

1.6 Tiger Hills

ICE BREAKERS

Ajoy and Sujoy went to watch a cricket match. They enjoyed it very much, but they missed their friends Vinay and Sunay. Next day, when the four friends met, Ajoy reported how the game was played, how the players performed and how the game ended. Sujoy told them that they missed Vinay and Sunay very much and they were eager to tell them about the enjoyment.

- (i) **Now complete the following sentences.**
 - (a) Ajoy reported about.....
 - (b) Sujoy reported about.....
- (ii) **The word 'report' means-**
 - (a) Give a spoken or written account of something.
 - (b) Cover an event or subject as a journalist or reporter.
- (i) **Refer to a standard dictionary and find out the meaning of the following words:**
 - (a) Reportage
 - (b) Reporter
 - (c) Reported speech
 - (d) Reportorial
- (ii) **Find and discuss some examples of reports related to the given topics.**
 - (a) Award distribution
 - (b) Bravery awards
 - (c) Any social issue
- **You might have read war stories or watched war movies. Make a list of the factors which make them interesting.**

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General Ved Prakash Malik PVSM, AVSM served as the 19th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army from the 30th September 1997 to 30th September 2000. He was the Army Chief during the Kargil War. He is the recipient of Param Vishishta Seva Medal and Ati Vishishta Seva Medal and Raksha Medal.



'Kargil : From Surprise to Victory' is an account of the Kargil Victory on 26th July 1999 by General V. P. Malik. It is the finest example of how to write a report. He describes the event in the minutest details, but without the slightest depiction of the emotional involvement he had in it. Tiger Hills is an extract from the book Kargil written by General V. P. Malik.

Tiger Hills

adjacent: situated near or close to something

evicting: removing somebody from a house or land, especially with the support of law

well-fortified: strengthened against attack

Guess the meanings from the context: 1. projected
2. episode 3. assigned
4. feature

mission: a particular task done by a person or a group; a particular aim or duty that one wants to fulfill more than anything else

Guess the meaning: to scout

Tiger Hill towers majestically above all other mountaintops in its vicinity. Although located almost 10 kilometers north of the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway, the enemy position on this mountaintop dominated parts of this highway. After the recapture of Tololing and the **adjacent** features, **evicting** the enemy from this **well-fortified** position became a priority.

As the sharp triangular top of Tiger Hill was clearly visible from the highway, and appeared almost impossible to capture, the media had projected the entire episode as a national challenge.

Brigadier M.P.S. Bajwa, commander, 192 Mountain Brigade, assigned the **mission** of capturing Tiger Hill to 18 Grenadiers, now rested and recouped after their achievements at Tololing and Hump, and to 8 Sikh, which was already deployed at its base. Both these units were assisted by a crack team from the High Altitude Warfare School, with maximum possible artillery, engineering and other combat support.

Throughout the last week of June 1999, 18 Grenadiers probed to establish the extent of the enemy's defences and **to scout** for suitable routes for the assault. A simultaneous multidirectional assault emerged as the best strategy. The commanding officer of 41 Field Regiment drew up an elaborate artillery

fire plan. Individual guns were ranged so as to cover each objective. Bofors guns were used in a direct firing role once again, with inspiring accuracy. On the day of the assault, nearly 120 field and medium guns, 122-mm multibarrelled Grad rocket launchers and mortars rained death and destruction on the enemy at Tiger Hill. The Air Force, too, targeted Tiger Hill on 2-3 July, and hit the bull's eye several times during its missions.

For the first time in India's military history, a TV channel covered the battle live: a sign of progress and transparency, not to mention the on-screen depiction of confidence. The Tiger Hill feature extends about 2200 meters from west to east and about 1000 meters north to south. The main extension is towards the west, on which there are two prominent **protrusions**. The first, approximately 500 meters west of Tiger Hill, had been named 'India Gate', and the second, 'Helmet' (located another 300 meters away). Approximately one company of 12 Northern Light Infantry (Pakistan) held the whole feature.

