players.
a) common b) good c) necessary d) possible ☐
5. I felt like this would be the place, the **event** that would change my life.
a) trial b) writing c) speaking d) happening ☐
6. This is **probably** what cost me my dream.
a) truly b) likely c) wonderfully d) happily ☐
7. But the coaches were kind; they **consoled** me and lauded me on the silver win.
a) greeted b) called c) comforted d) tried ☐
8. But the biggest thing I took away from this championship was the conviction that I could **take on** anyboxer.
a) carry out b) carry out c) called for d) compete with ☐
9. I was presented a **traditional** shawl.
a) costly b) cheap c) customary d) large ☐
10. I **vowed** that the next time I would bring back a gold.
a) thought b) knew c) doubted d) promised ☐
11. The Manipur Government **offered** me the post of sub-inspector.
a) rejected b) gave c) withdrew d) showed ☐
12. The jobs that are **obtained** through the sports quota is that we are not required to go on to work regularly.
a) received b) lost c) observed d) broken ☐
13. The jobs that are obtained through the sports quota is that we are not **required** to go on to work regularly.
a) unnecessary b) impossible c) immediate d) compulsory ☐
14. We **tend** to be away at camps and tournaments through much of the year.
a) attend b) receive c) reject d) likely ☐
15. I **retained** the world title in the Third Women's Boxing Championship.
a) rejected b) lost c) kept d) tried ☐

OPPOSITES

selected	×	rejected	amateur	×	professional
expensive	×	cheap	princely	×	small
confined	×	opened	arrive	×	depart
compulsory	×	optional	fortunate	×	unfortunate
lucky	×	unlucky	comfortably	×	uncomfortably
vanished	×	appeared	lost	×	won
disadvantage	×	advantage	consoled	×	agitated
lauded	×	blamed	conviction	×	scepticism
victory	×	defeat	adulation	×	criticism
etched	×	forgotten	immediate	×	gradual
security	×	insecurity	steady	×	unreliable, unsteady
offered	×	withdrawn	retained	×	lost
grand	×	simple	several	×	few

TEXTUAL EXERCISES

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1. Antonym

Now, find and write the antonyms for the words in Box A from the set of words in Box B.

A	B			Answer
amateur	professional	leader	eccentric	professional
compulsory	respective	elusive	cheap	optional
traditional	unnecessary	supportive	ancillary	modern
expensive	hateful	desperate	trivial	cheap
hopeful	modern	fanciful	repulsive	desperate
accepted	fulfilled	refused	showered	refused
	invaluable	novice	optional	
	complex	antique	determined	

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES

EXERCISE WITH ANSWER

Choose the most accurate of the four given words which is opposite to the usage of the underlined word in the following sentences.

- International Boxing Association (originally the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur, or AIBA).
 a) professional b) unskilled c) inexpert d) original
- We were confined to the sports arena.
 a) restricted b) sent c) open d) limited

3. **My fear of facing new opponents quickly vanished.**
a) appeared b) unknown c) disappeared d) known
4. **But the coaches were kind; they consoled me and lauded me on the silver win.**
a) praised b) blamed c) added d) removed
5. **Words of praise and adulation were showered on me.**
a) reverence b) admire c) irresponsibility d) criticism
6. **The fight and all that followed are clearly etched in my memory.**
a) forgotten b) kept c) uncontrolled d) remembered
7. **I retained the world title in the Third World Women's Boxing Championship.**
a) missed b) kept c) involved d) underwent
8. **I was selected in the 48 kg category for the International Boxing Association.**
a) accepted b) included c) rejected d) informed
9. **I'd heard of how expensive things were in America.**
a) costly b) inaccurate c) informative d) cheap
10. **With this princely sum and a little more that had been collected from people I left for the US.**
a) huge b) small c) kingly d) mansion

Answers

1. a	2. c	3. a	4. b	5. d	6. a	7. a	8. c	9. d	10. b
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SELF EVALUATION

Choose the most accurate of the four given words which is opposite to the usage of the underlined word in the following sentences.

1. **We were the last team to arrive.**
a) depart b) reach c) attain d) lost ☐
2. **The other teams had already completed their weight in, which is compulsory for all players.**
a) unimportant b) unknown c) believable d) optional ☐
3. **I was fortunate but some of the team members were not lucky.**
a) blessed b) unfortunate c) infortunate d) unbelievable ☐
4. **While my team mates lost one by one after the other I went on to reach the finals.**
a) won b) failed c) came d) went ☐
5. **But the coaches were kind; they consoled me and lauded me on the silver win.**
a) praised b) cursed c) wanted d) agitated ☐
6. **The biggest thing I took away from this championship was the conviction that I could take on any boxer.**
a) belief b) misunderstanding c) unbelief d) complication ☐
7. **There was a victory ride across town, a felicitation programme was held in Lomgol.**
a) conquest b) defeat c) pride d) invalid ☐

8. The prize money from the government had put an end to my **immediate** financial worries.
 a) sudden b) slow c) later d) few ☐
9. I wanted a job too, for that alone can bring long term security and a **steady** income.
 a) immediate b) later c) unreliable d) realistic ☐
10. The Manipur Government **offered** me the post of Sub-Inspector.
 a) without b) withdrew c) surrendered d) added ☐

2. Based on your reading of the text answer the following questions in two or three sentences each.

a) **How did Mary Kom manage to get financial support for her trip to the USA?**

Her father collected Rs. 2000. Two MPs donated Rs. 5000 and Rs. 3000 respectively. Thus she got financial support for her trip to the USA.

b) **Why did Mary Kom think that she should not return empty handed?**

She received Rs. 10000 from others to make her trip to USA to participate in World Women's Boxing Championship. So she thought that she should not return empty handed after the efforts taken for her trip to USA.

c) **What was her first impression of America?**

America was pleasing to her eye and the people were enormously nice to her.

d) **Why did she call herself 'lucky'?**

The Indian team was the last to arrive in Pennsylvania. They had to go straight to the sporting arena. She found that she did not have any match on that day. So she was lucky to take some rest.

e) **According to Mary Kom what was the reason for her losing in the finals?**

She was not used to the American food. So she could not eat well and she lost her weight. She thought that it was the reason for her loss.

f) **What made her feel confident about the competitive players? Explain.**

She realised that the boxers were not unbeatable. Though she lost her finals in the USA, the matches gave her confidence that she could oppose any competitive players.

g) **What difficulty did she experience while eating Chinese food?**

She found it difficult to use the chopsticks to eat Chinese food.

h) **How was she felicitated on her return to India?**

She was greeted with garlands, drumbeats and dancing. There was a victory ride across the town. A felicitation programme was held in Langol. There was a thanks-giving prayer and people showered words of praises on her.

i) **What did she consider her greatest achievement? Why?**

She retained her world title in 2006 in New Delhi. This she considered her greatest achievement because she did it in India, in front of her own people.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

a. **For which championship was Mary Kom selected in 2001?**

Mary Kom was selected in the 48 kg category for World Women's Boxing Championship in Pennsylvania, USA, in 2001.

b. **How did Mary Kom fare in the World Women's Championship in 2001?**

Though her team mates lost one after the other, she reached the finals. She defeated Nadia Hokmi of Poland by RBC and in the semifinal she defeated Jamie Behal of Canada. In the finals she lost to Hula Sahin of Turkey and she had to come back with a silver.

c. What was the reaction of the coaches when Mary Kom lost in the finals in 2001?

Mary Kom was very disappointed when she lost in the finals. But her coaches were very kind and they not only consoled her but also appreciated her for her silver medal.

d. How did Mary Kom try to get used to the culture of other countries?

Mary Kom tried to adapt to the customs of other countries. In China she tried to eat with chopsticks. In the same way she learnt to use knife and fork.

e. Name some of the Championships won by Mary Kom.

Mary Kom won the following Championship:

- the 2nd Women's Boxing Championship
- the 2nd Asian Women's Boxing Championship
- Witch Cup Boxing Championship
- 3rd and 4th Women's Boxing Championship

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3. Answer the following in a paragraph of about 100 - 150 words each.**a) Describe Mary Kom's personal experiences during her first international Championship match from the time of selection to winning the medal.**

Title	The Queen of boxing
Author	M. C. Mary Kom
Theme	Single - minded pursuit of an Indian woman boxer

My father managed to collect only 2000 for my trip

'The Queen of Boxing' is an excerpt from Mary Kom's autobiography 'Unbreakable'. Here she describes her experiences when she got selected for World Women's Boxing Championship. After her performance in Bangkok Championship she was selected for the International Boxing Association World Women's Boxing Championship in Pennsylvania, USA in November – December 2001. She had financial difficulties to take up her trip to the USA. Her father could collect only Rs.2000 and she got donations from two MPs – Rs.5000 and Rs.3000. Thus she went to the USA with Rs.10000. She stayed in the sports arena because it was cold and snowing outside. Since she did not have match on the first day she could take rest. She reached the finals and thought she could win the gold. But she lost the finals to Hula Sahin of Turkey. She was not used to the food of that place so she could not eat well and lost weight. That must have been the reason for her loss.

