

ENGLISH

STANDARD NINE

TERM III

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The English textbook for Standard IX has been prepared following the guidelines given by National Curriculum Framework, 2005. The seven units of the book aim at acquainting the learners with different genres of literature such as story, autobiography, science fiction and humour. The different types of poems are selected to inspire the learners to explore the language and cherish the joy of learning.

The grammar and language activities are chosen to help the learners to communicate with confidence and accuracy. An attempt has been made to enrich vocabulary through a variety of activities on synonyms, antonyms, matching words to meanings, word building (prefixes, suffixes, phrasal verbs), British/American English, idioms, phrases and abbreviations. Attention has been drawn to grammar in context. A close reading of the prose texts will facilitate the understanding of prepositions of time and space, sentence patterns, the use of tenses, gerunds and infinitives, active and passive voice, modals, question tags, reported speech, conditional clauses, transformation of sentences and relative pronouns.

The learner friendly language study under the prose lesson of each unit focuses on the integration of four skills namely Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Activity packed language tasks include role play, pair and group work, writing advertisements, making posters, preparing announcements and translating words used in everyday life.

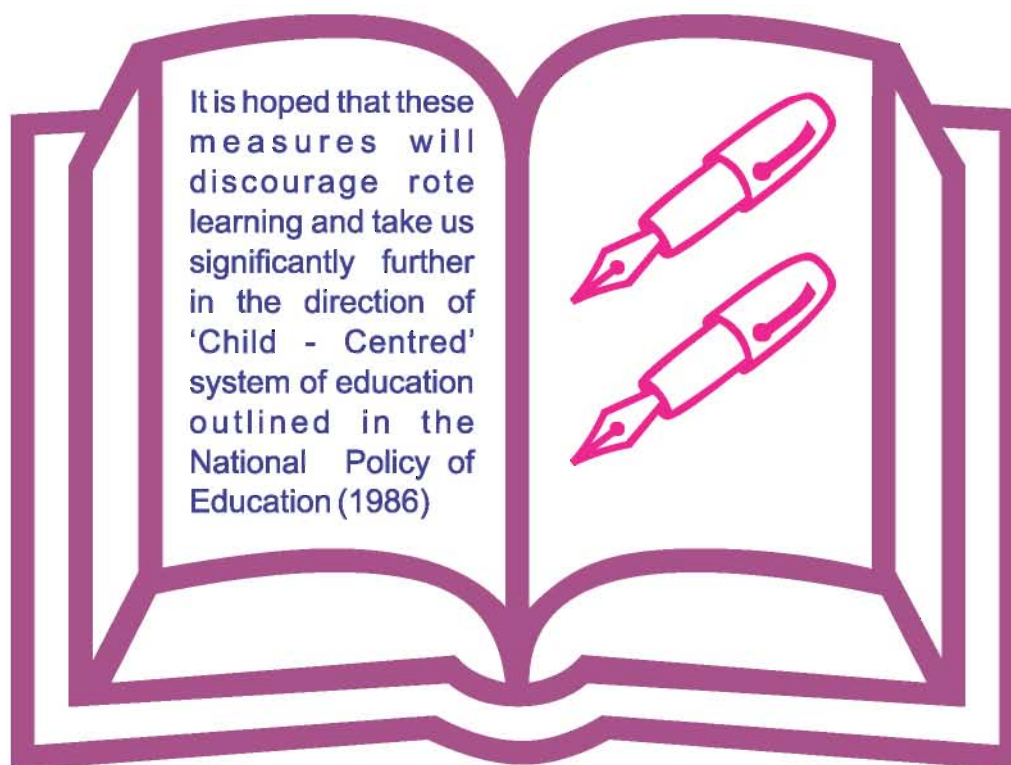
The task 'Warming - up' given at the beginning of each unit is designed to facilitate the learner to develop the skill of guessing and predicting what is coming next. The learner should be encouraged to actively participate in this task.

UNIT - I

This unit throws light on man's family bondage and his relationship with the society. Relationships are like seeds. They have to be nurtured and developed. The story "Miriam's Letter" portrays the love of a father to his daughter. He spends the rest of his life longing to hear from her. The poem "A Sonnet For My Incomparable Mother" depicts the admiration of a daughter for her mother. The supplementary lesson "A Stroke of a Genius" is an imaginary story that tells us about the master plan of Birbal.

UNIT - II

This unit deals with the real life adventure that took place in an aeroplane. The presence of mind, courage and the conviction exhibited by the lead character would inspire the young minds and teach them to face any situation in their life. The poem highlights the adventurous spirit of the Wright brothers and 'to live and never say die' attitude of the siblings. The supplementary lesson is a science fiction with an element of surprise at the end. It kindles the creative competence of the young minds.



Unit 1 Prose

Miriam's Letter



Here is an interesting conversation between Rohit and his mother

Mother : Rohit ! Rohit! Come on! Your breakfast is ready! Where are you?

Rohit : Mom! I'm coming, wait...

Mother : Oh! You are with your cell phone!

Rohit : I have an interesting message! Come and read it!

(Mother reads the message)

Mother : Oh! I can't make head or tail out of it!

Rohit : The message is "cud u pls Jn us 2morrow for d b'day party?"

Mother : You have the world in your palm.

Rohit : Certainly mom! We do not have time at all.

Mother : (Nostalgically) In our days, we used to wait for the postman's arrival very anxiously. He used to read to those who couldn't read and write letters.

Rohit : In today's fast track world, we are hard pressed for time. Please understand.

Mother : Letters are like messengers. They carry personal, casual and sentimental messages. Today's SMS is just mechanical. The SMS has only evolved from the age old practice of writing letters.

Rohit : Mom! If you don't adopt modern technology, you will only be a spectator in the march of civilization.

Mother : I would like to be a spectator only. The love, the warmth and the personal touch are lacking in your SMS. mmmm... Do you write letters to your dear ones?

This story is about a father waiting for a letter from his daughter.

In the grey sky of early dawn, stars still glowed. An old man was walking through the town, drawing his **tattered** cloak closer to shield his body from the cold and biting wind. Except for the occasional bark of a dog, or the screech of a bird disturbed before its time, the whole town was wrapped in deadly silence. Most of its **inhabitants** were still asleep. The old man, shivered at times but **plodded** on till he came out of the town-gate on to a straight road. On one side of the road was a row of trees, on the other side the town's public garden. At the end of the garden, stood a handsome building of the newest style, and the light **gleamed** in the **crevices** of its closed doors and windows.



Glossary

tattered- ragged

inhabitants- residents, dwellers

plodded- walked heavily

gleamed- glowed

crevices- narrow openings

In which part of the day is the story set? Why were the streets deserted?



As soon as he saw the wooden arch of this building, the old man was filled with hope and joy. On the arch hung an old board with the newly painted letters "Post Office". The old man went in quietly and squatted on the veranda. The voices of two or three people busy with their routine work could be faintly heard through the wall.

"Police Superintendent", a voice called sharply. The old man stared at the sound, but composed himself again to wait. But for the faith and love, that warmed him, he could not have borne the bitter cold.

Name after name rang out from within as the clerk read out the English addresses in the letters and flung them to the waiting postmen. From long practice he had acquired great speed at reading out the titles –Commissioner, Superintendent, Diwan Sahib, and Librarian - and in flinging the letters out.

In the midst of this procedure a jesting voice from inside called, "Coachman Ali!"

The old man got up, raised his eyes to heaven in gratitude and stepping forward put his hands to the door.

"Gokul Bhail"

"You called out Coachman Ali's name, didn't you? Here I am. I have come for my letter."

"Yes. Who is there?"

"It's an old man, sir, who worries us by calling everyday for letters that never come," said the clerk to the postmaster.

The old man went back slowly to the bench on which he had been **accustomed to sitting** for five long years.

Ali had been a clever hunter once. As his skill increased, so did his love for the hunt. Soon it became an **obsession**. Not a day passed without Ali setting out with his gun. People said that when Ali sighted the earth-brown partridge, almost invisible to the eyes of others, the poor bird, was as good as in his bag.

What was Coachman Ali's favourite sport?
How good was he at hunting?

Glossary

faintly - indistinctly
accustomed to - got used to
obsession - an idea or feeling that completely occupies the mind

The East India Company opened a post box in Bombay in 1688. This was the beginning of the Postal system in India.

His sharp eyes saw the hare crouching even when the dogs failed to see the creature cunningly hidden in the yellow brown scrub. Ali's eyes would look out for the sight of his ears; and in the next moment it would be dead. Besides this, he would often go out with his friends, the fishermen.

But when the evening of his life was drawing near, he left his old ways and took a new turn. His only child, Miriam married and went off with a soldier to his regiment in the Punjab, and for the last five years he had no news of his daughter and he continued a cheerless existence. Now he understood the meaning of love and separation. He could no longer enjoy the sportsman's pleasure and laughter at the **bewildered** terror of the young partridges **bereft** of their parents.

He gave up hunting and spent all his time reflecting upon his life and admiring the beauty of the lush green fields. He thought about it deeply, and came to the conclusion that the whole universe is built up through the love and that the grief of separation is inescapable. He sat down under a tree and wept bitterly. From that day he rose at four o'clock each morning to walk to the post office. In his whole life, Ali had never received a letter, but with a devout **serenity** born of hope and faith he persevered and was always the first to arrive.

