



C. Thinking About language

Talk to your partner about the following:

Question 1. Which language do you think the author and his grandmother used while talking to each other?

Answer: The author's grandmother was not much educated. So, I think the author and his grandmother used to talk in their mother tongue—in this case Panjabi.

Question 2. Which language do you use to talk to elderly relatives in your family?

Answer: My elderly relatives are well versed in English and Hindi. I feel at home greeting them in English but like to converse with them freely in Hindi.

Question 3. What is the expression used in your language for a 'dilapidated drum'?

Answer: The expression used in our language for a 'dilapidated drum' is 'phata-purana dho.

Question 4. Can you think of a song or poem in your language that talks of homecoming?

Answer: There are many folk songs and poems singing of the exploits of brave warriors. All these talk of their homecoming after winning a battle.

D. Working with Words

I. Notice the following uses of the word 'tell' in the essay:

1. Her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary.
2. I would tell her English words and little things of Western Science and learning.
3. At her age one could never tell.
4. She told us that her end was near.

Given below are four different senses of the word 'tell'. Match the meaning to the uses listed above.

- (a) make something known to someone in spoken or written words
(b) count while reciting
(c) be sure
(d) give information to somebody.

Answer:

Phrases	Meaning
1. telling the beads	(b) count while reciting
2. tell her	(d) give information to somebody
3. one could never tell	(c) be sure
4. told us	(a) make something known to someone in spoken or written words

II. Notice the different senses of the word 'take':

1. to take to something: to begin to do something as a habit
2. to take ill: suddenly become ill

Locate these phrases in the text and notice the way they are used.

Answer: In the text, these phrases are used as under:

1. to take to: She took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house.
2. take ill: The next morning she was taken ill.

III. The word 'hobble' means to walk with difficulty because the legs and feet are in bad condition.

Tick the words in the box below that also refer to a manner of walking.

<i>haggle</i>	<i>shuffle</i>	<i>stride</i>	<i>ride</i>	<i>waddle</i>
<i>wriggle</i>	<i>paddle</i>	<i>swagger</i>	<i>trudge</i>	<i>slog</i>

Answer: The words referring to a manner of walking are:
shuffle, stride, waddle, swagger, trudge, slog.

IV. Notice these expressions in the text. Infer their meaning from the context

➤ <i>the thought was almost revolting</i>	➤ <i>a veritable bedlam of chirrupings</i>
➤ <i>an expanse of pure white serenity</i>	➤ <i>frivolous rebukes</i>
➤ <i>a turning-point</i>	➤ <i>the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum</i>
➤ <i>accepted her seclusion with resignation</i>	

Answer:

- the thought was almost revolting: It was disgusting to think so.
- an expanse of pure white serenity: widespread clear and calm whiteness.
- a turning point: the time when an important change takes place.
- accepted her seclusion with resignation: calmly submitted to her loneliness.
- a veritable bedlam of chirruping's: real confusing noise caused by chirping.
- frivolous rebukes: light rebukes
- the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum: the loose skin of an old drum.

E. Noticing Form

Notice the form of the verbs highlighted in these sentences:

1. My grandmother was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe.

2. When we both had finished we would walk back together.

3. When I came back she would ask me what the teacher had taught me.

4. It was the first time since I had known her that she did not pray.

These are examples of the past perfect forms of verbs. When we recount things in the distant past we use this form.

Other examples for practice

Notice the form of verbs highlighted in these sentences:

Answer:

1. We understood the poem only when the teacher had explained it twice.
2. When the rain came, they had already reached their hotel.
3. We had worked together on that project for six months before she left me.
4. It was the first time since I had lived there that it began to snow.
5. The full moon was in the sky and had scattered its soft light all around.

F. Things to do

Talk with your family members about elderly people who you have been intimately connected with and are not there with you now.

Write a short description of someone you liked a great deal.

Answer:

My Grandmother:

I lost my grandmother when I was twelve, but I still recollect her. She

loved me affectionately and I liked her a great deal. She was quite old then, but she could move about with ease. I was her constant companion during her visits to temple, market, garden or to the houses of friends and relatives. Other members of the family would taunt me as granny's watch dog. She was my shield. I ran to her arms when my father or mother would get angry or thrash me. I miss the bedtime stories she used to tell me. Those highly fanciful stories were full of deeds of bravery or adventure and end on a note a success. They inspired me to do noble deeds in life. She was equally careful about my health and studies. She would make me drink milk and eat fruit to maintain a sound physique. She was good at drawing and helped me in writing alphabets. She also gave ready-made solutions to all my problems. She would bless me whenever I got success in any field—studies, sports, song, poetic recitation, poster making or fancy dress competition. Sometimes I miss her a lot.

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