

## Unit

## 2

## Prose

## A Nice Cup of Tea

George Orwell



## Warm Up

- a) Here are a few varieties of tea. How many of these have you tasted?  
Tick the boxes.



Herbal Tea

☐

Ice Tea

☐

Lemon Tea

☐

Green Tea

☐

Black Tea

☐

Tea with Milk

☐

- b) You would have seen lovely packets of tea on the shelves in supermarkets and shops. Have you ever wondered how tea powder is obtained from the plants? Look at the pictures and describe the process.



**Read the following essay in which George Orwell highlights the distinctive features of preparing a nice cup of tea.**

If you look up 'tea' in the first cookery book that comes to hand you will probably find that it is unmentioned; or at most you will find a few lines of sketchy instructions which give no ruling on several of the most important points.

This is **curious**, not only because tea is one of the mainstays of civilization in this country, as well as in Eire, Australia and New Zealand, but because the best manner of making it is the subject of violent disputes.

When I look through my own recipe for the perfect cup of tea, I find no fewer than eleven outstanding points. On perhaps two of them there would be pretty general agreement, but at least four others are acutely **controversial**. Here are my own eleven rules, every one of which I regard as golden:

First of all, one should use Indian or Ceylonese tea. China tea has **virtues** which are not to be **despised** nowadays - it is economical, and one can drink it without milk - but there is not much **stimulation** in it. One does not feel wiser, braver or more **optimistic** after drinking it. Anyone who has used that comforting phrase 'a nice cup of tea' invariably means Indian tea.

Secondly, tea should be made in small quantities - that is, in a teapot. Tea out of an urn is always tasteless, while army tea, made in a **cauldron**, tastes of grease and whitewash. The teapot should

be made of china or earthenware. Silver or Britannia ware teapots produce inferior tea and enamel pots are worse; though curiously enough a pewter teapot (a rarity nowadays) is not so bad.

Thirdly, the pot should be warmed beforehand. This is better done by placing it on the hob than by the usual method of swilling it out with hot water.

Fourthly, the tea should be strong. For a pot holding a quart, if you are going to fill it nearly to the brim, six heaped teaspoons would be about right. In a time of **rationing**, this is not an idea that can be realized on every day of the week, but I maintain that one strong cup of tea is better than twenty weak ones. All true tea lovers not only like their tea strong, but like it a little stronger with each year that passes - a fact which is recognized in the extra ration issued to old-age pensioners.

Fifthly, the tea should be put straight into the pot. No strainers, muslin bags or other devices to imprison the tea. In some countries teapots are fitted with little **dangling** baskets under the **spout** to catch the stray leaves, which are supposed to be harmful. Actually one can swallow tea-leaves in considerable quantities without ill effect, and if the tea is not loose in the pot it never infuses properly.

Sixthly, one should take the teapot to the kettle and not the other way about. The water should be actually boiling at the moment of impact, which means that one should keep it on the flame while one pours. Some people add that one should only use water that has been freshly



## TEA TIME DICTIONARY

	<b>Cream Tea</b> A simple tea service consisting of scones, clotted cream, marmalade or lemon curd and tea.
	<b>Elevensies</b> Morning coffee hour in England.
	<b>Afternoon Tea</b> What we imagine all British teas to be. An afternoon meal, served typically from 2 – 4 pm, which includes the tiers of smart little crustless sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, curd, 2-3 sweets and heaps of tea.
	<b>Low Tea</b> This is still an afternoon tea, but called “low tea” because guests are seated in low armchairs with low side-tables on which to place their cups and saucers.
	<b>Royale Tea</b> A social tea served with champagne at the beginning, or sherry at the end.
	<b>Celebration Tea</b> Another variation of afternoon tea with a celebratory cake which is also served alongside the other sweets.
	<b>High Tea</b> A meal eaten in the late afternoon or early evening, consisting of a cooked dish, bread & butter, & tea. Families with servants often took high tea on Sundays to allow the maids & butlers time to go to church & not worry about cooking.

brought to the boil, but I have never noticed that it makes any difference.

Seventhly, after making the tea, one should stir it, or better, give the pot a good shake, afterwards allowing the leaves to settle.

Eighthly, one should drink out of a good breakfast cup — that is, the cylindrical type of cup, not the flat, shallow type. The breakfast cup holds more, and with the other kind one's tea is always half cold before one has well started on it.

Ninthly, one should pour the cream off the milk before using it for tea. Milk that is too creamy always gives tea a sickly taste.

