



Page No: 128

#### Comprehension Check

1. "I got up early, for me." It implies that

- (i) he was an early riser.
- (ii) he was a late riser.
- (iii) he got up late that morning.

Mark the correct answer.

Answer: It implies that (ii) he was a late riser.

2. The bicycle "goes easily enough in the morning and a little stiffly after lunch." The remark is .

- (i) humorous.
- (ii) inaccurate.
- (iii) sarcastic.
- (iv) enjoyable.
- (v) meaningless.

Mark your choice(s).

Answer: The remark is

- (i) humorous
- (iii) sarcastic
- (iv) enjoyable.

3. The friend shook the bicycle violently. Find two or three sentences in the text which express the author's disapproval of it.

Answer: (i) "Don't do that; you'll hurt it."

(ii) I did not see why he should shake it; it had not done anything to him.

(iii) I felt much as I should had he started whacking my dog.

(iv) "It doesn't if you don't wobble it."

(v) "Don't you trouble about it any more; you will make yourself tired. Let us put it back and get off."

4. "...if not, it would make a serious difference to the machine." What does 'it' refer to?

Answer: 'It' refers to the little balls bearing of the wheel that rolled all over the path.

Page No: 132

#### Working with the Text

Answer the following questions.

1. Did the front wheel really wobble? What is your opinion? Give a reason for your Answer:.

Answer: No, the front wheel really didn't wobble. As author himself said that "It doesn't if you don't wobble it. It didn't wobble, as a matter of fact nothing worth calling a wobble." So, My opinion is wheel really didn't wobble at all. It all started after the treatment by that man.

Page No: 133

2. In what condition did the author find the bicycle when he returned from the tool shed?

Answer: When author returned from the tool shed, he that the front wheel of his bicycle was between his legs. He was playing with it, twiddling it round between his fingers and the remnant of the machine was lying on the gravel path beside him.

3. "Nothing is easier than taking off the gear-case." Comment on or continue this sentence in the light of what actually happens.

Answer: This sentence was said in the sense that taking off the gear case was an easy task. Actually, the author tried to dissuade him from taking off the gear-case by telling him that his one of the friend said that if anything went wrong with gear-case, he can sell the machine and buy a new one; it comes cheaper. But he said that nothing is easier than taking off a gear-case and author's friend didn't have knowledge about machine. In less than five minutes, he had the gear-case in two pieces lying on the path, and was grovelling for screws.

4. What special treatment did the chain receive?

Answer: The lunatic man tightened the chain till it did not move and after that he loosened it until it was twice as loose as it was before.

5. The friend has two qualities — he knows what he is doing and is absolutely sure it is good. Find the two phrases in the text which mean the same.

Answer: cheery confidence  
inexplicable hopefulness

6. Describe 'the fight' between the man and the machine. Find the relevant sentences in the text and write them.

Answer: One moment the bicycle would be on the gravel path, and he on top of it. Next moment, the position would be reversed, he on the gravel path, the bicycle on him. Now he would be standing flushed with victory, the bicycle firmly fixed between his legs. But his triumph would be short-lived. After being dirty and disheveled, cut and bleeding 'the fight between the man and the machine was over. The bicycle looked as if it also had had enough of it.

#### Working with Language

I. Read the following sentences.

- We should go for a long bicycle ride.
- I ought to have been firm.
- We mustn't lose any of them.
- I suggested that he should hold the fork, and that I should handle the wheel.

The words in italics are modal auxiliaries. Modal auxiliaries are used with verbs to express notions such as possibility, permission, willingness, obligation, necessity, etc. 'Should,' 'must' and 'ought to' generally express moral obligation, necessity and desirability.

Look at the following.

- We should go on a holiday. (suggestion: It is a good idea for us to go on a holiday.)
- He is not too well these days. He must see a doctor before he becomes worse. (compulsion or necessity: It is absolutely essential or necessary for him to see a doctor.)
- You ought to listen to me. I am well over a decade older than you. (more emphatic than 'should': Since I am older than you, it is advisable that you listen to me.)

Note: 'Should' and 'ought to' are often used interchangeably.

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