

# Creative writing and Composition Network

**How to enrich Composition Writing for Upper Primary  
(Expressions, Meaning and Usage)**

**BY**

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## **COMPOSITION WRITING**

A composition is a piece of creative writing aimed at testing the candidate's ability to communicate using the language as a tool. A Candidate is expected to have sufficient command of English in spoken and written forms to enable them to communicate well. The skill of writing is one of the four skills of language taught in primary school. Learners are therefore taught to relay and communicate information, ideas, feelings and opinion for leaders to communicate according and confidently in writing; they ought to master basic writing skills

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD COMPOSITION**

The learner should have a combination of various writing skills that the candidate should have accuracy, fluency and creativity i.e. originality and imagination

A composition should also have legible and neat hand writing.

**The characteristics include:**

- a. Legible handwriting (clear and clean handwriting)
- b. Vocabulary(choice of words)
- c. Length
- d. Fluency (the flow)
- e. Creativity (originality and imagination)
- f. Accuracy (correct English language)

## **Legible handwriting (clear and clean)**

Handwriting is a mechanical skill that involves the formation of letters and words on paper using the hand rather than trying or printing. A candidate must ensure that a composition is neatly written in the most attractive and appealing handwriting. There should be good spacing of words and sentences. The paragraph should be distinct. Poor handwriting creates a bad impression in the mind of the marker however rich and entertaining the story may be.

Shaping of letters in confusing manner is a major problem facing English learners. This is because of the inability to write clearly or careless stroke when forming letter. Letters which are similar in shape e.g. **U** and **V** should be written clearly to avoid adding unnecessary “beauty marks” to any letter because other people will not recognize them.

Letters with ascending (rising) stroke e.g. **b, d, f, h, k, l & t** should be written and shaped clearly and elaborately. Similarly those with descending (falling) strokes e.g. **g, j, p, q & y** should also come out clearly in addition letter which are of medium height that is those that can never be the same height as those with either ascenders and descenders such as **a, c, e, j, m, n, o, r, s, u, v, w, x & z** must also be taken .

b, d, f, h, k, i, t,

### Classification

#### **ASCENDERS:**

a, c, e, l, m, n, o, r, s, u, v, w, x, z, =14

#### **MIDDLE CASE:**

g, j, p, q, y=5

#### **DESCENDERS:**

N/B Avoid cursive and calligraphic kind of writing instead use print font

- [ ] The greedy hyena pounced on the sickly impala
- [ ] The speedy hawk jumps over the chick and kills it immediately
- [ ] There is no shortcut to any place worth going.

### Vocabulary (choice of words)

The writer should use the appropriate words that suit the theme and occasion. A good composition should therefore have: - twin words, similes, idiomatic, expression, phrasal verbs, proverbs, sound and dramatic expression. Words whose meaning are not fully understood must be avoided it does not matter the number of times you send reader to the dictionary but just careful choice and use of the intended words for the intended.

### Length

A short story written in continuous form gives a bad impression to the maker. It reflects inadequacy and language bankruptcy. The length of the composition should be three quarter  $\frac{3}{4}$  of writing surface i.e. At least two pages. However a composition that goes beyond three pages tend to bore the examiner and in most cases the writer is likely to make unnecessary repetition

### Fluency (the flow)

Fluency includes a coherent and consistent flow of information and ideas. It entails correct word, sentence constructing, and logical sequence of ideas and good connection of paragraph.

A good writer will always carry the reader through his or her composition smoothly. This can only be achieved if the paragraph are well linked and connected with the ideas logically and systematically arranged. There should be no mixing up of points and jerky presentation. This would automatically subject the reader to a "smooth ride." It captures the reader's attention. A good writer should develop the story in the most attractive and appealing. When you begin to write, think of how it would develop and end.

### Creativity (originality and imagination)

Creativity here refers to the candidate's ability to think, imagine and come up with original ideas which develop a given a topic or the theme.

The writer must try to think out what to say and how to say it. A candidate should ensure that a composition should contain writer's own ideas which are original in the scene. They are not memorized or pre learned extracts from different stories. Creativity ensures that a composition is unique to the reader (examiner).

### How to organize composition writing

Study the topic sentence (title) before writing. Title has three parts .The introduction, the body and the conclusion.

### Graphic organizer

This is a tool that helps writers to put information in an order before the start of draft.

- a) Get the audience **attention** at the beginning and keeps throughout the story
- b) The writer should tell the events in order **they** happen i.e. chronological order  
The writer should include the details to make the story and character more real and **authentic**.
- c) The writer includes information about whom or what the story is about and when and where it takes place.

### Introduction

1. Lead – get the reader’s attention by writing down a captivating sentence. Example “The long awaited day finally dawn into the limelight.”
2. Related statement- moves closer to the main idea in the paragraph. Example “The villagers’ hustle and bustle to make both ends meet.”
3. Transitional statement- the main ideas of composition. **The writer should break the topic sentence.** Example “The wedding ceremony was crowned with eye-catching, fascinating and appealing decorations of different colours.”

### In the introduction the writer should

1. Narrate the events in order they happen (chronologically)
2. Include details to make the story and the characters more real
3. Get readers attention at the beginning and keep it throughout the story
4. Add signal words to show how the ideas are connected e.g. first, suddenly, also, however. The writer should eye on the clock. Decide on how much time you will spend on each part of the writing process and try to stick to the schedule
5. The story should flow sequentially and orderly. The writer should use clear and interesting details to describe people and events.

### Body

The body of the composition is where the writer explain, describe, proves and gives information about the main idea (topic sentence)

A paragraph is a group of related **sentences**. Every sentence in a paragraph should be about the same main idea. A good paragraph should start with the idea you want the reader to know. This will become the topic sentence i.e. using the words like; and, also, too, often. The writer should focus on the things the reader will want to know.

### The body has three parts

- a. First supporting detail- **start main idea in the first paragraph.**
- b. Second supporting detail-explain the events in chronological order.

- c. Third supporting detail-discuss the events lengthily **and sequentially**.
- d. These support, explain and **gives** more information about main idea of composition

### Conclusion

A brief summary of main ideas- restate the main ideas of body paragraph **in summary**

Other related statement- wraps up the composition.

Closing statement- The composition in the concluding paragraph should be so interesting eye, catching and exciting .It should leave the reader amused and **elated**. It should also sum up the important ideas in the composition all related ideas would be contained in one idea ending with a proverb relevant to the subject matter. I should be brilliant idea.

### A guide to a good composition writing

1. Read and understand the topic sentence clearly **and adequately**. Underline the key words to avoid irrelevance.
2. Win and strike reader's interest and attention through careful flow of events.
3. Avoid starting your sentence with conjunction e.g. and, or
4. Let your story revolve around the topic sentence and show clearly your setting
5. Avoid run-on sentence. Avoid long sentences and paragraphs. Construct short and well punctuated sentences.
6. Avoid abbreviation in your composition because there have no place in formal writing e.g. can't, shan't.
7. Avoid unnecessary repetition of certain words instead use a variety of sentence
8. Use grammar learnt accurately that is, sentence structures, tense and spelling
9. Set the mood and tone of your story. These are sorrows, joy, sadness, excitement and happiness. The main character experience in the story ensure the reader also experience the same mood
10. **Be exact and original in terms of ideas and expression. Add taste to your composition by using relevant colloquial expression, similes, metaphors, proverbs, hyperbolic humour and figures of expression and figures of speech**
11. Use direct speech where applicable because dialogue involve the presence of the reader
12. Use suspense by creating tragic scenes conflict or subject of disagreement in the story without being irrelevant
13. Over and above proof read your work a composition free of mistakes is a good and interesting one.

### Suspense building and maintenance

Being in suspense may mean being in wrong, uncertain, frightening, horrifying, anxious and expectant mood. Composition requires a great deal of creativity and imagination of events (non existing things or events (fictions)

Suspense can be created through different ways such as telling bit by bit without disclosing immediately.

