UDAAN 2025

A Triumph of Surgery

(Footprints Without Feet)

English | Lecture - 01

By – Anurag Tyagi Sir

Topics *to be covered*

1. Warm-up Game
2. Prose: A Triumph of Surgery
3. NCERT Questions

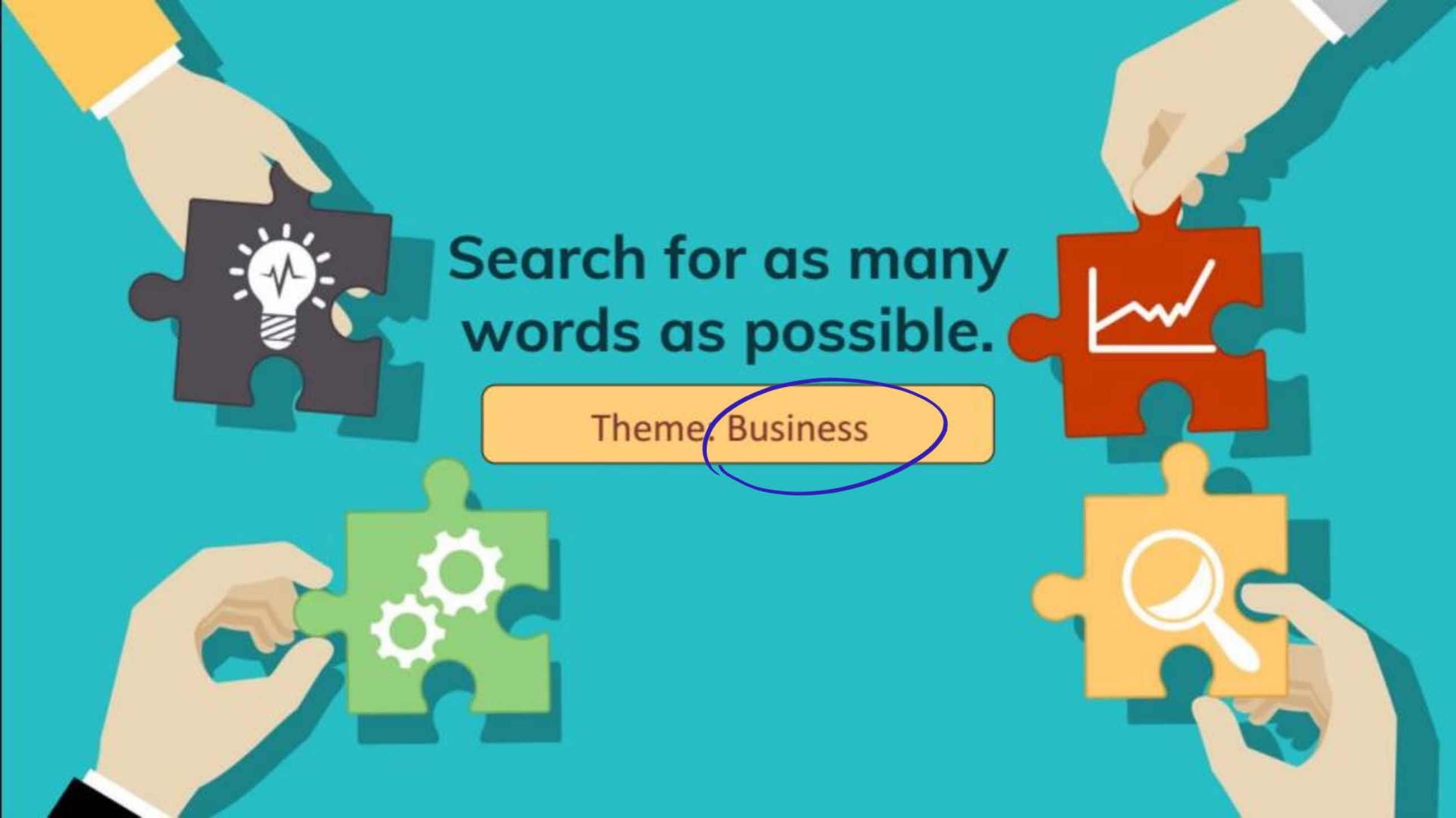
Recap *of previous Lecture*

1. Orientation ✓
2. Prose: A Letter to God ✓
3. NCERT Questions ✓

Game time!