*Life is like a boxing match defeat is declared not when you fall,
but when you refuse to stand again*

b) Lack of adequate financial resources and sponsorship often affect sportspersons. How is this evident from Mary Kom's life?

Title	The Queen of boxing
Author	M. C. Mary Kom
Theme	Single - minded pursuit of an Indian woman boxer

Two MPs donated Rs. 5000 and Rs. 3000 respectively and I suddenly had Rs. 10000 in my hand

'The Queen of Boxing' is an excerpt from Mary Kom's autobiography 'Unbreakable'. Here she describes her experiences when she got selected for World Women's Boxing Championship. After her performance in Bangkok Championship she was selected for the International Boxing Association

World Women's Boxing Championship in Pennsylvania, USA. She had financial difficulties to take up her trip to the USA. All sports persons are not rich enough to go to different countries to participate in matches. They need financial support from others. Some games have sponsorship from big companies. But Boxing is not that much supported in India. Her father could collect only Rs. 2000 and she got donations from two MPs – Rs.5000 and Rs.3000. Thus she went to the USA with Rs.10000. If she had not got the money from the MPs she would not have participated in the Championship matches and India would have lost a successful boxer.

If you practice hard, you can win every battle

c) Why was Mary Kom named the 'Queen of Boxing' and 'Magnificent Mary'?

Title	The Queen of boxing
Author	M. C. Mary Kom
Theme	Single - minded pursuit of an Indian woman boxer

With this hat-trick of World Championship wins, the media christened me 'Queen of Boxing' and Magnificent Mary'.

'The Queen of Boxing' is an excerpt from Mary Kom's autobiography 'Unbeatable'. She received silver medal from World Women's Boxing Championship in 2001. She was greeted well in India. From 2001 to 2004 she won several golds in Senior Women's Boxing Championships. Even after her marriage she participated in matches and won medals. She won gold in the Third and Fourth World Women's Boxing Championship in 2005 and 2006. The fourth championship was held in Delhi and that victory was the greatest for her because she won gold in front of her own people. The other boxers also did well in the championship. That was the hat-trick World Championship win for India. So the media named her 'Queen of Boxing, and 'Magnificent Mary'.

Success belongs to only to those who are willing to work harder than anyone else.

ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS

Answer the following in a paragraph of about 100 - 150 words each.

1. Describe the life and achievement of Mary Kom.

Title	The Queen of boxing
Author	M. C. Mary Kom
Theme	Single - minded pursuit of an Indian woman boxer

*On my return, Delhi gave me a warm welcome at the airport.
Back in Imphal, I was greeted with garlands and drumbeats and dancing.*

'The Queen of Boxing' is an excerpt from Mary Kom's autobiography 'Unbreakable'. She is a woman boxer from India and the winner of five World Boxing Championship. Her father was not rich enough to send her to USA on his own but he managed to collect Rs. 2000. Then with the help of some of her friends and two MPs she traveled to Pennsylvania. She had to go straight to the sporting arena from the airport. She realised that her greatest disadvantage was her loss of appetite. Though she lost the gold the coaches appreciated her for the silver. The whole country was happy about that. When she returned to Delhi she was given a grand reception. She received some prize

money for the silver medal from the government. After her second World Championship gold the Manipuri government offered her the post of sub-inspector. She was happy to receive the government job. When she won the Third World Women's Boxing Championship she was given a hero's welcome at Imphal airport. Between 2001 and 2004 she won many medals. She considered her fourth world title win in New Delhi as one of the greatest moments. With this win the media named her 'Queen of Boxing'.

*If you want to achieve excellence, you can get there today.
As of this second, quit doing less-than-excellent work.*

2. How did Mary Kom fare in World Women Championship in Pennsylvania, USA?

Title	The Queen of boxing
Author	M. C. Mary Kom
Theme	Single - minded pursuit of an Indian woman boxer

While team-mates lost one after the other, I went on to reach the finals.

'The Queen of Boxing' is an excerpt from Mary Kom's autobiography 'Unbreakable'. This lesson begins with her selection to the World Women's Boxing Championship in Pennsylvania, USA. Her father was not rich enough to send her to USA on his own but he managed to collect Rs. 2000. Then with the help of some of her friends and two MPs she traveled to Pennsylvania. Though she wanted to go around the country she could not do so. She had to go straight to the sporting arena from the airport. She had enough rest to face her first opponent and she easily won the match. She got her confidence to feel that she could win any boxer. She reached the finals but lost the finals. She realised that her greatest disadvantage was her loss of appetite. It was difficult for her to eat the food there. Probably this was the reason for her loss in the finals. Though she lost the gold the coaches appreciated her for the silver. The whole country was happy about that. When she returned to Delhi she was given a grand reception. She had a felicitation ceremony in Lamgol.

*What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as
what you become by achieving your goals.*

VOCABULARY

A. Abbreviations.

Write the expanded forms of the following abbreviations we commonly come across in our daily life.

1.	IELTS	International English Language Testing System
2.	GST	Goods and Service Tax
3.	TNPSC	Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission
4.	STD	Subscriber's Trunk Dialing
5.	ISD	International Subscriber Dialing
6.	MBA	Master of Business Administration
7.	MHRD	Ministry of Human Resource Development
8.	GPS	Global Positioning System
9.	NSS	National Service Scheme
10.	PTA	Parents Teachers Association

11.	NGO	Non Governmental Organization
12.	ICU	Intensive Care Unit
13.	IIM	Indian Institute of Management
14.	MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
15.	ECG	Electro Cardio Gram
16.	NCC	National Cadet Corps
17.	LED	Light Emitting Diode
18.	CPU	Central Processing Unit
19.	CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
20.	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
21.	LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
22.	NRI	Non Resident Indian
23.	IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
24.	ITI	Industrial Training Institute
25.	USB	Universal Serial Bus

B. Prefix

Form the opposites of the words given below by prefixing 'un', 'in', 'dis', 'ir', 'il' appropriately.

fortunate	un fortunate
respect	dis respect
rational	ir rational
direct	in direct
comfortable	un comfortable
regular	ir regular
active	in active
agree	dis agree

obedient	dis obedient
continue	dis continue
decent	in decent
legitimate	il legitimate
aware	un aware
finite	in finite
necessary	un necessary
relevant	ir relevant

C. Idioms related to sports: Idioms and meanings

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- i) throw in the towel – state of near collapse or defeat
- ii) in our corner – on your side in an argument or dispute
- iii) on the ropes – to give up
- iv) below the belt – unfair and unsporting behaviour
- v) square off – prepare for a conflict

LISTENING ACTIVITY

Read the questions based on the running commentary of a cricket match. Then listen to the running commentary of a cricket match read out by your teacher or played on the recorder and tick the right answer.

- i) Who faced the first ball in the 49th over?
 - a) Kulasekara
 - b) Yuvraj
 - c) Dhoni
 - d) Sachin

- ii) Which batsman hit a sixer?
 a) Kulasekara b) Bajji c) Dhoni d) Yuvraj
- iii) Where was the match held?
 a) Chennai b) Delhi c) Calcutta d) Mumbai
- iv) Who were popularly called The Finishers?
 a) Dhoni and Yuvaraj b) Bajji and Malinga
 c) Gambhir and Yuvaraj d) Perara and Malinga
- v) How many runs did India need to win the match in the last four overs?
 a) 21 b) 27 c) 30 d) 37

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

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In groups of five, discuss the following topic taking examples from Mary Kom's life.

Athletes cannot run with money in their pockets. They must run with hope in their heart and dreams in their head.

The following expressions may help you in connecting ideas and presenting your views to the class.

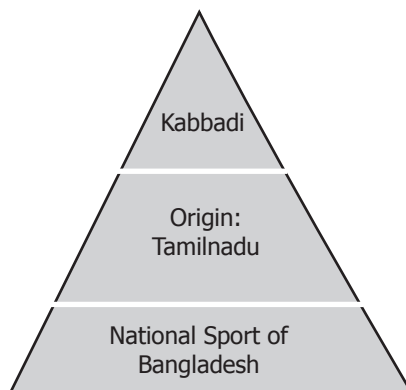
- ✓ In my opinion...
- ✓ I whole-heartedly support...
- ✓ At the outset, let me say...
- ✓ I should like to draw your attention to...

