



Sangam Books

NEW

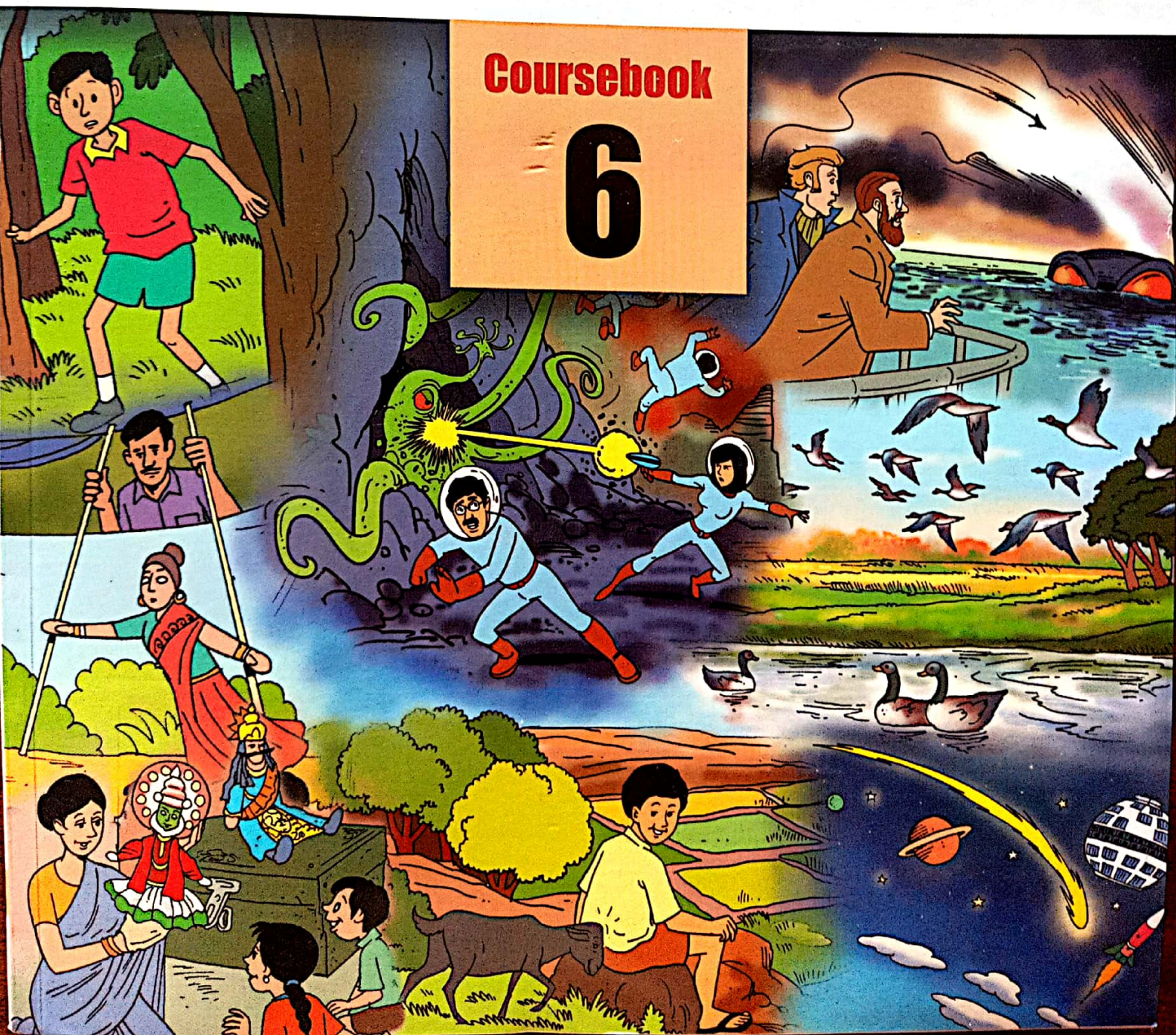
ENGLISH JUNCTION

A Course in Communicative English

Orient
BlackSwan
ELT

Coursebook

6





Raggylug's First Adventure



WARM UP

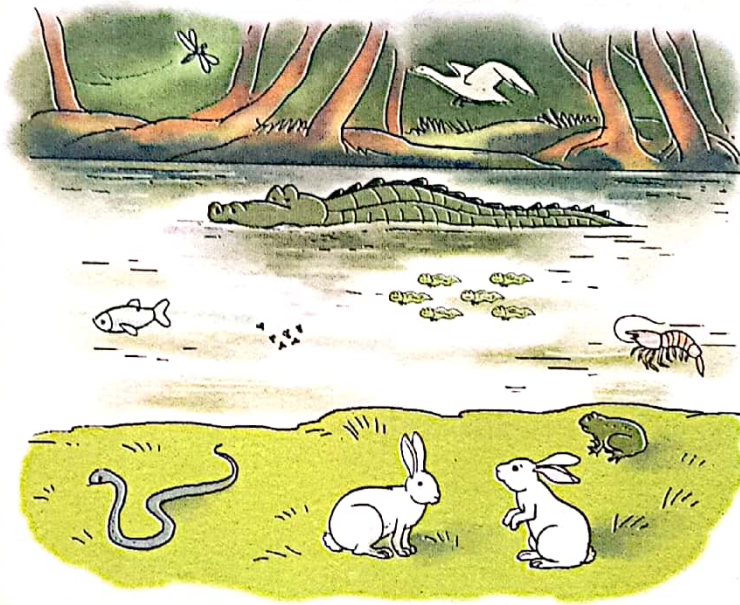
Look at the picture below. Match the names with the animals and birds that live in a swamp.

tadpoles

fish

stork

snake



frog

dragonfly

crocodile

rabbit

Raggylug, or Rag, was the name of a young American cottontail rabbit. He lived with his mother Molly in a swamp. Read on to find out what happened one day when his mother was not at home.

The long swamp grass bent over and covered the cosy nest where Raggylug's mother had hidden him.

She covered him partly and warned him, "Stay at home and keep very quiet till I return."

Though Raggylug was tucked in bed, he was wide awake and his bright eyes looked at the little green world straight above him. A blue jay and a red squirrel were loudly scolding

swamp an area of low-lying, uncultivated ground where water collects
cosy comfortable and warm **blue jay** a small, blue North American bird



each other, and at one time, Rag's home bush was the centre of their fight. A yellow warbler caught a blue butterfly only six inches from his nose. A red and black ladybug took a long walk up one grass blade, down another, across the nest and over Rag's face—and yet he never moved or even winked.



After a while, he heard a strange crackling in the bushes. It was an odd, continuous sound and there was no patter of feet with it. Rag had never heard anything like it before. His mother had warned him to lie low, but he became very curious.