### The writing should enrich the language with

- Vivid description using adjective **and adjectival** phrases to describe object
- Using adverbs to demonstrate how an action took place
- Hyper exaggeration of size objects or manners of action
- Proverbs to conclude and summarized the story be peculiar to surprise the reader with event.

The art of surprise makes a composition more captivating and interesting.

Let the story flow in a realistic and **simplistic** way example-:

A sad beginning> a happy end

A happy beginning>sad end

Sad > happy >sad

Happy > sad >happy.

<u>Time</u> The first five minutes	<u>What to be done</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read the instruction given carefully</li><li>- Understand the topic sentence</li><li>- Make an outline of ideas as they occur in chronological order</li><li>- Organize the ideas in sequential manner</li></ul>
The next 25-30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Begin to write the composition</li><li>- Make at least one and a half pages</li><li>- To be able to write well on the topic sentence</li><li>- Stick to the topic sentence from the start to the finish</li></ul>
The last five minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-<b>Revise</b> and proof read the composition <b>time and again</b></li><li>-Correct any error on tenses, spelling, grammar, <b>sentence pattern</b> and paragraph-</li></ul>

### Time budget and management

### THE EYE-CATCHING EXPRESSIONS, MEANING AND USAGE

- She jumped up and down in a transport of joy.
- Meaning
- He brimmed with happiness and joy  
**Example:** When chebet realized that she was the winner in KCPE results, she became **elated** and excited. She jumped and up down in transport of joy.
- He disappeared like a racing driver  
Meaning  
 To get lost into thin air  
**Example:** The thief snatched my purse at **the corridor to my house**. He gripped it tightly and disappeared like a racing driver into the forest.
- He made a little grim nod of satisfaction  
Meaning  
 When he arrived at the grandmother's house, she greeted her and made a little grim nod of satisfaction. They greeted each other as joyfully as if they had not met for many years
- Life is too short for hurrying  
Meaning  
 A person should not rush in dealing with anything.  
**Example:** The teacher advised the boys **not** to get involved in worldly pleasures. He warned them not to rush into dubious deals as the saying goes life is too short for hurrying.
- He bathed in a cold pool of frightened sweat  
Meaning  
**He became scared and astonished**  
 Tom was totally scared and surprised when his teacher announced the results. He bathed in a cold pool of frightened sweat.
- A spasm of pain gripped his stomach  
Meaning  
 Agonizing knots of pain took the better of him  
**Example:** When **George** found his girl kidnapped on her way to the posho mill, he encountered a spasm of pain gripped his stomach. Agonizing knots of pain gripped him
- He worked with frantic haste  
Meaning  
 He moved hurriedly  
**Example:** When he found the news at the notice board, he looked at the list in a frantic haste. It was another such spectacular gesture to him.
- The institution degenerated into a noisy arena.  
Meaning  
 The place turned chaotic and full of commotion  
**Example:** When my school attained the first position during **National** music festival the audience in the hall degenerated into a rowdy noisy arena.
- He displayed his tactics  
Meaning  
 He showed his skill  
**Example:** John displayed his skill during pole vault competition at school. He jumped as far as one hundred metres high.
- As wide as Aswan High dam.  
Meaning

As long as an elongated beehive

**Example:** My father appreciated how I passed in K.C.P.E. He read my admission letter which was as wide as the page of an exercise book.

- As colourful as rainbow

**Meaning**

It was attractive and fascinating

**Example:** He attended a wedding ceremony at St.peter's church which was as colourful as rainbow. It was as bright as gold in the sunlight.

- It had a habit of waving like a flag.

**Meaning**

He greeted the crowd by waving his hand.

**Example:** The veteran politician came to our school last week. He greeted us joyfully. He had a habit of waving his hand like a flag.

- Emerged from the invisibility

**Meaning**

To dash out from unknown place.

**Example:** The bandits emerged from the invisibility.They crossed the junction and ambushed the village.

- Realities were slowly dawning

**Meaning**

The truth was uncovering slowly by slowly.

**Example:** Before the rape case was concluded in the court, realities of evidence were slowly dawning down the line.

- As smooth and red-brown as a chief's gourd.

**Meaning**

Without contortions wrinkles,contortions and sadness.

**Example:** The politician rose against force of gravity. He smiled broadly and scratched his forehead which is as smooth as and red-brown as a chief's gourd .He talked amicably to his people

- Roaming like safari ants all over

**Meaning**

To wander aimlessly with no fixed destination.

**Example:** The security team roamed like safari ants all over the clashes affected area. They spread like safari ants to provide security.

- As swollen as a hippo's neck

**Meaning**

It grew larger and bigger.

**Example:** Oluoch, the mid fielder got injured during soccer competition at my school. The injured part of his leg got swollen.it was as big as hippo's neck.

- He was just another fly in the spider's web.

**Meaning**

He was trapped again in the problem.

**Example:** The notorious thief was caught red-handed stealing maize in the government farm. He was handcuffed and arrested. He became another fly in the spider's web.

- It was a swan-song of a really satisfied gentleman.

### **Meaning**

It was well articulated and sweet lulling talk.

**Example:** The man in the meeting addressed the gathering jovially and amicably. He was a swan-song of a really satisfied gentleman.

- It was as difficult as defining the meaning of nothing.

### **Meaning**

It was as hard as squeezing water of a rock.

**Example:** When the anti-corruption **unit** interrogated the suspect on how he acquired his wealth, he stood aghast. The situation was as difficult as defining the meaning of nothing.

- She was an indispensable pillar of support and comfort to me and my love for her remained undiminished.

**Indispensable** – essential, too important.

**Undiminished** – remained at the same level.

### **Meaning**

He relied on her support during those trying moment in life.

**Example:** My aunt paid me tour fee to Kisumu animal orphanage. Happiness took the better part of me during the trip. Surely; she proved an indispensable pillar of support and comfort to me. My love for her will remain undiminished.

- It caused him acute personal and political embarrassment.

### **Meaning**

It made him to feel neglected and distressed.

**Example:** When the nagging politician stood, people booed him down because of his nasty and empty rhetorics. It caused him acute, personal and political embarrassment.

- If the entire universe persuaded me to reconcile, I would not.

### **Meaning**

Nothing enticed me to accept and adjust to normal.

**Example:** I found that he had assassinated my character in writing bad things about me. I got infuriated. If the entire universe persuaded me to reconcile, I would not.

- There was a mass of evidence suggesting that he was a chimera, an invention, a deliberate obstruction of the truth.

**Chimera** – a creature with lion's head, a goat's body and a snake's tail that can breathe out fire at an impossible idea or hope.

### **Meaning**

It was something discovered and made by scientists.

**Example:** When we went for exhibition at our county stadium there were very many different items made. There was a talking beast. That was a mass of evidence suggesting that it was a chimera, an invention, a deliberate obstruction of the truth.

- The whole saga leaves a host of questions unanswered and raises the suspicion of a cover up.

**Saga** – a long traditional story about adventures. The adventure was questionable.

### **Example**

- The story about the toothless giant left a lot to be desired. The whole saga leaves a host of questions unanswered. It raised the suspicion of a cover up.

He is simple a man honour wishing to tell the truth.

### **Meaning**



He is honest, sincere and not a liar.

**Example:** The most wanted burglar was captured in the market by the flying squad. He looked decent, simple and innocent. A man honour wishing to tell the truth.

➤ She showed herself on a number of occasions to be calm, composed and unblushing liar.

**Calm** – reserved, composed, cool, collected.

**Unblushing liar** – without shame of falsehood

**Example:** The girl who performed well in the K.C.P.E exam was noticed to be of exemplary character in school. She showed herself on a number of occasions to be calm, composed and unblushing liar.

➤ She was vague, evasive and lacking candour.

**Vague** – not clearly understood or clearly expressed

**Evasive** – elusory, fugitive, shifty.

**Candour** – the quality of saying what you think openly and honestly.

### **Meaning**

She was not elaborate and clear.