At the outset, let me say that money matters to some extent. Without money, engaging a coach, undergoing training and arranging for trip to venues will be impossible. But I would like to draw your attention to the fact that athletes can't run with money in their pockets. It is total dedication and commitment that will bring laurels. In my opinion, those who run with hope in their heart and dreams in their head alone will outshine and create spectacular records in the sporting arena. Now-a-days, there are a number of sponsors who readily adopt promising sports persons. So, money is secondary. But guts and grits is what matters most. I whole-heartedly support the view that aspiration and perspiration will win golds.

READING

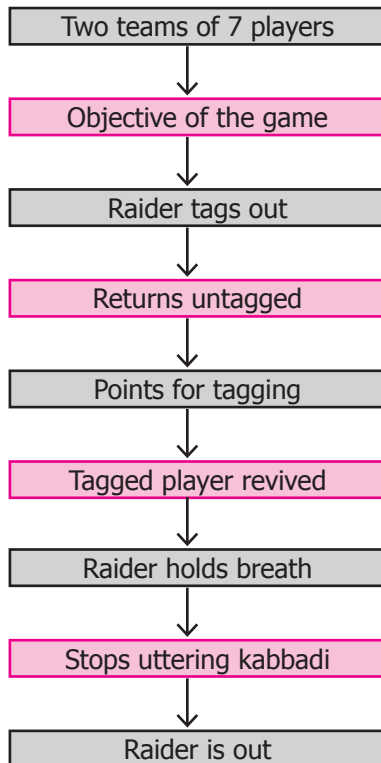
Given below is the visual presentation of the first paragraph.

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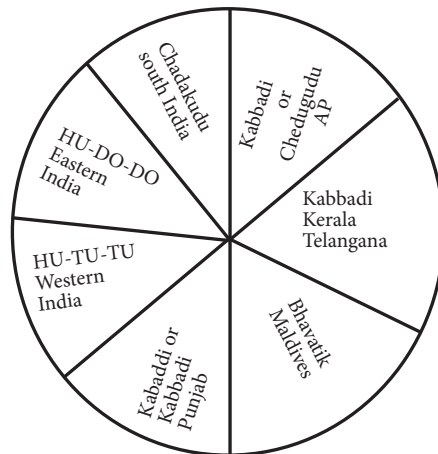


i) Represent the other paragraphs in a visual form of your choice.
(flow chart,mind-map, pie-chart etc.)

Second Paragraph:



Third Paragraph:



ii) Choose the correct option.

- A contact sport usually involves a _____ contact between players.
a) violent b) gentle c) physical
- Kabaddi is a game played between _____.
a) seven teams of two players
b) two teams of seven players
c) four teams of seven players
- A single _____.
a) player on offence is referred to as a raider
b) offence is referred to as a raider
c) raider is an offence by the player

iii) Answer the following.

1. How does a raider score points for his team?

The raider scores points by tagging out the defenders. He gets the point for each player tagged.

2. When does a raider concede the point to the opponent team?

The raider concedes a point to the opponent team when the opponent team stops him.

3. Can a player be revived when he/she is out of the game? Explain.

Yes, a player can be revived when he/she is out the game. The player can be revived when his/her team scores a point.

4. Kabbadi is called by different names in different parts of India. Do you know how Pallankuzhi is called in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala?

Ali guli mane in Karnataka

Vamana Kuntalu in Andhra Pradesh

Kuzhipara in Kerala

GRAMMAR

Modal Auxiliaries

Modal auxiliaries are also called helping verbs. They indicate modalities, attitudes or feelings like ability, possibility, permission, obligation, compulsion etc.

Modal Verbs			
can	Ability, Request	could	Past ability, Possibility
may	Permission or Future Possibility	might	Future Possibility
must	Necessity or Obligation	ought to	What's right and correct
shall	Offer or Suggestion	should	Advice or Suggestion
will	Willingness, Certainty, Promise	would	Request, Invitation
need	Necessity	dare	Courage and boldness
used to	Past habit		

A. Fill in the blanks with suitable modal verbs.

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- We are not completely sure but Kishore _____ come back tomorrow.
- When Koushik was a child, he _____ play in the street.
- _____ I have some more juice, please?
- We _____ not paint this room now.
- I _____ rather request you to check my exercise before giving it to the teacher.
- _____ I use your mobile phone? It's an emergency.
- In schools, students _____ wear uniforms. It is compulsory.
- The voyagers did not _____ to drop anchor at the unknown island.
- Thou _____ love your neighbour.
- The Manager _____ not excuse you, if you fail to complete your assignment today.
- Helen jotted down the important points lest she _____ forget it.
- You _____ never retain me against my wishes.
- Being a Monday, the shops _____ not be crowded today.
- I _____ admit my fault, if I were you.
- The groom _____ certainly be over 30 years of age.
- My brother _____ go abroad to pursue his higher studies next year.
- It's not that urgent. You _____ take your own time.
- There is a lot of time left, so you _____ not panic.
- _____ I turn on the fan, please?
- I _____ not believe my eyes. Is Santhosh the one who is standing over there?
- Dinesh _____ be the richest person in the village. He has just bought two luxury cars.
- Nirmala _____ write perfectly when she was seven.

Answers						
1. may	2. used to	3. can	4. should	5. would	6. can	7. must
8. dare	9. shall	10. will	11. should	12. can	13. may	14. would
15. must	16. will	17. can	18. need	19. could	20. can	21. must
22. used to						

B. Practice your modal verbs. Look at these signs and write down the rules, regulations or advice they convey using the modal verbs given below.

Chemical goggles may disturb you. Be careful.

Materials may fall down from the top. So you should be careful.

This place may not be safe. Don't loiter in this area.

The floor may be slippery. Be careful.

You should buckle up for safety.

You can get information about 'right to know' in this office.

You should use this way if fire breaks out.

You should not enter here. This is only for authorised people.

This is a private property. So others should not trespass.

You can save energy by closing the door when it is not in use.

This should be used only for exit.

Your safety is important. So you must bend down while lifting the weights.

C. Read the following passage adapted from 'Three Men in a Boat' and fill in the blanks with appropriate modals and read the paragraph aloud.

I thought I will go to British Museum today to read the treatment for some slight ailment of which I had a touch. I (1) could read all I wanted to read and then felt I (2) should begin to study diseases. I started to generally turn the leaves idly. I came to typhoid fever, read the symptoms and discovered I (3) must be having it for months without knowing it. Cholera, I had severe complications, Diphtheria, I (4) must have been born with. I was relieved to find that Bright's disease, I had only in a modified form as so far as that was concerned, I (5) could live for years. The only disease I (6) could conclude I had not got was a housemaid's knee. I sat and pondered. I tried to feel my heart. I (7) could not feel my heart. I walked into the reading room as a happy healthy man but crawled out as a decrepit wreck.

Prepositions

A preposition is a word used to link nouns, pronouns or phrases to other words within a sentence. Prepositions are usually short words and they are placed before the nouns.

A) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate preposition.

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- In case of difficulty, you should refer to a dictionary and then respond to the question.
- The clothes that he has put on are very impressive. He is going to his hometown to pay homage to the village head.
- The nearest hospital to this place is at a distance of twenty kilometers. You can reach it either by car or in a bicycle.

B) Complete the following paragraph by filling in the blanks with suitable prepositions and read the paragraph aloud for better understanding of the use of prepositions.

Mr. Beek of New Jersey has invented a floating life-preserver, which gives complete protection (1) to people who have been shipwrecked. The upper section is large enough (2) for the wearer to be able to move his head and arms (3) on, and a month's supply (4) of food and drinking water can also be stored (5) in it. The cover can be closed in rough weather, and the wearer can see (6) through the window in the front, and breathe (7) with a curved pipe. The life preserver is made (8) of water proof cloth attached (9) to circular metal tubes, which protect the wearer (10) from sharp rocks and hungry fish.

C) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences, using prepositions if necessary.

