

Unit-2:Short Story: The Cut-off by Chetan Bhagat

About the Author

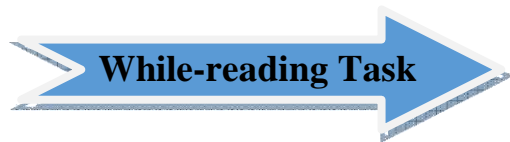
Chetan Bhagat

Bhagat was born on April 22, 1974, in Delhi, India, into an affluent Punjabi family. While his mother worked for the government's agricultural department, his father was a lieutenant colonel in the Indian army. He spent the most of his time at school in his hometown. He studied Mechanical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi. After that, he attended the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad. Later, he and his family relocated to Hong Kong, where he spent eleven years working as an investment banker for Goldman Sachs.

In 2009, he quit his banking career and returned to India. He then shifted to Mumbai from New Delhi, where he changed his professional choice and emerged as a great full-time writer. He is currently recognised as a multitalented emerging star in contemporary Indian literature. His works, including Five Point Someone, The Three Mistakes of My Life, and 2 States, are well known. The majority of Bhagat's writings deal with the challenges that Indian youth face and their goals, earning him the title of "youth icon."

Preparatory Task

- What made you to decide on engineering course? What factors have you considered while making the choices of your branch?
- Have you discussed the job and start-up opportunities for the course you have opted with any one?
- What is important to you: The marks you score in the exams or knowledge and skills you gain by the end of the course?



Study the text below and make a list of 10 key points that captures the essence of whole story.

SHORT STORY: THE CUT-OFF

Chetan Bhagat

Everyone will give you an opinion on how to live your life. No one, no one, will give you good advice on how to end it. Worse, they will tell you to continue living, without any respect for individual choice. Yes, hi, I'm Gautam Arora, and after eighteen wonderful years in Delhi, I've decided to end my life.

I sat with my best friend Neeraj and his girlfriend Anjali at Costa Coffee, DLF Metropolitan Mall, Saket. The coffee was way overpriced, but considering I had a day to live, I didn't mind getting ripped off.

'The joke isn't that funny,' Neeraj said, tearing open the second sachet of brown sugar and mixing it for his girlfriend. If this girl couldn't mix sugar in her coffee, I wondered what she would be like after marriage.

'Do I look like I am joking? You are in medical college, and as a friend and someone two years elder to me, I am asking your advice on what is the most painless, graceful way to go. And ideally, it should be available at the friendly neighborhood chemist,' I said. I ordered a chocolate fudge cake. What are a few extra calories on your last day?

Anjali kept quiet, her iPod plugged to her ears. She had come to the mall to shop with her boyfriend rather than meet me. Neeraj said he only dated Anjali as her father had given her a car and a driver, which made it easy to get around. Besides, she looked okay. She was pretty enough to invite a second stare from men, though that's hardly an achievement in Delhi, where men's standards are quite modest.

'Dude, you topped your school. How much did you score in your class XII boards again?' Neeraj said. '92 percent,' I said.

'Ninety what?' Neeraj said as he ripped out Anjali's earphones. Anjali, the dude scored 92 percent in commerce! 'Do you know of anyone who has scored that much?'

Anjali shook her head. 'Wow, you must have studied a lot,' she said.

I nodded. I had done nothing but study in the last two years.

'No time for hobbies?' She asked.

I shook my head. My only hobbies were eating three meals and sleeping five hours a day. The rest of the time was spent with my books.

'With ninety-two, you should be fine,' Neeraj said. 'Not according to SRCC, not according to Stephen's and not according to Hindu... Oh what the heck' I said as I opened my rucksack.

I gave him the special admissions supplement from the news paper. I had sneaked it out early morning so mom and dad wouldn't see it.

'Wow, check out Lady Shri Ram College. B.Com Honours is at 95.5 percent!' Neeraj said.

'That's a girls' college' Anjali said.

'I know,' I said.

'Don't worry; he wouldn't have made it anyway. Anjali, why don't you go spend some of your father's money?' Neeraj said and winked at me.

Anjali and I both gave Neeraj a dirty look. Neeraj gestured to her to leave.

'Seriously, don't kill yourself. To us, you are still the school topper,' Neeraj said after Anjali left.

'So what do I do?' I said, my voice loud, 'stay back in school? This topper tag makes things worse. My parents already threw a party for our friends and relatives like I have made it big time in life. I cut a cake on which the icing said, "family superstar".'

'Nice' Neeraj said.

'Not nice at all. All the relatives congratulated my mother. They see me as the next hot shot investment banker on Wall Street. The least they expect me to do is get into a good college in DU.'

'There are still some colleges that you will get into,' Neeraj said as I cut him off.

‘But none with the same brand value. Thus, you can’t get a decent job after them. You can’t get into the top MBA School.’

Neeraj pushed my coffee cup towards me. I hadn’t touched it. I picked it up and brought it close to my mouth but couldn’t drink it.

‘I made one tiny calculation error in my math paper,’ I said, ‘read one stupid unit conversion wrong. That’s it. If only...’

‘If only you could chill out. You are going to college, dude! Branded or not, it is always fun.’

‘No fun,’ I said.

‘What kind of kids are they taking in anyway?’ Neeraj said, ‘you have to be a bean-counter stickler to get 97 per cent. Like someone who never takes chances and revises the paper twenty times.’

‘I don’t know, I revised it five times. That stupid calculation...’

“Gautam, relax. That paper is done. And sticklers don’t do well in life. Innovative and imaginative people do.”

‘That’s not what DU thinks. You don’t understand, my father has proclaimed in his office that I will join SRCC. I can’t go to him with a second-rung college admission. It’s like his whole life image will alter. Hell, I won’t be able to deal with it myself.’

An SMS from Anjali on Neeraj’s phone interrupted our conversation. At Kimaya, tried fab dress. Come urgently, want your opinion. Neeraj typed the reply back. Honey, it looks great. Buy it.

Neeraj grinned as he showed me his response, ‘I think you should go,’ I said. Rich dads’ daughters can throw pretty nasty tantrums.