At 1900 hours on 3 July, 18 Grenadiers commenced its multidirectional assault under the cover of bad weather and darkness, supported by the fire power of artillery and mortars. 'A' company captured an intermediate position called Tongue by 0130 hours on 4 July. Further advance along the southeastern **spur** leading to Tiger Hill Top was stalled due to accurate fire by the enemy from India Gate, Helmet and Top.

Meanwhile, Captain Sachin Nimbalkar led the 'D' Company assault from the east. His company had to negotiate steep **escarpment** using mountaineering equipment, despite the darkness and the inclement weather.

His approach took the enemy by surprise. After some firefighting, 'D' Company was successful in occupying the eastern portion of Area Collar, which lay within 100 meters of Tiger Hill Top.

On another front, 'C' Company and Ghatak (Commando) platoon under Lieutenant Balwan Singh also surprised the enemy, this time along the difficult

During the war the soldier need to plan strategies. Find some words related to such strategies from the text.

protrusion- a thing that extends from the place or from the surface; something that sticks out.

spur- an area of high ground extending from a mountain or hill

escarpment - a long, steep slope at the edge of a plateau

The enemy was taken aback due to the steps taken by the Indian Army. Support your answer.

Media supported and assisted the battle live. Guess the risk of the media people and the army.

Guess the meanings of following words in the context-

1. *orchestrated*, 2. *spell*,
3. *duels*, 4. *casualties*

precarious- not safe, dangerous

perch: a high seat or position

ad hoc: *adv-* when necessary or needed
adj - created or done for a particular purpose

northeastern spur and obtained a toehold just 30 meters from the top.

At 0400 hours on 4 July, after a carefully **orchestrated** artillery bombardment, Sachin Nimbalkar and Balwan Singh along with their men approached Tiger Hill Top by climbing a sheer cliff and caught the enemy unawares. After a **spell** of hand-to-hand fighting, they succeeded in capturing the objective. Although 18 Grenadiers held the top now, linking up with them was not easy. When the initial surprise wore off, the enemy started gearing up for launching counterattacks.

One of the most difficult tasks during the course of a battle is to maintain one's hold on the ground captured, before the next assault can be launched. Throughout the next morning artillery **duels** continued. **Casualties** mounted on both sides. The Grenadiers hung on to their **precarious perch** with grit and determination. Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav and his team members exhibited exceptional courage during this assault.

At this stage, 8 Mount Division realized that it would not be possible to evict the enemy from Tiger Hill completely as long as his supply lines along the western spur were intact. Mohinder Puri and M.P.S. Bajwa then issued orders to 8 Sikh to attack and capture Helmet and India Gate (both located on the western spur) so that enemy reinforcements to Tiger Hill Top could be prevented. The move was also intended to cut off the enemy's supply route.

The western spur of Tiger Hill extended up to 1.5 kilometers the approach to the spur, where 8 Sikh was deployed, lay along a steep rock face. An **ad hoc** column of 8 Sikh, led by Major Ravindra Singh and lieutenant R. K. Sehrawat, comprising four JCOs and fifty-two soldiers, climbed this rock face under poor visibility conditions and was able to capture India Gate after a tough fight. In this battle, Subedar Nirmal Singh led the assault platoon. He was engaged in hand-to-hand-fighting till the end and was also responsible for beating back a counterattack.

Despite heavy casualties, 8 Sikh exploited its success up to Helmet and captured this objective on 5 July.

The enemy launched two counterattacks with forty to fifty personnel, but 8 Sikh fought gallantly and was able to repulse them. Naib Subedar Karnail Singh and Rifleman Satpal Singh, who were part of a platoon deployed on the reverse slope of Helmet, showed exceptional courage. In one of these counterattacks, Captain Karnal Sher Khan of the Pakistan Army was killed. His body was subsequently handed over to the Pakistani authorities. Other bodies of the Pakistani soldiers found scattered around the battleground were collected and buried appropriately.