**Example:** When the culprit was taken to the law courts. She became tongue-tied. She was vague, evasive and lacking candour.

➤ We changed direction and scope of operation.

### **Meaning**

We changed mode of living and handling things.

**Example:** When he found that there was little success in loitering, he changed his direction of doing things and scope of operation. He began to embark on serious work.

➤ It entered the media scene on the wave of political pluralism.

**Media** – radio, television, newspaper

**Scene** – spectacle, exhibition, display, view

### **Meaning**

He became popular and renowned through the media.

**Example:** The presidential aspirant did his campaign expansively. He entered the media scene on the wave of politics and lured the electorate with his sugar coated speech.

➤ He could not shed light on his whereabouts

### **Meaning**

His deals could not be noticed easily

**Example:** He moved up and down in the market. After some time. He lost into thin air. Her mother could not shed light on his whereabouts.

➤ He has been his right – hand man since the latter politics

### **Meaning**

He has been his dependable person since he joined politics.

**Example:** His personal assistant has been his friend since time immemorial. He has been his right hand man since the latter politics.

➤ He controlled a nationwide network of intelligence agents, informants and thugs.

### **Meaning**

He took part in spreading information

**Example:** The C.I.D policeman who was promoted to a higher rank had knowledge on technology. He controlled nationwide network of intelligence agents, informants and thugs during investigation.

➤ He fidgeted to create a whole sub culture of jokes and comments.

### **Meaning**

He took part in drama

**Example:** The actor participated wonderfully in the drama festival. He created a whole subculture of jokes and comments.

➤ After a spate of clever moves

➤ Spate –sudden rush

### **Meaning**

After few minutes

**Example:** The man who was kidnapped in town yesterday managed to escape and survived with his spate of clever moves. He mysteriously survived in the terrible ordeal.

➤ It recently brought learning to a grinding halt. It was intervened by ministry of education.

➤ Halt-stop

### **Meaning**

Education was put at stand still

**Example:** The recent election of B.O.M in my school brought mayhem, misunderstanding and fracas among the committee members. Everybody wanted to be elected. It brought learning in school to a grinding halt. It was intervened by the ministry of education.

➤ The fracas awoke supporters to reality and threw the house into disarray as they threatened to withdraw their support.

Disarray – total confusion

Fracas-confusion

**Example:** The arrival of the political leader awoke supporters to reality. He threw the crowd into disarray and fracas as they threatened to withdraw their support.

➤ In a new twist of events

### **Meaning**

A new way of doing things

**Example:** The new head teacher Mr. Kariuki introduced modern ways of doing things in our school. He fitted his systems in a new twist of events.

➤ He seemed to have hit the campaign trail on the wrong footing.

### **Meaning**

He appeared to have lost direction in his political direction.

**Example:** The old politician was dilly-dallying in his utterances. He seemed to have hit the campaign trail on the wrong footing. He lacked the content to lure the electorate.

➤ He looked like a rained-on chicken

### **Meaning**

He appeared confused and disoriented

**Example:** The traffic policeman suspected the driver of the bus to be drug trafficker. He was interrogated and reprimanded arrested him in the market. He frog- marched him in front of the crowd like a rained-on chicken to the police station.

➤ Chief instigator of her ouster

**Instigate** – commence

**Oust** – topple

### **Meaning**

He was behind her ouster.

### **Example**

The notorious gossip **in the village** was against the lady. She was the chief instigator of her ouster in the vetting panel. **She toppled her maliciously. She spread false rumours that she was corrupt.**

➤ In a spirit of let's forget the past.

### **Meaning**

In a the mood of reconciliation

**Example:** The pastor of our church talked to the new convert in a friendly way. He smiled at him in a spirit of let's forget the past.

➤ With all the avenues almost sealed, he tried his luck in uncle's house where he sought refuge.

### **Meaning**

With all ways almost closed, he sought trials elsewhere where he was nursing his shock.

**Example:**

The bright boy almost missed a vacancy in form one because of fees problem. With all avenues almost sealed, he tried his luck his **in** uncle's **home** where he received positive treatment

The occasion was a soft blackmail attempt

**Blackmail** – extort, exact coerce, bribe, force.

### **Meaning**

The occasion was quite bribe trail

**Example:** The quack medic inside the bus gave out the medical forms to passengers. He later solicited money **from them**. The occasion was a soft blackmail attempt to passengers.

➤ He is an up-coming politician who had not been tainted by the muck.

**Muck** – refuse, dung, waste, trash.

**Taint**-make it dirty

### **Meaning**

He was a genuine politician with clean track record.

**Example:** The parliamentary aspirant was an amateur and green in politics. He was an up-coming politician. He had not been tainted by the muck.

➤ The flowing rivers of love dried up and their marriage turned into a depressing and mechanical monotony.

### **Meaning**

The couple's warm, togetherness faded away due to infidelity

**Example:** The man was got red-handed by matrimonial wife talking with a young lady in a hotel. Immediately, the wife shouted with her mouth wide open. The flowing rivers of love from his family dried up. The marriage began to turn into a depressing and mechanical monotony.

➤ Their wedding had been a resounding success

### **Meaning:**

**Resounding-having rich sound.**

The wedding was a colourful as a rainbow

**Example:** The bride and bridegroom smiled with satisfaction after the wedding. Their wedding had been a resounding success.

➤ She continued showering profuse praises on her kin and kith.

➤ Kin and kith-related

*Profuse* – produce in large amount.

### **Meaning**

She appreciated the work she did

**Example:** After the arrival of her daughter in the airport, her mother brimmed with happiness. She could not hide her joy .Her melodious songs showered profuse praises on her daughter.

➤ The haphazard implementation of the system left much to be desired.

*Haphazard* – with no particular order or plan

*Implement* – to carry out

### **Meaning**

The unorganized dealing of the system left a lot to be asked about.

**Example:** During the victory and celebration of the actress the Disc jockey marvelled the audience with his dealing. The haphazard implementation of his system left much to be desired.

➤ Living in the grass-thatched house looking like a deserted shrine of ancient god.

➤ Shrine-traditional place of worship

➤ Ancient-old

### **Meaning**

**The old man left unceremoniously his aging house.**

**Example:** When the old man was shifted into a new palatial and sumptuous house by his daughter, he trotted happily. He left the grass-thatched house looking like a deserted shrine of an ancient god.

➤ The young parents were seen trapped in a crocodile's mouth, that depicted as petals of blood which forms part of crocodile's teeth.

*Crocodile's mouth* – trouble

*Depict* – show an image of somebody or something

**Example:** **When the thug was charged in robbery with violence**, he was given a death sentence. The young parents were seen trapped in a crocodile's mouth .That was depicted as petals of blood which formed part of crocodile's teeth.

➤ It was another oil on canvas painting with a preposterously sad story.

*Preposterously* – outrageous, completely

### **Meaning**

Unreasonable especially in a way that is shocking or annoying.

**Example:** The politician was competent and focused. His opponent tainted him of corruption. It was oil on canvas painting.

➤ He was the sort of a friend that one hardly expects to find anywhere in the world these days.

### **Meaning**

He was an honest, sincere and straight forward friend.

A true friend is seen in the action.

**Example:** When I was stranded on stage at 7 p.m. I had lost hope in positive thinking. I rang to my friend to come with his bright-crimson salon car. He came and took me to his house. He was the sort of a friend that one hardly expects to find anywhere in the world these days.

➤ Judged by the present while maintaining cobwebs and odour of the past

### **Meaning**

He stuck to his culture and pretended to be civilized and converted person.

**Example:** He pretended to be presentable in his mode of dressing and speech presentation. Judged by the present, he still maintained cobwebs and odor of the past deeds.

- The media survives on sincerity, honesty and reality.

### **Meaning**

The truth will set you free. Honesty is the best policy

**Example:** when news was broadcasted at 7 o'clock. Everybody was contended about it. Surely, the media survives on sincerity, honesty and reality.