As Ali waited, peons would come for their letters - these smart young peons in their spotless turbans and squeaky shoes were always eager to express themselves. With great enthusiasm, they would exchange news from their various offices. One day, Ali was there as usual and did not move from his seat when the door was opened.

"Police Commissioner!" the clerk called out, and a young fellow stepped forward briskly for the letters. "Superintendent!" Another voice called. Another peon came. And so the clerk, like a worshipper of Vishnu, repeated his customary thousand names.

At last they left for their respective officers. Ali got up too and saluting the post-office as though it housed some precious **relic**, went off, a pitiable figure, a century behind his time.

"That fellow", asked the post-master, "is he mad?"

1. What made Ali realize the pangs of separation?
2. Why did he give up hunting?
3. Why did Ali cry bitterly?

Glossary

bewildered - confused
bereft - lonely/
 abandoned
serenity - calmness
relic - an object kept
 for its association with
 the past; a memento.

PIN Code- Postal Index Number is the post office numbering or post code system used by Indian Post. PIN Code has six digits and was introduced on 15th August 1972.

"Who sir? Oh yes," answered the clerk, "He has been here every day for the last five years. But he doesn't receive any letters."

"Who does he think will have time to write a letter every day?"

"But he is a bit mad, sir. In the old days, he committed many sins; and maybe he had shed some blood within some sacred **precinct** and is paying for it now," the postman added in support of his statement.

"Madmen are strange people," the postmaster said.

For several days Ali did not come to the post office as he usually did. Everyone wondered why, but no one cared enough to find out the reason. At last he came again; but it was a struggle for him to breathe and on his face were clear signs of approaching end. That day he could not contain his impatience.

"Master Sahib," he begged the post master, "Have you a letter from my Miriam?"

The post master wanted to get out to the country, and was in a hurry.

"What a pest you are, Bhai!" he exclaimed **haughtily**.

"My name is Ali," answered Ali absent-mindedly.

"I know! I know! But do you think we've got your Miriam's name registered?"

"Then please note it down, brother. It will be useful if a letter should come when I am not here." For how should the villager who had spent three-quarters of his life hunting know that Miriam's name was not worth a paisa to anyone but her father?

The postmaster was beginning to lose his temper. "Have you no sense?" he cried. "Get away! Do you think we're going to eat your letter when it comes?" and he walked off hastily.

Ali came out very slowly, turning after every few steps to gaze at the post office. His eyes were filled with tears of helplessness, for his patience was exhausted, even though he still had faith. Yet how could he still hope to hear from Miriam?

Ali heard one of the clerks coming up behind him, and turned to him. "Brother!" he said. The clerk was surprised, but being a decent fellow he said, "Well!"

1. Why did the men at post office mock at Ali?
2. Why did the postmaster call Ali 'a pest'?

Glossary

precinct - a boundary
haughtily - arrogantly

ZIP codes are a system of Postal Code used by the United States Postal Service (USPS). ZIP is an acronym for Zone Improvement Plan. The basic format consists of five digits.

"Here, look at this!" and Ali produced an old tin box and emptied five gold coins into the surprised clerk's hands. "Do not look so startled," he continued, "They will be useful to you, and they can never be to me. But will you do one thing?"

"What?" "What do you see up there?" said Ali, pointing to the sky. "Heaven."

"Allah is there, and in His presence I am giving you this money. When it comes, you must forward Miriam's letter to me."

"But where – where am I supposed to send it?" asked the utterly bewildered clerk. "To my grave."

"What?"

"Yes. It is true. Today is my last day, my very last, alas! And I have not seen Miriam. I have had no letter from her." There were tears in Ali's eyes as the clerk slowly left him and went on his way with the five gold coins in his pocket.

Ali was never seen again, and no one troubled to inquire after him.

One day, however, trouble came to the postmaster. His daughter lay ill in another town, and he was anxiously waiting for news of her. The post was brought in, and the letters piled on the table. Seeing an envelope of the colour and shape he expected, the postmaster eagerly snatched it. It was addressed to Coachman Ali and he dropped it as though it had given him an electric shock. He knew at once that this was the letter the old man had been waiting for: it must be from his daughter Miriam.

"Lakshmi Das!" called the postmaster, for such was the name of the clerk to whom Ali had given his money. "Yes sir?"

"This is for your old coachman, Ali. Where is he now?"

"I will find out, sir."

The postmaster did not receive his own letter all that day. He worried all night, and getting up at three, went to sit in the office. "When Ali comes at four O' clock," he **mused** "I will give him the letter myself."

After spending a single night in suspense, anxiously waiting for news of his daughter, his heart was brimming with sympathy for the poor old man who had spent his days and nights

1. Why did Ali find no use for money?
2. Can money alone get what we need in life?

Glossary

guineas- old British Coins
mused - thought

in the same suspense for the last five years. At the stroke of five he heard a soft knock on the door: he felt sure it was Ali. He rose quickly from his chair, his suffering father's heart recognizing another, and flung the door wide open.

Speed Post, started in August, 1986, provides time-bound and express delivery of letters. It ushered in a new era when "One India One Rate" scheme was launched @ INR 25 for all destinations across India.

"Come in, Brother Ali," he cried, handing the letter to the meek old man, bent double with age, who was standing outside. Ali was leaning on a stick, and the tears were wet on his face as they had been when the clerk left him. He lifted his eyes and in them was a light so unearthly that the postmaster shrank back in fear and astonishment.

Hearing the postmaster's voice, the clerk came out.

The postmaster did not answer. He just stood there staring at the door from which Ali had disappeared. At last he turned to Lakshmi Das. "I was speaking to Ali," he said.

"Old Ali is dead, sir. But give me his letter."

"What! But when? Are you sure, Lakshmi Das?"

"Yes, that is so," broke in a postman who had just arrived. "Ali died three months ago."

Miriam's letter was still lying near the door. Ali's image was still before his eyes. He listened to Lakshmi Das' recital of the last interview, but he could still not doubt the reality of the knock on the door and tears in Ali's eyes. He was **perplexed**. Had he really seen Ali? Had his imagination deceived him? Or had it perhaps been Lakshmi Das?

The daily routine began. The clerk read out the addresses – Police Commissioner, Superintendent, Librarian – and flung the letters deftly.

1. What made the postmaster understand the feelings of Ali?
2. Comment on the behaviour of Lakshmi Das.
3. What caused the change of attitude of the Postmaster towards Ali?

Adapted from "Miriam's Letter" by Dhumketu

Glossary

perplexed - puzzled greatly



About the Author:

Dhumketu (1892-1965) is the pen name of Gowrishankar Govardhandas Joshi, a prolific writer, who is considered one of the pioneers of the Gujarati short story. He published twenty four collections of short stories, thirty two novels, plays and travelogues. His style is very poetic and romantic in depicting powerful human emotions.

"Miriam's Letter" was translated by Mira Naik. It was first published in Contemporary Indian Short Stories Series I by Sahitya Akademy in 1959.

Complete the table by explaining the following phrases/sentences in your own words:

Phrase/ Sentence	Meaning
With a serenity born of hope and faith, he waited.	
When the evening of his life was drawing in, he left his old ways and suddenly took a new turn.	
The whole universe is built up through love and that the grief of separation is inescapable.	
His heart was brimming with sympathy for the poor old man	

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each:

1. What impressions do you form of the Postmaster after reading the story?
2. Coachman Ali and the Postmaster have undergone similar experiences. Compare their feelings as a father.
3. As the Postmaster sat waiting for his daughter's letter, he wrote his diary. Imagine yourself as the Postmaster and write a diary entry in about 150 words outlining your feelings of anxiety and expectation.

Vocabulary

A) Match the meaning of the following Idioms and Phrases and use them in sentences of your own.

Idioms

- 1) on account of
- 2) to bear with
- 3) in the midst of
- 4) to be accustomed to
- 5) to take a new turn
- 6) bereft of

Meanings

to begin a new course
deprived of
to put up with
owing to
to get used to
in the middle of

B) Choose the most accurate of the four given words which equates with that of the highlighted word/phrase:

1. The clerk had **acquired** great speed in reading out the titles.
a. required b. evolved c. obtained d. earned
2. The old man had been **accustomed** to sit on the bench for five long years.
a. ingrained b. trained c. habituated d. fixed
3. The Postmaster **stared** at the letter for a moment.
a. gazed b. glared c. tore d. peeped
4. The Postmaster spent one night **anxiously** waiting for the news.
a. eagerly b. happily c. calmly d. usefully
5. The hunter's **instinct** was still there in Ali.
a. behaviour b. aptitude c. wit d. intuition

C) Choose the most accurate of the four given words, opposite to the highlighted word/phrase:

1. The workmen went to work **early** in the morning.
a. later b. last c. latter d. late
2. The inhabitants were in a **profound** sleep.
a. superficial b. external c. shallow d. insincere
3. The old man rose **quickly** from his seat.
a. hurriedly b. rapidly c. fast d. slowly
4. Ali went in **quietly** and sat on the verandah.
a. excitedly b. noisily c. actively d. alertly
5. Ali waited in the post office with a **serenity** born of hope and faith.
a. uneasiness b. anxiety c. alarm d. discontent

D) Look up a dictionary and find out the meaning for the following words:

- a. caressing b. squat c. composed d. partridges e. exhausted

Reading Skill



Here is a letter from a parent to a teacher requesting the teacher to teach his son how to imbibe good qualities. Do you know who the parent was? It was none other than Abraham Lincoln, The President of the USA. This letter shows his concern for his son. The letter reads thus:

Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend.