Tenthly, one should pour tea into the cup first. This is one of the most controversial points of all; indeed in every family in Britain there are probably two schools of thought on the subject. The milk-first school can bring forward some fairly strong arguments, but I maintain that my own argument is unanswerable. This is that, by putting the tea in first and stirring as one pours, one can exactly regulate the amount of milk whereas one is **liable** to put in too much milk if one does it the other way round.

Lastly, tea — unless one is drinking it in the Russian style — should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

These are not the only controversial points to arise in connexion with tea drinking, but they are sufficient to show how subtilized the whole business has become. There is also the **mysterious** social **etiquette** surrounding the teapot (why is it considered vulgar to drink out of your saucer, for instance?) and much might be written about the subsidiary uses of tea leaves, such as telling fortunes, predicting the arrival of visitors, feeding rabbits, healing burns and sweeping the carpet. It is worth paying attention to such details as warming the pot and using water that is really boiling, so as to make quite sure of wringing out of one's ration the twenty good, strong cups of that two ounces, properly handled, ought to represent.

(Taken from *The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell*, Volume 3, 1943-45, Penguin ISBN, 0-14-00-3153-7)

### About the Author

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903–21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist



and critic whose work is marked by clear prose, awareness of social iniquity, opposition to totalitarianism and candid

support of democratic socialism.

Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction and polemical journalism. He is best known for the allegorical novella *Animal Farm* (1945) and the dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). In 2008, *The Times* ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".



### Glossary

<b>curious</b>	- interesting
<b>controversial</b>	- arguable, disputable
<b>virtues</b>	- admirable qualities
<b>despised</b>	- hated
<b>stimulation</b>	- excitement
<b>optimistic</b>	- positive, hopeful
<b>cauldron</b>	- a big pot used for boiling
<b>rationing</b>	- restricting the consumption of a scarce commodity during war
<b>dangling</b>	- hanging freely, suspended

<b>spout</b>	- the pipe-like opening in a teapot through which tea is poured out
<b>liable</b>	- likely
<b>mysterious</b>	- incomprehensible
<b>etiquette</b>	- socially acceptable behaviour

### 1. Based on your understanding of the text, answer each of the following questions in one or two sentences.

- What seems 'curious' to the author?
- Why does the author say that it is important to include a tea recipe in cookery books?

- c) Mention the countries in which tea is a part of civilization.
- d) Which tea does the author prefer—China tea or Indian tea?
- e) According to the author, what does the phrase 'a nice cup of tea' refer to?
- f) What is the second golden rule in the preparation of tea?
- g) How does army tea taste?
- h) Do tea lovers generally like strong tea or weak tea?
- i) Why should tea be directly added to the pot?
- j) Why does the author prefer the cylindrical cup to a flat cup?
- k) What should be poured into the cup first—tea or milk?
- l) Why does the author advise removing cream from the milk?
- m) Does the author like drinking tea with sugar? Give reasons.
- n) Why does the author refer to himself as being in 'a minority'?
- o) Whom does the author call 'misguided people'? What is his advice to them?

**2. Based on your understanding of the text, answer each of the following questions in four or five sentences.**

- a) What are the author's views on China tea?
- b) How does adding sugar affect the taste of tea?
- c) Elucidate the author's ideas about teapots.

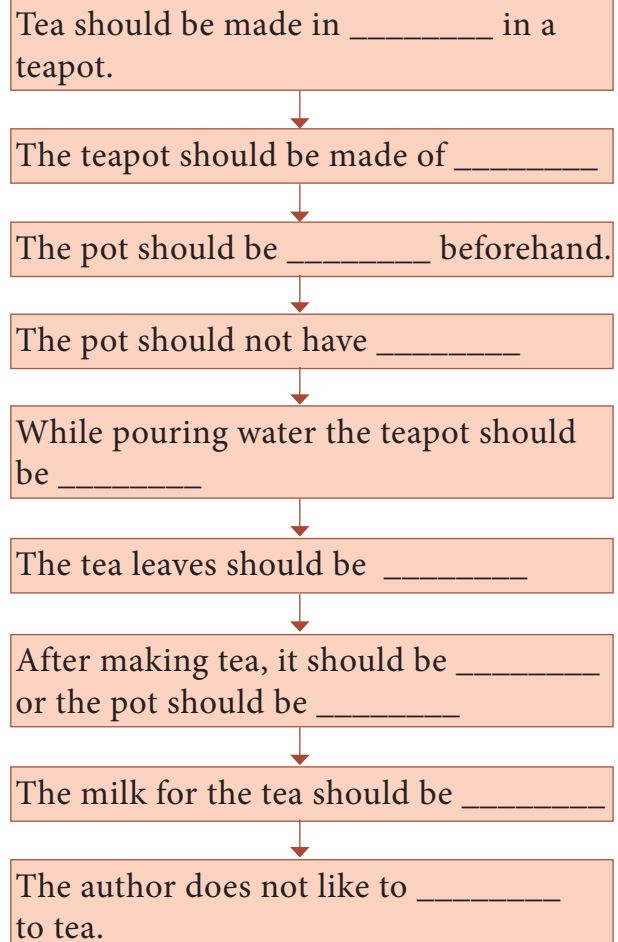
**3. Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph of 100–150 words.**