Neeraj took out the money for coffee. I stopped him. ‘My treat,’ I said. Leave people happy on your last day, I thought.

‘Of course, I take this as your treat for cracking your boards’ Neeraj said and smiled. He ruffled my hair and left. I came out of the mall and took an auto home.

I met my parents at the dinner table. ‘So, when will the university announce the cut-off?’ my father said.

‘In a few days,’ I said. I looked up at the dining table fan. No, I couldn’t hang myself. I can’t bear suffocation.

My mother cut mangoes after dinner. The knife made me think of slitting my wrists. Too painful, I thought, and dropped the idea.

‘So now, my office people are asking me, “When is our party?”’ my father said as he took a slice.

I told you to call them to the party we threw for neighbors and relatives my mother said.
'How will they fit in with your brothers and sisters? My office people are very sophisticated,' my father said.

'My brothers are no less sophisticated. They went to Singapore last year on vacation. At least they are better than your family,' she said.

My father laughed at my mother's sullen expression. His happiness levels had not receded since the day I received my result.

'My office people want drinks, not food. Don't worry; I'll have another one for them when he gets into SRCC or Stephen's.'

My father worked in the sales division of Tata Tea. We had supplied our entire set of neighbors with free tea for the last five years. As a result, we had more well-wishers than I'd have liked.

'Even my country head called to congratulate me for Gautam. He said- nothing like Stephen's for your brilliant son,' my father said.

'Gupta aunty came from next door. She wanted to see if you can help her daughter, who is in class XI,' my mother said. Is she pretty, I wanted to ask, but didn't. It didn't matter.

I came to my room post dinner. I hadn't quite zeroed down on the exact method, but thought I should start working on the suicide letter anyway. I didn't want it to be one of the clichéd ones- I love you all and it is no one's fault and I'm sorry, mom and dad. Yuck, just like first impressions, last impressions are important, too. In fact, I didn't want to do any silly suicide letter. When it is your last, you'd better make it important. I decided to write it to the education minister. I switched on my computer and went to the education department website. Half the site links were broken. There was a link called 'What after class XII?' I clicked on it; it took me to a blank page with an under-construction sign. I sighed as I closed the site. I opened Microsoft word to type.

Dear Education Minister,

I hope you are doing fine and the large staff of your massive bungalow is treating you well. I won't take much of your time.

I've passed out of class XII and I've decided to end my life. I scored 92 per cent in my boards, and I have a one-foot-high trophy from my school for scoring the highest marks. However, there are so many trophy-holding students in this country and so few college seats that I didn't get into a college that will train me to get to the next level, or open up good opportunities.

I know I haven't worked enough. I should have worked harder to get another 3 per cent. However, I do want to point out a few things to you. When my parents were young, certain colleges were considered prestigious. Now, forty years later, the same colleges are considered prestigious. What's interesting is that no new colleges have come up with the same brand or level of reputation. Neither have the seats expanded in existing colleges fast enough to accommodate the rising number of students.

I'll give you an example. Just by doing some meaningless surfing, I saw that 3.8 lakh candidates took the CBSE class XII exam in 1999, a number that has grown to 8.9 lakh in 2009. This is just one board, and if you take ICSE and all other state boards, the all-India total number is over ten times that of CBSE. We probably had one crore students taking the class XII exam this year.

While not everyone can get a good college seat, I just want to talk about the so-called good students. The top 10 per cent alone of these one crore students is ten lakh children. Yes, these ten lakh students are their class toppers. In a class of fifty, they will have the top five ranks.

One could argue that these bright kids deserve a good college to realize their full potential. Come to think of it, it would be good for our country, too, if we train our bright children well to be part of the new, shining, gleaming, glistening, or whatever you like to call the globalized India.

But then, it looks like you have stopped building universities. Are there ten lakh top college seats in the country? Are there even one lakh? Even wondered what happens to the rest of us, year after year? Do we join a second-rung college? A deemed university? A distance-learning programme? Get a degree in an expensive, racist country? Your government runs a lot of things. You run an airline that never makes money. You run hotels. You want to be involved in making basic stuff like steel and aluminum which can easily be made by more efficient players. However, in something as important as shaping the young generation, you have stepped back. You have stopped making new universities. Why?

You have all the land you want, teachers love to get a government job, education funds are never questioned. Still, why? Why don't we have new, A-grade universities in every state capital, for instance?

Oh well, sorry. I am over reacting. If only I had not done that calculation error in my math paper, I'd be fine. In fact, I am one of the lucky ones. In four years, the number of candidates will double. So then we will have a college that only has 99 per cent scores.

My parents were a bit deluded about my abilities, and I do feel bad for them. I didn't have a girlfriend or too many friends, as people who want to get into a good college are not supposed to have a life. If only I'd known that slogging for twelve years would not amount to much, I'd have had more fun.

Apart from that, do well, and say hello to the PM who, as I understand, used to teach in a college.

Yours truly,

Gautam

(Poor student)

I took a printout of the letter and kept it in my pocket. I decided to do the act the next morning. I woke up as the maid switched off the fan to sweep the room. She came inside and brought a box of sweets. A fifty-year-old woman, she had served us for over ten years.

‘What happened?’ I said as she gave me the box. It had kaju-barfi from one of the more expensive shops in the city. The maid had spent a week’s salary distributing sweets to anyone known to her.

‘My son passed class XII,’ she said as she started her work.

‘How much did he score?’ I said, still rubbing my eyes. ‘42

percent. He passed English too’ she said as her face

beamed with pride. ‘What will he do now?’ I said.

‘I don’t know. May be his own business, he can repair mobile phones,’ she said.

I went to the bathroom for a shower. I realized the newspaper would have come outside. I ran out of the bathroom. I picked up the newspaper from the entrance floor. I took out the admissions supplement, crumpled it and threw it in the dustbin kept outside the house. I came back inside the house and went back into the shower.