- Behind every disagreement, there is somebody who is not listening, somebody who has selfish motives.

### **Meaning**

We agree to disagree

**Example:** The two parties could not harmonize their differences and relate well. I concur with the saying that behind every disagreement, there is somebody who is not listening, somebody who has selfish motives.

- We waited for an opportune moment to unleash our secret weapons, just to be sure we were on top of things and that we were bargaining from a point of strength

*Opportune moment – suitable for a particular thing.*

*Unleash – suddenly let a strong force*

**Example:** When the cattle rustlers invaded our village, we could hardly know how to go about with direction of events. We assembled ourselves and waited for an opportune moment to unleash our secret weapon; just to be sure we were on top of things and bargained from a point of strength against them.

- Always dressed simply, even casually and donning an omnipresent smile.

- Example:

The common in town always dress simply, even casually with donning an omnipresent smile to attract people of all walks of life and calibres

- He was not born with a silver spoon in the mouth.

### **Meaning**

He was not born with wealth.

**Example:** Marindany was a diligent man. He scratched and dug the earth for a cone of unga and school fees. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

- He looked as ferocious as a leopard caught in a trap.

### **Meaning**

He looked cruel and hostile

*Ferocious – cruel, harsh*

**Example:** The drug addict was handcuffed by the village elder; Mr. Korom. He became angry, reactive and looked as ferocious as a leopard caught in a trap.

- When the teacher shook hands with him, he felt like Thomas of the Bible poking his fingers into the ribs of Jesus to prove that the man was alive.

### **Meaning**

He smiled with satisfaction when he found him.

**Example:** Kipsoi had been ill for such a long time. When he recovered mysteriously, he felt happy. When the teacher met him after he was discharged, he shook hands with him. He felt like Thomas of the Bible poking his fingers into the ribs of Jesus to prove that the man was alive.

- It struck the deepest spot of my heart.

### **Meaning**

It affected from the top to the bottom of the heart.

**Example:** When the owner of the shops heard the news of fire accident, he became tongue tied and dumbfounded. The news struck the deepest spot of his heart.

- Clearing the air over the rumour that he had been certainly arrested by police.

### **Meaning**

He wanted to exonerate himself from any suspicion

**Example:** The manager came to the meeting last Tuesday intending to clear the air over the rumour that he had been arrested over fraud.

- She was a beacon of hope and success to the other womenfolk' .A faithful and trustworthy friend and sister. Add to all these fact that she has no time for fun. She was a diligent, dependable and exceptional in character.

### **Meaning**

She was dependable and forward focused

**Example:** The woman who retired from politics was a woman with beacon of hope and success to other womenfolk. She was faithful, workaholic and trustworthy friend. She was a garden of pleasure of entire nation.

- He was shrouded in mystery

### **Meaning**

The matter was not clear

*Shroud* – a thing that covers surrounds or hides something.

**Example:**

His recent demotion as the farm manager was shrouded with mystery. It was not clearly understood by **the workers**

- Abandoned by his uncle, he ran hustle and bustle around the building

### **Meaning**

He was left unnoticed

*Abandon* – leave

*Hustle* – to make somebody move quickly by pushing them in a rough aggressive way.

- Bustle – to make around in a busy way to hurry somebody in a particular direction. Busy and noisy activity.

**Example:** The boy accompanied his uncle to the third floor in matumaini building. However, he was abandoned. He began to run hustle and bustle around the building crying lacking how to go about with direction of events

His sugar coated rhetoric

**Meaning:** The politician addressed the crowd amicably with appealing speech.

**Example:**

The politician addressed the electorate and charmed them with his sugar coated rhetoric He impressed **them** with his sparkling conversation.

- He has an additional share of the wisdom of Solomon.

### **Meaning**

He was wise and intelligent.

**Example:** The magistrate judged the case wisely. Perhaps, he had an additional share of the Wisdom of Solomon.

- Meanwhile, the crowd outside the building swelled as curious on lookers started making inquiries; some wondering which important case attracted such attention.

### **Meaning**

There was a throng of people at the scene.

**Example:** The guest of honour entered in to the hall to attend a meeting. He was escorted by numerous people. Meanwhile, the crowd outside the building swelled as curious onlookers started making inquiries. Some wondering which important case had attracted such attention.

- It was like trying to stop a runaway train

### **Meaning**

He was over speeding

**Example:** The politician over sped with his Prado car that people wondered it was like trying to stop a runaway train.

- Like chasing wild unfriendly cat in an open football pitch.

### **Meaning**

The results of the movement could not be noticed.

**Example:** The most wanted thug **in the town** was followed up and down by the flying squad. It was like chasing wild unfriendly cat in an open football pitch.

- There was a collective explosive sigh

- **meaning**

Sighed - a deep breath

### **Meaning**

There was communal reaction and expression of sorrow.

**Example:** When the children were punished by the class teacher, there was a collective explosive sigh and groaning as they encountered the pain.

- I red flagged the things that were urgent.

### **Meaning**

I responded with agency to the things that were urgent.

**Example:** When the head teacher reported to his office in the morning, the class M.P red went to his office and flagged the matters that were to be urgently attended to.

- Had a strange note in her voice

### **Meaning**

He was peculiar in his way of talking.

**Example:** The teacher on duty addressed the assembly pupils with a strange note in his voice.

- The whole thing would blow in a front-page blast of headlines.

### **Meaning**

The whole thing was uncovered.

**Example:** When the investigation of corruption was completed the whole list was blown in a front-page blast of headlines.

- His face was impenetrable like a block of granite.

### **Meaning**

His face was contorted and rough.

**Example:** The watchman looked serious and unfriendly. He could not decipher issues very fast. His face was inpenetratable like a block of granite.

- A wall of tears suddenly masked the blue of her eye.

### **Meaning**

He began to shed tears.



**Example:** When the girl received the news that his brother had been kidnapped, a well of tears suddenly masked the blue of her eye.

➤ Danced like diamond on the snow.

**Meaning**

They swang their bodies happily.

**Example:** During his wedding, **her** sister became excessively excited. **She danced in the pavilion** like diamond on the snow. She swang her body in happiness.

➤ He sat there like a poor stupid idiot.

**Meaning**

He sat on a stump like an idler

**Example:** When I found him at the **road** junction he had sat there like a poor stupid idiot. He lacked how to go about with direction of events

➤ A blare of sound came from the television set involuntarily.

**Meaning**

A sudden sound emanated from the media.

**Example:** we sat with my niece on the table. We took a cup of tea with real buttered toast. Suddenly, a blare of sound came from the television set involuntarily. We glanced at it with our mouths wide open. **It was shortage of power.**

➤ She said in a professionally soothing voice that did nothing for me at all.

**Meaning:**

He talked well to him

**Example:** The teacher talked to me in a friendly and soft voice. He came to my rescue after being oppressed by my distant relative .He spoke to me in a professionally soothing voice that enticed me once and for all.

➤ His face was grey and eyes were blood shot with strain.

**Meaning**

He was weary and worn out.

**Example:** He was so exhausted that one could easily notice. His face was grey and wrinkled. His eyes were blood shot with strain.

➤ He wandered through the apartment like disembodied ghost.

*Wandered* – roam

*Disembodied* – coming from a person that cannot be identified.

**Meaning**

He roamed through the cube with no fixed destination.

**Example:** When my brother visited him in the school, he was taken to the dormitory. They wandered together through the apartment like disembodied ghost.

➤ He woke from the sleep feeling drugged and heavy.

**Meaning**

He woke up feeling worn out.

**Example:** When the boy visited him, he had slept. The mother awoke him up from the sleep. He began to take supper feeling drugged and heavy.

➤ He had been as nervous as an adolescent girl – impatient, moody, peevish, restless. **Moody-likely to become unhappy**

**Impatient-annoyed because something is not happening**

Peevish-easily annoyed

**Meaning**



He was not composed and steady

**Example:** When the guest of honour rose to greet the gathering, he seemed to lack what to say. He became impressed, impatient, moody, peevish and restless like an adolescent girl.