- a) Summarise George Orwell's distinctive ideas in "A Nice Cup of Tea".
- b) Discuss how the essay reveals the factual points and the author's personal opinions on the preparation of tea.
- c) What are the aspects that contribute to humour in the essay?

**4. Based on your understanding of the text, complete the chart given below by choosing the appropriate words or phrases given in brackets.**

**Golden Rules of Tea Preparation**

(add sugar, shaken, milk, infused properly, strainers, without cream, taken to the kettle, small quantities, China or earthenware, stirred, warmed)





## Vocabulary

a) Find out the synonym of the underlined word in each of the following sentences.

- But because the best manner of making it is the subject of violent disputes.  
a) agreements    b) applauses  
c) conflicts    d) discussions
- ...tea is one of the mainstays of civilization in the country.  
a) a society in an advanced state of social development  
b) a society that has slow progress  
c) a society that has no progress  
d) a society in an average state of social development
- ...that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated.  
a) motivated    b) discouraged  
c) passive    d) admired
- ...under the spout to catch the stray leaves.  
a) fresh    b) loose  
c) gathered    d) harmful

- One is liable to put in too much milk.  
a) likely    b) certain  
c) eager    d) unlikely

b) Find out the antonym of the underlined word in each of the following sentences.

- ...which are not to be despised.  
a) hated    b) liked  
c) respected    d) defeated
- One does not feel wise, braver or more optimistic.  
a) opportunistic    b) cheerful  
c) realistic    d) pessimistic
- Not the flat, shallow type...  
a) narrow    b) wide  
c) deep    d) direct
- Predicting the arrival of visitors...  
a) journey    b) departure  
c) migration    d) perusal
- ...but they are sufficient to show how subtilized the whole business has become.  
a) enough    b) suffocative  
c) inadequate    d) submissive

c) Fill in the boxes with the correct answers. The first one has been done for you.

S. No	Word with meaning and part of speech	Sentence	Noun/Verb/Adj. form	Sentence
1	Word : wise meaning : clever part of speech : adjective	My brother is wise.	wisdom	My brother showed great wisdom in business.
2	harm			
3	stimulate			
4	argue			
5	strong			
6	destroy			





## Listening

**Listen to the passage about the 'Significance of Tea' and answer the questions.**

### Questions

1. Which country is the largest tea producer in the world?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the tea produced in India is exported.
3. What is the role of antioxidants in tea?
4. Drinking tea strengthens one's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How does drinking tea help a diabetic?



'Cup of tea' is an idiom which means one's favourite activity. One may say "Teaching English is my cup of tea."



## Speaking

**Read the story silently.**

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed that just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on high flame. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter moaned and

impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the boiled eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and poured it in a cup. Turning to her he asked, "Daughter, what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied, "Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After peeling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. "Father, what does this mean?" she asked. He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity – the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato was strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the eggs became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique.

After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new. "Which are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean? Things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us. Which one are you?"

This story shows how people react to different situations in life. Some become weak and soft like the potatoes and some others harden like the egg. The best way to face difficulties is illustrated by the coffee beans which change their colour and add flavour.

Now use these ideas and prepare a speech on the topic 'The importance of developing a positive attitude' and deliver the speech in the school assembly.