I left the house at midday. I took the metro to Chandni Chowk and asked my way to the industrial chemicals market. Even though I had left science after class X, I knew that certain chemicals like copper sulphate or ammonium nitrate could kill you. I bought a pack of both compounds. As I passed through the lanes of Chandni Chowk, I passed a tiny, hundred-square-feet jalebi shop. It was doing brisk business. I thought my last meal had to be delicious. I went to the counter and took a quarter kilo of jalebis.

I took my plate and sat on one of the two rickety benches placed outside the shop.

A Muslim couple with a four-year-old boy came and sat on the next bench. The mother fed the boy jalebi and kissed him after each bite. It reminded me of my childhood and my parents, when they used to love me unconditionally and marks didn’t exist. I saw the box of ammonium nitrate and tears welled up in my eyes. I couldn’t eat the jalebis. I came back home. I wondered if I should use my chemicals before or after dinner. May be it is better after everyone has slept, I thought.

We sat at the dinner table. Dad had told Mom not to cook as he’d brought Chinese takeaway for us. Mom brought the soya sauce, chilli oil and the vinegar with cut green chillies in little katoris. We ate American chop suey on stainless steel plates. I looked at my watch, it was 8 p.m. Three more hours, I thought as I let out a sigh.

‘One thing, Kalpana’ my father said to my mother, ‘job candidates aren’t what they used to be these days. I interviewed new trainees today, disappointing’.

‘Why, what happened? My mother said.’

‘Like this boy from Stephen’s, very bright kid. But only when it came to his subjects.’

‘Really?’ my mother said.

‘Yeah, but I asked him a different question. I said how would you go about creating a tea-shop chain like the coffee-shop chains, and he went blank’ my father said, an inch of noodle hanging from his mouth. My mother removed it from his face.

‘And then some kid from SRCC. He’d topped his college. But you should have seen his arrogance. Even before the interview starts, he says, “I hope at the end of our meeting, you will be able to tell me why I should join Tata Tea, and not another company.” Can you imagine? I am twice his age.’

I could tell my father was upset. ‘If you ask me,’ my father continued, ‘the best candidate was a boy from Bhopal. Sure, he didn’t get into a top college. But he was an 80 percenter. And he said, “I want to learn. And I want to show that you don’t need a branded college to do well in life. Good people do well anywhere.” What a kid. Thank God we’d shortlisted him in the first place.’

‘Did he get the job?’ I said.

‘Yes, Companies need good workers, not posh certificates. And we are having a meeting to discuss our short-listing criteria again. The top colleges are so hard to get into, only tunnel-vision people are being selected’.

‘Then why are you asking him to join Stephen’s or SRCC?’ my mother said. My father kept quiet. He spoke after a pause. Actually, after today, I’d say don’t just go by the name. Study the college, figure out their dedication and make sure they don’t create arrogant nerds. Then, whatever the brand, you will be fine. The world needs good people.’

I looked at my parents as they continued to talk. Excuse me, but I have a plan to execute here. And now you are confusing me, I thought. ‘So should I find out as out some more colleges and take a decision after that?’ I said.

‘Yes, of course. No need for herd mentality. Kalpana, you should have seen this boy from Bhopal.’ Post-dinner, my parents watched TV in the living room while eating fruits. I retreated to my room. I sat on my desk wondering what to do next. The landline phone rang in my parents’ room. I went inside and picked it up.

‘Hello, Gautam?’ the voice on the other side said. It was my father’s colleague from work.

‘Hello, Yash uncle,’ I said. ‘Hi,’ he said, ‘congratulations on your boards.’

‘Thanks, Uncle,’ I said. ‘Dad is in the living room finishing dinner, should I call him?’

‘Dinner? Oh, don’t disturb him. Just tell him his mobile is with me. It is safe. We were on a field trip today. He left it in my car.’

‘Field trip? For interviews?’ I said.

‘What interviews? No, we just went to the Chandigarh office,’ he said.

I wished him good night and hung up the phone. I switched on the bedside lamp in my parents’ room. Confused, I sat down on my father’s bed, wondering what to do next. To make space, I moved his pillow. Under the pillow lay a crumpled newspaper. I picked it up. It was the same admissions supplement I had tossed in the bin this morning. My father had circled the cut-offs table.

I felt the newspaper there and went to the living room. My father was arguing with my mother over the choice of channels. I looked at my father. He smiled at me and offered me watermelon. I declined.

I went back to my room. I picked up the chemical boxes and took them to the toilet. I opened both boxes and poured out the contents in the toilet commode. One press, and everything, everything flushed out.

‘Goutam’ my mother knocked on the door, ‘I forgot to tell you. Gupta aunty came again. Can you teach her daughter?’

‘May be.’ I said as I came out of the toilet. ‘By the way, is she pretty?’

Glossary

Ripped off: (colloquial) Stolen from

Nod: To move one's head up and down in acceptance

Rip out: To pull forcibly away, to snatch

Sneaked: To go or convey secretly

Chill out: To relax

Grin: A wide smile

Slit: To tear or split

Sullen: Glum and bad-tempered

Zero down on: To decide on one out of a few or many choices

Gleam: A bright sparkle

Glisten: To shine and give out a reflection

Deem: To consider

Delude: To lead into false belief

Slog: Working hard and diligently

Rickety: Likely to shake or fall

Way overpriced: Extremely exaggerated in terms of pricing

Tunnel vision: Inability to see more than one point of view

Figure out: To make out or find out something

Nerd: A foolish person who is not of any interest to anybody



Post-reading Tasks

Exercise 1A: Answer the following in about 50 to 60 words each.

1. Who is the narrator of the story? Why does he decide to end his life?

2. 'Gautam, relax. That paper is done. And sticklers don't do well in life. Innovative and Imaginative will do.' Do you agree with this statement? Justify.

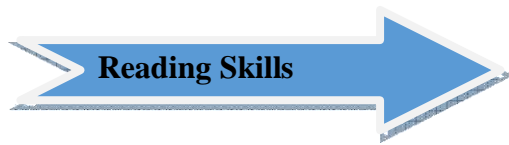
3. What are the important points in the letter that Goutam Arora addresses to the Education Minister?