The smooth faced young girl

**Meaning**

Smooth, faced young girl

**Example:** When the ambassador arrived at the meeting, he was given a bouquet of flowers by a smooth faced young girl.

➤ He pulled his hand back as if he had touched a hot poker.

**Meaning**

He removed his hand very fast.

**Example:** The teacher tried to discipline the truant pupil. The pupil pulled his hand back as if he had touched a hot poker.

➤ He held her tightly, thrusting himself against her.

*Thrust* – push

**Meaning**

He gripped her firmly

**Example:** The two boys followed the girl from behind. Suddenly, they held the girl tightly, thrusting themselves against her.

➤ He looked timidly like a hare but friendly.

**Meaning**

He appeared coward like a hare

**Example:** The visitor was received with open arms. He looked timid like a hare but friendly.

➤ The bus gave a sickening lurch and came noisily to a halt

*Lurch* – move suddenly in a way that is not smooth.

**Meaning**

The bus zigzagged and stopped suddenly.

**Example:** When the tyres burst, the bus gave a sickening lurch. It came noisily to a sudden halt.

➤ Their eyes wide with curiosity.

**Meaning**

They became anxious

**Example:** The father arrived home with a paper bag on his hand. His children looked at it with eyes wide with curiosity.

➤ He nuzzled like a child

*Nuzzle* – cuddle, caress, and lie against

**Example:** when the man was got red handed stealing maize, he nuzzled and fidgeted like a child.

➤ He was loud mouthed little bastard.

*Bastard* – an illegitimate child.

**Meaning**

He was a noisy little boy born out of wedlock

**Example:**

**The politician was booed down. He sounded like a loud mouthed little bastard**

➤ Green like a savage animal in the night

*Savage* – bully, ruffian, beast

**Example:** The newcomer in our class was innocent and silent. He was green like a savage animal in the night.

➤ He returned his smile with warmth.

**Meaning**

He paid back the smile.

**Example:** When the two friends met together, they shook hands cordially and amicably. Each one of them returned a smile with warmth.

➤ He sat there smiling like a snake.

**Meaning**

He sat on a chair

**Example:** The baboon sat at the side of the road eating a banana. He waved to the road users smiling like a snake.

➤ I fixed myself on a drink.

**Meaning**

He began to drink.

My friend welcomed me to his farewell party. That day I went and sat down on an arm chair. I fixed myself on a drink.

➤ He mistook my silence for disapproval

**Meaning**

He took wrongly his silence.

**Example:** When he greeted me I did not hear, therefore I kept quiet. He mistook my silence for disapproval.

➤ He looked at the door with a thunderous frown.

*Frown* – contort

**Meaning**

He stared at the door with contortion and wrinkles on the face.

**Example:** when the culprit knocked at the door, the O.C.S stopped what he was doing and looked at him with a thunderous frown of unfriendliness.

➤ Better knocked up than knocked down.

**Meaning**

It is better to be motivated

**Example:** When the counselor came into my class madam Clara welcomed him. He advised the pupils appropriately. From there, I learnt that better knocked up than knocked down.

➤ He stiffened his lips trembling with outrage.

**Meaning**

He tightened his lips with unhappiness.

**Example:** The shopkeeper found the boy who had stolen his radio. He felt infuriated. He stiffened his lips trembling with outrage.

➤ He walked towards the classroom with his mincing gait.

*Gait* – posture

**Meaning**

He walked joyfully with wriggling posture.

**Example:** The girl who scored 450 marks was awarded a prize. When she was called upon by the education officer to collect her token. Ullulation took the part of the place. The girl walked towards the dais with her mincing gait.

- Toss his hands in a gesture of despair.

**Meaning**

He shook his hands in a desperate manner

**Example:** The burglars ambushed the watchman at Chemaluk primary school. They broke into the head teacher's office. The watchman was dumped in the ditch and left in the cold. When he regained consciousness he was interrogated by the head teacher. He talked to him in his moody conditions and felt frustrated. As he talked, he tossed his hands in a gesture of despair.

- He looked at him in a sour expression.

**Meaning**

He stared at him in unfriendly manner.

**Example:** As he read the results, the pupil looked at the list in a sour expression. He scored below than he expected.

- He lifted her eyebrows in surprise

**Meaning**

He became amazed and astonished

**Example:** When the boy was informed about the good news of scholarship, he lifted his eyebrows in surprise and disbelief.

- Nodded with a placating smile.

*Placate* – stop someone feeling angry.

**Meaning**

He exhibited happiness.

**Example:** When the boy was informed about embracing news of shinda shabiki he nodded with a placating smile and said: thanks be to God.

- He pounded the table with his bunch of keys, his face angry and flushed.

**Meaning**

He hit the table to show his reaction and unhappiness

**Example:** When the head teacher got the truant boys, he was infuriated. He pounded on the table with his bunch of keys. His face looked sullen and flushed.

- Laughter erupted among the spectators again.

**Meaning**

They laughed with their mouths wide open

**Example:** The comedian began his drama in the hall. Laughter erupted among the spectators again and again.

- He clicked his tongue in admiration

**Meaning**

He was totally engrossed in the drama

**Example:** When the dancers showed their agility during the competition, a spectator clicked his tongue in admiration and wonderment.

- He watched her with an expression of delight.

**Meaning**

He looked her with happiness

**Example:** Mr. Bowen, the county sports officer attended the athletics competition at his home school. He watched his daughter playing with an expression of delight as she ran the tough race.

- He nodded in acknowledgement of applause

**Meaning**

He responded positively to the greetings.

**Example:**

When the guest of honour stood, the audience clapped and nodded with acknowledgement of applause.

- An agony and turmoil of emotion was seething within her.

**Meaning**

Mixed up feelings was beginning to build up.

**Example:** As the wayward boy waited to be given counseling, agony and turmoil of emotions seethed within him.

- He who hesitates is lost.

**Meaning**

He who is doubtful is non-directional.

**Example:** The boy who scored highly in K.C.P.E had a vision to pursue engineering in future. He concurred with an adage who said he who hesitates is lost.

- Girlish face flushed with excitement.

**Meaning**

Her youthful face flared

**Example:** The little girl greeted him with her girlish face .She flushed with excitement. She was a wonderful girl with a ripping good sort.

- She contemplated the possibility of making her home.

**Meaning**

To think hard

*Contemplate* – meditate, ponder, think

**Example:** The couple sat dazed on the bench. He contemplated the possibility of making their home a better place to live in.

- He broke off with a gesture of protest.

**Meaning**

He withdrew involuntarily from the company.

**Example:** The politician was infuriated after his colleague attacked him maliciously. He rose up and broke off in the meeting with a gesture of protest.

- He left the office with a gleam of amusement in her eyes.

**Meaning**

He felt happy with contentment

**Example:** When his friend rang him about the good news of his results he felt happy. He left the county office with a gleam of amusement in her eyes.

- A thrill of acute terror and dismay darted through her heart.

*Thrill* – animate, inspire, excite.

*Dismay* – dread, terror, fear.

**Meaning**

Acute fear went through him.

**Example:** When the facilitator delayed in his presentation, it became darker and darker. A thrill of acute terror and dismay darted through the heart of attendees.

- Heavens, I should hate him like poison if he ever did such an outrageous thing. She told herself furiously

*Outrageous* – wanton, notorious, shameless, and disgraceful.

**Meaning**

He disliked him completely

**Example** The business man rushed towards his home panting and talking to himself. He never wanted his vehicle to be taken out without permission. He climbed a small hill towards his home and said, “Heavens, I should hate the driver like poison if he ever did such an outrageous thing. He said it furiously.

- He was walking about as strong as a horse.

**Meaning**

He walked on foot for a long distance.

**Example:** After the grandfather recovered from the illness, he began to walk about in the village as strong as a horse

- He is a sentimental old fool.