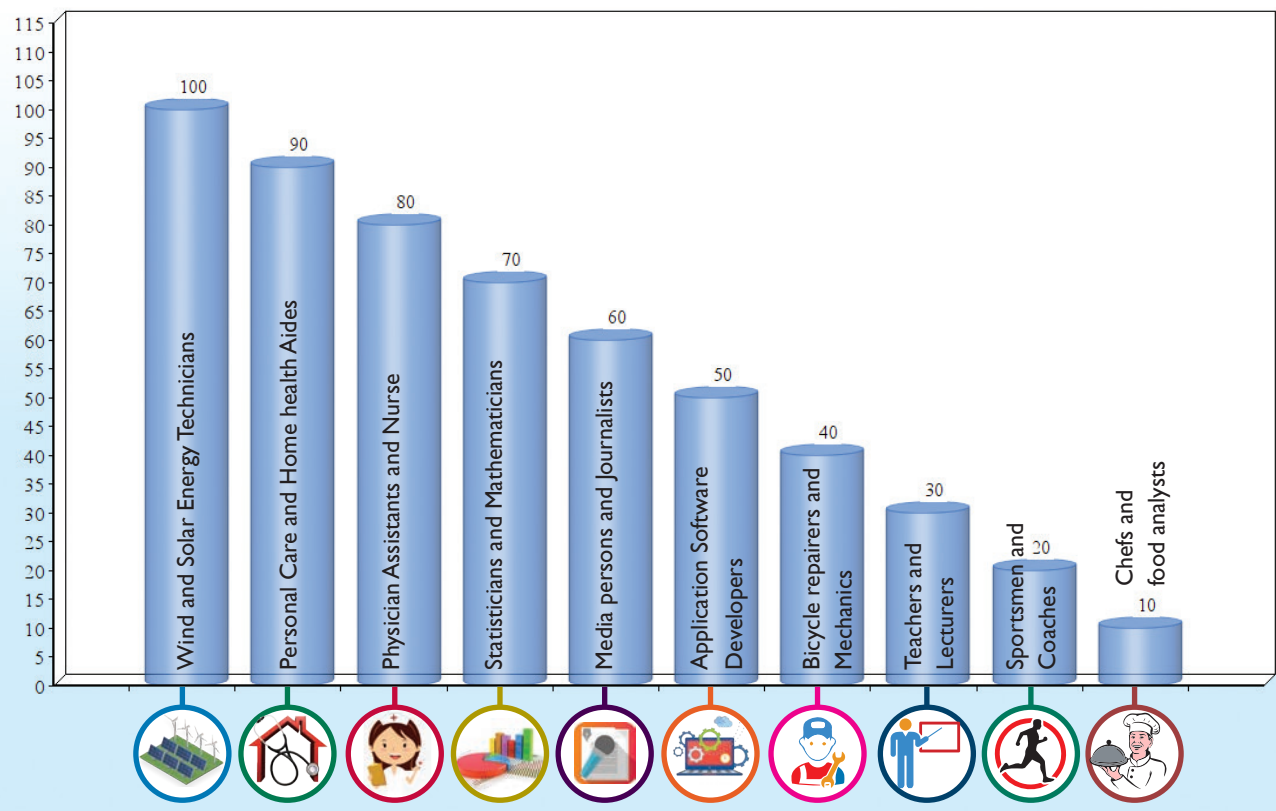
## Reading

### Non-verbal Representations

Presenting information using tables, graphs and charts is a common practice in scientific and technical writing. This is because through graphs and charts, scientific data can be presented in a clear and precise manner. Bar charts, graphs, tree diagrams, organizational charts, flow charts and pie charts are the frequently used pictorial or non-verbal representations. The table is the simplest and the most common direct graphic form used for presenting information.

Look at the following non-verbal representation. Based on your understanding and inference, write a paragraph on career trends in the next decade.

### Fastest -Growing Occupations





## Task

**Now read the following article on the emerging career options in the modern era and answer the questions that follow.**

The students at the higher secondary level in schools start thinking of suitable courses to take up at the university level based on their aptitude, ability and interests. While considering the higher education options, they should also plan the career path they wish to take. In today's complex job scenario, there is a mismatch between demand and supply. On one hand we have qualified professionals desperately trying to find a job, while on the other hand, there are many professions that need suitable talented employees. But such skilled employees are unavailable. Therefore, the need of the hour is that students have an understanding of the emerging career options.

Schools should take the initiative to organise career guidance and counselling sessions for students. However, students need to remember that to build a strong career, they must understand the prospective field and their primary interest. It is also important for students to focus on overall personality development and hone their communication skills as these are important for the success of their career. Students are also advised that in order to build a solid career foundation, they need to qualify suitably by pursuing a degree course in the chosen area of interest and also consider post graduate education. Diploma/Short-term courses may help one find a job in the short run but may not promise career progression. Rapid advancement in science and technology

and globalisation has widened the scope of career options in the twenty-first century. Let us consider some popular careers.

## Fashion Designing

The current cosmopolitan and fashion-conscious wave that has taken over our country has opened up a huge arena for careers in fashion. These careers encompass designing clothes, costumes, jewellery, footwear, wardrobe, cosmetics, accessories and the like.

## Culinary Arts

With food and cookery shows being a major trend across the world, culinary arts, a sub-domain of the hospitality sector, has now become the most sought after career.

