

Appendix - I

Texts for Listening

Unit-1

Conversation

- Sulochana : Hi! Madhavi, welcome to city. How are you?
- Madhavi : I am fine. Thank you. How about you?
- Sulochana : Pretty well. Why are you waiting outside? Come in. When did you return from your village?
- Madhavi : Just this morning.
- Sulochana : How was Pongal?
- Madhavi : It was great fun. I really enjoyed every moment in the village.
I wish I could spend some more time there.
- Sulochana : Oh! Did the village life impress you that much?
- Madhavi : Yes, it was wonderful.
- Sulochana : What fascinated you so much there?
- Madhavi : Well! It was pollution free. Fresh air, fresh water, clear sky... and what not. Everything there.
- Sulochana : Was there anything else?
- Madhavi : Yes, I liked green fields, strange birds, sheep, cows, bulls etc.,
- Sulochana : Oh! That's interesting. Why don't you take me with you the next time you go to your village?
- Madhavi : Done.

Unit – 2

The Inventor of Inventors

‘Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.’

- Thomas Alva Edison

Thomas Alva Edison, the greatest inventor of all times, is the most suitable example of his own saying. This great, outstanding US inventor had the credit of making 1001 inventions. Can you imagine a world without electric light, recorded music, cinema etc., which are the contributions of this great genius?

Edison was born on February 11, 1847 at Milan, Ohio. His father was in-charge of a light house at Lake Huron. Although he could not continue his studies in his school, he was very inquisitive from his boyhood to learn by understanding. When he was only ten years old, he set up a laboratory in the basement of his father's work place. He loved to mix liquids and powders to observe the reactions.

At the age of 12, he began selling newspapers and candy in trains. As a very keen observer, he learnt some preliminary techniques of telegraphy from the station master, which led him later to work as a roving telegrapher. During his stint as a supervisor in a Telegraph company, he created a stock printer. With the money received from it, he set up a laboratory for carrying out his experiments and research work. In subsequent years he invented phonograph — the machine for recording and reproducing sound. Edison thus made man's voice immortal. In 1878, he demonstrated the light bulb — a carbon filament electric bulb.

While experimenting on electric lamp, he discovered an important scientific principle known as 'Edison Effect'. This discovery led to the invention of electron valves and the modern electronics industry rests on this principle. In 1882, he set up a power generating station which supplied power to a few residents of New York City. Later, he developed the kinetograph which was the first step towards motion picture camera. Cinema houses are here today because of the inventive genius of Edison. His other inventions include the spheres of X-rays, telephone and other electronic items. His inventions made him one of the richest men in America.

This great genius passed away on 18 October, 1931.

Unit – 3

Nepal and the Himalayas

Nepal lies between India and Tibet, among the Himalayan mountains. It is a country of mountains and valleys. The tallest mountain in the world, the Mount Everest, is in Nepal. And there are several other mountains nearly as high as the Mount Everest. When mountaineers try to climb Mount Everest, they take the help of the Sherpas, who live in these mountains, to carry heavy loads and to act as guides.

A long time ago, the Sherpas crossed over the mountains from Tibet and made their homes along the slopes of the Himalayas in Nepal. So, they are rather like the people of Tibet to look at. Here, life is hard, and the entire family, including the children, have to work to get enough to eat.

The Sherpas grow potatoes, barley, garlic, and other vegetables. They also graze their yaks on the higher mountain slopes in the summer and on the lower slopes in the winter. The Sherpas use them for almost everything they need. They ride them, plough with them, and use them to carry their goods. The hairy wool of these animals is made into cloth and their skins into leather boots and tents. The yaks also provide milk, fat and meat. Their dung is dried and used as a fuel instead of wood or coal.

There are hardly any roads in the Himalayas, and everything has to be carried either on animals like yaks and donkeys or on human backs. Even children learn to carry heavy loads in large baskets which are tied to them. The baskets are big enough to carry a person.

The highest mountain tops of the Himalayas are cold, cheerless and covered with snow, but lower down one can find flowers in the spring and summer, and fir trees too. There are colourful butterflies, kites and eagles in the skies, and black and red Himalayan bears hiding in the rocks.

Though the Sherpas lead a tough life in their beautiful country, these small, dark-haired people are always cheerful, and like most Buddhist people, they are friendly and kind.

