

# The Bizhu Festival

## 2.1.1 Discuss the following questions in pairs. And then, share your answers with the class.

(জোড়ায় নিচের প্রশ্নগুলো আলোচনা করো। তারপর তোমার উত্তরগুলো শ্রেণিতে share করো।)

- Did you interview anyone for any reason?
- Did someone interview you for any purpose?
- What was the topic of the interview?
- What were the questions that had been asked there?
- What were the responses?
- Did you share any information about the interview with anyone? If yes, what did you say?

## 2.1.2 Now, let's interview a friend!

একজন বন্ধুর সাক্ষাৎকার নেই।

Take an interview of your friend to know his/her choice of movies/songs/hobbies/personality. Firstly, think of 6-10 questions that you will ask your friend and write them down. Then, in pairs interview each other and take notes to use later. Next, share your friend's opinion with the class. Use the given grid to complete the activity. One is done for you.

Your question	Reply of your friend	The way you share your friend's opinion
1. Who is your favourite personality?	My father is my favourite personality.	My friend said that her (my friend's) father is her favourite personality.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

### 2.2.1 Reflect on your friend's replies and how you have shared them in front of the class. Then, discuss the following questions in pairs/groups. Next, share your answers with the whole class.

(তোমার বন্ধুর উত্তরগুলো নিয়ে চিন্তা করো এবং শ্রেণিতে তুমি কীভাবে উপস্থাপন করেছ তা ভেবে দেখো। তারপর জোড়ায়/দলে নিচের প্রশ্নগুলো আলোচনা করো। পরবর্তীতে তোমার উত্তরগুলো শ্রেণিতে শেয়ার করো।)

- Have you found any differences between the two sentences (your friend's reply and how you retell your friend's reply)? If yes, what are they?
- Why have you made the changes?
- Do you share any sentences without making any changes? If yes, why?
- What are these two types of sentences (your friend's reply and how you retell your friend's reply) called?
- Do you think using these two types of sentences is necessary for communication?

### 2.2.2 Read the following text individually.

(নিচের text টি নিজে পড়ো।)

Entering the class, Mr. Rafiq, a teacher of English, found his students in a very cheerful and relaxed mood. With surprise, he said to his students, "What happened to you all? Is there anything that I missed?" The students replied with a satisfying smile that the education minister had visited their school yesterday and this made them very excited.

"Did the minister come to your class?" said the teacher.

The students replied, "Yes sir, she visited our class and spent some time with us." She



also asked some questions to which we replied properly. Hearing this, the teacher was very happy and said, “Thank you for your effort. Now we are moving on to our next lesson. Let’s try to work with new activities”.

But the students wanted to continue talking about their experience with the minister. So, one of the students said, “May we carry on talking about many interesting things that happened yesterday? We would like to share those with you,”

The teacher replied, “Of course, I would love to hear that.”

### 2.2.3 Imagine you were in that class. And after returning home, you will share with your parents what happened in the class. Now, discuss the following questions to decide on how you will do that.

(মনে করো তুমি সেই ক্লাসে ছিলে। বাড়ি ফেরার পরে তুমি বাবা মাকে বলো class এ কি ঘটেছিল। এখন, তুমি সেটা কীভাবে করবে তার সিদ্ধান্তে আসার জন্য নিচের প্রশ্নগুলো আলোচনা করো।)

- Will you say everything to your parents that happened in the class or you will tell them the important messages?
- Will you tell all the messages one after another or arrange them based on their importance?
- Will you share the information to your parents in your own words or use the quotation from the given text?
- Why do you narrate them in that way?
- Do you think the two different ways of narrating a conversation are both necessary? Give reasons for your answer.

### 2.3.1 Now, read a note on ‘Speech’ in pairs/groups and do the activities that follow.

(এখন দলে/জোড়ায় speech সংক্রান্ত একটি note পড়ো এবং পরবর্তী activity গুলো করো।)

#### Note

Speech is the art of reporting/telling the words of a speaker. There are two main ways of reporting the words of a speaker: Direct speech and Indirect speech.