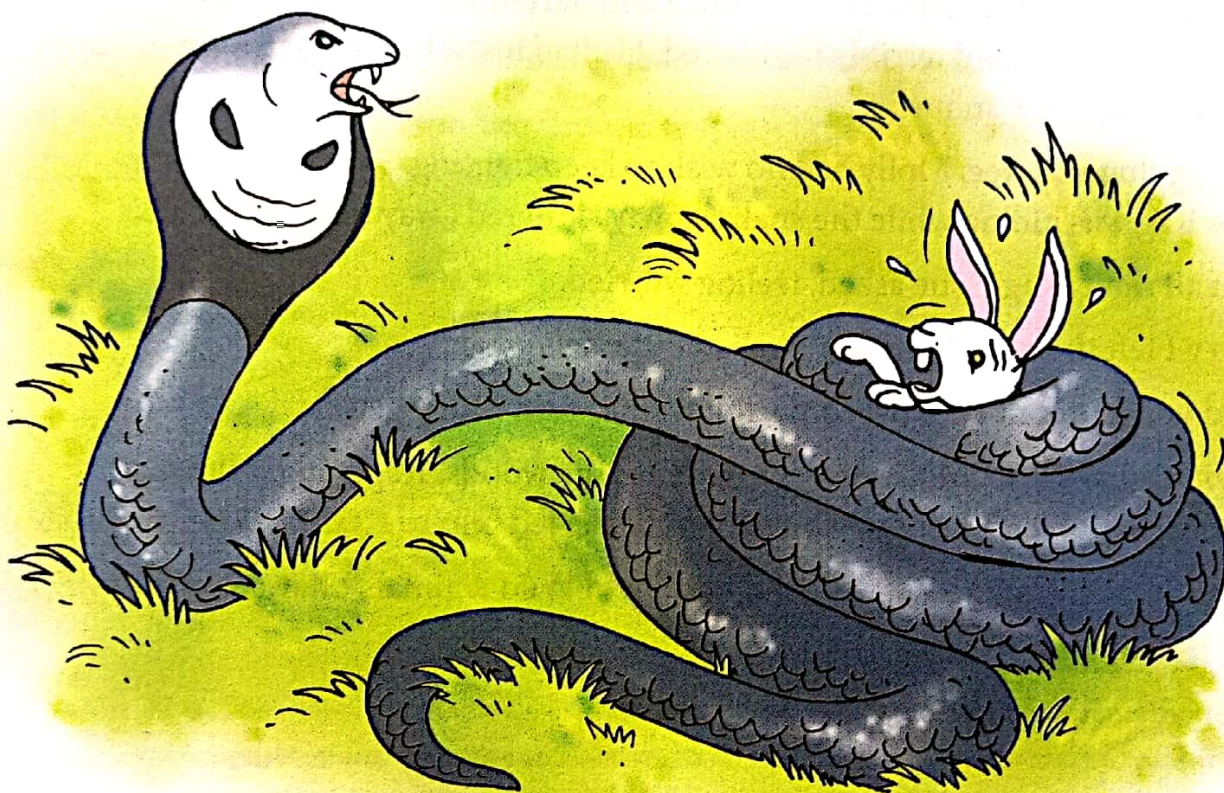
“Could this strange sound without footsteps be anything dangerous?” thought Rag. The low sound seemed to move nearer, then it went this way and that, but then it seemed to be going away. Rag felt he had to find out what the sound was. He slowly raised his roly-poly body on his short legs, lifted his little round head above the covering of his nest and peeped out into the woods.

★ **yellow warbler** a small, yellow bird found in North Asia, Australia and Europe
★ **winked** opened and closed one eye quickly **patter** the tapping noise of feet
to lie low to hide in order to stay away from danger **roly-poly** small and round and soft



The sound stopped as soon as he moved. He could see nothing, so he took one step forward to get a better view, and immediately found himself in front of an enormous black snake.

“Mammy! Help me, Mammy!” Rag screamed in terror, as the snake darted at him. He tried to run away with all the strength in his tiny limbs. But in a flash, the snake had him by one ear and secured the baby bunny in its coils.



“Mam-my—Mam-my,” gasped poor little Raggylug.

The little one’s cries would have stopped soon, when bounding through the woods, straight as an arrow, came Mammy. She was no longer the shy and helpless little Molly Cottontail. Mother’s love was too strong for that. The cry of her baby had filled her with the courage of a hero.

★ **terror** a feeling of great fear **darted** moved suddenly and quickly **in a flash** very quickly
had him by one ear held him tightly by the ear **secured** got a tight hold on **coils** the rings or spirals
that a snake forms by curving its body around an animal that it wants to kill **gasped** breathed deeply and
quickly through the mouth, because of surprise or shock **bounding** walking or running with long steps

Hop! She jumped over the snake as it tried to attack her.

Whack! She struck the snake with her sharp claws.

It was such a hard hit that the snake twisted in pain and hissed with anger.

"M-a-m-my," little Rag cried weakly. Mammy leaped again and again and struck harder and stronger until the snake let go of the little one's ear. It tried to bite Molly instead. But the snake only got a mouthful of fur.

The snake was beginning to lose the battle. It lost its tight hold on baby Rag. Rag wriggled out of the snake's coils at once and darted away into the bushes. He was out of breath and terribly frightened. He had lost a bit of his left ear, but he was otherwise unhurt.

Once Raggylug was free, Molly had no wish to keep fighting. She hopped over to where Rag was hiding while the snake slowly slithered away into the jungle.

"Are you all right, Rag?" she asked, feeling worried.

"I'm sorry I left the nest, Mammy," replied little Raggylug.

"I'm glad you're not hurt! Now come, follow me," said Molly gently.

Then, with a giant leap, Molly disappeared into the woods. Raggylug followed the shining beacon of her snow-white tail until she led him to a safer corner of the swamp.

Adapted from Wild Animals I have Known by E T Seton

out of breath gasping for air **beacon** a light that works like a signal

Ernest Thompson Seton (1860–1946) was an English author, wildlife artist and one of the founding pioneers of the Boy Scouts of America. His famous books about scouting include *The Birch Bark Roll of the Woodcraft Indians* (1906) and *The Boy Scout Handbook* (1910). Seton was also an early pioneer of the modern school of animal fiction writing, his most popular work being *Wild Animals I Have Known* (1898).



COMPREHENSION

A. Answer these questions.

1. What did Raggylug's mother ask him to do?
2. What did Raggylug notice while hiding in his nest?

3. What was different about the new sound Raggylug heard?
4. What mistake did Raggylug make? What happened because of that?
5. How did mother's love save Raggylug?

B. Complete these sentences in your own words.

1. The 'little green world' that Raggylug sees refers to _____.
2. The description 'roly-poly body', 'short legs' and 'little round head' tells us that Raggylug was _____.
3. To secure 'the baby bunny in his coils' means the snake _____.
4. The Mother rabbit not being 'the shy and helpless little Molly Cottontail' means _____.

C. Think and answer.

Do you think that a mother's love for her child is common to animals as well as humans? Say why you think so and give an example to support your views.



KNOW YOUR VALUES



Molly Cottontail was very brave and fought the big black snake on her own to save baby Raggylug. How can we be brave in the face of danger? How do we protect those we love?

When someone we know is in trouble, we should be brave and stand up for them. It shows that we love and care about them.



GRAMMAR

Read these sentences.

1. A yellow warbler caught a blue butterfly only six inches from his nose.
2. Are you all right, Rag?
3. I'm glad you're not hurt!
4. Stay at home and keep very quiet till I return.