*Sentimental* – emotional, romantic, silly, dreamy

**Meaning**

He is an old foolish person.

**Example:** When he reached the core of the town, he met a sentimental old fool who was staggering. He had taken an illicit brew.

- An overwhelming personality

*Overwhelming* – overpowering, ruinous, overthrowing.

**Meaning**

Decent and appealing.

**Example:** The newly elected member of county assembly impressed the electorate with his best outfit showing an overwhelming personality.

➤ He saw how dangerous it would be to permit that atmosphere of drama to remain.

**Meaning**

He predicted the dangers ahead

**Example:** The boy was suspected to be frequently visiting the girl's home. The father saw how dangerous it would be to permit that atmosphere of drama to remain. He counselled the boy on dangers of early marriages.

➤ She suddenly rippled with laughter.

**Meaning**

He broke into laughter

**Example:** The Tea buying centre committee continued with the meeting until late in the afternoon. Suddenly, a humourist came into the hall. The crowd rippled with laughter when saw him imitate the retired president.

➤ He haunched his shoulders

*Haunched* – shrugged, shake.

**Example:** when the rude boy was summoned by the teacher on duty to the office, he hunched his shoulders in refusal and disappeared in to thin air.

➤ He was fond of good things of the world as any ordinary young man.

**Meaning**

He used to engage in worldly temporary pleasures.

**Example:** The man was romantic and outrageous in his activities. He was fond of good things of the world as any ordinary young man.

➤ He was always expanded like a flower in the sun to the festive atmosphere of a smart London restaurant.

**Meaning**

It got flourished and went on smoothly.

**Example:** The guest of honour rose up in the party with his glass of wine and danced to his favourite music. He expanded like flowers in the sun to the festive atmosphere of a smart London restaurant.

➤ She looked lovely that night, but she was unconscious of her allure, and felt like a fish out of water.

**Meaning**

He was out of place and uneasy

**Example:** The girl cried when we reached the new place. She looked lovely that night but she was unconscious of her allure. It was cold and misty. She felt out place and uneasy .In fact she felt like a fish out of water.

➤ He appeared an ill – tempered little pig

➤ **Meaning**

.He was reactive and controversial

**Example:** The old man reacted so fast to the allegation attached to him. He was an ill – tempered little pig.

➤ He was as excited as a child

**Meaning**

He was very happy like an infant.

**Example:** When he was read to be the appropriate person to get the rewards, he was excited as a child. **He exposed his white set teeth.**

➤ She was exquisite, radiant in powder blue georgette.

*Exquisite* – fine, scrupulous, precise

*Radiant* – luminous, shining

**Example:** The graduand who completed her University Studies was friendly, cordial and receptive. When we visited her in the graduation square, she was exquisite radiant in powder blue georgette **uniform.**

➤ They were being placed in an exceedingly awkward predicament.

*Predicament* – unpleasant situation

**Example:** After the culprit had been reprimanded, he denied. He was put in police **cell.** He was placed in an exceedingly awkward predicament.

➤ Cast her feminine toils

### **Meaning**

She tried to work hard.

**Example:** **Cheruto was a well-known athlete of Kazi Mbele County. She cast her feminine toils in Boston marathon race where she received gold metal.**

➤ He had lapsed into a morose frame of not good for anybody.

*Lapse* – slip, failure, error

*Morose* – feeling unhappy

### **Meaning**

He changed his public relations

**Example:** The man who was promoted recently in his job changed his physique totally into a beast. He had lapsed into a morose frame of not good for anybody.

➤ He was a cheerful and sensible companion

### **Meaning**

He is a happy and reasonable friend

*Cheerful* – gay, merry, joyful, happy, bright.

*Sensible* – reasonable, prudent, perceptive

**Example:** The two boys were fond of moving together. His friend was a cheerful and a sensible companion.

➤ He felt that an awkward moment had arrived and knew just what he was feeling.

### **Meaning**

The confusing time prevailed.

**Example:** When **the notorious boy** was **informed** about his weakness, he fidgeted impatiently. He said nothing. He felt that an awkward moment had arrived. He knew just what he was feeling. **The will of justice was turning too slow for him.**

➤ She was accustomed to being her own mistress to the management of her own affairs.

*Accustom* – use to known to

**Example:** The mother instructed her maid to leave the gathering and proceeded towards her home. She glanced at the wrist watch and kept quiet. She was accustomed to being her own mistress to the management of her own affairs.

➤ A pretty, fair-haired lady.

### **Meaning**

Good looking and presentable lady.

**Example:** When the guest of honour arrived at the meeting, a pretty, fair-haired girl stood up from the crowd and welcomed him with bouquet of flowers. **The guest smiled broadly.**

➤ He was a good looking man much nicer to look at most of the time.

### **Meaning**

He was appealing and presentable to the eyesight.

**Example:** The actor appeared on stage and smiled broadly. He was handsome and good looking man much nicer to look at most of the time.

➤ She was conscious of that acute feminine arrogance which inflates the heart of a woman when she walked besides a man at whom other looked in vain.

### **Meaning**

He had good looking gait and posture.

**Example:** The lady talked and smiled with her teeth with mid-path way fully exposed. She was conscious of acute feminine arrogance. That inflated her heart when she walked beside a man at who other looked in vain.

➤ He stood out like a dark enchanted castle against the starry sky.

*Enchanted* – entrance, entice, allure fascinate

*Starry* – full of stars.

**Example:** The **area**.M.C.A rose up in the meeting and waved to the crowd. He stood out like a dark enchanted castle against the starry sky. **The electorate welcomed him with ululation and happiness.**

➤ He had been such a fool to marry any girl on such footing.

### **Meaning**

He made the wrong choice by his impromptu marriage.

**Example:** The man found himself trapped in unhappy marriage triangle. He had married a maid unknowingly. Indeed; it had been such a fool to marry any girl on such footing.

➤ They met without any trace of antagonism

*Antagonism* – enmity

### **Meaning**

They interacted with no seeds of enmity

**Example:** **The opposition leader and the government officials held their talks peacefully in safari park hotel.** They met without any trace of antagonism.

➤ It blazed like living gold as they caught the last rays of the sun.

### **Meaning**

It was brilliant, bright and shiny.

**Example:** The graduation gown was very clean and shiny. It blazed like living gold as it caught the last rays of the sun. It was shining brilliantly and gallantly.

➤ Lulling her to oblivion

*Lull* – quiet, stillness, calm, pause.

*Oblivion (n)* – nonexistence, obscurity, void.

### **Meaning**

It soothed her to sleep

**Example:** The sweet silent music lulled her to oblivion as she listened to it.

➤ Grinned like a mischievous boy

*Grin (n)* – smirk, simper, delighted look, smile

*Mischievous* – (adj.), playful, roguish, prankish, naughty, rude.



**Example:** When the **boy** was got red-handed stealing books in class, he became tongue tied and started to grin like a mischievous boy.

➤ As Smooth as chestnut

*Smooth* – sleek

**Meaning**

Very soft comparable to a chestnut.

**Example:** The hen laid eggs which were as smooth as a chestnut

➤ Sparkle like a great opal.

*Sparkle* – glitter, glisten, twinkle, and shine

*Opal* – smooth stone used in jewellery

**Meaning**

It was bright and brilliant

**Example:** The torch used during initiation ceremony was very bright. It sparkled like a great opal.

➤ Came along and poured out a glass of coffee like a dutiful wife.

**Meaning**

Attended the visitor dutifully

**Example:** The little girl proved responsible. She came along and greeted the visitors .She poured him a glass of coffee like a dutiful wife.

➤ The most admirable quality he possessed was that of sanity.

*Sanity (n)* – sound mind, rationality, healthy mind, saneness, a clear mind, clear mindedness.

**Meaning**

Rational and sound in mind.

**Example:** **The storyteller was welcomed with open arms by the school children.** The most admirable quality he possessed is that of sanity.

