



Thinking about the Language

I. From the table below, make as many correct sentences as you can using *would* and/or *used to*, as appropriate. (Hint: First decide whether the words in *italics* show an action, or a state or situation, in the past.) Then add two or three sentences of your own to it.

Emperor Akbar	would used to	be fond of musical evenings.
Every evening we		take long walks on the beach
Fifty years ago, very few people		own cars.
Till the 1980s, Shanghai		have very dirty streets.
My uncle		spend his holidays by the sea.

Answer:

1. Emperor Akbar *used to* be fond of musical evenings.
2. Every evening we *used to* take long walks on the beach.
3. Fifty years ago, very few people *used to* own cars.
4. Till the 1980s, Shanghai *used to* have very dirty streets.
5. My uncle *would* spend his holidays by the sea.
6. My uncle *used to* take long walks on the beach.
7. My uncle *used to* be fond of musical evenings.

Page No: 112

II. Noun Modifiers

1. Look at these examples from the text, and say whether the modifiers (in *italics*) are nouns, proper nouns, or adjective plus noun.

- (i) *An otter* fixation (iv) The *London* streets
(ii) The *iron* railings (v) *soft velvet* fur
(iii) The *Tigris* marshes (vi) A *four-footed* soccer player

Answer:

- (i) Noun
(ii) Noun
(iii) Proper noun
(iv) Proper noun

- (v) Adjective plus noun
 (vi) Adjective plus noun

2. Given below are some nouns, and a set of modifiers (in the box). Combine the nouns and modifiers to make as many appropriate phrases as you can. (Hint: The nouns and modifiers are all from the texts in this book.)

temple three girls triangle dresses
 person thoughts boys roar
 gifts scream farewell expression
 time subject landscape handkerchief
 crossing flight chatterbox profession
 physique coffee view celebration

college	rough	hundred	stone	ordinary
love	uncomfortable	white	slang	slack
bare	railroad	tremendous	family	marriage
plump	invigorating	panoramic	heartbreaking	birthday
incurable	ridiculous	loud	first	

Answer:

Temple – white temple, stone temple, first temple

Person – incurable person, ridiculous person

Gifts – hundred gifts, ordinary gifts, birthday gifts

Time – college time, rough time, first time

Crossing – railroad crossing, first crossing

Physique – plump physique, ordinary physique

Three girls – first three girls, incurable three girls

Thoughts – incurable thoughts, uncomfortable thoughts, ridiculous thoughts, heartbreaking thoughts, first thoughts, ordinary thoughts

Scream – tremendous scream, loud scream

Subject – college subject, ordinary subject

Flight – rough flight, first flight

Coffee – invigorating coffee, ordinary coffee

Triangle – love triangle

Boys – college boys, incurable boys, rough boys, hundred boys

Farewell – college farewell, heartbreaking farewell

Landscape – bare landscape, rough landscape, white landscape

Chatterbox – incurable chatterbox

View – tremendous view, panoramic view, ordinary view

Dresses – hundred dresses, ordinary dresses, birthday dresses, marriage dresses

Roar – tremendous roar, loud roar

Expression – bare expression, slang expression, slack expression

Handkerchief – white handkerchief, ordinary handkerchief

Profession – family profession, first profession, ordinary profession

Celebration – tremendous celebration, family celebration, birthday celebration

Page No: 113

III.

1. Match the words on the left with a word on the right. Some words on the left can go with more than one word on the right.

- (i) a portion of - blood
- (ii) a pool of - cotton
- (iii) flakes of - stones
- (iv) a huge heap of - gold
- (v) a gust of - fried fish
- (vi) little drops of - snow
- (vii) a piece of - water
- (viii) a pot of - wind

Answer:

- (i) a portion of - fried fish
- (ii) a pool of - blood
- (iii) flakes of - snow
- (iv) a huge heap of - stones
- (v) a gust of - wind

(vi) little drops of - water

(vii) a piece of - cotton

(viii) a pot of - gold

2. Use a bit of/a piece of/a bunch of/a cloud of/a lump of with the italicised nouns in the following sentences. The first has been done for you as an example.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (i) My teacher gave me some <i>advice</i> . | My teacher gave me a bit of advice. |
| (ii) Can you give me some <i>clay</i> , please. | _____ |
| (iii) The <i>information</i> you gave was very useful. | _____ |
| (iv) Because of these factories, <i>smoke</i> hangs over the city. | _____ |
| (v) Two <i>stones</i> rubbed together can produce sparks of fire. | _____ |
| (vi) He gave me some <i>flowers</i> on my birthday. | _____ |

Answer:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (i) My teacher gave me some <i>advice</i> . | My teacher gave me a bit of advice. |
| (ii) Can you give me some <i>clay</i> , please. | Can you give me a lump of clay, please. |
| (iii) The <i>information</i> you gave was very useful. | The piece of information you gave was very useful. |
| (iv) Because of these factories, <i>smoke</i> hangs over the city. | Because of these factories, a cloud of smoke hangs over the city. |
| (v) Two <i>stones</i> rubbed together can produce sparks of fire. | Two pieces of stones rubbed together can produce sparks of fire. |
| (vi) He gave me some <i>flowers</i> on my birthday. | He gave me a bunch of flowers on my birthday. |

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