Search for as many words as possible.

Theme: Business



o	h	i	q	s	o	g	h	b	q	m	j	n	i	h
i	g	d	o	r	x	f	d	y	l	a	s	s	d	c
p	r	o	p	o	s	a	l	t	u	r	e	u	e	p
f	y	k	s	d	m	f	o	i	l	k	r	p	m	r
u	i	s	f	b	o	r	e	n	c	e	v	p	a	o
n	a	e	m	c	q	c	u	y	p	t	i	l	n	d
d	c	u	s	t	o	m	e	r	g	i	c	y	d	u
i	a	j	a	r	o	b	u	s	i	n	e	s	s	c
n	w	l	k	l	d	v	o	t	l	g	o	n	w	t
g	b	t	e	n	t	r	e	p	r	e	n	e	u	r

Hints

o	h	i	q	s	o	g	h	b	q	m	j	n	i	h
i	g	d	o	r	x	f	d	y	l	a	s	s	d	c
p	r	o	p	o	s	a	l	t	u	r	e	u	e	p
f	y	k	s	d	m	f	o	i	l	k	r	p	m	r
u	i	s	f	b	o	r	e	n	c	e	v	p	a	o
n	a	e	m	c	q	c	u	y	p	t	i	l	n	d
d	c	u	s	t	o	m	e	r	g	i	c	y	d	u
i	a	j	a	r	o	b	u	s	i	n	e	s	s	c
n	w	l	k	l	d	v	o	t	l	g	o	n	w	t
g	b	t	e	n	t	r	e	p	r	e	n	e	u	r

Here are the answers!

o	h	i	q	s	o	g	h	b	q	m	j	n	i	h
i	g	d	o	r	x	f	d	y	l	a	s	s	d	c
p	r	o	p	o	s	a	l	t	u	r	e	u	e	p
f	y	k	s	d	m	f	o	i	l	k	r	p	m	r
u	i	s	f	b	o	r	e	n	c	e	v	p	a	o
n	a	e	m	c	q	c	u	y	p	t	i	l	n	d
d	c	u	s	t	o	m	e	r	g	i	c	y	d	u
i	a	j	a	r	o	b	u	s	i	n	e	s	s	c
n	w	l	k	l	d	v	o	t	l	g	o	n	w	t
g	b	t	e	n	t	r	e	p	r	e	n	e	u	r

Victory

A Triumph of Surgery

Topic : A Triumph of Surgery

By-James Herriot

- *'A Triumph of Surgery' is a humorous account of an overfed dog who becomes fat and sick due to excessive care by his owner.*
- *The story details on how he recovers with the tactful treatment by the narrator, a veterinary surgeon.*

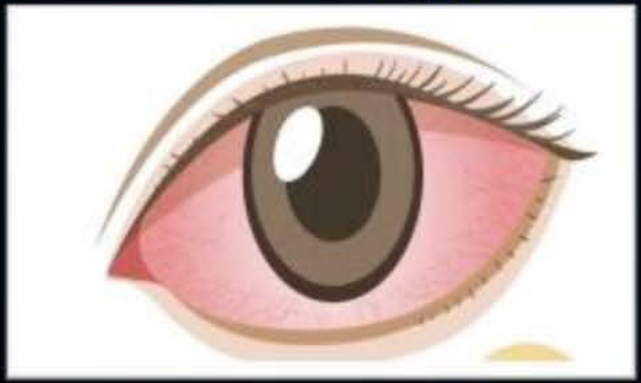
Word-by-word

Yes

No

Mrs. Pumphrey	Tricki	Dr. Herriot
- Over-caring	- fat	- Veterinary doc.
- rich	- doggy	- tactful
- lonely	- greedy for food	- Committed

I WAS really worried about Tricki this time. I had pulled up (stopped) my car when I saw him in the street with his mistress and I was shocked at his appearance. He had become hugely fat, like a bloated (सूजा) sausage (meat pieces) with a leg at each corner. His eyes, bloodshot (red) and rheumy (watery), stared straight ahead and his tongue lolled from his jaws.



be quick

lacking energy

Mrs. Pumphrey hastened to explain, "He was so listless, Mr. Herriot. He seemed to have no energy. I thought he must be suffering from malnutrition, so I have been giving him some little extras between meals to build him up, some malt and cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night to make him sleep - nothing much really."