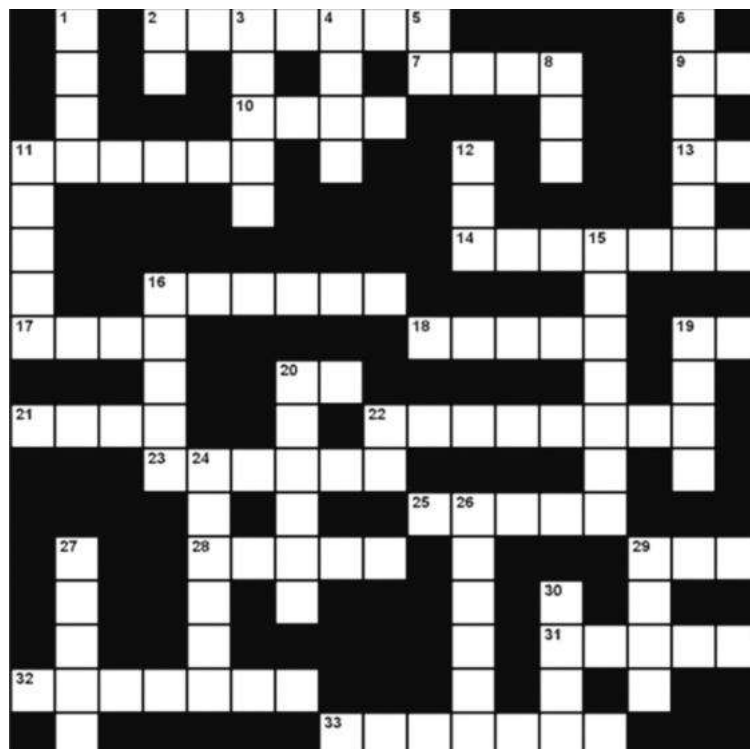
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- i) The new machines are quite different from the old ones. They are able to work at a much faster pace, a substantially reduced risk to the environment.
- ii) The students discussed the problem among themselves. However they did not arrive at any conclusion. They went to their class teacher and discussed with her. She gave a solution to it and they were happy.

D) Do you know what happened to the Titanic, the largest ship to sail then? She hit an iceberg and sank into the Atlantic Ocean. Now choose the right word and complete the paragraph. Read the paragraph aloud.

The wreck (1) of (up/of) the RMS Titanic lies (2) at (in/at) the depth of (3) about (about/above) 12,500 feet about 370 miles south east (4) off (of/off) the coast of Newfoundland. It lies (5) in (in/on) two main pieces about a third (6) of (of/off) a mile apart. The bow is still largely recognizable (7) with (with/within) many preserved interiors despite the damage it sustained hitting the sea floor. A debris field (8) for (of/for) the wreck contains thousands (9) of (on/of) items spilled (10) from (from/of) the ship as it sank. She sank (11) in (in/at) the year 1912.

E) Solve the crossword using the clues given.



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Across		Down	
2	We fought against the measures. (7)	1	I put the book upon the table. (4)
7	The cat jumped onto the table. (4)	2	Please treat me as equals. (2)
9	The cat climbed up the tree. (2)	3	Dessert will be served after dinner. (5)
10	My story is shorter than yours. (4)	4	My house is near the school. (4)
11	Cats are unlike the dogs. (6)	5	We walked to the store. (2)
13	Put the cookie in the jar. (2)	6	No eating during class. (6)
14	Let's walk through the park. (7)	8	The book fell off my desk. (3)
16	The vegetables were planted beside the apple tree. (6)	11	I will not leave until the speech is finished. (5)
17	Banu sings like a bird. (4)	12	The store is open every day but Sunday.(3)
18	My story is about my pets. (5)	15	The dog is outside the house. (7)
19	Subash is the President of our class. (2)	16	The cat is hiding beside my bed. (5)
20	We live by the river. (2)	19	The cat jumped over the dog. (4)
21	Let's walk into class together. (4)	20	He is hiding behind the bookcase. (6)
22	The bank is opposite the park. (8)	22	Dinner is on the table. (2)
23	We live within the city limits. (6)	24	I put my hands inside my pockets. (6)
25	I saw John waving above the crowd. (5)	26	We will eat before the play. (6)
28	I am more cautious from the fall. (5)	27	The cat is sleeping under the bed. (5)
29	I have a present for you. (3)	29	This letter is from my aunt. (4)
31	We strolled along the river. (5)	30	We ran with the other kids. (4)
32	He ran towards us. (7)		
33	The leaves had collected beneath the trees. (7)		

WRITING

Page: 50

TASK

On the basis of your understanding of the given sample, make notes of the following text and write a summary in about 75 words.

Looking at the modern children, one striking difference between the childhood that the previous generation had and the one that this generation has is the lack of Indian or native games. In the 1970's, people used to play a variety of indoor and outdoor games that were the games of this soil. Nowadays almost all Children play games like cricket, tennis and football. Nobody is playing games like Kabaddi, Goli, Ghilli or Indoor games like the Dhaayakattam, Paramapadham, Pallanguzhi, Paandi or Aadupuliaattam. These games have a rich culture and heritage value and were tools of passing on some ancestral knowledge or the other. They also sharpened our observational and math skills unlike the hit and run games of the west that are uni-dimensional and strengthen only hand-eye coordination.

Traditional Games were not just games, they were designed in such a way that one can develop lot of skills like logical thinking, building strategy, concentration, basic mathematics, aiming, and a lot more. Nowadays we develop these skills by paying money to centres that conduct personal development courses. Traditional Games act as learning aids. They teach us many things while playing, like to learn to win and lose,

develop sensory skills, count, add, improve motor skills, identify colour, improve hand-eye co-ordination and finally to have fun, either by playing the game or watching a game being played.

The values that we achieve by playing these games are more when compared to the games that we play nowadays. Some of the values that we gain are that they are environment friendly, we get a chance to learn about our culture and history, and an important thing is, it is suitable for all ages, so they increase the interaction between generations. Many modern games played around the world have their origin in these traditional games which is a pride to our country's culture.

Note Making

1. Difference between past and present childhood games
 - a. games of soil
 - b. rich culture and heritage
2. Traditional games' importance
 - a. develop skills and logical thinking
 - b. now pay and receive these skills
 - c. learn to win and lose
3. Values of the traditional games
 - a. environmental friendly
 - b. learn our culture and history
 - c. pride to our culture

Summary

Difference between past and present childhood games

There is a difference between the games played by the children of the past generation and the present generation. In the past, children played native games like Kabbadi, Goli and Gilly. But now most of the children play games like cricket, tennis and football. In the past they played indoor games like dhaayakattam, pallanguzhi etc. Children get cultural and heritage values from our old games. The traditional games develop lot of skills and logical thinking, sensory skills, motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The traditional games give values more than the modern games. Our old games are environmental friendly and we learn our culture and history from them. The traditional games are our pride to our country's culture.

- C. Debate is an essential skill and your class room is the best place to practice this skill. Your teacher will now divide the class into two groups and organize a debate on the topic "Fast food tastes better than nutritious food". The following points may help you to participate and speak in a debate. One group will speak FOR the motion and the other group will speak AGAINST the motion. Now prepare a speech for the debate.**

"Fast food tastes better than nutritious food"

FOR THE TOPIC :

Fast food tastes better than nutritious food because of spices. The aroma of fast food is alluring. As it is served hot, it tastes better than nutritious food. Office - going people have little time and can't wait for food from home. So they grab fast food on the way or near the office. Their hunger is immediately satisfied. Hence it tastes better.

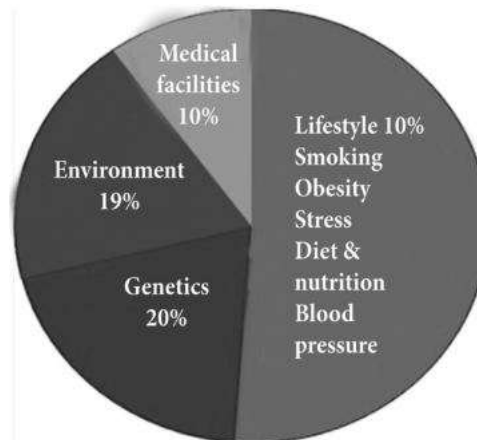
Against the Topic :

Nutritious food tastes better than fast food. Because it has natural ingredients that make it more delicious. Moreover, it improves our well - being. It may reduce the risk of heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes. It does not make any side - effects like fast food. Moreover traditional spices create the flavour that adds to pleasant taste.

**Pie-Chart
TASK**

Page: 52

Read and understand the data presented in the pie-chart below on factors affecting health, and write an article for your school magazine highlighting the fact that it's our lifestyle that determines how healthy we remain. Write your article in about 150 words. Give a suitable title too.

**Factors affecting health**

The chart gives the factors that affect health. As per the chart the life style of the people contributes a lot to the health problems of the people. Smoking affects the health. Obesity and stress will also do their part in affecting the health. Another big problem is Diet and Nutrition. These days people do not eat the right food. They are taken by the taste and they do not get healthy food. The fast food is a curse to our health. The blood pressure is another problem now. Many people suffer from high or low blood pressure due to wrong food and lack of exercise. Genetics also plays a vital role in health. Our environment is also not healthy for people to live in. Another one is the medical facilities given by our government.

♦

UNIT

2

CONFESSIONS OF A BORN SPECTATOR

Frederic Ogden Nash

POEM

About the Author

Author	: Frederic Ogden Nash
Born	: 19th August, 1902 - Newyork.
Education	: St. George's School New Port County, Harvard University.
Speciality	: Unconventional rhyme scheme - humour.
Career	: • Teacher • Bonds salesman • Writer • Editor
Literary Achievement	: best of his work published in 14 volumes - over 500 poems
Died	: 19th May, 1971.