4. Gautam's father provides certain logic while illustrating the point that admission in a good college need not necessarily ensure good education to all. Do you agree with Gautam's father? Justify.

- [illegible]

1. Examine the story 'The Cut off' as a statement of frustration on the part of the youth of our country.

2. Discuss the role of parents in nurturing and fostering responsible and mature children, who can handle stress in the light of this story.
3. Write about the good and bad sides of the education scenario in India today, based on this story.



Skimming and Scanning

Reading has been one of the most important activities of great people. Reading skills help us to decode meaning behind a text encoded through language. Thereby reading helps us to achieve the goals of interpreting independent thought of the writer. Skimming, Scanning, Extensive Reading, Intensive Reading and Critical Reading are different types of reading skills.

Skimming is a technique where you glance through a text to see whether or not it contains the information that is of interest to you. It's not essential to understand each word when you are skimming. We run our eyes over the text and identify required information during skimming process. To quickly get the general news of the day from a Newspaper or quickly getting information from a travel Brochures are the examples of Skimming.

Scanning technique is used when you want to find specific information quickly. In scanning you have a question in your mind and you read a passage only to find the answer, ignoring unrelated information.

Google search lists on the internet, reading a bus / airplane schedule or a conference guide, information about any place, searching particular dates are the examples of Scanning. Extensive Reading is carried out to achieve a general understanding of the text whereas Intensive reading calls for paying attention to grammatical forms and other surface structure details for the purpose of understanding literal meaning, implications, rhetorical relationships. The critical reading gives right to the reader to agree to disagree with the writer's opinions. It enables the reader to see the relationship of ideas and use these in reading with meaning and fluency.

Exercise 1C: Choose the appropriate answers from the given options.

1. Finding a job advertisement in the local newspaper.

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

2. Reading a leaflet handed to you in the street.

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

3. A telephone number in your address book.

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

4. Learning a subject for an exam.

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

5. Finding out, if a job advertisement is relevant to you

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

6. Researching a topic for your Childcare assignments

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

7. Proof-Reading your work

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

8. Finding the location of a nursery in a job advertisement.

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

9. When you want to find out the purpose of a text(e.g.Informative,Persuasive and Instructional)

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning
- C. Detailed

10. Reading a recipe before cooking

- A. Skimming
- B. Scanning

C. Detailed

Read the paragraphs given below using ‘skimming’ and match the following:

Google Maps already boasts a wealth of useful features for users. Besides showing people where they are, it plans routes, provides real-time spoken directions, street views, traffic and footfall information, restaurant reviews and a whole lot more. Google has just unveiled its latest tool. Users can now click on its Air Quality Index (AQI) before heading out for a bike ride, picnic, camping trip or hike. Google's products blog stated: "When you're visiting a new place or planning outdoor activities, it can be helpful to know the air quality conditions – like whether it's unusually smoggy." It added that its new AQI is, "a measure of how healthy (or unhealthy) the air is, along with guidance for outdoor activities."

The new feature is a "layer" on Google Maps. To view it, users tap on the "Layers" icon in the top right corner of the screen. This is the same button for selecting the satellite or street view modes. Users will see the new option to see air quality information on their map. Google said: "We collaborate closely with partners in the weather and air quality space to surface helpful and authoritative information when you need it most....We hope these tools help you feel safe and informed so you can enjoy the summer." The AQI will also provide updated information on the health impact of the air quality. In addition, there is a "wild fires near me" feature to alert, update and advise people on the status of fires.

Match the definitions (a–e) with the corresponding vocabulary (1–5).

Vocabulary	Definitions
1.Unveiled	a) A large, destructive fire that spreads quickly over forests.
2.Smoggy	b) Showed to the public for the first time
3.Collaborate	c) Smokey and foggy.
4.Authoritative	d) Work jointly on an activity or project.
5.Wildfire	e)The situation at a particular time during a process or brush.

Reading text: A short story extract

Lucky Jim Conley had raked in millions at the gaming tables, quadrupled his winnings in the stock market, and won a fortune in the state lottery. Jason, the only child of Lucky Jim and his

beloved Myrna, was used to having his own way. During the two years since Mom's death, Jason had waited patiently for Lucky Jim to follow suit and bequeath him full control of the family wealth. Jason was eager to be a high roller in his own right.

But Jim's luck was outlasting Jason's patience. After his last medical exam, Lucky Jim's doctor had proclaimed the old man to be fit as a forty-year-old. "Lucky Jim'll outlive us all, Jason." "Not if I have my way, Jason thought. No way.

He breathed in the fog that hung like ghostly sails around the Lucky Too, as they made their way out to the lobster grounds. Jim claimed that that was where the biggest and best fish hung out too. New for 2021 - The acclaimed Lingua press grammar now in a new American English edition -From Amazon or Barnes & Noble She was a sturdy boat. Twelve black numbers shone against her white hull. Jason and Lucky Jim sat in chairs on the bridge. Lucky Jim leaned toward his son and yelled over the engine's noise: "Fog hanging light makes hungry fish bite."

"Same old crap every time," Jason thought. "But, hey, that's what gave me my plan. Fishing in the fog...." Jason smiled at his father and nodded. He wouldn't attempt a reply since the old man's hearing was his only failing faculty.

"Mind the lobster pots," the old man hollered.

Jason nodded again. He knew exactly where the trap buoys were located. He'd come here every day for the past two weeks, drawn diagrams, memorized bobbing floats and channel markers. He'd disabled the maritime radio, concealed his weapon, left nothing to chance.

They were almost there. The buoy's fog horn blasted its rude warning every fifteen seconds.

"I'll tie up at the buoy," Jason called to Lucky Jim. "You get the lines over."

Lucky nodded and moved to the stern, carrying two fishing poles.

Jason put in ear plugs before tying a heavy rope over the buoy's flashing light. He pulled it tight under a square metal box half-way between light and water. A wave gauge? Weather predictor? Battery casing? The current swung the stern around. Jason turned toward Lucky Jim.

The old man stood at the side of the deck, profile toward Jason, head bent, intent on preparing his lines. Jason reached behind him and lifted a three-foot length of two-by-four.