Teach him to learn, to lose and also enjoy winning.

Steer him away from envy.

Teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Teach him the wonder of books; but also give him quiet time to ponder over the eternal mystery of birds in sky, beasts in the sun and flowers on a green hillside.

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

Teach him to listen to all men but teach him to filter all he hears on his screen of truth, and take only good that comes through.

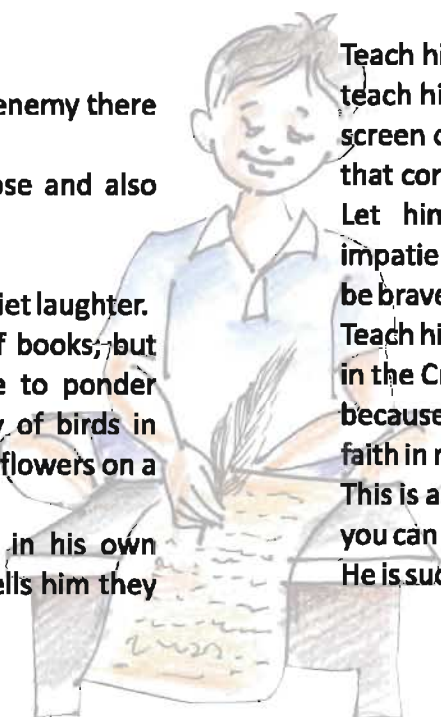
Let him have the courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave.

Teach him always to have sublime faith in the Creator and faith in himself too, because only then he will always have faith in man.

This is a tall order but please see what you can do.

He is such a fine little fellow, my son.

Abraham Lincoln



A) Pick out sentences and phrases from the passage which mean the same as the following:

- Lead him away from jealousy _____
- Give him time to think about and enjoy the secrets of nature _____
- Teach him to sift the truth from lies _____
- Teach him to have self-confidence _____

B) Fill in the blanks in the table given below with the correct word-class:

Noun	Verb
_____	enjoy
thought	_____
_____	fail
knowledge	_____

Noun	Adjective
_____	wonderful
honour	_____
truth	_____
_____	brave



Simple, Compound and Complex

Here are a few jumbled sentences. Match the two parts to form meaningful sentences:

remained indoors on a hot day
 He asked me
 The students
 to sit close to him
 The boy
 went down in the west
 The sun
 sat under a tree

Yes! You have picked the meaningful sentences. Let us look at this sentence

e.g The boy sat under a tree.

Which is the verb in the sentence? sat

Is there any other verb in this sentence?... No. There is no other verb. So this sentence has Only one verb. Such a sentence which has only one finite verb is called a SIMPLE SENTENCE.

Now let us understand what a finite verb is

Look at this example

✍ I go. He/ She/ It goes. We go.

In the given example the verb “go” has been changed according to the tense of the verb and number and person of the subject.

A finite verb shows tense, person and number of the subject

In spite of/ despite, being, on account of, having, besides and the like- these are phrases used in simple sentences.

Let us go back to the first sentence. The boy sat under a tree. Even if we add many words and extend the sentence like

A boy wearing a blue cap and dirty clothes, sat under a tree, not noticing the children around him or the goats grazing in the field.

The sentence is long. Still it has only one finite verb- sat. Other verbs like “wearing, noticing and grazing” do not indicate tense, person or number. So they are Non-Finite verbs.

Compound Sentence

Now let us consider this sentence

The boy took the bag and sat under a tree.

In this sentence, there are two finite verbs **took** and **sat**.

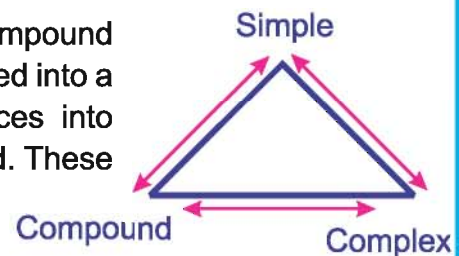
This sentence can also be written as

1. The boy took the bag 2. He sat under the tree.

Both the sentences convey complete meaning. So they are independent clauses. They are also called Principal Clauses. The two sentences are combined using “and”. The meaning has not changed even after synthesis.

To transform a sentence is to change it from one grammatical structure to another without altering the meaning of the sentence. Such a process is called transformation of sentences.

A simple sentence can be converted into a compound sentence and a compound sentence can be converted into a simple sentence. To combine two simple sentences into compound sentences, certain conjunctions are used. These conjunctions are called co-ordinating conjunctions.



Conjunctions - and, but, still, yet, nevertheless, whereas, only, therefore

 The following examples will help us understand the conversion.

On seeing my friend, I greeted him. (Simple)
I saw my friend and I greeted him. (Compound)

 We have converted “seeing” (present participle) into “saw” (past tense)


In spite of being old, he walks quickly. (Simple)
He is old but he walks quickly. (Compound)

 The word “being” is converted to “be” verb - is

In the event of practising well, you will win the match. (Simple)
You practise well and then you will win the match. (Compound)

 We have changed “practising” to “practise”. (verb)


The ceiling is too high for me to touch. (Simple)
The ceiling is very high and I cannot touch it. (Compound)

 We have removed “too... to” and conjunction “and” is added.

Having boiled the water, he put some tea in it. (Simple)
He boiled water and then put some tea in it. (Compound)

 We have removed “having” and “and” is added.

Besides beating the boy, the policeman booked a case. (Simple)
The policeman not only beat the boy but also booked a case (Compound)

 We have removed “besides” and used “not onlybut also”.

Activity 1 - Identify the type of each of the following sentences:

1. The villagers moved out of their village.
2. The sky was darker and the cold was more intense.
3. He sat down under a tree and wept bitterly.
4. In spite of being hot, we managed to work.
5. No one had any sympathy for him, but all were curious about his absence.
6. Miriam married and left her father.

Activity 2 - Convert the following Simple sentences into Compound:

1. Seeing the earth brown partridge, Ali shot at the birds.
2. In spite of his disappointment, Ali went to the postoffice daily.

3. Forgetting his sport, he admired the green fields.
4. Ali emptied an old tin box, taking out five guineas from it.
5. The climate was too cold for Ali to bear.

Activity 3 - Convert the following Compound sentences into Simple sentences :

1. He was worried all night and got up at three.
2. Ali committed many sins but he repented for them.
3. Ali didn't get any letter, nevertheless he didn't lose hope.
4. The old man went in quickly and squatted on the verandah.
5. Ali got up and saluted the postmaster.

Conditional Clause

Some of the complex sentences will have a conditional clause. The subordinate clause having the subordinate conjunctions such as 'if' , 'unless' are termed as conditional clauses or 'If' clauses. The term 'condition' is applied to clauses in which one situation is dependent on the other situation.

There are three types of 'If' clauses:-

a) Type I – Open condition

This condition shows the cause and effect of actions. The condition may or may not be fulfilled but there is a possibility.

e.g. If you come late, you will be punished.

If the conditional clause is in the present tense the main clause will be in future tense. Modals like "shall, may, might and can" are also used.

e.g. 1. If you practise regularly, your handwriting will improve.

2. If you use less fuel, you can minimize global warming.

b) Type II – Improbable condition/imaginary condition

Here the conditions are unreal or imaginary.

e.g. 1. If I were a butterfly, I would fly happily.

2. If I had ten hands, I would perform ten activities at a time.

c) Type III – Impossible/unfulfilled condition.

Here we talk about the condition that was not fulfilled or satisfied in the past.

e.g. 1. If we had practised well, we would have won the match. (it means we did not practise well and so we lost the match)

e.g. 2. If the driver had driven carefully, he would have avoided the accident.

If the conditional clause is in past perfect, the main clause will be in future perfect.

"Unless" conditional clause.

This type is similar to 'If' clause Type I – open condition. But the main clause will have a negative word like 'not' or 'never'.

e.g. 1. Unless we practise well, we cannot win the match.

2. Unless it rains heavily, we can never solve the water problem.

Activity

Combine the following sentences using 'if' or 'unless':

1. Take this medicine regularly. You will recover soon.
2. I am not a king. I cannot live in a palace.
3. Hari entered the exam hall late. He could not finish his exam in time.
4. Take vegetables raw. You will remain healthy.
5. Read newspapers daily. You will develop your knowledge.

**Listening Skill**

Listen to the following information regarding the postal system that existed in ancient India. After listening to the passage fill in the blanks.

(The teacher will read the passage twice. You close your books)

In ancient times Kings, Emperors, Rulers, Zamindars or the Feudal Lords protected their land through the intelligence service of specially trained police or military agencies. They employed courier services to convey and obtain information through runners, messengers, and even through pigeons. The chief of the secret service, known as the post master, maintained the lines of communication. The people used to send letters to their distant relatives through their friends or neighbours. For centuries, it was rare for messages to be carried by any means other than by a relay of runners on foot.