कुपोषण

reduce

"And did you cut down on the sweet things as I told you?"

"Oh, I did for a bit, but he seemed to be so weak I had to relent. He does love cream cakes and chocolates so. I can't bear to refuse him."

to give up

I looked down again at the little dog. That was the trouble. Tricki's only fault was greed. He had never been known to refuse food; he would tackle a meal at any hour of the day or night. And I wondered about all the things Mrs. Pumphrey hadn't mentioned.

"Are you giving him plenty of exercise?"

"Well, he has his little walks with me as you can see, but Hodgkin, the gardener, has been down with lumbago, so there has been no ring-throwing lately."

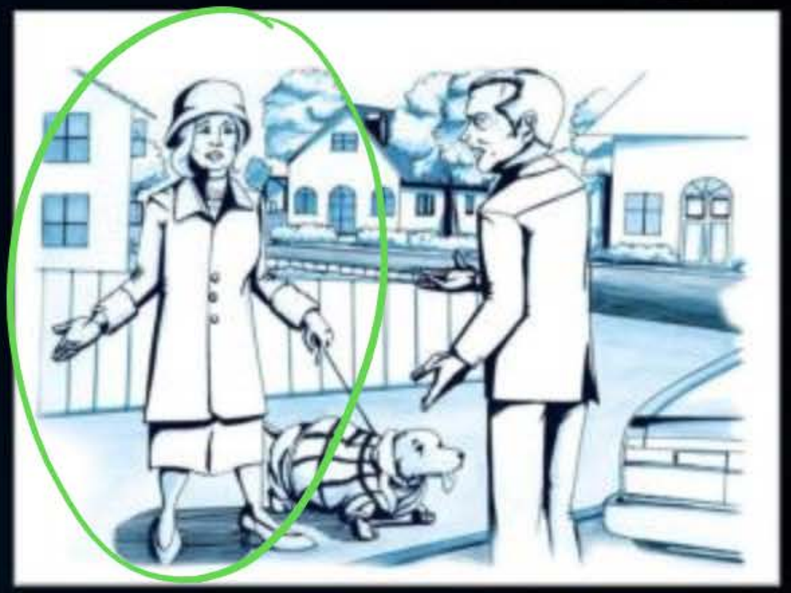
strict

I tried to sound severe: "Now I really mean this. If you don't cut his food right down and give him more exercise, he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet."

Mrs. Pumphrey wrung her hands. "Oh, I will, Mr. Herriot. I'm sure you are right, but it is so difficult, so very difficult." She set off, head down, along the road, as if determined to put the new regime into practice immediately.

left

routine



Topic : MCQs

#Q. What is Tricki's main issue according to the passage?

A. Lack of energy

B. Malnutrition

C. Overfeeding

D. Lack of exercise

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What does Mr. Herriot advise Mrs. Pumphrey to do to improve Tricki's health?

A. Give him more cream cakes.

B. Reduce his food intake and increase his exercise.

C. Take him to the vet for a check-up.

D. Buy him a new toy to play with.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. The phrase 'cut down' mentioned in the previous question refers to -

A. Increase

B. Stop

C. Start

D. Reduce

I watched their progress with growing concern. Tricki was

लड़खड़ाना ; डगमगाना

tottering along in his little tweed coat; he had a whole wardrobe of these coats - for the cold weather and a raincoat

hanging

पट्टा

for the wet days. He struggled on, drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn't be long before I heard from Mrs. Pumphrey.

The expected call came within a few days. Mrs Pumphrey

very upset & worried

was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his

episodes

favourite dishes; and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn't want to go for walks, didn't want to do anything.