BAM!

Lucky Jim never knew what hit him. Jason dropped the bloodied weapon overboard, grasped Jim from behind, and tossed him over the side. The satisfying splash soaked Jason. He untied the vessel from the buoy and headed home, full-throttle. Damn the fog! Lucky Jim's good fortune had reverted to him. At least the fortune itself had. He smiled.

The perfect crime. No witnesses to contradict his story that Lucky Jim had slipped on the deck, bumped his head, fallen overboard, been swept away before his valiant son could save him. Poor Jim was lost.

"Yes, Officer," Jason rehearsed, "Dad and I always fished in the fog. Lucky Jim thought the fishing was better when clouds met water, but everyone knew it was Jim's luck that made the fishing good."

As Jason eased, bow-first, into his docking berth, he saw two uniformed figures on the dock. He cut the engine and climbed from the boat, his eyes wide with alarm.

"Thank God, you're here, Officers! There's been a tragic accident."

"We know," the taller cop said.

"My father..." Jason pulled out the ear plugs. "What did you say?"

They cuffed Jason's hands behind his back and frisked him. "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you..."

"Wait! Wait! What's going on here?"

"Don't waste your breath, buddy." said the shorter cop, a woman with hard eyes.

"But, my father's just fallen overboard, I gotta get help"

"Yeah son, we know all about it ?"

Jason's jaw fell. His eyes glazed with disbelief. He never even noticed when the female cop cradled his head and shoved him into the back seat of the car.

"But honestly he fell in, I didn't push him," said Jason feebly.

"Yeah," she said. "That might of made a convincing story last week, but I guess you didn't notice the infra red camera they just set up on the buoy out there to catch the lobster thieves.... It can see through the mist and the night like its broad daylight. The moment you reached those lobster grounds, they had you under surveillance. They thought you were the guys who've been taking their lobsters."

"But you're a lucky guy," the male cop continued as he climbed behind the wheel. "Coast Guard just picked him up."

"And alive!" his partner said as she took her place beside him.

"Alive?" Jason croaked from the back seat.

"Yup," said the driver. "Unconscious, he was, but, last I heard, his heart was still pumping. Good luck for you. You'll be charged with attempted murder rather than murder. You'd better pray some of your luck rubs off on the old man and keeps him kick in."

Exercise 1C: Write a sentence from each of following words given below.

Bequeath: *leave, give*

Berth: *place where a boat ties up*

Blast: *make a loud noise*

Bob: *go up and down on the surface of the water*

Bow (rhymes with cow): *front end of a ship or boat*

Buoy: *large floating marker*

Conceal: *hide*

Cradle: *took hold of*

Crap: *ruddish, shit*

Cuff: *handcuff, tie*

Disable: *disconnect*

Eager: *keen, wanting*

Ear plug: *an ear plug stops you hearing noises*

Ease: *maneuver, move* **Fit:** *in good form, healthy*

Follow suit: *do the same*

Frisk: *check that someone is not hiding weapons*

Full throttle: *full speed*

Gauge (rhymes with page): *meter, measurer*

Have one's own way: *get exactly what one wants*

Holler: *shout*

Hull: *the main part of a boat*

In the stock market: *on Wall Street*

Intent on: *concentrating on*

Jaw: *bottom half of the mouth*

Lobster: *a large and expensive crustacean, like a long crab*

No way: *certainly not*

Outlast: *last longer than*

Rake in: *win*

Rehearse: *prepare a speech*

Revert to: *come to*

Sails: *a sail catches the wind, and makes a sailing ship move forwards*

Soak: *wet*

Stern: *back end of a boat*

Sturdy: *tough, resistant*

Was used to having: *was in the habit of having* (do not confuse with *used to have*)

Witness: *person who sees a crime*

Yell: *shout*

Yup: *yes*

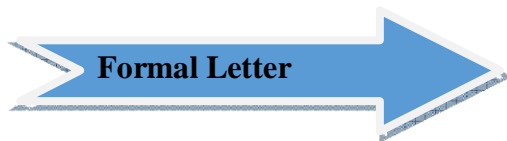
Exercise 1D: Phrases

Select logically, the nearest equivalent to each of the phrases indicated, from among those proposed:

1. **High roller:** a) a pilot b) a big player c) a top sportsman
2. **If I have my way:** a) if things happen as I want b) if I go away and live my own life c) if I take charge of this boat.
3. **Jim claimed:** a) Jim pretended, b) Jim shouted, c) Jim believed.
4. **The best fish hung out:** a) the best fish lived, b) the best fish disappeared, c) the best fish could be dried
5. **His only failing faculty:** a) almost the only thing he could do easily b) the only function of his body that was not still as good as ever c) The only thing he had never done well.
6. **Don't waste your breath:** a) Stop talking b) Don't breathe too hard c) Speak louder!

Discussion

Discuss the Lucky Jim's "good fortune"?



Letter writing is an art. It is the commonest mode of communication. It is different from other

forms of writing because it is intended for a specific reader. A letter is written when something has to be conveyed to someone sitting far away. Writing requires imagination, creativity, careful planning and organization. The language of the letter should be interactive. Primarily, there are two types of letters. They are Formal/Official letters or job application and Informal Letters. We primarily discuss formal letter here.

While writing a letter, remember the following point:

- ✓ Mention your intention of writing the letter in the opening paragraph.
- ✓ Divide your letter into paragraphs, to mark changes of subject matter.
- ✓ Include all the relevant information.
- ✓ Be courteous and gentle in your suggestions, even while writing a complaint.
- ✓ Keep your sentences short.
- ✓ Use simple English words.
- ✓ Use simple and direct language.
- ✓ Avoid spelling, grammatical and careless mistakes in your letter.
- ✓ Write neatly.
- ✓ Be accurate, brief and precise.
- ✓ Use the block format that has no indentation and is left aligned.

Official/Business Letters

An official letter as the name suggests is written to a person in a company or an organization for work-related or business reasons. Usually, official letters are those written as part of business transactions, application letters, and letters of enquiry, letter of complaints, letters to the editor and letters written to one's colleagues on matters concerning work.