**Direct Speech:** Direct speech expresses the exact words spoken or written by someone within quotation marks. For example, **My friend said, “I love to read different types of texts.”** Here, you are reporting your friend’s words exactly the same way as your friend has said.

**Indirect Speech:** Indirect speech is the act of retelling someone else’s words with some changes in verbs, pronouns, adverbs of time and place. For example, when

you will retell your friend's reply, you may say– **My friend replied that she loved to read different types of texts.**

Let's look into the changes in these two speeches!

Direct speech: **My friend said, "I think I love to read different types of texts."**

Indirect Speech: **My friend replied that she thought she loved to read different types of texts.**

Here in indirect speech '**that**' has been used as a connector. The pronoun '**I**' is changed to '**she**' and the verbs of direct speech, **think** and **love** are changed into **thought** and **loved**. Here, '**said**' in direct speech is called reporting verb.

Usually, *to quote from a speaker, to know the authenticity of spoken words, to break the monotony of a narrative description and to convey the emotional impact of the message*, we use direct speech. On the other hand, indirect speech is used in story-telling, journalism, academic writing and to relay someone's words to others in a narrative style.

**So, when you want to tell something exactly the same way, use direct speech and if you retell someone's words with some changes, use indirect speech.**

নোট

বক্তার কথা উদ্ধৃত করার/বলার কৌশলকে speech বলে। বক্তার বক্তৃতা উদ্ধৃত করার দুটি প্রধান পদ্ধতি/ধরন-

**Direct Speech:** Direct speech বলতে কোনো ব্যক্তির বলা বা লিখিত উক্তি quotation marks দিয়ে সরাসরি প্রকাশ করাকে বোঝায়। উদাহরণ: My friend said, "I love to read different types of texts." এখানে তোমার বন্ধু কথাগুলো যেভাবে বলেছে হুবহু সেভাবেই তুমি উদ্ধৃত করেছো।

**Indirect Speech:** Indirect speech হচ্ছে অন্য কারো কথা, verb, pronoun এবং adverb of time and place এ কিছু পরিবর্তন এনে পুনরায় বলা। উদাহরণ স্বরূপ: তুমি যখন তোমার বন্ধুর উক্তিটি পুনরায় বলবে তখন তুমি বলতে পার My friend replied that she loved to read different types of texts. এই দুটি speech এর মধ্যে যে পরিবর্তনগুলো হয়েছে সেগুলো দেখে নেই।

**Direct Speech: My friend said, "I love to read different types of texts."**

**Indirect Speech: My friend replied that she loved to read different types of texts.**

এখানে connector হিসেবে that ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে। 'I' pronoun টি পরিবর্তন করে 'she' করা হয়েছে এবং direct speech এর verb-think এবং love পরিবর্তিত হয়ে thought এবং loved এ পরিণত হয়েছে। এখানে direct speech এর said verb টিকে 'reporting verb' বলা হয়। সাধারণত বক্তার কথা উদ্ধৃত করার জন্য, কারো কথার যথার্থতা জানার জন্য, বক্তব্যের এক্ষেয়েমি দূর করতে এবং বক্তব্যের আগের প্রভাব বুঝানোর জন্য আমরা direct speech ব্যবহার করি। অন্যদিকে গল্প বলা, সাংবাদিকতা, একাডেমিক লেখা (academic writing) এবং কারো কথা অন্য কারো কাছে পৌঁছে দেওয়ার জন্য indirect speech ব্যবহৃত হয়।

সুতরাং যখন তুমি কোনো কিছু হুবহু উদ্ধৃত করতে চাইবে তখন direct speech ব্যবহার করবে এবং কারো কথায় যখন কিছু পরিবর্তন এনে পুনরায় বলতে চাইবে তখন indirect speech ব্যবহার করবে।

### 2.3.2 Now, let's have a look at the changes in the verb of reported speech in the indirect speech according to different tenses.