Warm Up

Page: 53

List out the activities in which you like to be either a performer or a spectator. Share your views with the class.

Activities		
	performer / player	spectator / audience
e.g.	cricket	magician
a.	Chess	Football
b.	Badminton	Archery
c.	Volleyball	Fencing
d.	Kabbadi	Wrestling

SUMMARY

Ogden Nash was an American poet well known for his light verse. With his unconventional rhyming schemes, he was declared the country's best-known producer of humorous poetry. In this poem Nash talks about how people choose different sports in their lives or decide to become athletes. While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet accepts that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. Children have different goals in life and wish to play various games. Each child has in mind something in particular, but the poet is happy that he is not one of the players. The poet admires the talents of all athletes and derives satisfaction from watching them, but does not wish to exchange his position with them. He also sometimes regrets that zealous athletes play rough games without caring for the feelings of their sporting rivals. He feels that good sense and caution win over ego. The poet whole heartedly offers thanks for his modest physique. Ultimately the poet is satisfied for not being an athlete.

GLOSSARY

Page: 54

jockey	–	horse rider
prize ring	–	enclosed area in which boxing matches are fought
tackle, center	–	playing positions in football
gaudy pomp	–	showy dress
maim	–	injure
romp	–	play in a rough and noisy way
limp	–	weak
bashful	–	shy and reluctant
lashes	–	beats with a whip
steed	–	a large, strong horse
swap	–	exchange
zealous	–	enthusiastic
prudence	–	wisdom
gnarled	–	rough and twisted
physique	–	body
drink to you	–	drink to wish good luck or celebrate success
gambol	–	run or jump happily

MEANINGS

infant	small child	jockey	horse rider
prize ring	area for boxing	tackle	approach
glad	happy	admire	appreciate
sweat	work hard	gaudy pomp	colourful dress
maim	injure	romp	play in a rough way
limp	weak	bashful	shy
heroic	daring, courageous	deeds	actions
cracking	breaking	lash	beat
steed	horse	swap	exchange
zealous	enthusiastic	'twixt	between
prudence	wisdom	swollen	enlarged
gnarled	rough and twisted	snaps	breaks
officialdom	bureaucracy	physique	body
gambol	jump happily		

TEXTUAL EXERCISES

Page: 54

1. Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions in a sentence or two.

a. Why does the poet feel glad that he does not play any game?

The poet feels glad that he need not suffer like other athletes. He need not satisfy his ego.

b. Do you think the narrator is heroic? Why?

The narrator is not heroic because he never wants to be an athlete. He does not want to take any risk.

c. The poet is satisfied just watching the heroic deeds of others. What could be the reason?

The poet does not want to get hurt. His prudence does not allow his ego to come up to do some heroic deeds. So he is satisfied at watching the heroic deeds of others.

d. The poet does not wish to exchange the position with the runners. Why?

The poet does not wish to exchange the position with the runners because they attack each other to win the race.

e. Are the athletes conscious of the feelings of others? Why do you say so?

The athletes are not conscious of the feeling of others. The enthusiastic athletes play roughly without considering others' feelings.

f. Why would the referee ask whether there was a doctor in the stands? What 'stands' is he referring to here?

In some games like boxing one player may break the knee or cracks the wrist of the other so the referee would ask some help from a doctor to give first aid. The gallery where the spectators are sitting is referred to as 'stands'.

g. Why does the poet prefer to buy tickets worth their weight in radium? Bring out the significance of the metal referred to here.

Though the poet does not want to play, he appreciates the players. So he buys tickets of high denominations. The metal referred here is to mean the high value.

2. Read the poem again and complete the summary using the words given in the box.

In the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator,' Ogden Nash talks about how people choose different sports in their lives or decide to become athletes. While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet (i) confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. Children have different (ii) aims and wish to play various games. Each child has in mind something in particular, but the narrator is (iii) glad that he is not one of the players. Though the narrator (iv) admires the talents of all athletes, he derives satisfaction from watching them, but does not wish to (v) exchange places with them. He also sometimes regrets that (vi) zealous athletes play rough games without caring for the feelings of their sporting rivals. He feels that good sense and caution win over ego. The narrator wholeheartedly offers (vii) thanksgiving for the modest (viii) physiques of athletes. Ultimately the narrator is (ix) satisfied that he himself is not an athlete.

3. Read the poem and answer the following in a short paragraph of 8 – 10 sentences each.

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a. How does the poet establish the victory of common sense over ego?

Poem	Confession of a Born Spectator
Poet	Frederic Ogden Nash
Theme	A spectator can be as enthusiastic as a performer

*I am just glad as glad can be
What I am not them, that they are not me*

Ogden Nash (1902-1971) was an American poet well-known for his light verse, of which he wrote over 500 pieces. With his unconventional rhyming schemes, he was declared the country's best-known producer of humourous poetry.

In the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator,' Ogden Nash talks about how people choose different sports in their lives or decide to become athletes. While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. The success in an athlete meet may please the ego of the player. But the player plays the game without considering the feelings of the opponents. The zealous athlete plays rough game with an eye upon success. Sometimes he feels a struggle between his prudence and ego and he is happy his prudence wins over his ego. So he is happy to be a spectator.

*I'm glad that when my struggle begins
'Twist prudence and ego, prudence wins*

- b. The poet does not wish to exchange places with the athletes. How does he justify his view?

Poem	Confession of a Born Spectator
Poet	Frederic Ogden Nash
Theme	A spectator can be as enthusiastic as a performer

*I am just glad as glad can be
What I am not them, that they are not me*

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In the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator,' Ogden Nash talks about how people choose different sports in their lives or decide to become athletes. While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. As a spectator he watches the rough games of the players. When a player runs to get his point the opponent will try to knock him down. He may fall to the ground and break his backbone. Then he will become invalid in this world. So he does not want to become an athlete and he is contented to be a spectator.

*You'd think my ego it would please
To swap positions with one of these*

- c. According to the poet what contributes most to the injuries sustained by the athletes?

Poem	Confession of a Born Spectator
Poet	Frederic Ogden Nash
Theme	A spectator can be as enthusiastic as a performer

*But zealous athletes play so rough
They do not ever in their dealings
Consider one another's feelings*

Ogden Nash (1902-1971) was an American poet well-known for his light verse, of which he wrote over 500 pieces. With his unconventional rhyming schemes, he was declared the country's best-known producer of humorous poetry.

In the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator,' Ogden Nash talks about how people choose different sports in their lives or decide to become athletes. While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. The players get injuries while playing. It mostly happens because they play rough and noisy game. When a player runs to get his point the opponent will try to knock him down. He may fall to the ground and break his backbone. They sweat for fun or hire. To show their prowess, they maim each other. Thus the athletes sustain injuries because they are zealous enough to play rough games.

*Athletes who sweat for fun or hire,
who take the field in gaudy pomp,
And maim each other as they comp*

4. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a sentence or two.

- a. *'With all my heart I do admire
Athletes who sweat for fun or hire'*

i. Whom does the poet admire?

The poet admires the athletes.

ii. For what reason do the athletes sweat?

The athletes sweat or work hard to play well for fun or money.

- b. *'Well, ego it might be pleased enough
But zealous athletes play so rough..'*

i. What pleases the ego?

The success in a game pleases the ego.

ii. Why are athletes often rough during play?

The athletes have only success in their mind. They are often rough because they do not think about the feelings of the opponents.

- c. *'When officialdom demands
Is there a doctor in the stands?'*

i. Why are doctors called from stands by the sponsors?

During a game the players may be badly injured. So the sponsors call for the doctors.

ii. Why does the poet make such an observation?

The poet wants to prove that it is sometimes dangerous to participate in games.

- d. *'When snaps the knee and cracks the wrist....'*

Identify and explain the use of the literary device in this line.

Onomatopoeia.

The fact of words containing sounds similar to the noises they describe. The words, 'snaps' and 'cracks' refer to the sounds.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. *'One infant grows up and becomes jockey,
Another plays basketball or hockey'*

a) **What does jockey refer to?**

The jockey refers to horse riding.

b) **Who is mentioned here as playing the games?**

The infant is mentioned here as playing the games.

c) **What are all the games referred to here?**

The games referred to here are horse riding, basketball and hockey.

2. *'I am just glad as glad can be
That I am not them, that they are not me'*

a) **With whom is the poet's gladness compared?**

The poet's gladness is compared with gladness itself.

b) **Why does the poet mention he is not them?**

The poet is glad that he is not an athlete because he is of modest physique.

