

Module 29

Speech: Listening Comprehension

In this module, the teacher will read a passage while you listen attentively. After that, you will be allowed to ask a few questions and discuss briefly. Following that, the same passage will be read out to you once more, and then you will have to answer the questions that follow.

The teacher now reads the passage for this section in Appendix 2.

Questions

1. Throughout, the speaker tries to
 - A. suspend people's mind about the identity of the royal father.
 - B. quickly give out much details about the royal father.
 - C. hide the truths about the royal father.
2. In presenting the royal father, the speaker makes it clear that here is a man who
 - A. had to contest against very strong opponents.
 - B. was chosen because of the love the people had for him.
 - C. used his financial power to get to the throne.
3. The speaker quotes from the holy book in order to
 - A. establish a very important point.
 - B. show his knowledge of the religion.
 - C. show that the royal father is a religious person.
4. The speaker refers to the royal father's success in administration in order to
 - A. demonstrate that he knows so much about the royal father.
 - B. show that the royal father is not new to governing people.
 - C. show that his people approved of his enthronement.
5. The speaker makes reference to the royal father's knowledge in order to show that
 - A. the man is trustworthy.
 - B. his people love learned men.
 - C. the affairs of the community are in safe hands.

Structure

Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound sentence is one that has two main clauses which are joined with a conjunction. A complex sentence is made up of one main

clause and at least one dependent or subordinate clause. Thus, a compound complex sentence is one that embraces these two qualities; that is, built up from two main clauses and at least one or more subordinate clauses.

Consider the following examples:

1. **If Nigerians are wise**, they will insist upon the exact definitions of both government's powers and will also insist on the modes of exercising this power.

There are actually two main ideas here and there is a condition that governs both. The two main ideas are:

- a. they will insist upon the exact definition of (both) government's powers.
- b. (they) will insist on the modes of exercising this power.

Those are the two main ideas, although they are fused together. Each of them depends on a particular condition:

- c. If Nigerians are wise

Now, this condition cannot stand on its own. It is a subordinate clause.

In effect, we have a compound sentence (a + b) which goes with a subordinate clause (c). This is how a compound-complex sentence functions.

Study these other examples. The subordinate clause is in bold type while the main clauses in each case are underlined differently:

2. **Even though PHCN has been privatised**, power outage is on the increase and the bills are on the high side.
3. Teachers will not improve themselves and standards in education will continue to fall, **as long as the standard of living remains high.**
4. The morning papers have become unfolded, they have been scattered around the compound **because they were thrown carelessly by the news carrier.**

Exercise

A. Identify the structure of the following sentences:

1. I passed all the other courses that I took but I did not pass mathematics.
2. After he lost a leg in an accident which occurred while he was playing, Okocha made a comeback in professional football.
3. We decided to wait for the bus in order that we might save money.
4. While inspecting his new house, which is in the GRA, Oba Tutu stumbled over a piece of glass and fell down the stairs.
5. Gladys was a famous designer and she did everything to flaunt her designs though she never forgot her poor background.

B. Form 10 sentences from the box below:

I am relieved	because	you are here.
Daddy is happy	since	she is here.
She is full of joy	as	Steve is here.
We are all happy	for the reason that	we are here. he is here.

Reading Comprehension: The Internal Combustion Engine

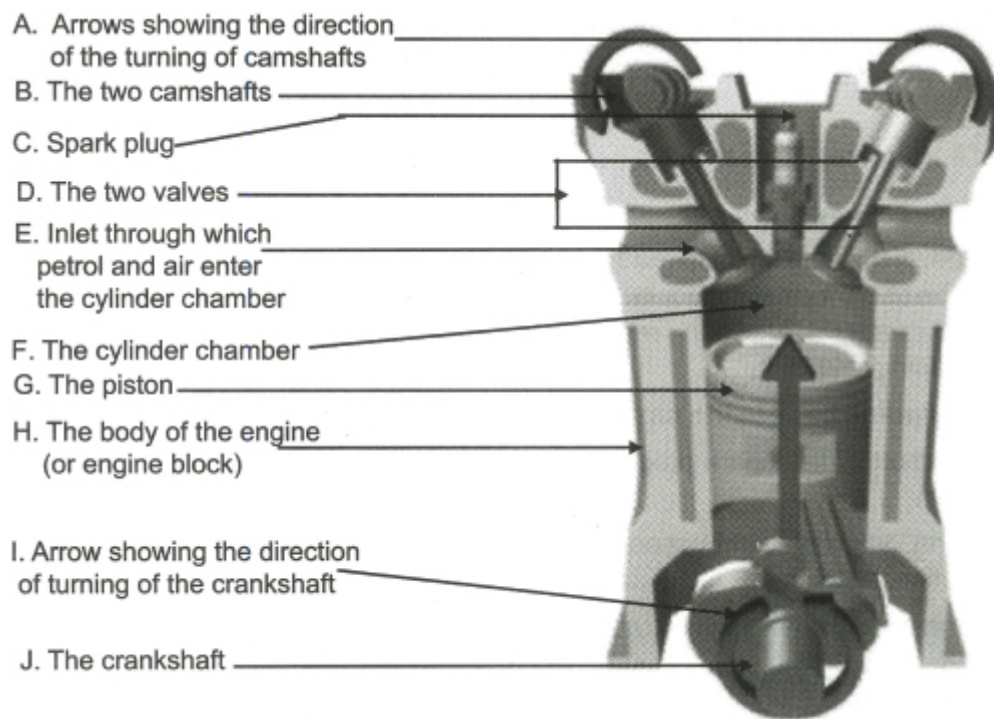
First, read the following points very carefully.