हाँफना

I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalised for about a fortnight to be kept under observation.

two weeks

The poor lady almost swooned. She was sure he would pine and die if he did not see her every day.

to become weak

unconscious

But I took a firm line. Tricki was very ill, and this was the only way to save him; in fact, I thought it best to take him without delay and, followed by Mrs. Pumphrey's wailings, I marched out to the car carrying the little dog wrapped in a blanket.

Strict

crying; विलाप करना

The entire staff was roused, and maids rushed in and out bringing his day bed, his night bed, favourite cushions, toys and rubber rings, breakfast bowl, lunch bowl, supper bowl. Realising that my car would never hold all the stuff, I started to drive away. As I moved off, Mrs. Pumphrey, with a despairing cry, threw an armful of the little coats through the window. I looked in the mirror before I turned the corner of the drive; everybody was in tears.

dinner

Sad; hopeless

to look

in a very bad condition

Out on the road, I glanced down at the pathetic little animal gasping on the seat by my side. I patted the head and Tricki made a brave effort to wag his tail. "Poor old lad," I said. "You haven't a kick in you, but I think I know a cure for you."

EIGHT

shake

you're very ill

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What were the symptoms of Tricki before he was admitted to the hospital?

1. He would eat only once a day.
2. He would not eat anything.
3. He would eat only his favourite dishes.
4. He had bouts of vomiting.

A. 1 and 4

B. 2 and 4

C. 3 and 4

D. 1 and 3

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What does Mr. Herriot imply about Tricki's condition at the end of the passage?

A. Tricki is suffering from a serious illness that requires immediate attention.

B. Tricki's condition is not as bad as it seems.

C. Tricki's illness can be cured easily.

D. Tricki's illness is beyond help.

At the surgery, the household dogs surged (gathered) round me. Tricki looked down at the noisy pack with dull eyes and, when put down, lay motionless on the carpet. The other dogs, after sniffing (smell) round him for a few seconds, decided he was an uninteresting object and ignored him.

I made up a bed for him in a warm loose box next to the one where the other dogs slept. For two days I kept an eye on him, giving him no food but plenty of water. At the end of the second day, he started to show some interest in his surroundings and on the third he began to whimper (low painful sound) when he heard the dogs in the yard.

When I opened the door, Tricki trotted out and was immediately engulfed by Joe, the greyhound, and his friends. After rolling him over and thoroughly inspecting him, the dogs moved off down the garden. Tricki followed them, rolling slightly with his surplus fat.

Surrounded

excess

Later that day, I was present at feeding time. I watched while Tristan slopped the food into the bowls. There was the usual headlong rush followed by the sounds of high-speed eating; every dog knew that if he fell behind the others, he was liable to have some competition for the last part of his meal.

completely full

When they had finished, Tricki took a walk round the shining bowls, licking casually inside one or two of them. Next day, an extra bowl was put out for him, and I was pleased to see him jostling his way towards it.

fast

From then on, his progress was rapid. He had no medicinal treatment of any kind but all day he ran about with the dogs, joining in their friendly scrimmages. He discovered the joys of being bowled over, tramped on and squashed every few minutes. He became an accepted member of the gang, an unlikely, silky little object among the shaggy crew, fighting like a tiger for his share at mealtimes and hunting rats in the old hen-house at night. He had never had such a time in his life.

fights

untidy

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What treatment did Tricki receive during his stay at the surgery?

A. He underwent surgery.

B. He received medication and therapy.

C. He was given ample food and water.

D. He was left to recover naturally without any intervention.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What changes in Tricki's behavior indicate his improvement during his stay at the surgery?

lazy

A. He becomes more lethargic and uninterested.

B. He starts whimpering when he hears the other dogs.

C. He actively participates in feeding time and explores his surroundings.

D. He remains motionless and unresponsive throughout.

worried

All the while, Mrs. Pumphrey hovered anxiously in the background, ringing a dozen times a day for the latest news bulletins. I dodged the questions about whether his cushions were being turned regularly or his correct coat worn according to the weather; but I was able to tell her that the little fellow was out of danger and convalescing rapidly. quickly

recovering

The word 'convalescing' seemed to do something to Mrs. Pumphrey. She started to bring round fresh eggs, two dozen at a time, to build up Tricki's strength. For a happy period, my partners and I had two eggs each for breakfast, but when the bottles of wine began to arrive, the real possibilities of the situation began to dawn on the household.