A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense. There are four kinds of sentences—statements or declarative sentences, interrogative sentences, exclamatory sentences and imperative sentences.

Sentence 1 is a **statement** or **declarative sentence**. It states a fact, an idea or expresses an opinion. It can be either a positive or a negative sentence. Many sentences we speak or write are of this kind. We use a full stop at the end of such sentences.

- ★ Rag had never heard anything like it before.

Sentence 2 is an **interrogative sentence**. It is used to ask a question. The questions may ask for information, confirmation or denial of a statement. We use a question mark at the end of such sentences.

- ★ Could this strange sound without footsteps be anything dangerous?

Sentence 3 is an **exclamatory sentence**. These sentences express strong feelings such as joy, sorrow, disappointment or pain. We use an exclamation mark at the end of such sentences.

- ★ Help me, Mammy!

Sentence 4 is an **imperative sentence**. These sentences are used to give orders or to make requests. Imperative sentences often begin with a verb and not a subject. We use a full stop at the end of such sentences.

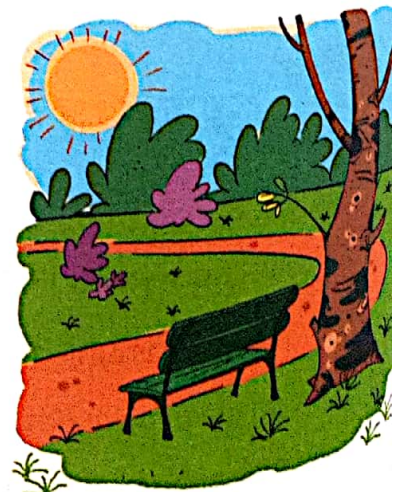
- ★ Help me.

A. Identify and write the kinds of sentences in the blanks.

1. Bring that bag from the table, please. imperative sentence
2. Have you solved the puzzle yet? _____
3. I am reading a book about horses. _____
4. That's not true! _____
5. What a beautiful picture! _____
6. Do you enjoy going to the cinema? _____

B. Rewrite these sentences in your notebook using the instructions in the brackets.

1. It is a holiday tomorrow. (exclamatory)
Hurrah! Tomorrow is a holiday!
2. You want someone to hold your bag. (imperative)
3. Your neighbours have gone on a vacation. (declarative)
4. You want to warn your friend not to sit on a freshly-painted bench. (exclamatory)
5. You want to know how far it is to the nearest town. (interrogative)
6. Your friend Mala's birthday is tomorrow. (declarative)





VOCABULARY

Look at these words.

★ mouthful

★ helpless



The letters in colour are **suffixes**. The suffix **-ful** means **full of** and the suffix **-less** means **without**.

Complete these sentences by adding the suffixes **-ful** or **-less** to the sentences.

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 1. | fear | The book I am reading is about a <u>fearful</u> monster. The monster makes the people of a town live in terror until a clever and <u>fearless</u> young man fights and kills it. |
| 2. | hope | Sonali and Nitin were watching the finals. Sonali was sure that their team's position was _____ and that they would surely lose. But Nitin was _____ that they would somehow win. And they did! |
| 3. | pain | I am very afraid of injections. So when I went to the doctor, I shut my eyes tight because I was sure that the injection would be very _____. But I hardly felt anything. It was really quite _____. |
| 4. | use | Gaurav bought a map. But the key to the map was _____ to him because he did not know how to read a map. So he looked up a _____ book on how to read map symbols. |
| 5. | care | You must be very _____ while learning skating. If you are _____ you could have a serious accident. |



SPELLING



The words sound and down sound similar but they are spelt with **ou** and **ow**.

Listen and complete these words with the letters **ou** or **ow**.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. br__se | 2. b__ndary | 3. ann__nce |
| 4. fr__n | 5. d__bt | 6. d__nload |
| 7. b__nd | 8. f__ntain | 9. cl__d |



WRITING

Imagine that you are Raggylug. Describe what happened after Mammy went out in search of food, how the snake attacked you and how you were saved.

You can begin like this—

Before leaving, Mammy warned me not to go out. I tried to sleep but I could not. From my bed, I could hear the birds and see the green forest. Suddenly...

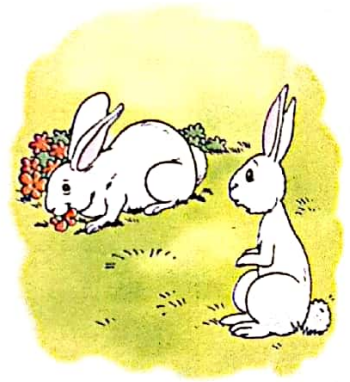


READING ALOUD

Listen to the poem. Then, recite the poem aloud in class. Why do you think the words **hop** and **nibble** are repeated in the poem?

Here's a Rabbit

Oh, here's a fluffy rabbit
With two ears so very long
See him hop, hop, hop about
On legs so very strong.
He nibbles, nibbles carrots
For his dinner every day
And as soon as he has had enough
He hops, hops, hops away.



PRONUNCIATION

A. Listen and repeat.

got cot pot was knot tot nod

B. Listen and repeat.

thought fought taught caught wars stork clawed

C. Listen and repeat these pairs of words.

cot	caught	was	wars	tot	taught
knot	fought	nod	clawed	pot	stork

D. Listen and repeat these phrases.

fought a war

bought a cot

stork was caught

short animal claws

sought water

too short to take the shot



In the text, Mammy warned Raggylug not to go out of the nest till she returned. But Raggylug decided to explore anyway.

Your close friends are talking to each other about something while the teacher is teaching. They want you to participate in the conversation. You want to listen to the teacher and take notes, but you also want to listen to what your friends have to say. What will you do?

- a. I will stop taking notes and start talking to my friends.
- b. I will feel that I am being disturbed and complain about them to the teacher.
- c. I will tell them politely that they should keep quiet during class.



adventure (*noun*) an exciting and unusual experience: We had quite an adventure, getting lost and then finding our way back. *similar words: escapade, trip*

curious (*adjective*) wanting to know more about something: Arshi received a parcel by post and felt very curious about what was in it. *similar words: interested, nosy*

mouthful (*noun*) the amount of food or drink that can be put in the mouth at a time: I was in a hurry, so I had only a mouthful of rice and set out. *similar word: bite*

straight as an arrow very straight: The road to my house is as straight as an arrow, so it should not be a problem finding it.

wide awake fully awake: I was wide awake even after grandmother finished telling me the bedtime story.

India is home to many rare animals that are not found anywhere else in the world. The Great Indian Rhinoceros, the Indian Pangolin, the Nilgai, the Indian Hare, the Asiatic Lion and the Bengal Tiger and are some of the animals that are unique to India. These animals live in the vast jungles across the country.



Nilgai



Great Indian Rhinoceros



Indian Pangolin



Indian hare





Tinker Bell

2

WARM UP

Read this real-life incident.



A billy goat called Timur met a Siberian tiger called Amur in a Russian zoo. People thought that Amur would kill the goat for food. But to everyone's surprise, the two animals became great friends! Timur was not afraid of Amur at all. He used to tease and irritate his big, strong friend and also play with him.