- 👉 *Have you ever wondered how an engine works?*
- 👉 *What is inside that engine that makes it work such that it turns something?*
- 👉 *What is common to the engine in a car, in a motorcycle, in a power plant, etc.?*
- 👉 *Can we manufacture such engines here in Nigeria?*

Now, read the following passage, first very rapidly, and later more closely.

The Internal Combustion Engine

You must have wondered what makes a motorcycle or car move. Most people often do too. So, how does the engine provide the necessary power for mobility? Ask an engineer, you are likely to be told that in an internal combustion engine, a fuel, such as petrol, fills a chamber and then is ignited by a **spark plug**, causing a small explosion which generates work.



That may be rather complex for most laymen. So, let us follow the process, using the diagram provided, which shows the inside of a typical engine. Of course, the parts of an engine vary, depending on the type and the model. For most engines, the key parts include the **crankshaft**, one or more **camshafts** and **valves**. There is the cylinder, and for that cylinder there is a **spark plug**, a **piston** and a **crank**. A single sweep of the cylinder by the piston in an upward or downward motion is known as a stroke and the downward stroke that occurs directly after the air-fuel mix in the cylinder is ignited is known as a power stroke.

The question of course remains: What causes the up and down movements of the piston to happen? Let us follow the process carefully. We begin with the infusion of the compressed petrol and air into the **combustion chamber** (F) through the channels labelled E. The compressed petrol enters when one of the **camshafts** labelled B turns so as to allow a valve to move and open just enough to permit the entry of the petrol. As soon as it closes the inlet, the petrol cannot escape. Just at this point in time, the spark plug, C, is ignited through the wire attached to it, connecting it to the coil. This electric charge is so powerful that when it causes the plug to spark, a sort of explosion occurs within the chamber.

Now, when there is an explosion, expansion takes place. This pushes the piston, G, downwards. Look at the piston carefully. It is attached to a type of iron steel which is itself connected to the crankshaft, J, forcing it to turn in the direction indicated by the arrow (I). This is how one round is completed. But as you can imagine, even before this round ends, another one has begun. Rapidly, more fuel is injected into the cylinder chamber, the plug is sparked again, and another explosion occurs, again forcing the piston down and thus turning the crankshaft

again.

This process goes on and on, several thousands of times within a minute, causing the crankshaft to turn fast. This turning it is that ends up turning the wheel of the car or motorcycle. Basically this is how the movement is caused. When you realise that we have been describing what happens inside just one cylinder, and that in most cars there are up to four or six cylinders, then you would see why great speed can be attained by a vehicle. (494 words)

Adapted from Wikipedia (Internet)

A. Now do the following:

- a. Write down the time taken to read through the passage.
- b. Using the usual formula, calculate your reading speed.
- c. From the analysis for scoring reading rates (appendix 1) decide the category into which your reading rate falls.

B. Without going back to the passage, answer the following specific questions.

1. The function of the spark plug is to.....the fuel inside the.....chamber.
2. The term "internal combustion engine"™ implies that the whole process leading to locomotion takes place.....the engine block.
3. What makes the spark plug provide the combustion is the.....
4. When there is combustion, naturally.....follows.
5. The combustion and.....force the.....to move back.
6. This forced movement of the.....turns the.....
7. The function of the valves is to.....
8. For a car or a motorcycle, the whole actions inside the engine result in turning the.....over the road.
9. For a vehicle that travels several kilometres, we can say that the process described here would occur.....of times every kilometre.
10. From what has been described in the passage, it is clear that the most important part of a vehicle is the.....

Now, your teacher would provide the correct answers to get your work scored. Then, calculate your reading efficiency indices and record your attempts in the appropriate place.

C. Read the passage again, and answer the following questions.

11. What do you think is the purpose of the first paragraph?
12. Study the diagram more carefully. To what extent does it help your understanding of the passage?