THE LAYOUT OF A BUSINESS LETTER/ AN OFFICIAL LETTER/ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1. Sender's Address (At the top left hand corner)
2. Date
3. Name and address of the receiver
(The name designation of the addressee should be on the left margin)
4. Subject
5. Salutation (Dear Sir/Madam)
6. Body of the Letters
Body-I
Body-II
Body-III
7. Complimentary Close

(Yours sincerely, Yours faithfully

8. Signature

Note: The letter follows the block format, where all the parts are aligned to the left margin. This style is commonly used in modern business correspondence.

- The body of a formal letter must be brief, clear and precise
- The current style of formal letters is characterized by simple, natural language and short and simple sentences. Please avoid old-fashioned fixed expressions
- Avoid using informal or casual tones while writing formal letters
- Prefer sentences in the active rather than passive voice
- Always use a courteous and inoffensive tone even when you need to say something that the receiver would not want to hear.

Samples of Formal Letters

Letter of Complaints

65Market Street
ValHaven,CT95135

June 30, 2014

Customer Service Cool Guy Sports, LLC
8423 Green Terrace Road Guyville, WA 65435

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject:

I have recently ordered a new pair of soccer cleats (item #6542951) from your website on June 21. I received the order on June 26. Unfortunately, when I opened it, I saw that the cleats were used. The cleats had dirt all over them and there was a small tear in front of the part where the left toe would go. Lastly, and perhaps most disturbing, there was a small blotch of what looked to be dried blood on one of the shoelaces. My order number is AF26168156.

To resolve the problem, I would like you to credit my account for the amount charged for my cleats; I have already went out and bought a new pair of cleats at my local sporting goods store so sending another would result in me having two pairs of the same cleats.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I have been a satisfied customer of your company for many years and this is the first time I have encountered a problem. If you need to

contact me, you can reach me at (555)555-5555.

Yours sincerely
Signature

Request Letter

764 Cheery Lane Clearwater Falls, FL23619

September 27, 2015

Mr. Louis Henderson Store Manager
The Corner Cafe273 Main Street
Clearwater Falls, FL 23619

Dear Mr. Henderson,

My name is Cathy Pettis and I'm the chair of the Clearwater Falls Elementary School Fund raising Committee. The committee is planning to hold a fund raiser next month to raise funds for this year's field trips and we're looking for donors to help out with providing goods forthe fund raising event.

If The Corner Cafe is willing to help donate some coffee and cups, we would greatly appreciate it. Our will be held on the morning of October 18th and we're expecting around 200 people to show up.

Thanks for your time and consideration, if you need to contact me with any questions, feel free to call me at 555-555-5555, I'm available to speak between 10am-5pm on weekdays.

Your's sincerely
Cathy

Exercises-A

1. You are XYZ from Hyderabad. The modem you bought two weeks age is giving you lot of troubles. Write a letter to the manager of Bazaz Electronics from whom you bought the computer along with modem, make a complaint about the defective modem and asking for it to be replaced at the earliest.
2. You are XYZ from Malla Reddy University; write a letter to the VC requesting him/her to grant you five days leave. Remember to mention the dates clearly on which you need to apply for leave and state the reasons for which you want to take leave.

Exercise-B

Look at these sentences and decide if they are true or false.

Formal letters are always longer than informal letters. -----

In a formal letter, it is acceptable to use colloquial English, slang and idioms. -----

In a formal letter it is acceptable to use contractions (e.g., I've instead of I have) -----

In a formal letter you should include your name and address at the top of the page. -----

In a formal letter, you should always write the date in full (e.g., 1 April 2000 and not 1/4/00).-----

In a formal letter, you should always put your full name (e.g., James Bond and not J. Bond) after your signature at the bottom of the letter. -----

Formal letters do not need to be broken into paragraphs. It is acceptable to write them as one continuous paragraph. -----



Tenses

It is defined as the form of a verb which indicates the time and the state of an action or event.

Tenses are of three types

1. Present Tense
2. Past Tense
3. Future Tense

1. Present Tense

Simple Present Tense

A sentence is presented in simple present tense when it is used to describe an action that's happening at present and does not indicate when the action is expected to end. Simple present tense is used when:

- ✓ The action that is taking place in general.
- ✓ The action is not only occurring now; it repeats after regular interval of time
- ✓ To indicate facts those are generally true.
- ✓ The action for relating habits and routines that happen all the time, be it in the future, past or present.

Structure: Verb "+s/es" form is used;

- ✓ If subject is 3rd person singular. The verb is used in its original form;

- ✓ If subject is 1st and/or 2nd person singular.
- ✓ If subject is 1st and/or 2nd person plural.
- ✓ If subject is 3rd person plural.

Examples

- The sun sets in the west.
- All the cars stop at this crossing.
- Michael teaches social studies in a school.
- That notice reads, "No parking".
- Rajdhani leaves at seven in the morning.
- The teacher said if she works hard she will pass.
- There goes the taxi.
- Do you play tennis?
- He does not go to the temple.
- Does he write novels?

Present Progressive or Present Continuous

The sentences with present progressive tense are used when:

- ✓ Something is taking place now, while speaking and has a definite end as well.
- ✓ When something is already decided and arranged as well to perform it.
- ✓ To indicate an undesirable habit.

Structure:

Use first form of the verb "+ing"

- Singular 3rd person subject — use 'is'
- Plural 1st, 2nd and 3rd person and singular 2nd person subject —
- Use 'are' 1st person singular — use 'am'

In other words, it is "Subject + be (is, am, are) + Verb+ -ing + Object"

Examples:

- Please wait for a moment, Shyam is talking to Mary.
- We are late; he will be waiting for us at the restaurant now.
- Mom, I am playing football.
- Are they still living here?
- She is having her breakfast now.
- I'm planning to meet the Director tonight.

Present Perfect Tense

It's probably the most used tense form in English Grammar and is also considered difficult to understand. The Present Perfect Tense explains the incident that has happened in the past and that continues until the present time.

Examples

For almost five generations, my family members have been engineers.