Do you think animals can be friends with humans or with each other?

Tinker Bell is a goat who forms an unusual friendship with a boy. Read the story to find out if there are any similarities between Timur and Tinker.



I had been sitting on the bank of a small irrigation canal, gazing at herons fishing in muddy water, when I felt something push my elbow. Looking round, I found a little goat at my side, soft as velvet and with pretty grey eyes. Neither her owner nor her mother was around.

As she continued to nudge at me, I took a ginger biscuit from my pocket and held it out to her. She ate it with relish, then sat down beside me and began nibbling at the grass.

irrigation canal an artificial stream made to supply water to crops **herons** large white birds that live near water and have long necks and long legs **nudge** push gently with the head or elbow **with relish** with a lot of pleasure or enjoyment **nibbling** eating in small bites

A little later, when I started walking homewards, she followed me unsteadily. "Go home!" I said, as she danced around me with thin trembling legs. But she did not seem to understand. I kept walking, feeling sure that I would soon leave the young goat behind. But her legs were stronger than I had thought. She came along with a hop, skip and a jump, right up to the gate of our house.

There was nothing I could do but carry her in and present her to Grandfather.

"Not *another*!" said Grandmother, when she saw the goat in the garden, drinking from a saucer of milk. "I've told both of you again and again that I will not put up with another bird or animal in the house!"

Grandfather, always my ally, helped me.

"Goat's milk is very good for your rheumatism," he told Grandmother.

The hope of milk made Grandmother accept the new pet, even though it would be some time before the goat could give us any.

The goat was named Tinker Bell, after the fairy in the story of Peter Pan*. She was a lot like the fairy. She skipped and pranced, and her feet seemed as if they were fixed with springs when she leaped about on the grass. I tied a little bell to her neck. I always knew by its tinkling where she was likely to be found.

Goats grow fast; and, unlike Peter Pan and the fairies, Tinker Bell had to grow up.

To begin with, Tinker Bell developed a little pair of horns. Her appetite began to increase, too. The leaves of the nasturtium, the sweet-pea and the geranium were her favourites.

One morning, Grandmother found all her sweet-peas destroyed.



unsteadily moving as if she may fall **trembling** shaking because they are not strong enough **put up with** accept or tolerate **ally** supporter; friend **rheumatism** a painful condition of the joints or muscles **pranced** walked with high, bouncy steps **appetite** a strong desire for food **nasturtium, sweet-pea, geranium** different kinds of flowering plants

***Note:** Peter Pan is a character created by author J M Barrie. He is a naughty boy who can fly and who never grows old. He lives in an imaginary place called Neverland with fairies, mermaids and other mythical creatures. Tinker Bell is a fairy in that land.





"I think a cow got into the garden at night," I said quickly.

Grandmother did not say anything, but the look in her eye told me that she knew who had done the deed.

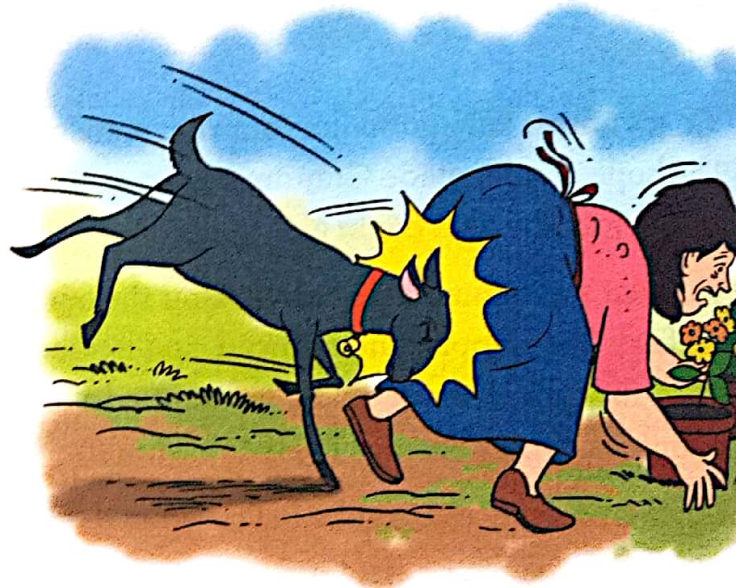
The next day, the gardener came to Grandmother to say that he had been bending over the sweet-pea bed, putting it right again, when Tinker Bell had come up quietly and butted him from behind. He refused to work in the garden until Tinker Bell was tied up.

"And by the way," said Grandmother, after we had calmed her down, "when are we going to have that milk we were promised?"

Grandfather stroked his chin and tried to look innocent.

Tinker Bell began using her horns at every chance. The postman, the fruit-seller and our cook, all had complaints to make. They dared not turn their backs on dear Tinker Bell.

The climax came during the visit of one of my aunts. She had been bending over a pot in the garden, looking at the geranium, when Tinker Bell decided to use her horns to move her out of the way.



It was the end of Tinker Bell's stay with us. My aunt insisted that she had been badly injured, though she refused Grandfather's offer of first aid.

Grandmother ordered the cook to take Tinker Bell straight to the bazaar, and sell her to the first customer who came along.

Tinker Bell seemed to know she was being taken away forever. Her eyes were quite moist as she was dragged unwillingly down the road to the bazaar.

deed act **putting it right again** improving; putting it back to what it used to be like
butted him hit him with (her) head or horns **climax** the most important part of a story
insisted stated (something) strongly **dragged unwillingly** pulled against one's wishes

I stood at the gate and watched her being led away. She kept looking back and bleating, wondering why I was not going along with her on this particular walk. I could only wave to her, and hope that her next owner would be kind.

When the cook came back, he said that Tinker Bell had been sold for a rupee. But later he told me that he had not sold Tinker Bell but had taken her to his own house where she would be looked after well.

I did visit Tinker Bell occasionally. And in due course, I found her with a little white kid. Tinker Bell was giving the cook's family a good supply of milk, and they were very pleased with her. She was very friendly with everyone in the cook's house, and only butted strangers who bent too low when giving the usual salaam.

Ruskin Bond

bleating calling out; the call of a goat **salaam** a way of greeting someone

Ruskin Bond (1934–) is one of India's best-loved storytellers. He has spent most of his life in Dehradun and loves writing about the forests, hill stations and people of this region. His most popular works are *The Room on the Roof* and *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*. He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992, the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014. He now lives with his family in Landour, Mussoorie.



COMPREHENSION

A. Answer these questions.

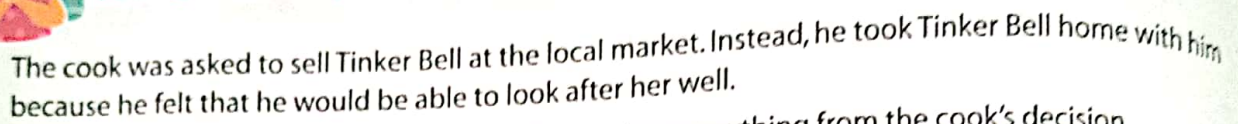
1. Where was the narrator in the beginning of the story? What was he doing? Who nudged his elbow?
2. How did Grandfather persuade Grandmother to keep the goat?
3. Why was Tinker Bell tied up?
4. What prompted Grandmother to get rid of Tinker Bell?
5. Why were Tinker Bell's eyes moist?