## Paramedical sciences

In recent times, there has been a great demand in the health care industry. Paramedical professionals who support medical practitioners in areas such as optometry, pathology, nursing, physiotherapy, and dentistry are much sought after.

## Media, Journalism and Advertising

In this information era, print and entertainment media have become a force to reckon with. This arena has become a huge career playground because youngsters are attracted to it as the exposure and reach is greater through such mass media. We notice that radio and TV channels, internet companies and advertising agencies are increasingly recruiting qualified professionals.

## Hotel Management

The hotel industry is the fastest growing industry in India. The number of international travellers (both for business and leisure) is increasing. The hospitality and service industry offers career options such as house keeping, front-desk executives, tourism management, etc.

## Sports Management

With multinational companies supporting sports, careers in sports offer enormous scope. One need not be a player or an athlete to shine in a sports career because the field of sports offers various career options such as technical trainers, commentators, sports journalists, dieticians, referees, etc. Conducting sports events successfully, organizing the event laudably, preparing the ground for the event are all part of sports management.

- When do students start thinking about their career path?
- How can students build a strong career?
- What are the integral aspects of a successful career?
- What is meant by 'culinary art'?
- Why is media a popular career option?
- Name some paramedical courses mentioned in the passage.
- Why is the hotel industry seen as the fastest growing in India?
- Does one have to be a player to opt for a career in the field of sports? Answer giving reasons.
- Pick one word from the passage which is the opposite of 'modern'.

- Which word in the passage means 'composed of people from many parts of the country'?



## Prepositions

The underlined words in the following sentences from the text are the examples of prepositions.

- If you look up 'tea' in the first cookery book,
- Fifthly, the tea should be put straight into the pot.

- ◆ 'in' is used for the placement of noun inside another noun.
- ◆ 'into' is used for the movement of a noun from one status to an other status.

A preposition is a word or a phrase that is used to show the relationship between a noun and another noun.

### List of Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>T</b>
about	<u>concerning</u>	near	than
above	<b>D</b>	<u>next to</u>	through
across	despite	<b>O</b>	till
after	down	of	to
against	<u>during</u>	off	<u>towards</u>
ahead of	<b>E</b>	on	<b>U</b>
along	<u>except for</u>	on behalf	under
amid	<b>F</b>	of	unlike
amidst	following	on top of	until
among	for	onto	up
around	<u>from</u>	opposite	<u>upon</u>
as far as	<b>I</b>	out	<b>V</b>
aside from	in	out of	versus
<b>B</b>	<u>in case of</u>	outside	<u>via</u>
barring	in front of	<u>over</u>	<b>W</b>
behind	in place of	<b>P</b>	with
before	in spite of	past	within
below	including	<u>plus</u>	<u>without</u>
beneath	inside	<b>R</b>	
beside	<u>instead of</u>	regarding	
besides	<u>into</u>	regardless	
between	<b>L</b>	<u>of</u>	
beyond	like	<b>S</b>	
by	<b>M</b>	<u>since</u>	
	<u>minus</u>		

Here are a few prepositions which cause confusion. The examples illustrate the correct usage.

### since/for

since → for an action continuing from the past to the present time

- ❖ Yuvan has been playing badminton well **since** 2014.

for → the total duration of an action/existence from the past to the present time

- ❖ Yuvan has been playing badminton **for** the past four years.

### above/over

above → when one thing is not directly over the other

- ❖ My brother lived in the mountains **above** the lake.

over → for horizontal movement at a higher level

- ❖ I saw a helicopter fly **over** a lake.

### below/under

below → 'Below' is the opposite of 'above'

- ❖ Her head was **below** the level of the table. So, nobody noticed her.

under → 'under' is the opposite of 'over'; for horizontal movement at a lower level

- ❖ A child places his toys **under** a blanket.
- ❖ A boy ran **under** the bridge when the river was dry.

### along/through

along → for following a line of specific movement

- ❖ A man walked **along** the side of the river.

through → for movement in a three dimensional space from one side to the other

- ❖ Hunters walked **through** the forest.

### between/among

between → used for two nouns/adverbials, when there is 'and' in the sentence

- ❖ There was amity **between** Jessie Owens and Luz Long in the Berlin Olympics.

among → We use 'among' when we see the people or things as part of a group or mass.

- ❖ There was a healthy discussion about communal harmony **among** Ramesh, Abdul and John.

### before/after

before → used for the second action in a phrase when we mention two actions

- ❖ **Before** eating food, we clean our hands.

after → used for the first action in a phrase when we mention two actions

- ❖ **After** eating food, children love playing.