3. *'Who take the field in gaudy pomp,
And maim each other as they romp'*

a) **How do the athletes enter the field?**

The athletes enter field in showy dresses.

b) **When do they get injured?**

They get injured when the opponents play a rough game.

c) **Where does the word 'maim' mean?**

The word 'maim' means injure.

4. *'Now A runs ninety yards to score
B knocks the champion to the floor'*

a) **Which game is mentioned here?**

Football is mentioned here.

b) **Why does A run ninety yards?**

A runs ninety yards to score a goal.

c) **Who is B in this context?**

B is the opposite team or the rival player.

5. *'Athletes, I'll drink with you
Or eat with you
Or anything except compete with you'*

a) **What is the poet ready to do?**

The poet is ready to drink or eat with the athletes.

b) **What is the poet not ready to do?**

The poet is not ready to compete with the athletes.

TEXTUAL EXERCISES**5. A. Explain the following with reference to the context in about 50-60 words each.**

- i) *'I am just glad as glad can be
That I am not them, that they are not me'.*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet wants to say that he is happy not to be an athlete.

Explanation :

While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. The poet is very glad to say that he is not an athlete and he will never become one.

- ii) *'They do not ever in their dealings
Consider one another's feelings'*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet wants to convey that some players play rough game without minding the feelings of others.

Explanation :

While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. Most of the players play roughly. They do not consider the feelings of the opponents. They keep only success in their mind. So they are callous.

- iii) *'Athletes, I'll drink to you
Or eat with you
Or anything except compete with you'*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet wants to say that he will never be an athlete.

Explanation :

While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet confesses that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. The poet is willing to drink for the good luck of the athletes and ready to celebrate their success. But he will never play with them.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Explain the following with reference to the context in about 50- 60 words each.

1. *'This one the prize ring hates to enter
That one becomes a tackle or centre'*

Reference :

This passage is taken from the poem 'Confession of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet in the beginning itself says that he will not enter the field to play.

Explanation :

The poet says that he is not interested to take up any sport but he is interested to be a spectator. Children may choose one game or the other for their future. One may hate to enter the boxing ring. The child may become a centre of attraction in some other game.

2. *'My limp and bashful spirit feeds
On other people's heroic deeds'.*

Reference :

This passage is taken from the poem 'Confession of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet admires the athletes who compete for money and fun and talks about their rough game.

Explanation :

He says that he is not interested to take up any sport but he is interested to be a spectator. He does not want to enter any playground to play the games. His spirit is very weak and shy so he refuses to take up any game. As he is weak and shy he enjoys the heroic deeds of other athletes rather than competing with them.

3. *'You'd think my ego it would please
To swap positions with one of these'*

Reference :

This passage is taken from the poem 'Confession of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet wants to emphasise that he will never take up the position of an athlete.

Explanation :

He says that he is not interested to take up any sport but he is interested to be a spectator. Most of the people take up their profession or hobby to satisfy their ego. Mostly ego pushes one to accept certain position in society. In the same way one may think that his ego would be pleased if he exchanges his position with an athlete. But he will not do that.

4. *'I'm glad that when my struggles begins
Twixt prudence and ego, prudence wins'.*

Reference :

This passage is taken from the poem 'Confession of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet says that his prudence will not allow him to be an athlete.

Explanation :

He says that he is not interested to take up any sport but he is interested to be a spectator. In life many times there will be a struggle between the prudence of person and his ego. Usually ego will win in that struggle. But in his case when such struggle comes only prudence will win. His prudence will not allow him to choose any sport for him to play. It will help him to be a good spectator.

**5. *'My soul in true thanksgiving speaks
For this modest of physiques'.***

Reference :

This passage is taken from the poem 'Confession of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet accepts that he has modest physical strength.

Explanation :

He says that he is not interested to take up any sport but he is interested to be a spectator. In a match most of the players play rough game. They do not consider the opponents' feeling. In the course of a game sometimes a player may get badly injured. Then the sponsor will call for the help of a doctor. When something happens like this he thanks God for his modest physical strength. Maybe if he has a better physique he may choose some game to play. So he thanks God for his modest physique.

**6. *'Buy tickets worth their radium
To watch you gambol in the stadium'.***

Reference :

This passage is taken from the poem 'Confession of a Born Spectator' written by Ogden Nash.

Context :

The poet says though he is not interested in sports he wants to witness sports.

Explanation :

He says that he is not interested to take up any sport but he is interested to be a spectator. Though the poet is against playing some games, he never loses a chance to watch a good game. He buys high denomination tickets which are as costly as radium to watch a match. This shows that he is not against any game but against playing the game.

B. Read the poem and complete the table with suitable rhyming words.

(e.g.) enter	center
jockey	hockey
admire	hire
pomp	romp
feeds	deeds
score	floor

(e.g.) enter	center
please	these
fist	wrist
demands	stands
radium	stadium

C. Underline the alliterated words in the following lines.

- i) For this most modest physiques...
- ii) They do not ever in their dealings...

D. Find out the rhyme scheme of the given stanza.

One infant grows up and becomes a jockey
 Another plays basketball or hockey
 This one the prize ring hates to enter
 That one becomes a tackle or center...

a,a, b,b

6. LISTENING ACTIVITY

First, read the following statements. Then, listen to the passage read aloud by your teacher or played on the recorder and answer the questions that follow. You may listen to it again, if required.

Choose the most appropriate option and complete the sentences.

- Tejaswini Sawant is an Indian _____.**
 a) shooter b) boxer c) cricketer **Ans: a**
- She represented India at the 9th South Asian Sports Federation Games in _____.**
 a) 2001 b) 2002 c) 2004 **Ans: c**
- In 2006, she won a Gold medal in the _____.**
 a) Commonwealth Games b) Olympic Games c) Asian Games **Ans: a**
- She became a world champion in the 50m Rifle Prone game held in _____.**
 a) Germany b) Russia c) India **Ans: a**
- Tejaswami was the first Indian woman shooter to win a _____ medal at the World Championship in the 50m rifle prone game.**
 a) gold b) silver c) bronze **Ans: a**

7. SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Work with your partner. Discuss and share your ideas with the class.

- a. Tell the class about your ambition in life and the way you are working towards achieving your goal.**

I would like to become a Police Officer with IPS. This has been in my mind from my 6th standard onwards. I am very much impressed by the police officers when they walk majestically in the public. Moreover it is a very good public service. I know I have to prepare well for my IPS competitive exam which is conducted by the UPSC. Now I have started reading some books regarding the competitive exam. I will study well and join a good college in Chennai. As I do my college studies I will join a coaching centre and prepare well. I hope that I will be a successful Police Officer.

- b. Your friend competes with you in academics and sports. Think of the situation wherein you would not be affected by his/her victory and the ways in which you would encourage your friend to succeed.**

It is an acceptable fact that many will compete with us in school in our studies and sports. I accept my friend who competes with me in studies and sports. Both of us play Basketball and both are in the school team. In any match we both would be the top scorers. Sometimes I will be the first and he will be second. If he becomes first I will be second. We have always a healthy competition. In studies also we both do well. My aim is to join IIT and become a successful engineer. He likes to join medicine. Both of us encourage each other for our success.

- 8. Answer the following questions in a short paragraph of about 100 – 150 words each. You may add your own ideas to support your point of view.**

- a. Why do accidents usually happen in the playground? Give your own examples and explain.**

Accidents happen in the playground usually because of the rough game of the players. Each game has its own way of accidents. In cricket, the bowler may be ruthless and it may hit the batsman. It has become fatal in some cases. In football the players play rough game without following the rules properly. In games like volleyball where the team will not have any physical contacts, the accident will happen because of fall on the ground. In athletics one player may cross his line and hit the other and the victim will fall and break his bones.

- b. Everybody is special and everybody is a hero. Each one has a story to tell. In the light of this observation, present your views.**

Life has different openings for different people. So everyone has a special area for him/her to play. The success depends on how the role is played. In this way everybody is a hero in his own area. It depends on his family and society. Sometime the economic status also affects the individuals. In their views the life has different arena. Each one has his/her own story to tell others. Some will have success stories and other may have failure stories. Some will be suffering heroes and other will be successful heroes.

- c. Would you like to exchange your place with someone else? Why/why not?**

I will never exchange my place with anybody. God has given my life and my life will never fit into others. My life depends on my goal in life and the way I take my goal seriously. How can my life fit into others? Moreover my study system may be different from others. I cannot study like others. My favourite subject or sports may be different from others. I cannot change my favourite for someone else.

- d. What sort of encouragement should an athlete in India be given? Give a few suggestions.**

All athletes need some support and appreciation. Especially when they win some medals they expect their country to recognise their feat. They need sponsorship also because we cannot expect all the athletes to be rich enough to meet out their expenses. If they play for some clubs, the particular club should take charge of their expenses. If they play for their school or college, the particular institution should spend money on their behalf. The club or school or college should recognise them when they come back with medals.