B. Find sentences in the text which suggest that—

1. the goat was very young when the narrator first saw it.
2. both the narrator and his grandfather loved animals.
3. the narrator was very close to his grandfather.
4. the narrator's aunt was not injured. It was only her pride that was hurt.

C. Think and answer. Why did the cook say that the man was a kind-hearted man? What makes you say so?

1. Do you think the cook was a kind-hearted man?
2. Stories are humorous because of what happens in them and how people react. Which incident and character do you consider the funniest in this story? Support your answer with reasons.



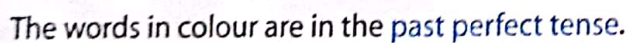
Do you think the cook did the right thing? Can we learn anything from the cook's decision to take Tinker Bell home?

We should always take care of our pets. It is a good way to learn to be responsible and care about all living things around us.



Read these sentences.

- ★ The goat's legs were stronger than I **had thought**.
- ★ But later the cook told me that he **had not sold** Tinker.



We use the past perfect tense to describe an action that has taken place before another action in the past. The past perfect tense clearly indicates which of the two actions took place first and which followed that action.

- ★ But later the cook told me that he had not sold Tinker.

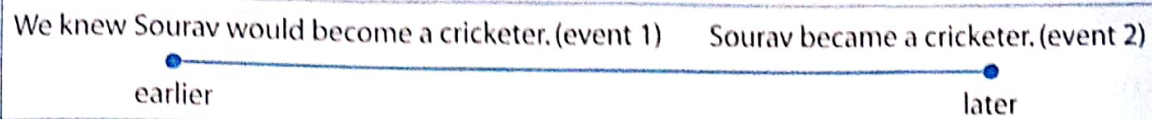


We use words like **already**, **just** and **always** to refer to actions which were completed before a specific time in the past.

- ★ Devraj **had just left** for school when the postman **arrived**.



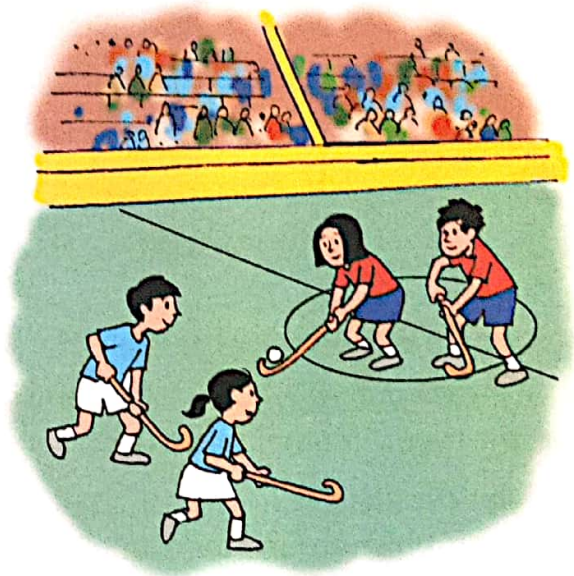
- ★ We had always known Sourav would become a cricketer.



To make the past perfect tense, we use **had** + past participle of the verb.

A. Complete these sentences using the past perfect tense forms of the verbs in the brackets.

1. Kushal did not want to go to the theatre with us because he had already seen the play.
(he / already see / play)
2. The house was very quiet when I reached home as _____.
(everyone / go to sleep)
3. Kate was groaning because she _____.
(hurt / her knee)
4. We arrived late at the stadium; the _____.
(match / already begin)
5. Prateek _____, so he could not enter the hall.
(forget / bring ticket)
6. Suraj could not participate in the quiz because _____.
(he / not practise enough)



B. Tick (✓) the sentences that are correct. Rewrite the sentences that are incorrect in your notebook.

1. I didn't bring lunch because I left my lunch-box at home.
I didn't bring lunch because I had left my lunch-box at home.
2. Varun had never complained about his friend before.
3. I went to dance class after I had ate some snacks from the canteen.
4. The crowd became restless by the time the cricketers came out to play.
5. Aditi enjoyed the play last night because she had already read the book.
6. The postman delivered the letter before I reached home.

VOCABULARY

Read this sentence.

- ★ I will not **put up with** another bird or animal in the house!



The phrase in colour is a **phrasal verb**.

The phrasal verb **put up with** means **to accept an unpleasant situation without complaining**.

Look at some more phrasal verbs with **put** and their meanings.

- ★ **put in** – to spend time or use energy working or practising something
- ★ **put out** – to stop something from burning
- ★ **put away** – to keep something back in its usual place
- ★ **put off** – to postpone or delay doing something
- ★ **put forward** – to suggest

Complete these sentences using the correct forms of the phrasal verbs from the list above.

1. "Please put away your clothes and books and tidy the room," Mother said to me.
2. Our class has _____ a plan to clean the rubbish around the school.
3. It took the firefighters several days before they could _____ the forest fire.
4. I have to work hard if I want to finish my history project on time. I kept _____ it _____ and now I find that I have very little time left to finish it.
5. Nisha has to _____ a lot of effort if she wants to sing on stage.



DICTIONARY WORK

Refer to a dictionary and find the meanings of the underlined words in each pair of sentences.

1. a. Once you get the deed, you will become the official owner of the house.
b. I took Sarah to the park, so I've done my good deed for the day.
2. a. In spring, the trees grow fresh new leaves. They look bright and green.
b. With a spring, the cat leaped onto the table.

3. a. My sister plays the horn in her school band.
b. The driver honked the horn to warn the old man who was crossing the road.
4. a. Mr Sanghvi is a famous lawyer. He has never lost a case.
b. The crystal vase was packed in a padded case.



WRITING

Read this letter.

52, M G Road

New Delhi

19 August 2017

Dear Ruskin,

Thank you for your letter and the lovely photographs of Tinker Bell that you had sent me by post. She seems to be a very sweet little pet, though she seems to be getting into trouble with your grandmother very often! I wish we were allowed to keep pets in the hostel. It would be so much fun! I would have kept a pet kitten.

I hope you are feeling better now. When will you be coming back to school? The head cook announced last Monday that we will get a fruit or a sweet and a glass of milk after lunch and dinner every day!

Yesterday, we had our Sports Day. Manish won the Best Athlete Award. We managed a second place in the relay race. All of us in the team were missing you. It would have been wonderful to share the moment with you.

I look forward to your letter. Come back soon!

Your friend,
Rohit

Imagine that you are the boy from the story. Write a reply to Rohit and tell him what happened to Tinker Bell after she left your home.



SPEAKING



When Grandmother decided to send Tinker Bell away, Grandfather and the narrator may have made a few suggestions to keep the goat at home. This is what they could have said.

- ★ Maybe we could keep her tied up.
- ★ Why don't we keep her in a pen?

Here are some ways in which we can make suggestions or answer them.

- ★ Why don't you ask Rajat to help you out?
- ★ What about / How about asking Rajat to help you out?
- ★ You could / We could ask Rajat to help you / us out.
- ★ Let's ask Rajat to help us out.
- ★ Maybe you can ask Rajat to help you out.
- ★ I suggest you ask Rajat to help you out.