1. In ancient times, _____ emperors, rulers, zamindars or _____ protected their land through the _____ of specially trained _____ or military agencies and _____ to convey and obtain _____ through runners _____ and _____. The chief of secret service known as the _____ maintained the lines of _____. For centuries it was rare for _____ to be carried by any means other than _____ of runners on _____.

2. List out the verbs in the given passage.

Speaking skill**Activity 1**

Speak for a minute about your relationship with your parents/ your closeness with your brothers and sisters as an adolescent child.

Activity 2

Imagine, you are planning to shift your residence. Speak about the role you would play in the process of shifting- packing the fragile things like TV, computer, crockery, refrigerator, your clothes and kitchenware.

Writing Skill

Writing an e-mail:



- ✉ e-mail (Electronic Mail) has replaced the conventional letter as a means of communication.
- ✉ e-mail is precise and short. It saves time for the writer and the receiver .
- ✉ Messages are transmitted instantly.
- ✉ While writing an e-mail, we use short forms, symbols and abbreviations that are recognizable.

Compose an e-mail to your friend. You are appearing for Talent search Examination at Coimbatore on July 15. Instruct your friend to pick you up from the Railway Station on 13th July at 6 a.m.

Asample e-Mail



From : bbbbbb@mail.com

To : aaaaaa@mail.com

Subject: Appearing for a Talent Search Examination.

Dear Sarathy,

I am appearing for a Talent Search Examination on 15th July.

Reaching CBE station on 13th at 6 a.m.

Pick me up from the railway station.

With love,

Raghu



Activity 1

Create an E-mail ID of your own.

Activity 2

Letter Writing

Imagine that you are a student volunteer. You visit an old age home and find that an old lady wants to write a letter to her son who is a soldier in Kashmir. Help her write a letter expressing her longing to hear from her son. Follow the traditional way of writing letters.

Language Function

Activity 1



Project:

Interview a postman who has been working for many years in a village. Your questions may be related to the following:

- ✍ his feeling of joy and sorrow while delivering letters
- ✍ happiness seen on the faces of old people on receiving pension/ Money Orders
- ✍ how he has become a member of the family

Come back to your school and write a paragraph on your experience using the tips given below:

- ✍ A paragraph is one whole.
- ✍ Write coherently, interestingly and imaginatively.
- ✍ Use connectives to achieve coherence. (words like firstly, secondly, however can be used as connectives)
- ✍ Develop the central idea given to you.
- ✍ Use variety to add beauty to your writing and avoid repetition.

Activity 2

Write a paragraph in about 100 words on the following proverbs:

1. Strike the iron when it is hot.
2. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Collect more proverbs.

Activity 3

Every year the Postal Department conducts a philately competition at Chennai. Write an advertisement for the competition giving the details about the day, date, venue and the prizes to be won.

Life Skills

Activity 1

Let us learn to fill a Railway Reservation Form, a ticket cancellation form, a bank deposit form and withdrawal form with the assistance of the teacher.

Poem

*** A Sonnet for My Incomparable Mother**

About the Poem: Mother is the dearest person on the earth. Her love is inexplicable. In this modern poem, the poet portrays the hardships a mother undergoes in bringing up her children. In the story "Miriam's Letter" we understand filial love and in the following poem, the poet portrays the daughter's affection and admiration for her mother. The poem shows that women are very affectionate and caring.

About the Poet: F Joanna (1932-) is a writer. She has written civil service test materials for government agencies, a newspaper column, a national newsletter, public relations and marketing materials, Website content, award-winning children's stories, and more. Currently, she writes greeting card poems for her Website, poemsource.com.



I often contemplate my childhood, Mom.
I am a mother now, and so I know
Hard work is mixed together with the fun;
You learned that when you raised me long ago.
I think of all the things you gave to me:
Sacrifice, devotion, love and tears,
Your heart, your mind, your energy and soul—
All these you spent on me throughout the years.
You loved me with a never-failing love
You gave me strength and sweet security,
And then you did the hardest thing of all:
You let me separate and set me free.
Every day, I try my best to be
A mother like the mom you were to me.



By F. Joanna

1. What qualities has the daughter imbibed from her mother?
2. "You let me separate and let me free" - what is the meaning of the line?
3. Pick out the pairs of rhyming words from the poem.
4. What does the poet want to emphasize in the last two lines?

Glossary

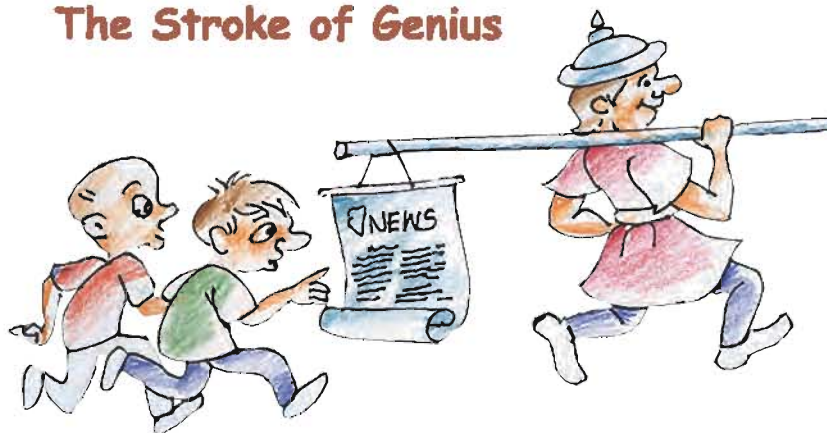
contemplate - think about

devotion - great love and loyalty

sonnet - a fourteen line poem with a fixed rhyme scheme.

Activity: Affix a photograph of your mother in your note book and write a few lines about her.

The Stroke of Genius



Imagine how messages would have been sent in days when facilities like e-mail or SMS or telephone were not available. Men ran from one place to another carrying the messages. Letters were tied to the pigeon's legs and were trained to reach the destination and deliver the letters. Let's imagine a situation like that when Akbar was expecting the news about the birth of his son. He was confused as to how to solve the problem. He approached Birbal, who was the minister of the Mughal court, and asked him for a solution. What do you think would have been the solution given by Birbal to him?

Emperor Akbar wanted a son to ascend the throne after him. He was so worried as to who would rule the empire after him. He married many princesses to beget a male issue. But alas! All his hopes ended in vain.

At last he married Jodha, a Rajput Princess. His dream of begetting a male child was about to be fulfilled! Jodha Akbar was pregnant and the happiness of the emperor knew no bounds! The palace was decorated and there was celebration everywhere. He distributed clothes and gold coins generously to people to celebrate the arrival of the heir-apparent. But unfortunately he had to visit a place 150 miles away from the palace for administrative reasons. His wife was about to deliver a baby that day.

What would he do? How could he get the long awaited news of the birth of a child? Would it be a male child or a female child? Akbar approached Birbal for his counsel. After some thought, Birbal asked the Shahenshah to post one hundred and fifty soldiers from the palace till the place where Akbar had to stay. Each soldier was given a drum and was asked to stand at a distance of one mile. The soldiers were instructed to beat once if it were a male child and twice to indicate that it was a female child! All were eagerly waiting to hear the drum beat! The air was thick with anxiety and expectation.



The idea of the drum beat was a **STROKE OF GENIUS**. So on the appointed day, 150 soldiers were posted with a drum at a distance of each mile. The Emperor grew more anxious to hear the drum beat! At last he heard a single drum beat! The moment the first soldier beat the drum the entire place was resounding with the noise. This reached the next post, the next post..... and finally to the place where Akbar was waiting! The emperor was overwhelmed with joy. He rushed back to the palace to see the new born babe and his favourite queen. The wisdom of Birbal worked.

Birbal won Akbar's heart with his good will. The wit and wisdom of Birbal had endeared him not only to Akbar but also to a vast majority of the subjects of the Mughal empire. The stories of Akbar and Birbal have been handed down from generation to generation making him one of the most loved figures in the folklore of India.

Do you know?

Akbar could not read and write but he loved books and built a magnificent library with 24,000 manuscripts. He also had his biography written. Akbar's library gives a clear picture of the life that existed those days.

Answer the following questions

1. How were messages sent in olden days?
2. What idea did Birbal give?
3. How did Akbar reveal his happiness?
4. What do you understand by the phrase 'a stroke of genius'?

Activity 1

Imagine yourself as Birbal and narrate the story in first person.

Activity 2

What Birbal was to Akbar, Tenali Raman was to Krishna Deva Raya. Read a few stories of Tenali Raman and share them with your classmates.

Activity 3

Write about any one of such stories you have read and enjoyed, for publication in your school magazine:

Unit 2 Prose

When Catastrophe Strikes....



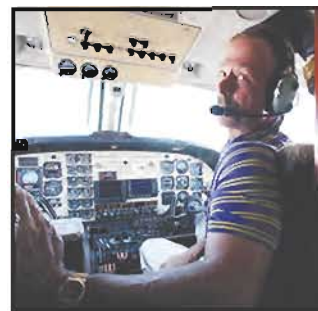
Warming up

- ☐ Do you know who invented the aeroplane?
 - ☐ Have you ever flown in a plane?
 - ☐ Have you come across any daring adventure in your life?
 - ☐ What would you do if there is an emergency when you are in a plane?
- Here is a real life incident that happened at 12,000 feet. It throws light on the courage and conviction shown by one Mr. White.