In New Delhi, I had remained anxious all through the night of 3 July. The next morning, Krishan Pal, GOC 15 Corps, rang up at 0600 hours to inform me that 18 Grenadiers had captured Tiger Hill Top and also that heavy fighting was going on. After consulting him and Nirmal Chander Viji, we decided to await confirmation from the GOC 8 Mountain Division. At 0730 hours, Mohinder Puri confirmed to me that the enemy would not be able to dislodge 18 Grenadiers from Tiger Hill Top. I duly informed **Brajesh Mishra** and the Prime Minister, who was scheduled to address a public meeting in Haryana at 1000 hours. The Defence Minister was on his way to Amritsar. When he landed at the airport, I gave him this exciting news.

The date, 4 July 1999, was important for one more reason. Nawaz Sharif was due to meet the US President, Bill Clinton, later in the day. About ten to fifteen hours before their meeting, we made sure that the whole world came to know about the recapture of Tiger Hill, and thus the likely outcome of the war.

For some time, Pakistan even denied the existence of such mountain feature and labelled the entire operation as a figment of our imagination; the loss of Tiger Hill was a hard physical and psychological blow. In India, wave of jubilation and relief replaced the gloomy mood of the people.

A great humanitarian norm is maintained during the battle. Find out and comment on it.

Brajesh Mishra : an Indian diplomat and politician who was Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Principal Secretary and National Security Advisor from 1988 to 2004

The narrator uses selective words to express the victory. They are

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tenure : the act or a period of holding an important, especially political position

notch up : achieve

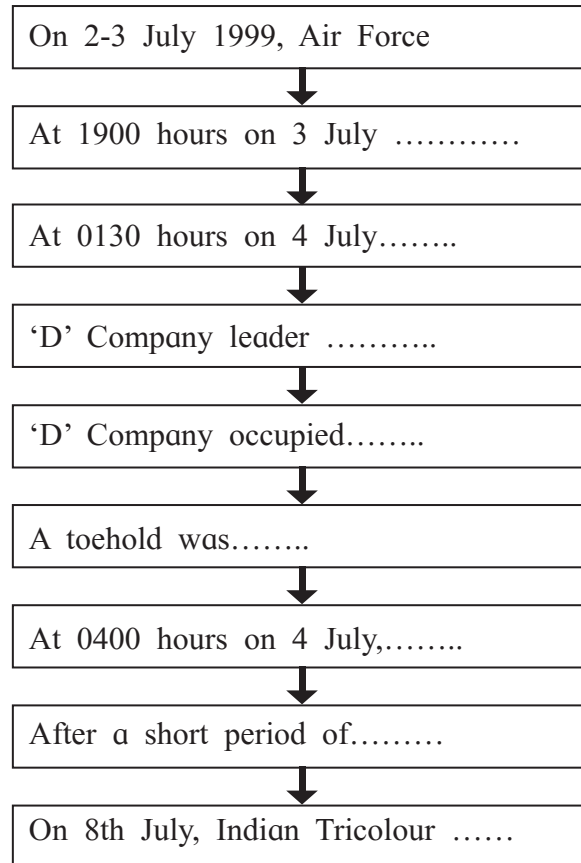
On 8 July, after the entire Tiger Hill objective had been cleared and the situation stabilized, 18 Grenadiers hoisted the Indian tricolour on Tiger Hill Top. Throughout its **tenure** in the nearly two-month long war, the battalion acquitted itself with high professionalism and honour. Displaying unshakeable determination and collective valour, all its members covered themselves with glory and **notched up** two of the finest victories for the Indian Army. After the war, as the battalion requested a UN mission, Army Headquarters sent it to Sierra Leone (West Africa). There too, the battalion successfully carried out a major rescue operation (Operation Khukri).

- General Ved Prakash Malik

BRAINSTORMING

- (A1) (i) Narrate in your own words a similar account based on the text to the class.
- (ii) Imagine that you are about to interview the writer. Write 10 to 15 questions regarding the operation.
- (A2) (i) List any four facts which made the capturing of Tiger Hill a national challenge.
- (ii) Different arms and ammunition are mentioned in the excerpt. Find their names.
- (iii) Wars are not fought only on the battlefield. Comment.
- (iv) Prompt reporting is of strategic importance during a war. Refer to the above extract and explain.
- (iv) Read the extract and do the following activities.
- Make a list of the preparations made for an assault on Tiger Hill.
- (a) Throughout the last week of June 1999, 18 Grenadiers.....
- (b) They also explored to.....
- (c) After confirming the multidirectional assault as the best strategy the commanding officer.....
- (d) Individual guns.....
- (e) Bofors guns.....