It was to enrich Tricki's blood. Lunch became a ceremonial occasion with two glasses of wine before and several during the meal.

We could hardly believe it when the brandy came to put a final edge on Tricki's constitution. For a few nights the fine spirit was rolled around, inhaled and reverently drunk.

health' with a lot of respect & devotion

Satisfaction

They were days of deep content, starting well with the extra egg in the morning, improved and sustained by the midday wine and finishing luxuriously round the fire with the brandy.

It was a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest, but I knew Mrs. Pumphrey was suffering and after a fortnight, felt compelled to phone and tell her that the little dog had recovered and was awaiting collection.

forced

Within minutes, about thirty feet of gleaming black metal drew up outside the surgery. The chauffeur opened the door, and I could just make out the figure of Mrs. Pumphrey almost lost in the interior. Her hands were tightly clasped in front of her; her lips trembled.

"Oh, Mr. Herriot, do tell me the truth. Is he really better?"

"Yes, he's fine. There's no need for you to get out of the car - I'll go and fetch him."

I walked through the house into the garden. A mass of dogs was hurtling round and round the lawn and in their midst, ears flapping, tail waving, was the little golden figure of Tricki. In two weeks, he had been transformed into a lithe, hard-muscled animal; he was keeping up well with the pack, stretching out in great bounds, his chest almost brushing the ground.

middle

changed

flexible

jumps

group

I carried him back along the passage to the front of the house. The chauffeur was still holding the car door open and when Tricki saw his mistress he took off from my arms in a tremendous leap and sailed into Mrs. Pumphrey's lap. She gave a startled "Ooh!" And then had to defend herself as he swarmed over her, licking her face and barking. During the excitement, I helped the chauffeur to bring out the beds, toys, cushions, coats and bowls, none of which had been used. As the car moved away, Mrs. Pumphrey leaned out of the window. Tears shone in her eyes. Her lips trembled.

huge jump

Surpoised

"Oh, Mr. Herriot," she cried, "how can I ever thank you? This is a triumph of surgery!"

* Message :

1. Over-indulgence is not at all fruitful. It ruins the receiver.
2. We should be tactful when handling tough situations.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What items did Mrs. Pumphrey bring for Tricki's recovery at the surgery after the doctor mentioned "convalescing"?

A. Tricki's favorite toys and treats.

B. Fresh eggs, bottles of wine, and brandy.

C. Day bed, night bed, and favorite cushions.

D. Rubber toys, grooming kit, and feeding bowls.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. Why was the doctor tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest?

A. Because Tricki had become a beloved member of the household.

B. Because Tricki's recovery had become an ongoing experiment for the doctor.

C. Because Mrs. Pumphrey kept sending lavish gifts and treats for Tricki's comfort.

D. Because Tricki had shown remarkable improvement in his health.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. Arrange the sequence of events in the correct order in the context of 'Triumph of Surgery'.

1. Tricki is hospitalised. — 4
2. Dr. Herriot meets Tricki and his mistress on the way. — 1
3. Dr. Herriot advises Tricki's mistress to reduce his diet. — 2
4. Tricki's mistress calls Dr. Herriot. — 3

A. 1, 2, 3, 4

B. 4, 3, 2, 1

C. 2, 4, 3, 1

D. 2, 3, 4, 1

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Why is Mrs. Pumphrey worried about Tricki?

#Q. What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?

#Q. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of common sense?

#Q. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?

#Q. Do you think it is a real-life episode or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?

Topic : Key Notes

Tricki Looks ill

When Dr. James was driving, he saw Mrs. Pumphrey and Tricki walking down the street. As he stopped his car, he was shocked to see that Tricki had become fat like a sausage. His eyes were red, and his tongue was hanging out. It looked like Tricki lacked energy and was ill. Dr. James enquired about Tricki's health from Mrs. Pumphrey.