Good idea!

Thanks a lot for the wonderful suggestion.

Are you sure that'll help?

Why didn't I think of that!

I'm not sure that'll help.

I think I'll do that.

Work with a partner. Practise making suggestions and answering them in these situations.

1. What shall we do this Saturday?
Let's order some sandwiches.
Good idea!
2. What shall we do for dinner?
3. Where can the class go for a picnic?
4. I don't know what to buy my brother for his birthday.



Listen to a TV report and choose the correct answers.

1. The name of the show was _____.
☒ a. *Animal Time* ☐ b. *Fun Facts* ☐ c. *Fun with Animals*
2. The show can be seen on TV _____.
☒ a. every day ☐ b. every week ☐ c. every three days
3. The last segment of the show is called _____.
☒ a. *Fun with Animals* ☐ b. *Animal Time* ☐ c. *Fun Facts*
4. According to the legend, people first had the _____ from the bush.
☒ a. dried berries ☐ b. berries ☐ c. powdered berries
5. The berries made those who ate them _____.
☒ a. energetic and happy ☐ b. lazy and sleepy ☐ c. energetic and alert

bank (noun) the land by the side of a river: The boat was tied to a tree on the bank of the river.
similar words: edge, side

looked after took care of: My friend, Vivek, looked after my pet bunnies while I was on a holiday in Bhutan. similar word: tended to

occasionally (adverb) sometimes, not all the time: Occasionally, we have sweets after dinner.
similar words: now and then, once in a while

soft as velvet very soft, just like the cloth: That pillow is so comfortable because it is as soft as velvet.

to begin with at first: To begin with, there were fifteen people in the competition.
similar words: initially, originally

The Changthangi or Pashmina goat is found only in Jammu and Kashmir. These goats are mostly white, but black, gray and brown animals can also be found. Pashmina goats are raised for their thick, warm fur which is known as cashmere wool. The wool is famous for being extra-fine and is used to create beautiful pashmina shawls.



pashmina goats



pashmina shawl with Kashmiri needlework



Something Told the Wild Geese



Something told the wild geese
It was time to go;
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered,—‘snow’.

Leaves were green and stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed,
But beneath warm feathers
Something cautioned,—‘frost’.

All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice,
But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice.

Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly—
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.



Rachel Lyman Field

wild geese geese are migratory birds, that is, birds that move from cold countries to warmer places to avoid the winter **leaves were green and stirring** the leaves were still full of life and moving in the wind **luster-glossed** ripe and shining **cautioned** warned **sagging orchards** trees in the orchard were heavy and bending with the weight of ripe fruits **steamed with amber spice** covered in a golden brown colour **each wild breast** the heart of each bird in the flock **stiffened at remembered ice** became stiff with fear at the thought of the cruel winter **summer sun was on their wings** they could feel the warm summer sun on their wings **winter in their cry** the calls of the birds seem to say that winter has almost arrived

Rachel Lyman Field (1894–1942) was an American novelist, poet and author of children’s fiction. She has received many awards for her works.

‘Something Told the Wild Geese’ is one of her most famous poems. This poem is about the passage of time and the change and cycle of the seasons. In the poem, Nature seems to have its own secret and mysterious way of telling the geese that winter is close at hand and that they must get ready to fly to the land where it is summer.

A. Answer these questions.

1. *Something told the wild geese
It was time to go;*
 - a. What does 'something' refer to?
 - b. Why did the birds have to go?
2. What is the season? How do you know?
3. Why does the thought of ice frighten the birds?
4. *Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly—
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.*
 - a. Where will the wild geese fly to?
 - b. How do you know that the geese do not enjoy winter?

B. Think and answer.

In the poem, why do you think the poet chose not to say what the 'something' is?

C. Discuss with your partner.

How did the birds sense the coming of winter? Could the speaker also sense it? Use lines from the poem to support your answer.

D. Try these tongue-twisters in groups of five. Say it aloud once and then try to repeat it without pausing. If you get any word wrong while repeating, the turn passes to your friend.

1. Three grey geese in green fields grazing.
2. Swan swam over the sea,
Swim, Swan, swim!
Swan swam back again
Well swum, Swan!



A Hero

3

WARM UP

Look at these photographs. What is unusual about these people?



Can these people be called 'heroes'? What are the qualities of a hero?

Father looked over the newspaper he was reading and said, "Swami, listen to this."

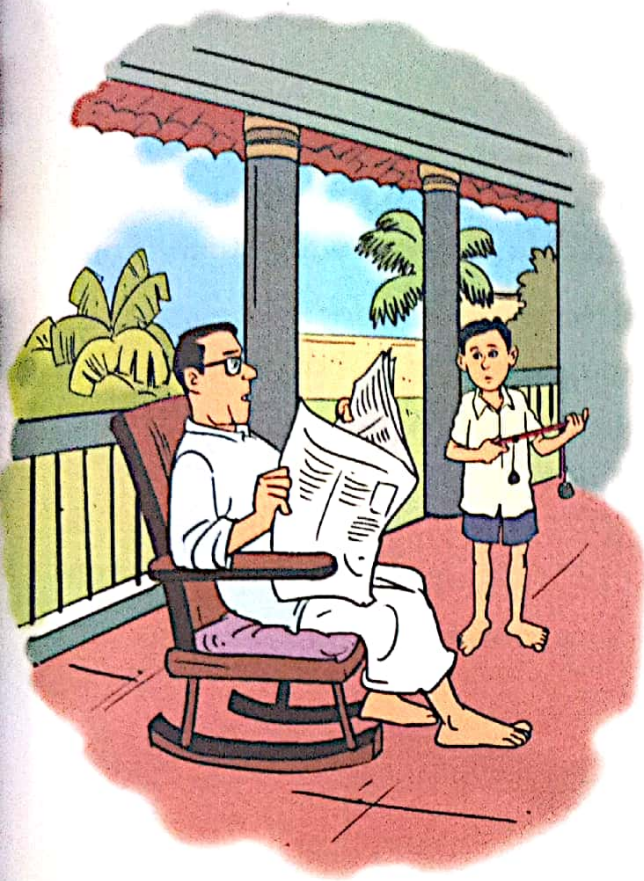
He read aloud an article about a village boy who had come face-to-face with a tiger. The article went on to describe the fight the boy had with the tiger and his flight up a tree, where he stayed for half a day till he was rescued.

After reading it through, Father asked Swaminathan, "What do you say to that?"

"I think he must have been a very strong, grown-up person, not a boy. How can a boy fight a tiger?" said Swami.

Father laughed and said, "Courage is everything. A man may have the strength of an elephant and yet be a coward, whereas another might have the strength of a straw,

flight the act of running away or escaping from a dangerous situation **coward** a person who is not brave



but if he has courage, he can do anything. Courage is everything; strength and age are not important."

Swami did not agree. "How can it be, Father? Suppose I have all the courage, what can I do if a tiger should attack me? A tiger is stronger than a man."

"Let alone strength, can you prove you have courage? Let me see if you can sleep alone tonight in my office room. You must sleep alone in future. It is disgraceful sleeping beside Grandmother or Mother like a baby. You are almost ten."