- e. **You are the School Pupil Leader. Mention some qualities that can be drawn from the field of sports to improve your leadership skills.**

The School Pupil Leader should have leadership qualities. The sports field can give a lot in this regard. The first and foremost quality he gains from the sports field is the team spirit. He has to lead the students of the school and he has to cooperate with many students – his classmates and schoolmates. He has to consult the management and the teachers for the success of a programme. Next quality is tolerance which is also important for a School Pupil Leader. Punctuality is another quality he can get from the sports field. The sports field teaches him co-operation and accommodative spirit.

ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH

Answer the following question in a short paragraph of about 100 – 150 words.

1. **What does the poet try to convey in the poem 'Confessions of a Born Spectator'?**

Poem	Confession of a Born Spectator
Poet	Frederic Ogden Nash
Theme	A spectator can be as enthusiastic as a performer

*This one the prize ring hates to enter
That one becomes a tackle or center*

Ogden Nash was an American poet well known for his light verse. With his unconventional rhyming schemes, he was declared the country's best-known producer of humorous poetry. In this poem Nash talks about how people choose different sports in their lives or aspire to become athletes. While admiring the talents of the athletes and sportsmen, the poet accepts that he is neither a sportsman nor an athlete. Children have different goals in life and wish to play various games. Each child has in mind something in particular, but the narrator is happy that he is not one of the players. The narrator admires the talents of all athletes and derives satisfaction from watching them, but does not wish to exchange his position with them. He also sometimes regrets that zealous athletes play rough games without caring for the feelings of their sporting rivals. He feels that good sense and caution win over ego. The narrator wholeheartedly offers thanks for his modest physique. Ultimately the narrator is satisfied for not being an athlete.

*And reassure myself anew
That you are not me and I'm not you*

****♦♦****

UNIT

2

A SHOT IN THE DARK

Hector Hugh Munro

SUPPLEMENTARY

About the Author

Author	:	• Hector Hugh Munro • Pen name - Saki
Born	:	18th December, 1870 - Burma.
Career	:	• Author • Play wright • Journalist
Famous Works	:	• The Watched Pot - Drama • The Rise of the Russian Empire - Drama • Short Stories
Speciality	:	Mocking Popular Customs and Manners of Edwardian Society
Died	:	14th November 1916.



Warm Up

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Can you spot 10 differences between these pictures?



The ten differences are:

- ❖ Timing in the wall clock.
- ❖ Left shoe of the man at the entrance.
- ❖ The coin missing in the piggy bank.
- ❖ Lines on the sheet of paper.
- ❖ Single pony tail of the child.
- ❖ The position of number 5 in the currency note.
- ❖ The X mark on the shirt of the lady behind the counter.
- ❖ The flower on the over coat of the lady at the first table.
- ❖ The right shoe of the man at the entrance.
- ❖ The symbol of the dollar on the letter S.

SUMMARY

The short story 'A Shot in the Dark' has been written by Hector Hugh Munro better known by his pen name Saki. He was a British writer who wrote on witty and mischievous themes. In this story he describes how a man, who considers himself very smart and observant, finds that he had mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth.

Philip Sletherby left for Chalkshire to meet Mrs. SaltpenJago as she was an influential woman in Chalkshire and London. It was very important for Philip Sletherby to impress her so that he could win her support and be benefitted by her influence.

He was met by a club acquaintance at the platform who talked good about Mrs. SaltpenJago. He met a stranger in train who called himself Bertie, second son of Mrs. SaltpenJago. Bertie checked all his pockets multiple times for his purse but he was unable to find it. He asked for a small help of 3 pounds from Philip Sletherby as he was his mother's friend. He told Philip Sletherby that as he was travelling to Brondquay for 3 days fishing he would return home (Brill Manor) on Monday and then would return his 3 pounds. Philip Sletherby tried to confirm Bertie's crest with the crest of Mrs. SaltpenJago which not only mismatched but also Bertie was not able to tell the correct colour of his mother's hair. Thus Philip Sletherby was not convinced that Bertie was the real son of Mrs. SaltpenJago and hence denied helping Bertie. Bertie got down furiously and later Philip Sletherby thought highly of himself wondering how he would discuss that incident with other guests in the dinner and would be appreciated for his shrewdness. This might increase his chances for being chosen as a Party Manager.

On reaching Brill Manor he was received by Claude People who was a professional lawyer working for Mrs. SaltpenJago. On his way to Brill Manor he talked about all the luxurious features of his expensive car. Philip Sletherby suddenly looked at the two crests kept in a box at the car window and on further enquiry he came to know that they both belonged to the Saltpen family. Claude also told him about recent change in Mrs. SaltpenJago when she shocked everyone with blonde hair and her old hair was brown like Bertie. This made Philip Sletherby silent and speechless in the end of the story. Now he realised that he had made a mistake.



GLOSSARY

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embarked	–	boarded
espied	–	caught sight of
ineffectually	–	in vain
ruefully	–	regretfully, sorrowfully
pantomime	–	exaggerated behaviour
quid	–	(British) one pound sterling
exchequer	–	national treasury
crest	–	a symbol representing a family, reproduced on writing paper
tackle	–	equipment required for a task or sport
discrepancy	–	difference
soi-distant	–	self styled
astuteness	–	cleverness
sedately	–	in a dignified manner
sumptuous	–	expensive looking
chaise	–	horse-drawn carriage
expounded	–	explained
volubility	–	fluency, talkativeness
blonde	–	pale yellow hair
Honoraria	–	(Latin) honour, a woman of reputation
mater	–	(Latin) mother
courant	–	animal represented in the act of running

TEXTUAL EXERCISES

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1. Answer the following in about 30 – 50 words each.**a. Why did Philip Sletherby visit Brill Manor?**

Philip Sletherby visited Brill Manor to meet Mrs. Saltpen-Jago. She was his new acquaintance and he wanted to get a favour from her.

b. How would Sletherby gain from his friendship with Honoria Saltpen-Jago?

There was a re-election in Chalkshire for the Parliament. Sletherby might get the seat with the help of his new friendship with Honoria Saltpen-Jago.

c. Why did his travel companion curse and mutter?

His travel companion cursed and muttered because he had left behind his sovereign-purse. He had money and his crest in that purse.

d. Describe Bertie's problem.

Bertie was the travel companion of Sletherby. He had left behind his sovereign-purse in which he had his money and crest. Now he needed at least three pounds to spend in Brondquay for three days' fishing. But he was left with only six pence.

e. 'There was a tinge of coldness in his voice.' Why?

Bertie said that his crest was a demi-lion holding a cross-crosslet in its paw. Sletherby told him that his family crest was a greyhound. This he learnt from his mother's letter to him. Bertie explained that they had both in his family but Sletherby did not believe him. So there was a tinge of coldness in his voice.

f. Compare the two crests.

One crest had a demi-lion holding a cross-crosslet in its paw. The other was just a greyhound. The first one was for Saltpen and other was for Jago. The Saltpen-Jago used both the crests.

g. What was Sletherby's response to Bertie's request?

Bertie requested Sletherby to lend him two or three pounds and he would return it when he reached his home. Sletherby first accepted. Then because of the confusion about the crests he was not ready to believe him. So he refused to lend him money.

h. What caught his attention about the car door?

On the car door there were two crests – one greyhound and the other a demi-lion holding in its paw a cross-crosslet.

i. Describe Honoria Saltpen-Jago.

A car was waiting for Sletherby to go to Saltpen-Jago. The car showed the richness and the elegance of the lady. She was a brilliant and level-headed woman. She was a clear thinker and an influential woman. Now she had changed her dark brown hair to brilliant blonde.

j. Why did K.C's words shock Sletherby?

Sletherby was shocked because K.C told him that Saltpen-Jago changed her dark brown hair to brilliant blonde.

2. Rearrange the sentences given below and write a summary of the story in a paragraph.

Philip Sletherby was travelling by train to Brill Manor. His companion in the train was a young man who was searching for something frantically. The young man introduced himself as Bertie, the son of Saltpen-Jago. Bertie had left his purse behind, after sealing an envelope with the crest on the purse. He

stated that it was the Jago crest. He further added that his mother's hair was dark brown similar to his. Bertie needed three pounds desperately and asked Sletherby to lend it to him. Sletherby pointed out to him that his mother's letter had a greyhound courant crest. He explained that the Saltpen crest was that of demi-lion. Suspecting foul play, Sletherby did not give him any money, as he knew Mrs. Saltpen-Jago was a blonde. He was received by Claude People K.C., who had kept on talking about various things. All the time Sletherby was gazing at the door panel of the car on which were the two crests – a demi-lion and a greyhound courant. Sletherby sat dumbstruck on learning that Mrs. Honoria Saltpen Jago had changed her dark brown hair to a blonde just five weeks ago. Sletherby realised that Bertie had not lied to him but that he had mistaken him for a fraud.