If ever there was a pilot who made his passengers feel they were in good hands, it was Joe Cabuk. Around 1:30 p.m. last Easter Sunday, Cabuk was at the controls of a six-seater Beechcraft King Air 200. The person keeping him company in the co-pilot's seat was the plane's owner, a **lanky** construction entrepreneur named Doug White. White's wife, Terri, and their two teenage daughters **snuggled** under blankets in the passenger area, hoping to read and nap during the three-hour flight home.

"It is going to get a little **bumpy** as we climb through this cloud layer," Cabuk warned. He began a routine call to air traffic controllers in Miami using the plane's FAA identification number, N559DW: "Miami Center, King Air Five-Five-Niner-Delta-Whiskey ..." But suddenly his voice **trailed off**, and his chin fell to his chest.

White tapped him on the shoulder and called his name. Raising his head, Cabuk gave a long moan. Then his eyes rolled back in their sockets, and he was still. White turned around and shouted to his wife, "Come up here, Terri. We've got a problem." When she saw Cabuk **slumped** in his seat, she grabbed his arm and tried shaking him awake. "Leave him alone," White said after several seconds, **grasping** the terrible truth. "He's dead."



In the cabin, 18-year-old Maggie, and her sister, Bailey, 16, a high school **sophomore**, began to tremble. The plane was a mile above the earth, ascending at a rate of 2,000 feet per minute. And no one on board knew how to get it safely to the ground.

1. What happened to Cabuk?
2. Was White able to revive Cabuk?
3. Who was Bailey?

Glossary

lanky: tall and thin
snuggled: pressed close to someone
bumpy: causing jolts and irregular movements
trailed off: faded slowly
slump: fall heavily or suddenly
grasp: understand
sophomore: second year university student in US

The plane was flying on autopilot, a device White had never used. It was set to 10,000 feet, but because Cabuk hadn't had a chance to push all the necessary buttons, the aircraft kept climbing after reaching that altitude. White knew enough to worry that if the plane rose much beyond 35,000 feet, it would stall in the thin air and go into a spin. A more urgent fear that Cabuk might slump onto the controls. "Get him out of here!" White screamed at Terri. She hollered for Maggie, but there wasn't room in the cramped cockpit for both of them to get a handhold. Terri struggled to lift Cabuk's body herself, then gave up and tightened his flight **harness** to keep him in place. "You all go back there and pray hard," White told her.

Terri kissed him on the cheek, telling him, "You can do this." Then she returned to the cabin and wrapped her arms around the girls. After comforting Maggie—who, overcome with terror and nausea, threw up in an air-sickness bag—Terri did as her husband had requested. She'd survived a bout of cancer four years earlier. If it's my time to die, Lord, she thought, it's my time.

White got on the radio. "Miami," he said, "I've got to declare an emergency. My pilot's unconscious. I need help up here. Low-time, single-engine. I need a King Air pilot to talk to."



"I'm here," Henkels replied, fighting his own fear. "Don't worry. I'm trying to find a solution." Just then, a supervisor arrived with Lisa Grimm, who knelt next to Henkels and plugged her headset into his radar panel. Grimm, 31, had flown Learjets and worked as a flight instructor before becoming a controller; though she'd flown a King Air only once for two hours, she was able to tell White how to disengage the autopilot. The plane had reached 17,500 feet before he could switch it off.

"We're going to start a slow, shallow **descent**," Grimm said in a soothing tone. "Pull back slowly on the throttle and ease the **yoke** over gently."

The task of easing the yoke proved quite challenging. Even under normal conditions, changing a King Air's direction manually was a tough task. At the Miami centre, Grimm continued advising White. "I want to get you down to 11,000," she said. He tried to keep his descent gradual, but his speed and angle **fluctuated** wildly.

1. How did Terri motivate White?
2. At what altitude was the plane flying?
3. Who was the lifeline for the Whites?

Glossary

harness : A support consisting of an arrangement of straps for holding your body
descent : A movement downward
yoke : clamp between two things used to steer a plane
fluctuated : move in a wavelike pattern

As White's craft reached the proper cruising altitude, Grimm began thinking ahead to the landing. She knew it would be difficult and that making the attempt in Miami was not an option; FAA regulations require a distressed plane to be guided to the closest airport. A supervisor had already contacted controllers at Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers.

"You're going to be talking to Fort Myers approach in just a minute," Grimm said. "They're going to get you down safe." She told White to turn left, over the Gulf of Mexico, beginning a circular **manoeuvre** that would set him on the proper course. "You're doing well," said Grimm. Then she told him how to switch the radio to Fort Myers's frequency. White hated to cut off contact with Grimm; her calm voice had become his lifeline. She promised to stand by in case he wanted to talk to her again.

Norton radioed to White: "We're getting some help from another pilot who's familiar with the aeroplane. Are you using the autopilot or hand-flying the plane?"

"Me and the good Lord are hand-flying this plane," White replied, relieved at the promise of additional backup. In the cabin behind him, Terri and the girls were still **huddled**, holding hands.

When the King Air was down to 2,000 feet, White spied a grey stripe in the distance. "I think I see the runway at twelve o'clock," he said. The plane was 15 miles from the airport, lined up for the final approach. Sorenson sent word that White should slow the plane to 160 **knots**, then drop the landing gear and flaps. "When I touch down—if I touch down—do I just **kill the throttle**?" asked White. "That's correct," Norton said. "Kill the throttle and maximum braking."



The **altimeter** read 1,800 feet, then 1,000, then 500. An armada of ambulances and fire trucks was lined up along the landing strip. Terri and the girls prayed harder. "It looks good from here," Norton told White. "The runway is all yours."

In Miami, a supervisor called out to Lisa Grimm: "He's down!" "What does that mean?" she yelled. "Is the plane down safely or on fire?"

1. Where was Fort Myers?
2. What should White do after the touch down?
3. Was the plane down safely?

Glossary

- manoeuvre** : skilful movement of a vehicle
huddled : seated together in a small place
knots : a unit of length used in navigation
kill the throttle: reduce the speed
altimeter : instrument indicating the height reached

In Fort Myers, Favio rushed out of the building to see what had happened. The King Air was sitting on the runway, **gleaming** in the Florida sun after a perfect landing. Inside the tower and the Miami control centre, the cheers and backslaps had already begun.

"My dad is my hero," says Bailey White.

After White received instructions from a ground controller on how to shut off his engines, he and his family **staggered** from the plane. **Paramedics**, meanwhile, carried Joe Cabuk from the cockpit and tried to revive him, but they were unsuccessful. The **autopsy** later determined he had died of a heart attack.

Glossary

stagger : walk unsteadily

paramedics : a person trained to assist medical professionals

autopsy : an examination and dissection of a dead body to determine cause of death

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each:

1. If you had been in White's place, how would you have handled the situation?
2. Explain in a few sentences the courage and determination exhibited by Mr. White.
3. Mr. White believed in himself that he could land the plane. What is your view?
4. "My Dad is my hero," says Bailey White. Justify her comment.

Vocabulary

Synonyms

1. After several seconds White **grasped** the terrible truth.

a. comprehended	b. understood	c. inferred	d. read
-----------------	---------------	-------------	---------
2. The plane's angle and speed **fluctuated** widely.

a. varied	b. waved	c. moved	d. fell
-----------	----------	----------	---------
3. Terri and the girls were still **huddled**, holding hands.

a. curled	b. swooned	c. closed	d. fainted
-----------	------------	-----------	------------
4. Pull back slowly on the **throttle** and ease the yoke over gently .

a. lever	b. gear	c. accelerator	d. brake
----------	---------	----------------	----------
5. She had **survived** a bout of cancer four years earlier.

a. succumbed	b. outlived	c. supported	d. experienced
--------------	-------------	--------------	----------------

Antonyms

1. White was a **lanky** construction entrepreneur.

a. thin	b. fat	c. bold	d. courageous
---------	--------	---------	---------------
2. White turned around and **shouted** to his wife.