➤ His own thoughts baffled and perplexed him.

*Baffled* – perplexed, puzzled, bewildered, confused

**Meaning**

He was totally confused and bewildered

**Example:** The man was booed down in the meeting. He lacked how to go about the direction of events. His own thoughts baffled and perplexed him.

➤ She seemed very youthful and dainty with her golden head, wide blue eyes and pasted-pink cheek.

➤ Dainty-excellent, valuable

**Meaning**

She was a young girl with noticeable character traits.

**Example:** The new teacher greeted us joyfully. She seemed very youthful and dainty with her golden head, wide blue eyes and pasted-pink cheek.

➤ He asked in a tone of defiance.

*Defiance (n)* – insubordination, rebellion disobedience

*Defiant (a)* – resistant, obstinate, rebellious.

**Example:** The angry father treated the **intruder** with suspicion. He asked question in a tone of defiance.

➤ As stiff as pokers.

**Meaning**

The tail was stiff and rigid.

**Example:** The dog was tough in hunting skills. Whenever a prey came into sight, the tail appeared as stiff as a poker.

➤ He was an irritating old idiot.

*Irritate* – to make somebody angry.

*Idiot* – fool

**Meaning**

He was a disturbing person

**Example:** The ex- politician was outdated with his campaign techniques. He gave a bogus and lengthy speech with little content. He appeared an irritating old idiot. **He was booed down by the electorate.**

➤ His heart pounded like a sledged-hammer.

**Meaning**

His heart palpitated loudly

**Example:** When the farm manager received the sad news about the death of his **big bull, he stood aghast. His** heart pounded in the chest like a sledged hammer.

➤ It was colossal impudence on his heart to talk to her as though nothing had happened.

*Colossal* – huge, enormous, immense, large

*Impudence (n)* – insolence, impertinence effrontery, rudeness.

**Meaning**

He talked to him with no sign of sympathy

**Example:** The son arrived home late in the evening. His father became infuriated. He interrogated him, “where were you all this time?”, he shouted loudly. The son fidgeted and said nothing. It was colossal impudence on his heart to talk to him as though nothing had happened.

➤ He run a veritable gamut of emotions.

*Veritable* – authentic, true, real, genuine

*Gamut* – The complete range of a particular kind of thing.

**Meaning**

He experienced true sense of emotions.

**Example:** When he saw K.C.P.E results on the school noticed board, he could not believe he had made it. He ran a veritable gamut of emotions.

➤ He was a sentimental little fool, only too ready to console him.

*Sentimental* – emotional, romantic silly, dreamy

**Meaning**

He was emotional little idiots

**Example:** The man was not sober. He was controversial **and judgmental**. He was a sentimental little fool, only too ready to console.

➤ A new, sharp pang stabbed his heart at the sight of it.

**Meaning**

He was totally affected by the occurrence

**Example:** The man could not live to believe the story of his **dependable dairy cow dying**. When he found the carcass on the ground, a new sharp pang stabbed his heart at the sight of it.

➤ She crumpled up, flung herself on her bed and began to cry like a baby.

*Crumpled* – break or rub into small pieces

**Meaning**

She wriggled on her bed with an outrage of relief.

**Example:** When the girl was admitted at sarwech health centre, she slept a little bit after receiving an injection. But suddenly, she crumpled up and flung herself on her bed and began to cry like a baby.

➤ One doesn't forget so easily when one really cares.

**Meaning**

When one is serious, **he/she** takes note of what is going on.

**Example:** The woman was very keen on weather change. She made her mind to take the umbrella to the meeting at school. From there, I witnessed the truth in the saying that one doesn't forget so easily when one really cares.

➤ Her eyes were red with weeping; she was miserably wretched because the whole thing had happened to destroy the happiness of life.

**Meaning**

He was totally in low spirits and unhappy.

**Example:** When **he** noticed that his shopping mall had been razed down by the raging fire, he felt disgusted and fed up. She cried and wailed. Her eyes were red with weeping. She was miserably wretched. The whole thing had happened to destroy the happiness of life.

➤ He tried to gain an audience from her cousin but he was not admitted.

**Meaning**

He was assumed and ignored

**Example:** He noticed that people were fed up with **his utterances**; he turned sideways where his cousin was sitting. He tried to gain an audience from him but he was not admitted.

➤ The ache in his heart was sharper and more difficult to bear.

**Meaning**

His disliked in the heart was raging

**Example:** When he **learnt** that he was being treated unfairly by his superior, he became infuriated. The ache in his heart was sharper and more difficult to bear.

➤ She was the exceptional pretty fluffy type of a woman a man could get.

Fluff – soft woolly material

**Meaning**

She was elegant and beautiful type of a woman.

**Example:** The congregation received the bride cordially and amicably. The pastor commented that the lady was exceptional, pretty, fluffy type of a woman a man could get.

➤ She was in a bad temper, and her pretty face was sullen and downcast

*Sullen* – silent, bad-tempered, dark and gloomy.

*Down cast* – sad

**Meaning**

She became infuriated and hungry

**Example:** The **girl** started behaving rudely in **school after starting illicit relationship with the milk vendor**. When his mother was informed, she was greatly affected. Upon meeting him, she was in a bad temper, and her pretty face was sullen and down cast.

➤ He was abashed by the gloom.

*Abashed (adj)* – confused, embarrassed

*Gloom* – feeling of sadness and hopelessness

**Meaning**

He was affected by bad occurrence

**Example:** The parent of the boy was not happy during Saturday visiting day at Karibu academy. He was abashed by the gloom of his child. The child must have suffered from the common cold.

➤ The atmosphere was very strained

**Meaning**

The situation was tense

**Example:** The old friends did not meet in the party. There were a lot of attendees and the atmosphere was very strained.

➤ She twisted the platinum wedding-ring playfully round her finger.

**Meaning**

He was proud of his precious ring

**Example:** The bride talked to his bridegroom amicably and cordially as she playfully twisted the platinum wedding-ring round her finger.

➤ She would end the whole argument and save an immense amount of trouble.

**Meaning**

She would bring commotion and misunderstanding to a halt.

**Example:** The teacher entered the classroom. The pupil kept quiet. She would end the whole argument and save an immense amount of trouble in the classroom.

➤ He restrained the impulse

➤ meaning

➤ He showed self-control

*Restrain* – hold back, keep under control, and prevent somebody from doing something

*Impulse* – push or threat, sudden inclination to act without thought.

**Example:** When the boy went to town, he saw many clothes hung on the wall but he managed to restrain his impulse.

➤ She yelled boyishly at the stinging coldness.

*Yell* – shout

**Meaning**

The boy quaked with intense coldness.

**Example:** When the bus climbed up the escarpment. It felt dense and almost at stand still. The boys yelled boyishly at the stinging coldness.

➤ She was strung up to an acute state of nervousness.

**Meaning**

He felt totally numb and dizzy

**Example:** When he received the news that he was being looked for by the police, he strung up to an acute state of nervousness.

➤ He experienced the most poignant desire to take.

*Poignant (adj)* – sharp in taste or smell to distressing to the feeling

**Meaning**

He developed desire towards it

**Example:** The mother felt touched when the boy was punished. He experienced the most poignant desire to take the boy away from that school.

➤ The regretful and desolate, feelings are against his wish of life.

**Meaning**

The fruitless feelings of life.

**Example:** The candidate forwarded his assignment to the examiner. He never wanted the regretful and desolate feelings against his wish of life.

➤ There were no traces of tears on her face

**Meaning**

The eyes were dry

**Example:** When she learnt that his only sheep had died, her face remained sullen. There were traces of tears on her face.

➤ He crimsoned and jammed her head

*Crimson* – deep red

Jam – crush; be crushed between two surface and three things.

**Meaning**

He changed his appearance and looked unhappy.

**Example:** When he bombarded him with news that he had failed in the end term test, he appeared crimsoned and jammed on his head.

➤ He kept her face admirably free of expression.