In order to avoid delays in my work, I have been doing it regularly.

I have always wanted to ride on this vehicle.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Usually, Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used for a situation that has occurred in the past and which continues until that moment.

Structure:

- Use the first form of the verb + “-ing”
- Singular subject (has been), Plural subject or I (have been)
- ‘Since’— if the point of time is mentioned.
- ‘For’ — if the duration of time is specified.

Examples:

- I have been eating apples today.
- You have not been studying for the past month.
- We haven’t been playing with Mary since Tuesday.

Past Tense

Simple Past Tense

Simple past tense is used to narrate an action of the past. The verb in the past tense ends with an ‘-ed’ and hence, there are seven ways of marking the irregular verbs in the past tense. The most common being the change of the vowel as in ‘drink’ - ‘drank’.

Construction

Subject + V2 (verbs in second form) + Object

Examples:

- Katie worked in that office for almost four years.
- He passed away in 1999.
- We went for the movie yesterday.
- Three years ago, I studied at the Canada University.

This form of tense indicates activities that have already happened in the past and have been completed before the time of mention. These sentences are formed with the help of an auxiliary verb and giving the main verb an ‘ing’ ending.

Structure

Subject+was/were + Verb in its -ing form+ Object

Examples:

- He was washing the dishes, while she was cooking dinner.
- I was working at 1 p.m yesterday.
- We were playing football when it started to rain.

- She was reading a thriller novel when I called her.
- What were you doing when Sam arrived?
- I was walking down the street yesterday when the police van was patrolling the city.

Past Perfect Tense

This tense refers to a non-continuous action that was already completed in the past. Such sentences are formed by using the Simple Past form of the auxiliary verb 'to have', followed by the past participle form of the verb.

Structure

Subject+had+ past participle form of verb + Object

Example:

- I had never seen such a beautiful before.
- Clara had never been to a club before last night.
- We didn't get a room in the hotel because we had not booked in advance.

Past Perfect Continuous Tense

A continuous action that was completed sometime in the past falls under Past Perfect Continuous tense. Such sentences are framed by using the modal, 'had'+ 'been'+ the present participle of the verb (-ing).

Structure:

Subject+had+been+Verb(ing)+object

Example:

- I had been playing the guitar all morning.
- I had been sleeping all the way from the beginning of the class
- He had been trying to call her.
- Until this year, Neha had been going to a village school.
- The baby had been crying out loud for minutes when her mother fed her.

Future Tense

Simple Future Tense

This tense is used for those sentences which refer to the actions which will occur later, in future. This requires a future tense auxiliary verb even though the verb would be unmarked.

Examples:

- You will be done before me.
- She will not come tomorrow.
- Will you come to play with me after school?
- I will keep in touch with you.
- I will reach home by 7 p.m.
- He will stay with us for 3 days.

Future Continuous Tense

This tense defines those acts which will be continued at a future point of time. In order to form a future continuous tense sentence, a future auxiliary verb is required followed by a main verb that ends with -ing.

Structure:

'will' + 'be' + present participle of the verb (ing).

Construction

Use first form of the verb (+ing)

1st and 2nd person — 'Shall be'

3rd person — 'Will be'

However, nowadays this distinction of 'will' and 'shall' is not followed. Instead, 'will' is used wherever absolute conviction is required to be expressed while the usage of 'shall' depends on individual writing style.

Examples:

- We assume that our representative will be winning the election that are to be held at the end of April.
- Today, she will be walking all the way to her house from her office.
- I will be watching the new movie next week.
- By this time tomorrow, I will be at home watching T.V.

Future Perfect Tense

This tense is used to express an act that is predicted to be finished within a certain span of time in the future. Such sentences are formed by 'will' + 'have' + 'past participle of the verb'.

Examples:

- By the end of the year, he will have saved enough for his sister's wedding.
- You will have left for London by the time this bridge gets renewed.
- Calvin will have gone by the time you reach there by bus.
- I will have walked 15 kilometers by this time.
- How long will it have been since we were here together?

Future Perfect Continuous Tense

This tense form indicates an action that is continuous and, at some point in the future, it will be completed. It is formed using the modal 'will/shall' + 'have' + 'been' + 'the past participle of the verb (-ing)'.

Examples:

- Next Saturday, I will have been working on this assignment for three years.
- Tomorrow, at this time, I shall have been playing cricket since morning.
- I will have been studying English for two hours by the time you arrive here.

Exercise: I

Fill in the correct form of the verb – All tenses

1. They _____ in Chicago for 20 years (be).
2. I _____ a wonderful film in the cinema last night. (see)
3. The sun _____ at 6:38 today (rise)
4. The sun _____ when the climber reached Mount Everest. (shine)
5. I promise that I _____ this secret to anyone (not tell)
6. Unfortunately, just as we got to the airport their plane _____ off (take).
7. They _____ to the movies only once in a while (go)
8. I was tired yesterday because I _____ well the night before (not sleep).
9. Shh! someone _____ to our conversation (listen)!
10. When I left the house this morning, it _____ (already rain)
11. I think Bob _____ for London this very moment. (leave)
12. The plane _____ off in a few minutes. (take)
13. I _____ up at 7 every morning but this morning I _____ long and I _____ up until 8. (get, sleep, not get)
14. I _____ my watch because it is being fixed (not wear).
15. This _____ an easy quiz so far (be).
16. They _____ in an apartment right now because they can't find a cheap house. (live)
17. Everyone _____ when the earthquake hit the small town. (sleep)
18. He _____ by herself since her divorce (live)
19. I was angry that I _____ such a stupid mistake (make).
20. I predict that by 2020, man _____ on Mars (land)
21. He _____ his job a couple of years ago. (quit)
22. Our daughter _____ from the university yet (graduate).
23. They _____ any Christmas cards last year (not send)
24. She _____ to a doctor once a year for an examination (go)
25. They _____ about me when I interrupted their conversation. (talk)

Exercise- II

Read the following sentences and write the types of tenses used in each of the sentences.