Swaminathan had always slept beside his grandmother.

He hoped at first that his father was only joking, but he soon realised that the matter had gone beyond his control.

Swaminathan rose silently and tiptoed away to his bed. Granny was sitting up in her bed, and remarked, "Are you feeling sleepy already? Don't you want a story?"

Swaminathan did not answer. He threw himself on his bed and pulled the blanket over his face.

He turned over, curled, and snored under the blanket till he felt his blanket being pulled away.

Father stood over him. "Swami, get up," he said.

Swaminathan stirred and groaned as if in sleep. Father repeated, "Get up, Swami."

Grandmother pleaded, "Why do you disturb him?"

"Get up, Swami," Father said for the third time. Swaminathan got up immediately.

Father rolled up Swami's mattress and tucked it under his arm and said, "Come with me."

Swami looked at his grandmother, paused for a moment, and then followed his father into the office room.

let alone another way of saying 'Forget about (something)!' **disgraceful** shameful
the matter had gone beyond his control Swami could not make his father change his mind
stirred moved slightly

"Let me sleep in the hall, Father," he begged. "Your office room is very dusty and there may be scorpions behind your law books."

"There are no scorpions, little fellow. I will even leave the door open if you promise not to roll up your mattress and go to your grandmother's side at night," said Father.

Swaminathan felt alone, frightened and angry. He hated the newspaper for printing the tiger's story. The boy in the news did not appear to be a boy after all, but a monster!

Soon, there was complete silence in the house and his heart started beating faster. He remembered all the stories of devils and ghosts he had heard in his life. Through the stillness, all kinds of noises reached his ears—the ticking of the clock, the rustle of trees, the sound of snoring and some night insects humming. Every moment, he expected the devil to come up to carry him away.

Swaminathan got up hurriedly and spread his mattress under the bench. It seemed to be a much safer place. He shut his eyes tight till he fell asleep. Even in his sleep he was troubled by nightmares. A tiger was chasing him. He tried to escape but his feet would not move. Swaminathan tried to open his eyes, but his eyelids would not open.

With a lot of effort, he opened his eyes. He immediately put out his hand to reach for his grandmother, but he only touched the wooden leg of the bench. He started to sweat in fright.

Suddenly, he heard a rustling sound in the room.

"What is this rustling?" he wondered.

He moved to the edge of the bench. Something was moving. He thought that the devil had come to pull him out and tear him up, and so why should he wait? As it came nearer, he crawled out from under the bench, hugged it with all his might, and used his teeth on it like a weapon...!

"Aiyo! Something has bitten me," came an agonised cry.



scorpions small animals that have poisonous stings in their tails
with all his might with all his strength **agonised** showing extreme pain

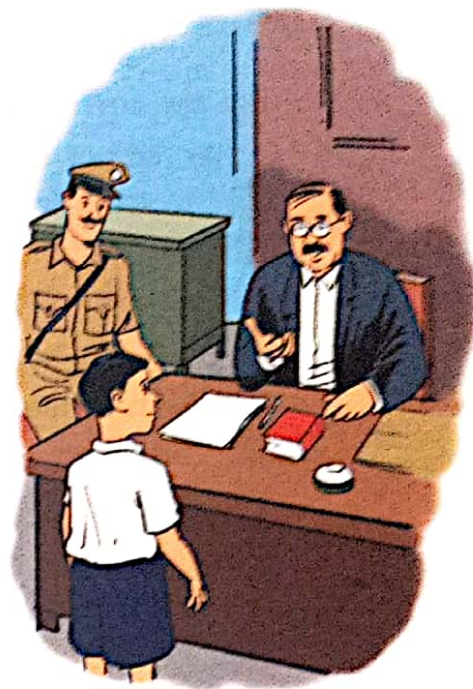


This was followed by a heavy tumbling and falling. In a moment, Father, the cook and the helper came in, carrying lights. And all three of them fell on the burglar who lay amidst the furniture with a bleeding ankle.

Congratulations were showered on Swaminathan the next day. His classmates looked at him with respect, and his teacher patted his back. The Headmaster said that he was very brave. Swaminathan had bitten into the flesh of one of the most notorious house-breakers of the district and the police were grateful to him for it.

The Inspector said, "Why don't you join the police when you grow up?"

Swaminathan said for the sake of politeness, "Certainly, yes," though he had quite made up his mind to be an engine driver, a railway guard or a bus conductor later in life.



R K Narayan

burglar a thief **showered** given in large amounts **looked at him with respect** admired him
notorious known for doing something bad **house-breakers** thieves who enter houses forcefully to steal things **district** an area of a country or city **grateful** thankful
for the sake of politeness out of the need to be polite

R K Narayan (1906–2001) was an Indian writer, best known for his works set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. He is one of the three leading figures of early Indian literature in English, alongside Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. His famous books include *Swami and Friends*, *The Bachelor of Arts* and *The English Teacher*. He also received the Sahitya Akademi Award for the book, *The Guide*.



COMPREHENSION

A. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Swami feel that the story in the newspaper could not be true?
2. How did Swami's father react to the story in the paper? What did he want Swami to do?
3. What excuses did Swami give to avoid what his father wanted him to do?
4. Describe Swami's experiences in his father's office room.
5. How did Swami become a hero?

B. Choose the correct answer.

1. Father did not want to listen to Swami's excuses because he was determined
 - a. to scare Swami so that he learned to sleep alone.
 - b. to make Swami courageous.
 - c. to teach Swami a lesson.
2. We know that Swami loved to listen to stories because
 - a. he had heard stories from grandmother since he was a baby.
 - b. his father wanted grandmother to tell Swami a story that night.
 - c. grandmother asked him if he wanted to hear a story that night.
3. Swami thought the boy in the story was a monster because
 - a. he was responsible for Swami's troubles.
 - b. he had been able to fight a tiger alone.
 - c. his courage and strength seemed unbelievable.

C. Think and answer.

1. Do you think Swami enjoyed being a hero? Give reasons from the text for your answer.
2. Do you think Swami will sleep alone in the future after this scary incident? Say why you think so.



KNOW YOUR VALUES



In the text, you read about how Swaminathan overcame his fear of sleeping alone by helping to capture a burglar.

You and your friend Satish have signed up for a school quiz. However, Satish does not want to be on the team because he is afraid that people will laugh at him if he does not do well.

In what ways can you help Satish overcome his fear? You may choose more than one option.

- a. I will help him prepare for the quiz or be on his team.
- b. I will laugh at him if he fails to score any points.
- c. I will tell him that if he fails, he can learn from the experience and do better next time.
- d. I will make sure no one laughs at him if he fails.
- e. I will make him understand that he has to try it to know if he is good at it or not.

We should not make fun of people who have a fear of doing something. Instead, we should step forward and help them overcome the fear by being supportive.



Read these sentences.

1. a. A tiger attacked the boy. b. The boy was attacked by a tiger.
2. a. They showered congratulations on Swaminathan.
b. Congratulations were showered on Swaminathan (by them).



Sentences **1a** and **2a** are in the **active voice**.