(v) Complete the flow chart showing the events on the day of the assault.



(vi) Rewrite the given statements in their order of occurrence.

The most difficult task of maintaining the hold on Tiger Hill was achieved in this way:

- (a) 8 Sikh was ordered to attack and capture Helmet and India Gate.
- (b) Bodies of the Pakistani soldiers were collected and buried appropriately.
- (c) During the ferocious artillery duels the Grenadiers hung on their precarious perch with grit and determination.
- (d) Sikh fought back successfully two counterattacks with forty to fifty personnel.
- (e) An adhoc column of 8 Sikh climbed the steep rock and captured India Gate.
- (f) In spite of heavy casualties, 8 Sikh captured Helmet on 5 July.

(A3) (i) **Discuss the meanings of the following idioms/phrases and use them in your own sentences.**

- (a) To hit the bull's eye
- (b) To be taken by surprise
- (c) To get a toehold

(d) Under the cover of

(e) A spell of

(ii) Read the following words :

Brigadier, Commander, capture, evicting, enemy, defense

All these words are related to the war affairs and war.

Find more such words from the passage.

(iii) Understand the usage of the words given:

After consulting him and Nirmal Chander Singh, we decided to await confirmation from the GOC and Mountain Division.

You know the verb 'wait'. But it is an intransitive verb. It does not take a direct object; consequently it cannot be cast into the passive voice. Also, the past participle of the verb 'wait' cannot act as an adjective.

'The mother waited eagerly' is a correct sentence as there is no direct object. But 'The mother waited eagerly the answer from her son.' is a wrong sentence. 'The answer' is the direct object. This sentence can be written by using the phrase 'wait for' as 'The mother waited eagerly for the answer from her son.' 'Wait for' can be taken as the transitive phrasal verb.

'To await' is a transitive verb and it does take a direct object.

For example, 'The mother awaited the answer eagerly.'

The past participle of it can be used as an adjective.

The most awaited programme started very late.

Note that the object of verb 'await' is usually an inanimate object. We do not usually await a person, but we await his answer/ call/ arrival/ letter.

There are more such words in English. All of them are not verbs.

For example: Aside, Ashore, Anew, Awake, Afoot.

Prefix 'a' provides certain purpose in the formation of the word.

(a) Aside- to the side

(b) Ashore- towards the shore

(c) Afoot-on foot

(d) Anew- of new

(e) Apolitical- not political

(f) Asleep- in a state or manner of sleep

Share with your friends few more words.

(A4) (i) Use of although/ though/ even though/but

Read the following sentences.

- (a) Although the café was crowded, we found a vacant table.

Although Sadie has passed her test, she never drives.

The clause with although can also come after the main clause.

For example: We found a vacant table, although the café was crowded.

- (b) Though I liked the pullover, I didn't buy it.

Though it was pouring cats and dogs, he set out for his journey.

We can use though at the end of the sentence.

For example: I liked the pullover; I didn't buy it, though.

- (c) We can use 'even though' in the same way.

John looked quite fresh even though he had just recovered from jaundice.

'Even though' can be used in the beginning of the sentence also.

Even though I hate Gopal, I shall try to be nice with him.

'Even though' is stronger and more emphatic than 'although'.

- (d) We can join two clauses with 'but'.

For example: We wanted to go abroad, but our passports were not ready.

We use these words (although, though, even though, but) to show the contrast between two clauses or two sentences.

Although, though, even though and but can be used as conjunctions to introduce afterthoughts, contrasts or restrictions and conditions.

Find out the sentences from the lesson in which any of these words are used.

Discuss in pairs/groups the purpose they serve.

(ii) Sing and recite a famous folk song given below.

There is a mountain far away.

And on the mountain stands a tree.

And on the tree there is a branch.

And on the branch there is a nest.

And in the nest there is an egg.