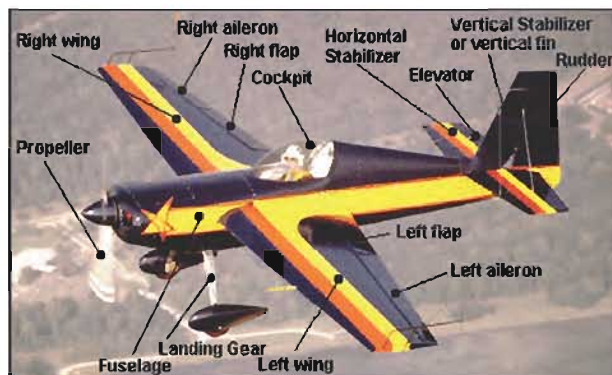
a. blabbered	b. murmured	c. muttered	d. screamed
--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------
3. There wasn't room in the **cramped** cockpit.

a. covered	b. spacious	c. bright	d. congested
------------	-------------	-----------	--------------
4. We are going to start a slow, shallow **descent**.

a. decline	b. ascent	c. drop	d. attempt
------------	-----------	---------	------------
5. Grimm's **calm** voice had become his lifeline.

a. agitated	b. composed	c. soothing	d. trembling
-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

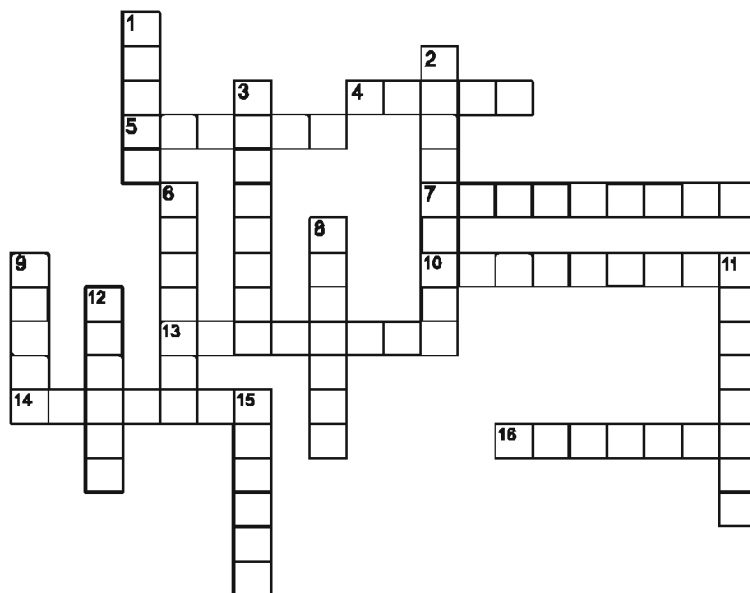
Let's know certain parts of an aircraft.



Crossword Puzzle :

A puzzle in which words corresponding to number clues are to be found and written in the squares is called a crossword puzzle.

Complete the crossword choosing the appropriate words given in the box:



AEROPLANE
WINGS
PROPELLOR
COCKPIT
TAILFIN
RUDDER
ELEVATOR
AERIAL
WHEEL
ENGINE
SPINNER
AILERONS
FLAPS
FUSELAGE
TAILPLANE
COWLING

Across

4. Used to increase lift or slow the plane for landing
5. Turns the propellor
7. Generates the thrust to move the plane forward
10. Proper word for a plane with wings
13. Main part of the plane that carries people
14. Covers and streamlines the propeller hub
16. Where the crew work when on board

Down

1. This rolls along the ground
2. This is the horizontal stabilizer at the back
3. These control the roll of the aeroplane
6. This keeps the plane stable
8. This covers the engine
9. These provide the lift force when the plane is moving
11. This helps to steer the plane up and down
12. Radio signals reach or leave through this
15. This points the plane nose left or right

Reading skill

I. Black box



Read the paragraph and answer the questions given below

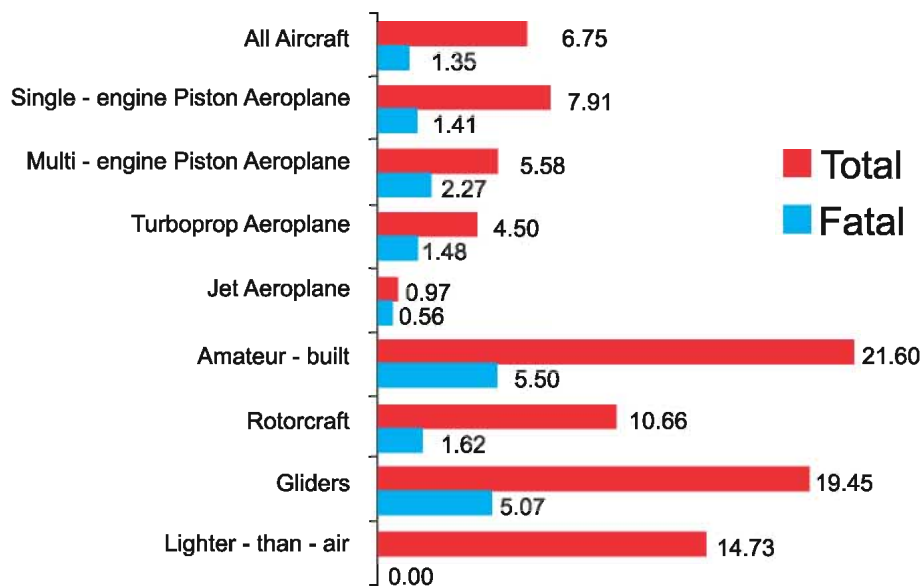


The Black Box or the Flight Data Recorder is actually painted a bright red or orange for easier location after a crash. The FDR is encased in heavy steel and surrounded by multiple layers of insulation to provide protection against a crash, fire, and extreme climatic conditions. The device records actual flight conditions, including altitude, airspeed, heading, vertical acceleration and aircraft pitch. A second device, the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), keeps tabs on cockpit conversations and engine noise. Both are installed in the rear of the aircraft.

1. How is the Black Box protected?
2. What is the use of the Black Box ?
3. What is the colour of the Black Box?
4. Where do you find the Black Box in a plane?
5. What does the CVR device in a plane record?

II. Go through the following data and answer the questions

Accident Rate per Aircraft Type, 2003
(per 100, 000 Flight Hours)



1. What does this data represent?
2. How many types of aircraft are mentioned in the data?
3. Which type of aircraft has the highest rate of fatal accidents?
4. What is unique about 'Lighter-than-air' type of aircraft?
5. What is the accident rate of turboprop aeroplane?

Grammar



Let's revise compound sentences. We have already learnt that in the previous unit.

- " Cabuk's voice trailed off **and** his chin fell to his chest.
 - " Terri grabbed his arm **and** tried shaking him awake.
 - " She returned to the cabin **and** wrapped her arms around the girls.
- Compound sentences are made up of more than one independent clause joined together with the co-ordinating conjunction.

Coordinating Conjunctions

The most common co-ordinating conjunctions are: **and, or, otherwise, but, yet, so, therefore, etc.** They glue together the sentence elements that are equal.

Look at these examples from the prose passage:
They are complex sentences.

- " If the plane rose beyond 35,000 feet, it would stall.
- " The plane had reached 17,500 feet before he could switch it off.

A complex sentence has one main clause and one or more sub-ordinate clauses.

Subordinating Conjunctions

These conjunctions join subordinate clauses with main clauses.

A subordinate clause is a clause that cannot stand on its own. (Remember that a clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb.) It is always introduced by a subordinating conjunction.

Examples:

-, **unless** you are allergic.
-, **whenever** I see your cat.
-, **since** you are coming.

These are not complete sentences. They all have subjects (you, I, you) and verbs (are, see, are coming), but since they cannot stand alone, they are subordinate clauses. An independent clause is also a group of words with a subject and a verb. But, unlike a subordinate clause, an independent clause can stand on its own and give complete meaning.

Main Clause - Examples:

I will bring my cat.

I sneeze.

I won't bring my cat.

These are all complete sentences. They all have subjects (I), verbs (will bring, sneeze, won't bring), and they can stand alone.

Examples: I will bring my cat **unless** you are allergic.

Whenever I see your cat, I sneeze.

Since you are coming, I won't bring my cat.

Identify the following sentences as compound or complex:

1. As the horizon vanished into the blur of blue, he could not stay oriented.
[compound/ complex](#)
2. Favio sat beside him and pulled out his cell phone.
[compound/ complex](#)
3. White asked for control settings that would get him to the proper speed.
[compound/ complex](#)
4. The plane landed at the runway and Mr.White and his family got down from the plane.
[compound/ complex](#)
5. Ryan wrote a poem after he had finished a cricket game.
[compound/ complex](#)

Transformation of sentences:

Here are a few examples of how simple sentences are transformed into complex and compound sentences.

1. a) **Inspite of / Despite** her poverty, Anuja stood first in the examination.
(Simple)
b) **Although / Even though / Though** Anuja was poor, she stood first in the examination. (Complex)
c) Anuja was poor, **yet / but / still** she stood first in the examination. (Compound)
2. a) **On hearing** the good news, Agnel felt happy. (Simple)
b) **When** Agnel heard the good news, he felt happy. (Complex)
c) Agnel heard the good news **and** he felt happy. (Compound)

3. a) **In the event of** running first, you will win the race. (simple)
 b) **If** you run fast, you will win the race. (complex)
 c) **Unless** you run fast, you will not win the race. (complex)
 d) Run fast **or** you will not win the race. (compound)
4. a) **On account of / Because of / Due to / Owing to / As a result of** bad weather, the match was postponed. (simple)
 b) **As / Since** the weather was bad, the match was postponed. (complex)
 c) The weather was bad **and so** the match was postponed. (compound)
5. a) **Being** busy, Jeba could not attend the wedding. (simple)
 b) **As / Since** Jeba was busy she could not attend the wedding. (complex)
 c) Jeba was busy **and so** she could not attend the wedding. (compound)
6. a) The coffee is **too** hot **to** drink (simple)
 b) The coffee is **so** hot **that** I cannot drink it. (complex)
 c) The coffee is **very** hot and so I **cannot** drink it. (compound)

The following column will help you to understand and transform the sentences.