**Meaning**

He did not show any sign

**Example:** When the teacher asked the boy his name, he kept quiet. In fact he kept his face admirably free of expression.

➤ He was a stupid little idiot an interfering fool.

**Meaning**

He was an insane and lunatic person.

**Example:** The drunkard came to the meeting staggering. He appeared totally drunk. He was a kind of stupid little idiot and interfering fool.

➤ She had lived a perpetual state of disapproval since the arrival of the strange young pair.

**Meaning**

She became suspicious.

**Example:** The mother remained in a state of confusion when the young married couple arrived. The family had lived in a perpetual state of disapproval since the arrival of the strange young pair.

➤ He had a queer, guilty sensation in his heart.

*Queer* – strange, peculiar

**Meaning**

He encountered a strange feeling.

**Example:** The boy who stole the bicycle was got red handed. He had a queer, guilty sensation in his heart when he was arrested.

➤ Her heart was beating much faster for her own comfort.

**Meaning**

Her heart was palpitating.

**Example:** When she was informed of her K.C.P.E results, she got excited. Her heart started beating much faster for comfort.

➤ A drowsy smile passed across his face

*Drowsy* – sleepy and tired

**Example:** When his father arrived late in the night, he met the boy sleeping on the sofa set. He awoke him up. The boy woke up and a drowsy smile passed across his face as he welcomed his father.

- I hate the writhing shape of her lips

*Hate* – dislike, dictate, disgust

**Meaning**

I disliked her mouth appearance

**Example:** when the boy cried, his father scolded him. He disliked the writhing shape of his lips.

- His eyes were cold with misery, stared ahead hopefully

**Meaning**

His eyes were strained.

**Example:** When the lion appeared from the forest. The children ran for their dear lives. Their eyes experienced coldness with misery and stared ahead unseeingly.

- I wriggled under the formality feeling like a visitor.

**Meaning**

He hesitated to face the reality.

**Example:** When the unexpected demise rested upon his grandfather, he could not believe his ears. He wriggled under the formality feeling disoriented..

- She gave a loud neigh of laughter, long eyebrows moving up and down merrily.

**Meaning**

He laughed with mouth wide open.

**Example:** When the teacher gave Kiptoo his results slip, he stared at it and gave a loud neigh of laughter. His long eyebrows moved up and down merrily.

- There was a silly moment of confusion

**Meaning**

There was uncertainty and confusion.

**Example:** When the winner was announced during the choir competition. The audience bowed down to the adjudicator. There was a silly moment of confusion for some time.

- I showed my appreciation of her excellent cake by eating a great deal of it.

**Meaning**

I exhibited great interest in eating the cake.

**Example:** I attended a fantastic and colourful wedding in Kirinyaga County. I applauded the couple. I exhibited my appreciation of their excellent cake by eating a great deal of it.

- He started running with a terrific speed

*Terrific* – very good and interesting

**Meaning**

He ran as fast as his legs could carry him

**Example:** The robber was got red-handed by the watchman. He began to run with a terrific speed. He ran at a speed which could make a tortoise a champion.

- My heart beat furiously in the rib cage as little bits of tears trickled down my ruddy cheek.

*Furious (adj)* – violent, uncontrolled, full of fury

*Trickled* – flow in drops and in a thin stream weak or thin flow.

*Ruddy* – red, showing good health.

**Meaning**

I became astonished and mesmerized

**Example:** The father was informed of the son's failure in exams. He contorted and his heart beat furiously in the ribcage, little bits of tears trickle down his ruddy face.

- She smiled encouragingly

**Meaning**

She showed happiness

**Example:** When the girl met her grandmother at the gate. She smiled broadly encouragingly. He hugged each other as if they have never met for many years..

- Tears of sorrow brimmed his eyes and blinked repeatedly to restrain oneself.

*Brimmed* – to be full of something

**Meaning**

He shed tears due to misfortune

**Example:** When he received the news that his brother had been attacked by bandits, he was overcome with grief. Tears of sorrow brimmed his eyes. He blinked repeatedly to restrain oneself from shading. But then, tears cascaded down his muddy face like a waterfall.

- He stood aghast when he saw what had happened

*Aghast* – fill with horror and surprise when you see or hear.

**Meaning**

He stood tongue-tied and silent

**Example:** When he arrived at the market, he saw tyres burning. He stood aghast and rooted to the ground. He remained with his mouth wide open of what was happening.

- He leaped across the grassland as if a bullet had hit him .

*Leap-to jump*

**Meaning**

He jumped up as if a bee stung him

**Example:** When he noticed the snake lying beneath the stone he was sitting on, he leapt across the grassland as if a bullet had hit him.

- Her mind did a whirl wind and refused to function

*Whirl wind* – turn around, rotate, spin, turn.

**Example:** When the girl was got red-handed by the teacher on duty sneaking out of the school, her mind did a whirl wind and refused to function. She fainted forth with.

- He had spasms of joy

*Spasms* – convulsion, seizure, contradiction, fit

**Example:** When the boy was announced to be the first candidate in K.C.P.E, he encountered a spasm of joy. Tears of disbelief welled up in his face.

- A Goliath of a man approached me.

**Meaning**

A huge person appeared

**Example:** As they were fetching firewood in the forest, a Goliath of a man approached them with his threatening face. They turned back and retraced their steps. They ran as fast as their legs could carry them.

- She shed tears of joy

**Meaning**

He brimmed with happiness

**Example:** When he received the news of his scholarship, he shed tears of joy. He jumped up and down in transport joy

- She began sobbing pitifully

*Sob* – cry.

### **Meaning**

He showed mercy on her

**Example:** When he learnt that his mother was bereaved, **his son** showed concern and began to sob pitifully.

➤ He dressed in rags and his feet were bare.

*Bare* – not covered by any clothes

### **Meaning**

He was indecent and shaggy

**Example:** When the mad man stood in the meeting, the guest **of honour** remained silent. He had dressed in rags and his feet were bare.

➤ He heard the shuffling of feet.

### **Meaning**

She heard footsteps.

**Example:** The thief sneaked secretly into the maize store. The watchman heard the shuffling of feet. He began to grope for a torch in readiness for eventuality.

➤ His eyes were wide with terror.

### **Meaning**

He was scared and amazed

**Example:** It was last week when his laptop was stolen in his office. He could not say anything. His eyes were wide with terror.

➤ I made a clean pair of heels back home

### **Example:**

I walked early that morning to the bus stop with great enthusiasm only to be stranded. Indeed, there was no vehicle plying the route I wanted to go. There was no option left other than to *make a clean pair of heels back home* with my handbag dangling on the shoulders. I shall live to remember that day. **It was terrible ordeal.**

➤ The rising sun slowly crept its rays into my room

*Creep* – sneak in secretly, tiptoe

### **Meaning**

The light penetrated into my room.

**Example:** At the crack of dawn, birds chirped with their sweet lulling melodies. The rising sun slowly crept its rays into my room.

➤ He screamed loud enough to awaken the dead

### **Meaning**

He shouted heavily with all the strength.

**Example:** He was ambushed by the bandits at the dangerous corner. He screamed loudly enough to awaken the dead.

➤ She felt happy and smiled pleasantly.

### **Meaning**

He was overjoyed to the point of madness.

**Example:** The grandson gave a blanket to the grandfather. **His grandfather** felt happy and smiled pleasantly exposing his tobacco stained teeth.

➤ He speaks loudly rolling his eyes in most terrifying manner.

### **Meaning**



He was emphatic in his point

**Example:** The sub county administrator was emphatic in his utterances. He spoke loudly in the meeting rolling his eyes in the most terrifying manner.

➤ They went back to school singing victory songs, jumping and bouncing along like Kangaroos.

**Meaning**

They retraced their steps in ululation

**Example:** When the K.C.P.E results were announced in the radio, the students went to the gate **ululating and** singing. Their school had done well. They went back to school singing victorious songs. They jumped and bounced along like Kangaroos.