13. From a good study of the parts played by the sparking plug, what do you think is its function?
14. Where there is an explosion inside the chamber and the piston is forced to move downwards, what does the movement turn?
15. What, as a result of the turning, is the effect eventually?
16. Petrol is needed as the fuel to provide the explosion in a cylinder chamber. The cylinder chamber in a car engine is larger than that of a motorcycle engine. What then can you say about the comparative amounts of fuel needed by a big car compared with that of a motorcycle?

General discussion question

Every vehicle, whether on land, sea, or in the air, requires an engine of some kind to provide it with motion.

- a. What would you say of the bicycle that requires only the pedal, chain and wheel to provide the motion? To what extent would you say this is some form of engine?
- b. Do you think it might be possible in the future to have a fast moving vehicle such as a car that needs no engine?

Summary Tips

Nowadays, specific questions are asked in summary exercises. Such questions look so much like comprehension questions. However, such questions demand that you have a good grasp of specific parts of the passage.

For the present passage, identify how many specific parts/areas there are. Then, for each part, say what the key idea is.

In three connected sentences, summarise:

- a. What an internal combustion engine is.
- b. The parts played by petrol, air and spark plugs.
- c. What causes the various parts of the engine to turn and what the eventual result is.

Vocabulary Development

More about idiomatic expressions

Study the following idioms used in sentences and their meanings:

1. The students **rounded off** the year programme with a party. (ended; finished)
2. The man has **given up** smoking. (stopped)
3. The man was **taken in** by his boss. (deceived)
4. Ayisat was **let down** by her brother. (disappointed)
5. He earns a fat salary but cannot **make both ends meet**. (does not live within his income)

6. The lady **has turned down** my proposal. (rejected)
7. Musa **kept the ball rolling** when the discussion began. (sustained the discussion)
8. The student made the statement **under duress**. (with force or coercion)
9. The man asked me to **paddle my own canoe**. (mind my own business)
10. If you go out without permission, **you will face the music**. (be punished, get into trouble)
11. A player must always be as **fit as a fiddle**. (very healthy)
12. He left for school **at the eleventh hour**. (the last possible time)

Activity I

Choose any ten of the idioms listed above and make your own sentences with them.

Activity II

Make a list of other idioms (about 10) apart from those mentioned in this module and give their meanings. A good dictionary will help you.

Activity III

Choose any 5 of the idioms and form correct sentences with them.

Continuous Writing

Writing an interesting story

Here is an interesting story for publication in a local newspaper. Read it carefully.

TEST OF LOVE

There was a chief in a village near Funtua in Katsina State. He was a very rich and handsome man of some 56 years of age. He had four wives and twelve children. He used to study each wife to know the extent to which she loved him. Though each wife demonstrated love in some way, the man was not satisfied. He always suspected the genuine intention of each woman in marrying him. They might have fallen for his appearance and wealth.

To test the depth of love each wife had for him, different ideas occurred to him; he decided to feign death. So, he called his wives and children and told them he was not well. He asked one of the children to buy some drugs for him while others stood round him. Before the boy's return, he had kicked

the bucket. All the wives as well as the children were crying profusely. But before his death, he had confided in his elder brother what he had planned. The two of them had planned how to handle the whole “test of love”.

The elder brother now accused the four wives of murder: that one of them had poisoned their husband; and so in order to prevent more disasters from happening in the family, the head of their husband would be needed for a sacrifice. They were all afraid. And so, a *juju* man who would prepare the sacrifice was sent for. The man told the wives that each of them would be called into the room where the corpse was.

The first wife entered and was asked if she agreed that her husband’s head be cut off in order to prevent more disasters. She said that she agreed. The second was also invited and she consented. The third wife entered and she also agreed. The fourth wife was sent for and was asked the same question. She refused bluntly, stressing that she would never have a hand in cutting the head of her darling husband. She said she was ready for any disaster that might befall the family.

The *juju* man now put each wife in a separate room, pretending that he had cut off the head of their husband. He gave to each of the three wives a fake human head, while the fourth wife was left alone in the room. The *juju* man claimed that the fourth wife did not love her husband and his family.

Then, suddenly, the chief woke up to the amazement of the four wives and children. He entered the room where the first wife was kept, and told her: “So, you do not love, you are now carrying my head. You can kill me!” And similarly, he told the second and third wife. On getting to the fourth wife, the woman was very afraid. The chief allayed her fears that he was not dead. Then he said, “I can now see that you really love me.” You refused to cut my head despite all threats. I thank you for the genuine love you have for me. It is now clear that the other wives only loved my appearance and wealth.”

In the end, the chief sent out other wives, while the fourth one remained his only wife for the rest of his life. She and other children shared all his property after his death. Wealth is not love, handsomeness is not love. Love is love.

Now write your own story to illustrate the saying that all that glitters (*glitters*) is not gold.