S.No.	Simple	Complex	Compound
1.	Inspite of + verb + ing Despite + noun	Though / Although Eventhough	but / yet / still
2.	In the event of In case of On + Verb + ing	If can / will / could / would Unless.... cannot When / As soon as	or... not and and / at once
3.	Being	As / Since / because	and so
4.	As a result of On account of / Because of Due to / Owing to	Since / As / because	and / and so / therefore
5.	too.... to	so.. that... can/could not	very... and so
6.	In order... to	so that	and so
7.	Besides... + v + ing	not only... but also	and / as well as
8.	Without + v + ing	after	must..... otherwise

Activity

1. The box is too heavy to carry. (change into complex sentence)
2. Eventhough he is poor, he donates generously. (change into compound sentence)
3. Rahul did not know German, so he was disqualified. (change into complex sentence)
4. Owing to his illness, Rajan did not appear for the examination. (change into compound sentence)
5. As soon as I heard the good news, I congratulated her. (change into simple sentence)

Relative Pronouns

Read the following sentences and understand how the relative pronouns are used.

1. Do not put off till tomorrow **what** you can do today.
2. The present moment is a gift **that** has been bestowed upon you.
3. This is the planet **which** belongs to you.
4. Those **who** utilise their time wisely will succeed in life.
5. Most of the friends **whom** Geetha had invited, came for her wedding.
6. Chandra **whose** house I live in, is a good friend of mine.

Read the following sentences and fill in the blanks with the appropriate relative pronouns. (who, whose, whom, that, which, what)

1. We met the lady _____ child won the chess championship.
2. Time _____ is lost is lost forever.
3. Where is the book _____ I gave you?
4. We are all leaves of a majestic tree _____ trunk cannot be shaken off its roots.
5. Children _____ are hard working by nature will come out with flying colours.
6. The lady _____ car was stolen is my relative.
7. We love those _____ are kind to others.
8. The snake _____ we captured was handed over to the wildlife warden.
9. Listen to _____ I say carefully.
10. Robin is the famous player _____ my son likes very much.

Listening skill

Announcement at an Airport



- Indian Airlines IC-830 is now ready for boarding at Gate 11.
- Please have your ID cards and boarding passes ready.
- Ladies and gentlemen, welcome aboard Indian Airlines Flight IC- 830 to Delhi via Goa. We'll be a little late for taking off because of bad weather in Goa. Please keep your seat belts fastened. We stop briefly in Goa before arriving in Delhi.

Choose the correct answer:

1. The passengers should proceed to gate _____ to board IC-830.
a. 5 b. 7 c. 11 d. 9
2. The flight is delayed due to _____.
a. bad weather b. technical snag c. air traffic d. security reasons
3. IC-830 flight goes to Delhi via _____.
a. Mumbai b. Goa c. Calcutta d. Chennai
4. The passengers should be ready with _____ to board the flight.
a. kids b. hand luggage c. boarding pass d. perfumes
5. The passengers have to fasten their _____.
a. ties b. shoe laces c. scarfs d. seat belts

Announcement at the railway station.

..... Your kind attention please!

..... Train number 2635, Kanyakumari Express will leave shortly from platform number 5 at 20:15 hours. Please keep your _____ belongings safe and have a happy journey.

Speaking Skill



Aviation legend Amelia Earhart is one of the most famous women in the world. She had set many flight records, including becoming the first woman to fly solo across both the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Sarla Thakral was the first woman in India to fly a plane. She was hardly 21, when she conquered the sky. The year 1936 when flying was like a dream, flying an aeroplane was like a miracle. This dashing young woman made every Indian proud.



1. Discuss in a group the daring courage and determination shown by these women.
2. What similarities do you find between Mr. White and these women?

Study the way people ask for information on the telephone and practise it with your pair.

Receptionist : Good morning, Air India. May I help you?

Caller : Good morning. Could you please give me details of the flights to Delhi?

Receptionist : There are two flights daily. One leaves at 8.30 a.m. and the other is in the evening at 7 o'clock.

Caller : Thank you very much!

Receptionist : You are welcome.

Writing Skill









Study the notice

English Literary Association Elocution competition

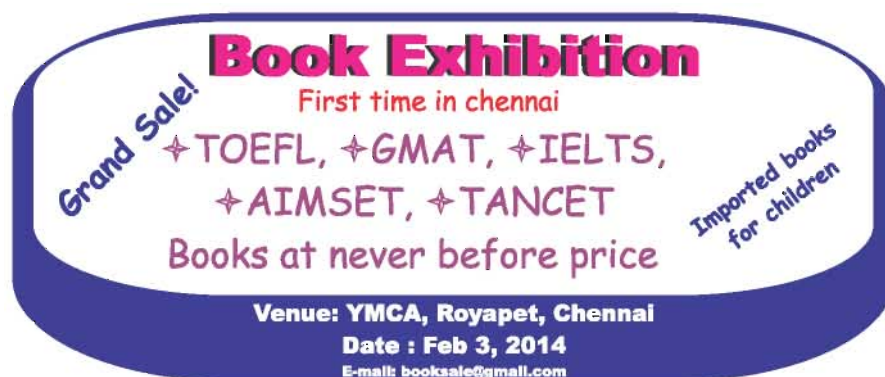
We are organising an elocution competition for the students of classes 6, 7, and 8 on 18th January, 2012 at 4.30 p.m. in the school auditorium. The last date for registration is the 10th of January. Interested students may give their names to the class teacher of their respective classes.

You are the secretary of Adventure Club in your school. Write a notice to inform students about a trek, the club is organising near Kodaikanal.

Remember to mention the following details:

-  Name of the organising body
-  When and where
-  For how long
-  Last date for registration
-  Cost per person
-  Whom to contact

Look at the following advertisement related to a Book Exhibition



A good advertisement should have;

- ✿ a catchy phrase / slogan
- ✿ an appropriate logo
- ✿ clarity and brevity
- ✿ an attractive background
- ✿ address, e-mail id and contact number

Project Work

Prepare a picture album on adventure sports in India and display it in your class.

Poem

The Flying Wonder

Stephen Vincent Benét (July 22, 1898 – March 13, 1943) was an American author, poet, short story writer, and novelist. Benet is best known for his book-length narrative poem of the **American Civil War**, **John Brown's Body** (1928), for which he won a **Pulitzer Prize** in 1929.



Said Orville Wright to Wilbur Wright,
 "These birds are very trying.
 I'm sick of hearing them cheep-cheep
 About the fun of flying.
 A bird has feathers, it is true.
 That much I freely grant.
 But must that stop us, W?"
 Said Wilbur Wright, "It shan't."
 And so they built a glider, first,
 And then they built another.
 —There never were two brothers more
 Devoted to each other.
 They ran a dusty little shop
 For bicycle-repairing,
 And bought each other soda-pop
 And praised each other's daring.
 They glided here, they glided there,
 They sometimes skinned their noses.
 —For learning how to rule the air
 Was not a bed of roses—
 But each would murmur, afterward,
 While patching up his bro.
 "Are we discouraged, W?"
 "Of course we are not, O!"
 And finally, at Kitty Hawk
 In Nineteen-Three (let's cheer it!),
 The first real aeroplane really flew
 With Orville there to steer it!
 —And kingdoms may forget their kings
 And dogs forget their bites,
 But not till Man forgets his wings
 Will men forget the Wrights.



Orville Wright



Wilbur Wright



Kitty Hawk - name of place in America
W - Wilbur
O - Orville

- Stephen Vincent Benet

Pick out the words in alliteration in the given lines:

1. About the fun of flying.
2. -And kingdoms may forget their kings

Answer the following questions :

1. What was the aspiration of Wright brothers?
2. Were they successful in realising their cherished dream?
3. When did the first plane take off?
4. What kind of relationship did the brothers share between themselves?
5. What do you think about their achievement?
6. What is the meaning of the phrase “skinned their noses”?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each:

1. Identify the qualities of the Wright brothers, their abilities and talents.
2. Critically appreciate the poem ‘The Flying Wonder’.

Project

Collect the following:

Group 1-Pictures of different aeroplanes and paste them in your scrap book.

Group 2-Poems an inventions/inventors.

Group 3-Picture of inventions and the inventors with the life history.

Group 4-Prepare a flow chart on inventions/inventors.

Share your experiences and materials with other groups.

The Thief

Yarmuk couldn't believe his ears.

"You must be joking," he said. "You mean to say that there is actually a planet where there is no crime and hence it has no policemen."



Malkin nodded. "I heard about it from an extremely reliable source. Of course, the location of the planet is a secret and its co-ordinates are known only to a handful of people – all of them sworn to secrecy.

Yarmuk, one of the top thieves of the solar system decided that it would not be wise to show too much interest. Though Malkin was an old friend whom he was meeting after many years, Yarmuk never trusted anybody, on principle. He deftly steered the conversation to other channels and, after more than half-an-hour of making small talk, left.

A few days later Yarmuk bumped into Malkin 'accidentally' and invited his friend for a meal. Over drinks in his apartment, Yarmuk harped on the sad state of their crime-ridden society and how nice it would be if every planet in the Universe could be

like Planet X – the crime-free globe. While doing so, he quietly mixed a tranquillizer in Malkin's second drink. When the latter lost conscious control over himself due to its effect, Yarmuk asked for and obtained the address of the man who knew the coordinates of Planet X. Malkin regained his senses with absolutely no recollection of what had taken place, finished his drinks and dinner and went home with fond memories of an old friendship renewed.