And in the egg there is a bird.

One day the bird will fly.

One day we will be free.

Discuss with your teacher and classmates regarding the changes seen in the underlined words. Find the reasons behind the changes.

- a mountain – the mountain
- a tree – the tree
- a branch – the branch
- a nest – the nest
- an egg – the egg
- a bird – the bird

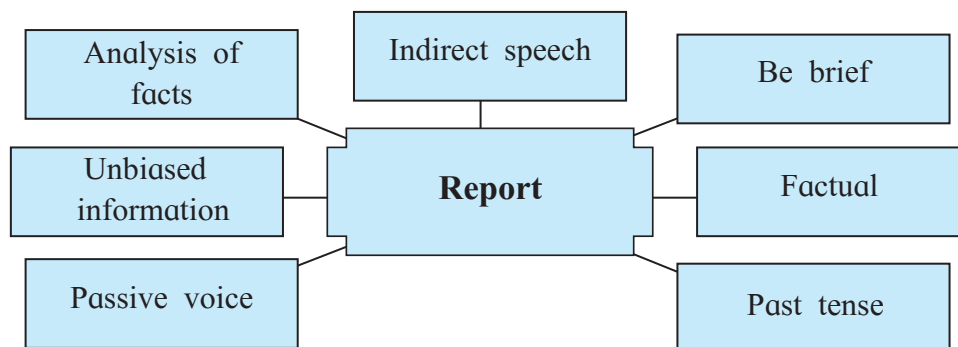
Put ‘a/an’ or ‘the’ at proper places. Put a cross (X) where no article is applicable.

1. Ravi walked up to Principal’s cabin.
2. Ahmed lives in small town
3. Can I use your cell phone ?
4. Who’s woman in your office ?
5. I need English-Marathi dictionary.

(A5) (i) Imagine that you are one of the soldiers from 18 Grenadiers on the mission Tiger Hill. Narrate your experience of the war to your friend.

(ii) Would you like to join Indian Army/Navy/ Air force? If not, suggest other ways in which you could serve your nation.

(iii) Report writing



Study the web diagram and write the characteristics of report writing.

Purpose of Report Writing-

- To provide unbiased information based on reality
- To give analysis of the facts
- To make recommendations, if any and if expected (as in business reports)

Types of Reports-

- Business Report
- Factual Report

Format of a Report-

- Headline
 - Name of the reporter
 - Dateline (date and place)
 - Opening paragraph (Lead or Intro- Who, when, what, where)
 - Detailed paragraphs (Why and how)
 - Conclusion/suggestions if any
 - Report should be written in the box.
- (a) You are Sharad Mathur, the General Secretary of the Sports Club of your college. Write a brief report of the Annual Sports activities for the college magazine.
- (b) Your school organised 'Van Mahotsav Day' recently. Write in about 100 to 150 words a report to be published in the school magazine.
- (c) You are the secretary of the NSS unit of your college. Write a brief report of the Blood Donation Camp arranged by your unit.

A specimen report is given for you:

CULTURAL FEST 2014

*-Tejal Patil
(Student Reporter)*

24 December 2014

A fabulous and memorable cultural fest was organised by Adarsh College, Koregaon, Dist. Akola on 24th December 2014. The mega event of Adarshotsav was held on the college premises - the indoor events in the auditorium and the outdoor events in the college playground.

The grand show commenced by the arrival of participant teams from many colleges in the vicinity. Dr. P.S. Shinde, the Principal of Adarsh College inaugurated the festival events by lighting the lamp. Students participated enthusiastically in different competitions such as Melody Makers (Singing), Dancing Bells (Dance), Mimicry, mono-acting, skits, Khana Khajana (cooking), Mehendi, Nail Art, Hair Dressing, T-shirt Painting, Poster Making, Rangoli and many other events.

The grand finale of Adarshotsav was graced by the dignified presence of the well-known film director Shri. Pranav Palave. He enthralled the audience by his inspirational speech describing his college days.

The event was concluded by a sincere Vote of Thanks expressed by Dr. Chhaya Malhotra, the Professor-in-charge of Adarshotsav.