Dr. James Enquires About Tricki

Mrs. Pumphrey explained to Dr James that Tricki was looking listless (dull) and weak. She felt that he was suffering from malnutrition. So, she had been giving him some extra food (malt, cod-liver oil and Horlicks) between his main meals. Further, Dr. James asked Mrs. Pumphrey whether she had cut down the sweet things from Tricki's diet. Mrs. Pumphery replied that she had tried but failed as Tricki used to love cream cakes and chocolates.

She also told Dr. James that Tricki only walked with her and did not play games like ring-throwing which he played earlier.

Dr. James Advice

After knowing about Tricki's condition and his routine, Dr. James informed Mrs. Pumphrey that if she would not reduce his food and increase his exercise, her dog would fall ill.

He also advised her to strictly follow the prescribed diet. Mrs. Pumphrey confessed that it would be very difficult for her. But she agreed to try and walked off with Tricki.

Dr. James Received an Expected Call from Mrs. Pumphrey

After a few days, Mrs. Pumphrey called and informed Dr. James about Tricki's health. She told him that Tricki was not eating anything and had been vomiting. She further informed him that her dog spent all his time lying on a rug and did not do anything. Dr. James knew that the only way to cure Tricki was to get him out of the house for some time. He suggested Mrs. Pumphrey to hospitalise him for a fortnight for a surgery observation so that the proper treatment can follow.

Tricki's Farewell

Dr. James' suggestion broke Mrs. Pumphrey's heart but, she allowed him to take Tricki along with him to his clinic. Dr. James carried Tricki wrapped in a blanket to his car. The maids started to put together things that Tricki would need during hospitalisation. These included his beds (day and night) cushions, toys, bowls, etc.

Dr. James started to drive off as he knew that his car could not carry so many things. He noticed in the mirror that everybody was in tears.

Tricki's Stay and Recovery at the Hospital

Tricki laid motionless on the carpet. Many other dogs in the hospital sniffed around him and found him uninterested and went off.

Tricki was put on a water diet for first two days. At the end of the second day, Tricki started to show some interest in his surroundings. On the third day, he whimpered, trotted and joined the greyhound in the garden.

Later on, the third day, he ran with enthusiasm when the food was served. He also gulped down the extra food that was put out for him.

Tricki's Recovery

Tricki recovered at a very fast pace. No medicine had been given to Tricki for his treatment. He had started running all day long and enjoyed with other dogs.

He found joy in being bowled over and squashed. He became a part of the pack of dogs at the hospital. He not only fought with them for food but also chased rats with them at night.

Mrs. Pumphrey's Concern

Mrs. Pumphrey used to phone the vet's clinic several times in a day as she was keen to know about Tricky's recovery. Dr. James did not pay much attention to her questions about Tricki's comforts, but he assured her that Tricki was out of danger.

As Tricki's health started improving, Mrs Pumphrey started sending additional food items, like eggs, wine and brandy for Tricki. Since this was not required for Tricki's diet, the vet and his partner consumed those additional items themselves.

Everybody was so happy with the unusual delicious food that they wanted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.

Tricki Goes Home

Dr. James knew that Mrs Pumphrey loved Tricki very much so he called and informed her that Tricki was fit and could go home. Mrs. Pumphrey reached the surgery within half an hour.

Mrs. Pumphrey enquired about Tricki's actual condition. Dr. James informed her that Tricki was fine and went to get Tricki from the garden. Tricki had become healthy and strong in his two weeks stay at the clinic.

As soon as the dog saw his owner, he jumped into her lap and started licking her face. Mrs. Pumphrey was very happy at finding Tricki as excited as he used to be. She thanked Dr. James Herriot and called the treatment "A triumph of surgery."