(এখন বিভিন্ন tense অনুসারে indirect speech এর reported speech এর verb এর পরিবর্তনগুলো দেখে নেই।)

Reporting verb	The tense of the verb in direct speech	The tense of the verb in indirect speech	Example of Direct speech	Example of indirect speech
Present/ future tense	No change	No change	Jamal says, "I <b>like</b> to watch cooking shows whenever I am free."	Jamal says that he <b>likes</b> to watch cooking shows whenever he is free.
Past Indefinite Tense	Present Indefinite	Past Indefinite	Jamal said, "I <b>like</b> to watch cooking shows whenever I am free."	Jamal said that he <b>liked</b> to watch cooking shows whenever he <b>was</b> free.
Past Indefinite Tense	Present Continuous	Past Continuous	The headteacher said, "The students <b>are helping</b> the teachers in decorating the auditorium."	The headteacher said that the students <b>were helping</b> the teachers in decorating the auditorium.
Past Indefinite Tense	Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Eti said, "I <b>have helped</b> my teachers decorate the auditorium."	Eti said that she <b>had helped</b> her teachers decorate the auditorium.
Past Indefinite Tense	Present perfect continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	Eti said, "I <b>have been helping</b> my teachers in decorating the auditorium for an hour."	Eti said that she <b>had been helping</b> her teachers in decorating the auditorium for an hour.
Past Indefinite Tense	Past Indefinite	Past Perfect	Nahar said, "I <b>worked</b> with friends to write an interview questionnaire."	Nahar said that she <b>had worked</b> with his friends to write an interview questionnaire.

Reporting verb	The tense of the verb in direct speech	The tense of the verb in indirect speech	Example of Direct speech	Example of indirect speech
Past Indefinite Tense	Past Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	Nasir said, “I <b>was working</b> with my friends to write an interview questionnaire.”	Nasir said that he <b>had been working</b> with his friends to write an interview questionnaire.
Past Indefinite Tense	Verbs like shall/will / may/can etc.	Past forms of verbs like should/ would/ might/ could etc.	Rini said, “I <b>will</b> apply to join the cricket team.”	Rini said that she <b>would</b> apply to join the cricket team.

**Exception: If direct speech expresses habitual facts, universal truth and historical events, the verb in the reported speech does not change.**

(ব্যতিক্রম: যদি direct speech এ অভ্যাসগত সত্য, চিরন্তন সত্য এবং ঐতিহাসিক ঘটনাবলী প্রকাশ করা হয়, তখন reported speech এর verb টি পরিবর্তন হবে না।)

**2.3.3 Read the text in 2.2.2 again and write how you will retell the messages to your parents using your own words. You can start writing your text in the following way-**

(Text ২.২.২ আবার পড়ো। কথাগুলো তুমি কিভাবে তোমার বাবা-মাকে পুনরায় বলবে সেটা লেখো। তুমি text টি নিম্নোক্তভাবে শুরু করতে পারো।)

Today entering class, our English teacher, Rafiq sir asked us with a surprise what had happened to us all.....

**2.3.4 Now, read the following note on summary. Then write a summary of the text that you have written in activity 2.3.3. Finally, share your summary in pairs/groups.**

(এখন summary সংক্রান্ত নিচের নোটটি পড়ো। তারপর activity 2.3.3- তে লেখা তোমার text -টির summary লেখো। সবশেষ summary- টি দলে/জোড়ায় শেয়ার করো।)

### Summary

A summary is a concise overview of a text’s main points written in your words. The summary of a text provides the reader with an overall comprehension of a larger body of text in a condensed and concise format. By summarizing a text, you show your better understanding of that text.

**Features of a summary:**

- The summary shortens the main ideas of a text so that its readers will understand the gist of the original work.
- The summary keeps the tone and key ideas of the writer of the original work.
- A summary is typically one-quarter to one-third the length of the original and is written in the third person.