We say that a sentence is in the active voice when the subject is the **doer** of the action (a tiger, they) and the object is the **receiver** of the action of the verb (the boy, Swaminathan).

Sentences **1b** and **2b** are in the **passive voice**.

We say that a sentence is in the passive voice when the subjects (the boy, Swaminathan) are the **receivers** of the actions (**was attacked, were showered**). The **doers** of the actions (a tiger, them) come after the verb and the preposition **by**. The main verb in the passive voice is formed by using **is / am / are / was / were + past participle form of the main verb**.

Here are the rules we follow while converting a sentence from the active voice to the passive voice.

1. When we convert a sentence from the active voice to the passive voice—
 - a. the **subject** of the active sentence becomes the **object** of the passive sentence.
The **by** before the object indicates who is causing the action.
 - b. the **object** in the active sentence becomes the **subject** of the passive sentence.

★ The tourists are feeding the ducks.

(subject) (verb) (object)

★ The ducks are being fed (by) the tourists.

(subject) (verb) (object)

(active voice)

(passive voice)
2. If the **subject** of the active sentence is unknown, **by + object** is not used for the sentence in the passive voice.

★ He heard a rustling sound in the room.

★ A rustling sound was heard in the room (by him).

(active voice)

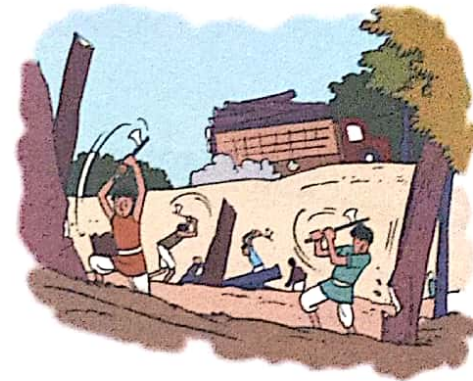
(passive voice)
3. The **pronoun** in the active voice changes its form in the passive voice.

★ I → me ★ he → him ★ she → her ★ we → us ★ they → them
4. The form of the **be** verb depends on the number and person of the new subject, that is, if the subject is plural, the verb will also be plural.

A. Change these sentences from the active voice to the passive voice. Write them in your notebook.

1. We sent the package yesterday.
The package was sent by us yesterday.
2. The doctor has sent the results of the tests.

3. Those men cut down the trees to widen the road.
4. The child threw the ball into the well.
5. We elected Subir as the captain of the cricket team.
6. We called the fire brigade when we noticed the fire.



B. Change these sentences from the passive voice to the active voice. Write the sentences in your notebook.

1. The horse was frightened by the sudden noise.
The sudden noise frightened the horse.
2. The road was blocked by the car.
3. All the boxes were carried by Leena.
4. The Prime Minister was greeted by a huge crowd.
5. Both the sweater and the gloves were knitted by my mother.
6. The work on the project will be finished in two days by Rajesh.



Read these sentences.

- ★ "Aiyo!" came an agonised cry. ★ The pain was agonising.

We use verbs ending in **-ed** to describe how somebody feels.

- ★ The children have been playing indoors all day. They are amused.

We use adjectives ending in **-ing** to say how a situation or event makes somebody feel.

- ★ Yesterday we watched a film on television. It was quite amusing.

Complete these sentences with the correct words from the box.

frightened / frightening interested / interesting excited / exciting amazed / amazing

1. Did you read the book I gave you?
Yes, I really enjoyed the book. I thought it was really interesting.
2. Are you _____ in art galleries? I'm going to the city art gallery.
Would you like to come with me?
Sure, I'd love to.

3. What films have you seen recently?

I saw a horror film last week. It was really quite _____.

4. It's a holiday tomorrow! I'm so _____, but I don't know what to do.

I'll be going to watch the cricket match with my father. You could come with me too.

5. It is the middle of the rainy season. It is _____ that it hasn't rained yet!

I'm sure it will rain soon. The weather department has predicted rains from next week.



WRITING

Look at this entry from Swami's diary.

19 August 1970

Dear Diary,

There was a lot of drama and excitement last night and the whole of today. It all began when Father read out a news report about a boy who fought a tiger. Can a boy really fight a tiger? That too, all by himself? I didn't believe the story at all.

Anyway, Father decided that I had to be as courageous as the boy in that story. So he wanted me to sleep in his office room. I tried to stop Father but he wouldn't listen. You can imagine how I felt! Sleeping alone in that room was very frightening. I could hear all sorts of sounds and it was so dark! I was sure there were many devils and monsters around. In fact, one almost came to get me. I was so terrified that I just caught hold of its leg and bit it. The monster screamed. Father and others ran into the room and caught him. He turned out to be a well-known burglar.

Everyone treated me like a hero at school today.

Now even Father knows that I am braver than the boy in the story. After all, a burglar is more dangerous than a tiger, isn't that right?

A diary entry should always have the date. You can begin the diary entry with a 'Dear Diary' as Swami did, or you can address some imaginary friend or pet. The language is direct, personal and informal. It is also always written in the first person—I.

Write a diary entry about any one of these topics in your notebook.

1. how you overcame your fear
2. what really makes you laugh
3. the best day of your life

PUNCTUATION

Read this sentence.

★ "What was this rustling?" he wondered.

When we write the actual words someone said, we put the words that were spoken between quotation marks ("..."). The words within the quotation marks begin with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark. The punctuation mark is always inside the quotation marks.

Rewrite these sentences with quotation marks, capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks.

1. the ticket collector said, can I see your ticket, please
2. we're going to the beach, said naveen
3. seema, are you feeling okay asked arun
4. nasreen exclaimed, oh what a small plant
5. the train is running late again, said jatinder
6. yes, I can help you, said the officer
7. kailash said, how are you all preparing for the journey
8. how i wish i could go on a holiday said adrija



PRONUNCIATION



A. Listen and repeat these words.

very van five vine move veranda

B. Listen and repeat these words.

weapon wonder water worth were word

C. Listen and repeat these phrases and sentences.

a wooden vase

very cold water

a woollen vest

a woman and a veil

What lovely weather!

Very well!

Your Geography teacher asks the class if there are any questions. You have a question but you are afraid that your friends will think you are stupid. What will you do?

- a. I will not ask the question. I don't want my friends to laugh at me.
- b. I will stand up and ask my question. I wanted to be clear about the concept.
- c. I will ask my friends to explain it to me later.
- d. I will ask the teacher after class so that my friends don't think I am stupid.

article (noun) a piece of writing in a newspaper or magazine: There is an article in today's newspaper about what to eat in summer. *similar words: report, feature*

face-to-face involving two people, animals or things looking directly at each other: Since I usually deal with customers on the phone, I rarely meet them face-to-face.

in a moment immediately: The mouse came out from its hole and sniffed around. In a moment, the cat pounced on it. *similar words: at once, right away*

made up his mind decided: Jatin has made up his mind to participate in the dance competition. *similar words: determined, resolved*

rescue (verb) save from a dangerous situation: We must rescue the bird—it is stuck in a thorny bush. *similar word: save*

tiptoed (verb) moved very quietly and carefully on one's toes: He tiptoed into the room as he did not want to wake up his father. *similar word: crept*