Topic : Glossary

- Bloated – full of food or gas and therefore bigger than normal in a way that is unpleasant and uncomfortable.
- Hastened – to say or do things quickly without delay.
- Malt – grain, usually left in water for a period of time and then dried, used for making beer, whisky etc.
- Relent – to agree upon something after refusing.
- Tottering – to walk or move with weak unsteady steps.
- Swooned – to become unconscious.
- Fortnight – A period of 2 weeks
- Despairing – the feeling of having lost all hope.

- Whimper – a low weak cry a person or an animal makes when hurt, frightened or sad.
- Slopped – to make liquid or food come out of a container in an untidy way.
- Scrimmages – rough or confused struggle.
- Convalescing – recovering from an illness; to spend time getting your health and strength back after an illness.
- Lithe – flexible (moving or bending easily in a way that is elegant.)

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Why is Mrs. Pumphrey worried about Tricki?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey is worried about Tricki because he is unwell. She feels that he is suffering from a serious health issue such as malnutrition, as he has become dull and seems to have no energy.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?

Ans. To help Tricki to improve his condition, Mrs. Pumphrey starts giving him extra food like malt, cod-liver oil and Horlicks, in between his main meals. She also continues to give him sweets like cream cakes and chocolates.

She is not wise in doing so because overfeeding Tricki is worsening his condition instead of improving it. It has made him very fat and lazy.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Ans. 'I' refers to the narrator, Dr. James Herriot, a veterinary doctor who guides Mrs. Pumphrey in taking care of her dog, Tricki.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?

Ans. No, the narrator is not as rich as Tricki's mistress, Mrs. Pumphery. We can say so because the narrator seems fascinated by how Mrs. Pumphrey spends on the well-being and maintenance of her pet. He is unusually surprised by the enriching items she sends for Tricki, as he cannot afford them for himself.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. How does he treat the dog?

Ans. James Herriot treats Tricki just like he would treat an overweight and lazy dog. He cuts down his food intake and keeps him under strict observation for the initial days at the hospital. He gradually increases Tricki's food and sets him free for physical activities to improve his health.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?

Ans. Mr. Herriot is tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest because of the good food and wine he is enjoying in Tricki's name. He does not want to lose the luxurious inflow of fresh eggs, wine and brandy that Tricki's mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey, sends for her dog.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Why does Mrs. Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey thinks that Tricki's recovery is "a triumph of surgery" because according to her, his illness was very serious. She was of the opinion that there were very few chances of Tricki's improvement, and he needed immediate medical attention. Thus, Tricki's revival was a great achievement.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of common sense?

Ans. The narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is a capable and wise doctor. He handles Tricki properly which shows that he is sincere about his profession.
He does not operate upon the dog unnecessarily and cures him by changing his diet and activities.
He is a tactful person as he knew exactly how to convince Mrs. Pumphrey to hospitalise Tricki for a surgery. His decision to inform Mrs Pumphrey to take Tricki home supports his sensibilities even though he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?

Ans. Yes, I think Tricki was happy to go back home as he really loved his mistress and the comfort of his lavish life. He didn't have any friends at home like in the hospital, but he seemed equally excited at the sight of Mrs. Pumphrey.

I think that Mrs. Pumphrey will now be careful about Tricki's diet and health. She may also give him exercise daily as prescribed by the veterinary doctor earlier.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. Do you think it is a real-life episode or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?

Ans. The story seems to be a mixture of both. It may be possible for rich persons to overfeed their pets due to love. It is not unusual for them to maintain a big wardrobe for them either.

However, it is unlikely for a veterinary doctor to go out of the way in order to save an animal. It is also unusual for anyone to consume food which is given in the name of a pet's health.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

H.W.

#Q. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?

#Q. How does he treat the dog?

#Q. Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?

#Q. Why does Mrs. Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?

Homework

H.W.

#Q. This episode describes the silly behaviour of a rich woman who is foolishly indulgent, perhaps because she is lonely. Do you think such people are merely silly or can their actions cause harm to others?

#Q. Do you think there are also parents like Mrs. Pumphrey?

#Q. What would you have done if you were:
(i) a member of the staff in Mrs. Pumphrey's household.
(ii) a neighbour?
What would your life have been like, in general?

#Q. What would you have done if you were in the narrator's place?

THANK YOU