**How to Write a Summary:**

1. Read the text and identify the main ideas. Distinguish the main ideas from the details.
2. Write the main ideas in a list.
3. Begin the summary with an introductory statement.
4. Turn the main ideas into sentences, occasionally including details when it is necessary to convey the main idea.
5. Combine the sentences into one or more paragraphs.
6. Use transition words to connect the sentences and the paragraphs.
7. Proofread the summary for punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and content

**Summary:** Summary হচ্ছে কোনো text এর main point এর সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা যেটা নিজের মতো করে লেখা হয়। summary পাঠককে একটি বড় text কে সংক্ষিপ্ত আকারে বুঝতে সাহায্য করে। কোনো text কে summary করার মাধ্যমে তুমি যে text টি ভালোভাবে বুঝতে পেরেছো তা প্রকাশ করতে পারো।

Summary এর বৈশিষ্ট্য:

- Summary কোনো text এর মূল ভাবকে সংক্ষিপ্ত করে যেন পাঠক মূল text এর সারমর্ম বুঝতে পারে।
- Summary মূল text এর লেখকের মূল ধারণা এবং কথা বলার ভাবকে ঠিক রাখে।
- Summary সাধারণত এক চতুর্থাংশ থেকে এক তৃতীয়াংশ পর্যন্ত হয় এটা third person এ লেখা হয়।

Summary লেখার উপায়:

১. Text টি পড়ো এবং মূল ধারণাটি চিহ্নিত করো। বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা থেকে মূল ধারণাগুলোকে পৃথক করো।
২. মূল ধারণাগুলোর একটি তালিকা তৈরি করো।
৩. Summary টি একটি সূচনামূলক বক্তব্যের মাধ্যমে শুরু করো।



৪. প্রধান ধারণাগুলোকে বাক্যে পরিণত করো। যদি প্রয়োজন হয়, কিছু বিস্তারিত বর্ণনাও অন্তর্ভুক্ত করতে পেরো।
৫. বাক্যগুলোকে এক বা একাধিক অনুচ্ছেদে সংযুক্ত করো।
৬. বাক্য এবং অনুচ্ছেদগুলোকে সংযুক্ত করার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় transition words ব্যবহার করো।
৭. যতিচিহ্ন, বানান, বাক্যের গঠনপ্রণালী এবং বিষয়বস্তু check করার জন্য summary টি আবার পড়ে দেখো।

### 2.3.5 Read the following short conversation and the text that follows.

(নিচের সংক্ষিপ্ত কথোপকথন ও text টি পড়ো।)

## The Bizhu Festival



Mahmud always enjoys meeting new people. Last week's journey was no exception. His father has recently been transferred to Rangamati. So, Mahmud's entire family was shifting from Rajshahi to Rangamati. They first reached Dhaka, and from there they went to Rangamati. In Dhaka, at the bus counter, they met another family going to Rangamati. All of them were waiting for the bus to come.

Finding nothing to do in particular, Mahmud started a conversation with a girl sitting



next to him. The girl's name was Madhumita Chakma. She told Mahmud that he could call her Madhu. They were of the same age, and they started a conversation. Mahmud told her that they were moving to Rangamati to stay there. And Madhu informed him that she was going to her village to celebrate their local festival, called Bizhu. Mahmud admitted that he didn't know much about that festival.

**Madhu said, “Bizhu is the main festival of our Chakma community to celebrate the new year.** It starts on Chaitra Sankranti and lasts for three days. On the first day, Phool Bizhu, we start the festival by offering flowers to Lord Buddha. **We pray that May we all live in peace and have good health.** Then we float flowers in lakes and rivers to bid goodbye to misfortune and seek divine blessings.”

**Mahmud said, “Oh, okay. It is very similar to our Pohela Boishakh.”**

Madhu said, “I am not sure, let's ask my grandmother.” And they both did.

The grandmother replied, “Yes, my dear, they are quite similar.”

Mahmud asked Madhu's grandmother, “Can I also call you grandmother?”

Grandmother said, “Of course, dear.”

“Where do you get so many flowers?” Mahmud wondered.

**Madhu replied, “We collect flowers from the neighbourhood.** Some flowers are picked from neighbours without even asking their permission.”

“Don't they mind?” Mahmud asked.