1. Why will she not have been coming to the library since next year?

Ex. Future perfect continuous tense

2. Which bus will you have boarded?

3. What shall I be buying for you?

4. Which book will you borrow from the library?

5. How much did it cost you?

6. What were you doing then?

7. Whose roof had fallen yesterday?

8. Whose money had you been spending for several days?

9. Whom does she want to see?

10. Who are you praising?

11. Who has broken your heart?

12. What have you been reading for two hours?

Type	Structure	Example	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Interrogative Negative
Present Indefinite	Subject+V1+ Object	We go to College.	We go to College.	We do not go to College.	Do we go to College?	Do we not go to College?
Present Continuous	Subject + is/am/are+V1+ ing +object	I am learning my lesson.	I am learning my lesson.	I am not learning my lesson.	Am I learning my lesson?	Am I not learning my lesson?
Present Perfect	Subject + has/have+V3+ object	You have revised your lesson.	You have revised your lesson.	You have not revised your lesson.	Have you revised your lesson?	Have you not revised your lesson?
Present Perfect Continuous	Subject +has/have+been +V1+ing+ object	I have been standing first for four years.	I have been standing first for four years.	I have not been standing first for four years.	Have I been standing first for four years?	Have I not been standing first for four years?
Past Indefinite	Subject+V2+ Object	The postman delivered letters in the colony.	The postman delivered letters in the colony.	The postman did not deliver letters in the colony.	Did the Postman deliver letters in the colony?	Did the Postman not deliver letters in the colony?
Past Continuous	Subject was/were+V1 + ing +object	She was receiving the prize.	She was receiving the prize.	She was not receiving the prize.	Was she receiving the prize?	Was she not receiving the prize?

Past Perfect	Subject + had+V3+object	The train had left the station.	The train had left the station.	The train had not left the station.	Had the train left the station?	Had the train not left the station?
Past Perfect Continuous	Subject +had+been+V1 +ing+object	You had been wasting your time for two days.	You had been wasting your time for two days.	You had not been wasting your time for two days.	Had you been wasting your time for two days?	Had you not been wasting your time for two days?
Future Indefinite	Subject + will/shall+V1+ Object	The Teacher will conduct a test.	The Teacher will conduct a test.	The Teacher will not conduct a test.	Will the Teacher conduct a test?	Will the Teacher not conduct a test?
Future Continuous	Subject + will/shall + be+ V1+ing+object	She will be inviting all her relatives.	She will be inviting all her relatives.	She will not be inviting all her relatives.	Will she be inviting all her relatives?	Will she not be inviting all her relatives?
Future Perfect	Subject + will/shall + have+V3+ object	They will have returned to their houses.	They will have returned to their houses.	They will not have returned to their houses.	Will they have returned to their houses?	Will they not have returned to their houses?
Future Perfect Continuous	Subject + will/shall +have +been+V1+ing +object	The team will have been practicing for an hour.	The team will have been practicing for an hour.	The team will not have been practicing for an hour.	Will the team have been practicing for an hour?	Will the team not have been practicing for an hour?

Vocabulary Affixation

Affixes: An affix is a morpheme that is attached to a root word to form a new word or word form. The process of adding a morpheme or affix to a word to produce a new word with a distinct meaning is known as affixation. Affix is made up of a prefix and a suffix. Prefixes are added to the beginning of root words and suffixes are added to the end of the word. The English language contains a wide range of prefixes and suffixes that are all very common.

Prefixes: Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning, mostly Antonyms, words with opposite meaning.

Examples:

- inter = between; *intergalactic*
- post = after; *postpone*
- super = above; *supersede*

S.NO.	PREFIX	MEANING	NEW WORD
1.	un-	Not	Unhappy
2.	multi-	Many	Multi-Cultural
3.	over-	Above, beyond	Overwork
4.	a-	without;	Atheist
5.	Ante-	Before	Antecedent
6.	I	Not	Illegal
7.	de-	Off, remove	Defame
8.	Ex	out of, former	Ex-colleague
9.	co-	With	Co-worker
10.	Mis	Bad, wrong	Misbehave
11.	In	Not	Indecisive
12.	Em	cause to, put into	Embrace
13.	En	cause to, put into	Engulf
14.	Pre	Before	Prelude, precondition
15.	Un	Not	Unacceptable, unreal
16.	Dis	Not	Disadvantage, dismount
17.	Re	Again	Reawaken, rewrite
18.	Bi	Two	Bicycle
19.	Super	Above	Supersonic
20.	Anti	opposing, opposite	Antibiotic, anti-climax

SUFFIXES: Suffixes are added at the end of an existing word. They are attached to specific categories of words to form nouns and adjectives.

For example:

S.No.	Word	Suffix	new word
1.	child	-ish	Childish
2.	Like	-able	Likeable

3.	taste	-less	Tasteless
4.	idol	-ize/-ise	Idolize /idolize
5.	Loud	-ly	Loudly
6.	Nation	-al	National
7.	Modern	-ity	Modernity
8.	Good	-ness	Goodness
9.	High	-er	Higher
10.	Peace	-ful	Peaceful
11	Comparative	-er	Higher, lower
12	Full of	-ous	Joyous
13	State of being	-ness	Kindness
14	Full of	-ful	Peaceful
15	In the stated way	-ly	Loudly
16	State of	-ment	Enjoyment

Exercises

Complete the word, given in brackets after each sentence, using the appropriate prefix or suffix.

ed un multi in dis y re mal icous mis en in anceful able ic ous

- 1) The movie was extremely_____.(scare)
- 2) A student was booked under_____. (practice)
- 3) Say 'NO' to plastic as it cannot be_____. (cycle)
- 4) A judge must be_____while making judgments. (interest)
- 5) I like his_____language. (poet)
- 6) The leader was invited to_____the statue. (veil)
- 7) College days are the most_____days. (joy)
- 8) I am a_____person. (lingual)
- 9) Public holds several_____about dieting. (conceptions)
- 10) If you have a hair cut it will change your appear_____.
- 11) You have been very help____Thank you for your advice.
- 12) The event was conducted so nicely. It was so enjoy_____.
- 13) Chick_____is sold here.