The next night, Yarmuk drove over to the address he had got from Malkin. Private residences were never a problem for a thief of his calibre. Using a gas-gun to sedate the occupants of the house, he used a hallucinogen to get the information he wanted from the head of the household and returned to his apartment in an excited and expectant frame of mind. He looked forward to stealing on a royal scale.



The next item on his list was the procurement of a suitable spacecraft. He therefore visited some dealers and picked up their catalogues. Pouring over these, Yarmuk gradually formulated the characteristics of the ship he had in mind. What he wanted was a single or two-seater model, capable of travelling long distances. Finally he decided that a Mini Inter-Galactic ship, Model 31 (MIG-31) would be ideal for his purpose. It was the type used by rich tourists.

Yarmuk went back to one of the dealers, pretended he had yet to make up his mind and purchased a few operating manuals, the MIG-31's among them. He spent several hours going through the manual in detail, till he was confident that the new knowledge, superimposed on his existing vast piloting experience, was more than sufficient to allow him to handle a MIG-31 with ease.

For the next few days Yarmuk roamed the local space-port, looking over new arrivals. On his third day there, he saw what he wanted – an almost brand-new MIG-31, brought in by a well-dressed young couple who were obviously on their honeymoon. He trailed them to their hotel and noted the number of the suite given to them. Going back to his apartment he picked up his essential requirements then went back and checked in at the same hotel.

Late that night, after making sure that the corridor was clear, he broke into the couple's suite. The pair of them, tired after their day's exertions no doubt, were fast asleep, but Yarmuk was taking no chances. He gassed both of them, then quickly and expertly went through their belongings. He took the space-port parking-lot pass, the electronic card which opened their spaceship's airlock and controlled its engines, and the hyper-wave radio key. He did not touch their money or other belongings. Locking the suite behind him, he went to his room, picked up his luggage and checked out, explaining to the surprised clerk that he had just received a video-text message that his wife was seriously ill.

Taking a heli-taxi to the space-port, he had no trouble in entering the parking area or the ship, thanks to the pass and card he had stolen. Using his 'wife's illness' as an excuse again, he obtained almost immediate permission to blast off. So far his luck had held out but now, without warning, it changed. As he gained the stratosphere, a wandering patrol-boat challenged him. He identified his ship successfully but fumbled when asked for the pilot's personal particulars. He was ordered to return to the space-port for investigation.

Yarmuk smiled grimly. He had not come so far to give up that easily. He acknowledged the order and pretended to comply with it, turning his ship around. The overdrive motor, which he had switched on the moment he was challenged, had warmed up by then, so punching in the required co-ordinates, he activated the jump switch. The shift into hyperspace so near a planetary mass, caused him to black out temporarily and gave the ship an awful jerk, as he knew it would, but that was a risk he had to take. Regaining consciousness a few minutes later, he found himself in deep space and chortled gleefully "Planet X, here I come – whether you like it or not."

With his heart singing, he headed for a king's ransom. Planet X lay at the edge of the Galaxy, a remote corner with thinly scattered stars, almost devoid of inhabited worlds. Probably that was the reason. Yarmuk thought that it had not 'developed' sufficiently for crime to take root. Landing unchallenged at the Planetary Capital's space-port, he parked, paid the surprisingly low entry fees and caught a taxi to a nearby hotel. Finding the rates extremely cheap by Central Galaxy standards, he booked himself into a luxury suite. 'Might as well be comfortable and enjoy myself,' he thought.

Over the next couple of days, as Yarmuk reconnoitred the Capital City, he grew more and more surprised. He found that the citizens of Planet X were an extremely disciplined and honest lot-in fact, he had never encountered any other race like theirs. Not only did they have no policemen but they also appeared to have no guards or

watchmen anywhere. To cap it all, most of their stores and shops did not have any assistants in them either. People walked in; picked up the items they wanted, punched out the required code on the unattended cashier's computer, put in their credit card so that their account could be debited and walked out. Yarmuk thought that an alarm would be raised or a barrier would come up at the exit if somebody did not follow the procedure but when he picked up a pair of socks and pretended to absent-mindedly forget to punch the computer while walking out, nothing happened.

Yarmuk was delighted, but at the same time there was a nagging doubt at the back of his mind. Something was wrong somewhere, he thought. It was really surprising to find that there were no local telephones, anywhere in the Capital City of Planet X. When he asked how they communicated internally on the planet, he received vague and unsatisfactory replies.

However, putting aside all apprehensions, Yarmuk laid his plans. He had located three posh jewellery shops in the Main Market, all of which were generally devoid of customers during the lunch hour. None of them had any attendant or assistant either. He would walk into one the next afternoon, fill a suitcase with the choicest pieces, come back to his hotel, check out and be gone from the planet before anyone realised what had happened. It was as simple as that.

Making his way to the market, he entered the largest of the jewellery shops. Its only occupant was a lone customer, an elderly lady. So Yarmuk browsed around, mentally selecting the most valuable pieces and waited till the lady left. He then rapidly filled his suitcase with the items he had chosen, discarding the presentation cases so that more jewellery could be fitted in. Within ten minutes his suitcase was full and he estimated that it was now worth 50 million credits at the very least – enough for several lifetimes of luxurious living. Satisfied, he closed the suitcase, locked it and sauntered casually out.

He took a taxi to his hotel and, arriving there, asked the driver to wait while he collected his luggage prior to proceeding to the space-port.

Yarmuk smiled to himself as he entered the lobby. It had been too easy – almost like taking candy from a child. Suddenly, however, two grey-clad men came out from behind a pillar. One of them held a steadily-pointed sten-gun while the other snapped handcuffs on to Yarmuk before the latter could realise what was happening. The second man then flashed an ID-Card in front of Yarmuk's startled eyes.

"We are from the National Guard," he intoned in a heavy, official voice. "You are under arrest, sir."

"What....whatever for?" Yarmuk could only stammer. It was all too sudden for him. He was almost in a state of shock.

"For theft, stealing and grand larceny. You can count on spending at least 10 years in our Aliens' jail."

"How.... How did you find out?" Yarmuk was flabbergasted.

The guardsman told him and now everything was clear to Yarmuk. He cursed himself for the fool he had been as he was led away. No wonder Planet X had no policemen, guards, shop-assistants, red-lights or telephones. It did not need them with the type of population it had, for Planet X was a world of telepathists, mind-readers and clairvoyants.

Answer the following questions:

1. What was unique about Planet X?
2. What was the plan of Yarmuk?
3. Planet X was a world of mysteries. Elucidate.

Choose the correct answer:

1. Yarmuk was a -----
a) astronaut b) scientist c) thief d) policeman
2. The spacecraft that Yarmuk used was-----
a) MIG-15 b) MIG-31 c) MIG-30 d) F16
3. The citizens of Planet X were extremely-----
a) disciplined b) notorious c) cunning d) brave
4. Yarmuk's fiend design was to loot a -----
a) bank b) supermarket c) house d) jewellery shop
5. Planet X was a world of -----
a) telepathists and mind- readers b) spirits and demons c) supernatural beings
d) wizards and witches

Rewrite the jumbled sentences in a meaningful and cogent order.

1. He stole a spacecraft and reached Planet X.
2. Yarmuk was one of the top thieves of the solar system.
3. Soon he understood that Planet X was a world of telepathists and mind-readers.
4. Yarmuk stole jewels from a jewellery shop there.
5. Yarmuk was flabbergasted at the unexpected turn of events.
6. He was arrested by two guards at the hotel lobby.

Look up the dictionary and find the meanings for the following words

deftly, tranquilizer, calibre, sedate, hallucinogen, superimposed, suite, stratosphere, hyperspace, chortled, reconnoitred, sauntered.

The next night Yarmuk drove over the address he had got from Malkin.



He used his _____
_____ and he used a _____



He reached Planet X and



Then he studied which space - craft would be suitable. He _____
_____ secretly from _____



When he was feeling happy about his success, he _____



Yarmuk understood that the citizens of Planet X _____

ENGLISH

Acknowledgements

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* **Source:**

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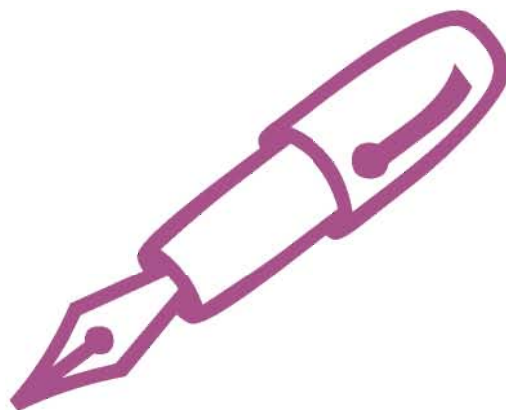
* Source: An extract from the book, “The War years Volume III”, Sangamon Edition by Carl Sandburg, copyright 1939/ Harcourt Inc. This particular episode on Abraham Lincoln is titled – ‘The Legacy you leave is the one you live.’

* Dr. Ashokan and Dr. Pushpanjali - parents of Hithendran for an interview on organ donation.

* An adaptation from ‘Miriam’s Letter’ by Dhumketu.

* An adaptation from the Readers Digest - special edition, Oct. 2009, ‘When catastrophe strikes....’

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Subject:

[illegible]