3. Explain the following phrases selected from the story in your own words and work with a partner to make sentences using these phrases.

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a) an approval

If we buy something on approval, we can return it in case we are not satisfied with that.
I bought a set of electronics goods **on approval**.

b) a rustic holiday - holiday spent in a rustic way, not in a refined way

The friends decided to go for **a rustic holiday** to a river side for fishing and bathing.

c) double-distilled idiot - a real idiot of the first order.

I did not go in time to the interview so I lost a good job. I was a **double-distilled idiot**.

d) a tinge of coldness - a slight seriousness

When she realised that her friend was kidding with her she talked to her in a **tinge of coldness**.

e) making up for lost time – working hard because of loss of time

Because of long government holidays the workers had to work two days to **make up for lost time**.

4. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 100 – 150 words each.

a) Describe the youth's strange behaviour when he was in the train.

'A shot in the Dark' written by Munro – man considers smart – mistakes a genuine man – travelling to Brill Manor – co-passenger – searches something – could not find his purse – left behind with money – described his crest – doubted him – refused to lend money

Hector Hugh Munro in his short story 'A Shot in the Dark' describes how a man who considers himself very smart finds that he has mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth. Sletherby was travelling to Brill Manor. The youth was his co-passenger. He was about twenty two with dark hair. He was frantically searching something in his bag. He took out many things from the bag and kept them on the seat. But he was not satisfied. It showed that he could not find out what he was searching. Then he had a talk with Sletherby. He told him that he was the second son of Mrs. Saltpen-Jago whom Sletherby was going to meet in Brill Manor. He said that he had left behind his sovereign purse which had some money and his crest. His description of his crest and his mother made Sletherby doubt him. So he refused to lend him three pounds.

b) One has to be cautious and not be carried away by stories. How did Sletherby exhibit caution?

'A Shot in the Dark' by Munro – man considers smart – mistakes a genuine man – travelling to Brill Manor – Bertie the co-passenger – searched for something – said second son of SaltpenJago – Sletherby doubted him – crest description confirmed doubt – proved wrong – Sletherby cautious

Hector Hugh Munro in his short story 'A Shot in the Dark' describes how a man who considers himself very smart finds that he has mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth. Sletherby was travelling to Brill Manor. When we travel usually we avoid talking to any strangers and we will be very cautious even if we talk to strangers. His co passenger was Bertie, a youth of twenty two. He was searching something in his bag. He told Sletherby that he was the second son of Mrs. Saltpen-Jago. But Sletherby had some doubts. Bertie said he had left behind his purse and he asked Sletherby to lend him three pounds. When he described his crest and his mother's hair Sletherby's doubt was confirmed. He had been very cautious from the beginning. Though it was proved wrong in the end, we cannot find fault with Sletherby. Everybody should be cautious when we travel with a stranger.

c) How did Sletherby's judgement of Bertie turn out to be a wrong one?

'A Shot in the Dark' by Munro – man considers smart – mistakes a genuine man – travelling to Brill Manor – meet SaltpenJago – Bertie co-passenger – says second son of SaltpenJago – left his purse – asked for a loan – his crest raises doubt – colour of her hair – refused to lend – reached Brill Manor – have two crest – changed her hair colour – he is wrong

Hector Hugh Munro in his short story 'A Shot in the Dark' describes how a man who considers himself very smart finds that he has mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth. Sletherby was travelling to Brill Manor to meet Saltpen-Jago to get a personal help from her. His co passenger was Bertie who was a twenty two year old youth. He told Sletherby that he was the second son of Saltpen-Jago. He further informed Sletherby that he had left behind his purse and he asked him to lend him three pounds. He described his crest as a demi-lion but Sletherby had received a letter from Saltpen-Jago with a different crest – a greyhound. Bertie told him that his mother's hair was blonde but Sletherby had seen her with dark hair. So he doubted Bertie and refused to lend him money. When he reached Brill Manor he came to know that the family had two crests – one demi lion and another one greyhound. Saltpen-Jago had changed her hair from dark to blonde. Now he realised that his judgement was wrong.

d) As Sletherby, would you apologise to Bertie for your rude behaviour? Give reason.

Hector Hugh Munro in his short story 'A Shot in the Dark' describes how a man who considers himself very smart finds that he has mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth. Sletherby was travelling to Brill Manor. Bertie was Sletherby's co passenger and he was frantically searching his bag for something. But he could not find out what he wanted. Then he informed Sletherby that he was the second son of Saltpen-Jago whom Sletherby wanted to meet in Brill Manor. He further told him that he had left behind his crest and money. Sletherby promised him that he would lend him three pounds. Then Bertie gave a description of his crest and his mother's crest. Both did not correspond with the knowledge Sletherby had on Saltpen-Jago. As he doubted Bertie he refused to lend money to him. But when he reached Brill Manor he realised that Bertie was right. If I were Sletherby I would surely ask to pardon me. Doubting a gentleman would have hurt him. Not only that, Bertie was left stranded without money. So because of my rude behaviour I would apologise to him.

e) 'Seeing is believing.' How is this humorously disproved in this story? Bring out the irony in the situation.

smart man – mistakes genuine plea – Sletherby travels – Bertie co-passenger – searched – could not find – second son of Saltpen – asked him loan – Sletherby promised – doubted him – refused to loan – learned he was mistaken

Hector Hugh Munro in his short story 'A Shot in the Dark' describes how a man who considers himself very smart finds that he has mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth. Sletherby was travelling to Brill Manor. Bertie was Sletherby's co passenger and he was frantically searching his bag for something. But he could not find out what he wanted. Then he informed Sletherby that he was the second son of Saltpen-Jago whom Sletherby wanted to meet in Brill Manor. He further told him that he had left behind his crest and money. Sletherby promised him that he would lend him three pounds. But due to certain situation Sletherby doubted him and refused to lend him money. Though he saw the son he did not believe him. When he reached Brill Manor, he realised that what Bertie had told him was right and he only mistook him.

ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS

Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 100 – 150 words each.

1. Describe the train journey of Philip Sletherby.

Sletherby wants to meet SaltpenJago – met Bertie – second son of Saltpen– searched for something – Bertie asked 3 pounds – going for fishing – Bertie's crest – mismatched with Saltpen's – Sletherby not convinced – denied to help – Sletherby happy to continue the travel

Philip Sletherby was met by a club acquaintance at the platform who talked good about Mrs. Saltpen Jago. He met a stranger in the train who called himself Bertie, second son of Mrs. Saltpen Jago. Bertie checked all his pockets multiple times for his purse but he was unable to find it. He asked a small help of 3 pounds from Philip Sletherby as he was his mother's friend. He told Philip Sletherby that as he was travelling to Brondquay for 3 days fishing, he would return home (Brill Manor) on Monday and then would return his 3 pounds. Philip Sletherby tried to confirm Bertie's crest with the crest of Mrs. Saltpen Jago which mismatched and also Bertie was not able to tell the correct colour of his mother's hair. Thus Philip Sletherby was not convinced that Bertie was the real son of Mrs. Saltpen Jago and hence denied helping Bertie. Bertie got down furiously and later Philip Sletherby thought highly of himself wondering how he would discuss that incident with other guests in the dinner and would be appreciated for his shrewdness. This might increase his chances for being chosen as a Party Manager.

2. Describe the life of Philip Sletherby after getting down from the train.

Sletherby travels tp Brill Manor – meet Saltpen – wants personal help – trceived by Claude – talked about Saltpen – her luxurious features – expensive cars – two crest kept – changed her hair to blonde – Sletherby realised his mistake

Hector Hugh Munro in his short story 'A Shot in the Dark' describes how a man who considers himself very smart finds that he has mistaken the genuine plea of a stranded youth. Sletherby was travelling to Brill Manor to meet Saltpen-Jago to get a personal favour from her. On reaching Brill Manor he was received by Claude People who was a professional lawyer working for Mrs. Saltpen Jago. On his way to Brill Manor he talked about all the luxurious features of his expensive car. Philip Sletherby suddenly looked at the two crests kept in a box at the car window and on further enquiry he came to know that they both belonged to the Saltpen family. Claude also told him about recent change in Mrs. Saltpen Jago when she shocked everyone with blonde hair and her old hair was brown like Bertie. This made Philip Sletherby silent and speechless in the end of the story because he mistook the son of Mrs Saltpen Jago for a cheat. Now he realised that he had made a mistake.