The grandmother replied, “Actually, we are a very intimate community, so permission is not required for a small issue like this.”

She continued, “Mul-Bizhu, or the main day of the festival, starts with a ‘bath ritual’. We help shower elderly parents or grandparents so that we can seek their attention and win their blessings before starting the auspicious day.”



“We cook many delicious foods for that day. Banshuri and pajon are made for our friends and family.”

“What is pajon, grandmother?”

“It’s a delicious vegetable cuisine, dear. We make it for our Bizhu festival.”

“Oh, it is similar to the way we make special foods like- various pitha and payesh for our Nabanna.”

Grandmother said, “We pass the last day, Gojje Poijje, (the last day of bizu festival, literally means roll around) with relaxation and try to be as happy as possible so that we can pass the whole year with peace and prosperity. Also, doors are open for people from every community to join our celebration.”

“Don’t you think it closely resembles the way we celebrate the first day of the new year?”

“Yes, you got that right.”

“Don’t you want to know more about Nabanna?”

“I would love to.”

**Mahmud proposed, “Let’s go to my mom.”**

Madhumita asked Mahmud’s mother, “What does Nabanna mean, aunty?”

Mahmud’s mother replied, “Nabanna is our country’s biggest agricultural festival, celebrated across our country. Nabanna is a Bengali word that means ‘new crop’. We celebrate Nabanna to hail the new crops and harvests. It is usually celebrated with food, dance, and music in Bangladesh. It is a festival of foods; many local preparations of cuisines like pithas are cooked and offered.” She added, “In this celebration, the villagers welcome their neighbours and guests with chira, muri, moa-murki, many kinds of pithas, and some other local foods.”

**Mahmud said, “How similar they are!”** Mahmud and Madhumita both became astonished by the similarities of their festivals. They both came to the conclusion that they celebrate the same things in different ways.



### 2.3.6 Check the word meanings in the table given below to understand the text clearly.

(Text টি ভালোভাবে বুঝার জন্য নিচের সারণিতে প্রদত্ত শব্দার্থগুলো দেখো।)

Words	Meanings
auspicious	promising or fortunate
astonished	amazed or wondered
cuisine	manner of preparing food
misfortune	bad luck
float	put into the water
seek	look for, search

### 2.3.7 Now, read the text again (referring to 2.3.5) and summarize it in one paragraph. Follow all the steps given below to write the summary.

(এখন text (২.৩.৫) টি আবার পড়ো এবং এক অনুচ্ছেদে summarize করো। Summary লেখার সব ধাপগুলো অনুসরণ করো।)

In the first step, read the text attentively and identify the main ideas of the text. For example, ‘Bizhu, the main festival of the Chakma community’ is one of the main ideas. You can also write the supporting details to explain your main idea.

- Secondly, write all the main ideas in a list.
- Then, write the introductory sentence of the summary
- Now, turn all of your main ideas into sentences
- Here, combine all the sentences into one paragraph. Do not forget to use connecting words/cohesive devices to make your summary meaningful.
- Now, check the use of punctuation marks, spelling, grammar, and organization of the summary, and do the necessary edits.
- Finally, write the final draft of your summary

Now, exchange your copy in pairs to check it again. Finally, submit it to your teacher.

### 2.4.1 It's time to write a summary in groups!

(এখন দলে summary লেখার পালা!)

**The following instructions are to guide you. To do the activity-**

- First, discuss and select a story/drama/poem/short film/news article
- Then, read the book/article/poem or watch the drama/film during your free time
- Next, collect the necessary information (main ideas) to write the summary and note them down
- Later, discuss and decide the main ideas of the selected story/drama/poem/short film/news article
- Also, decide whether you need to write any supporting details or not. If you need any, write them down
- It's time to check, whether you use appropriate cohesive devices or not to connect the ideas
- Here, organize all the ideas into a paragraph
- Now, write the summary individually and check in groups
- Finally, do the necessary edits and submit it to the teacher

#### **New Words::**

exception, Chaitra Sankranti, last, bid, neighbourhood, intimate, hail, harvest, offer, astonish