Unit – 4

The Miser

Once there was a very rich man. He was a miser. He ate cheap food and spent very little money. He lent money to small shopkeepers at a high rate of interest. In this way, he earned a lot of money.

Every morning he went out to see the shopkeepers and came home at midday. The miser had a watchman to look after his house. The watchman lived in a hut near the gate. He liked fish, and his wife cooked it for him every day. The watchman told his wife, "Cook the fish before midday. Our master will be out then. He doesn't eat meat or fish, and he will not like the smell of fish."

One day the master came home early. He walked past the watchman's hut and caught the smell of fish. It was a nice smell and he liked it very much.

That afternoon, he called the watchman and asked him, "What were you cooking today?"

The watchman said quickly, "I won't do it again, sir. Please forgive me."

The miser said, "Don't be afraid. I am not angry. What was your wife cooking? Please tell me."

The watchman said, "We were cooking fish."

The miser said, "Please cook it every day. I like the smell very much."

The watchman and his wife thought, "Our master is mad." But they cooked fish every day.

After a month, one evening, the watchman and his wife came to see their master.

"Sir, you like the smell of fish," the watchman said to his master, "so we cook it every day. But fish is not cheap. It is very expensive. It costs us a lot of money. I earn only thirty rupees a month. You ordered us to cook fish even though we cannot afford it. So please give us money for the fish."

The miser thought for a while. Then he said, "Oh, all right. Wait here." He went into his room and shut the door behind him. He took out some silver coins from a bag. He

dropped them one by one on the floor. The watchman and his wife heard the tinkle of the coins and were very happy. They said, “He is going to give us all that money!”

After some time their master came out and sat down on a chair. He then asked the watchman and his wife, “Did you hear the tinkling of the coins?”

“Yes, sir, we did,” said the watchman.

“Did you enjoy it?” asked the miser.

“Yes, sir,” said the watchman and his wife.

The miser then said, “All right. I enjoyed the smell of your fish and you enjoyed the sound of my coins. I didn’t ask for your fish, so don’t ask me for my money. Now go away.”

Unit – 5

Gulliver in Lilliput

Gulliver was a doctor on a ship. He was an Englishman. There was a bad storm and the ship hit a rock and broke into two pieces. It was night time. However, Gulliver swam forward and at last reached an island called Lilliput. The people were called Lilliputians. Gulliver was too tired. He could not open his eyes. He soon went to sleep. Next morning when he woke up he could not move. He was held down by some ropes. His long hair was also pinned to the ground. Then something climbed on to his leg and came up to his chin. It was a little man about fifteen centimetres high. He carried a bow and an arrow in his hand.

Then forty more little people climbed onto Gulliver’s body. He was very surprised and gave a loud shout. Immediately all the little men ran away. But they came back soon.

At first the ropes were too strong for him to break. But somehow, after a long struggle Gulliver broke some of them. He could move one of his arms. When they saw this, the little people shouted and shot their little arrows into him. But the arrows did not hurt Gulliver very much. They were like little pins.

Gulliver lay still. He did not move. After some time the little people stopped shooting arrows at him. Gulliver asked for some food. Over a hundred people brought baskets full of meat and loaves of bread. Gulliver ate them and fell asleep.

The little men took Gulliver to their king. The king liked Gulliver very much. He told his officers to take Gulliver to the biggest building in the land. No house was big enough for Gulliver to live in, but he was able to creep inside the building and lie down. The beds were too small for Gulliver, so they took hundreds of beds and joined them together!

Gulliver lived among the little people for some time. He wanted to go home. Fortunately, one day Gulliver found a boat floating near the seashore. He sailed out to sea in that boat. Later a big ship found him and took him back to England.

Unit – 6

Carried Away by an Eagle

We often speak in fun about a bird carrying away a child. A mother might say to her little one, “Don’t be naughty, or a crow will carry you away.” But do such things really happen?

The following story however, is from real life. The place was a farmhouse near Trondheim in Norway. It was June 1932. A four-year-old child, Svenhild Hansen, was playing in the yard in front of the farmhouse. Suddenly a large eagle came down. It caught hold of the child in its claws and flew up. Luckily, only the child’s dress was held in his claws, so the child was not hurt.

The big bird carried the child for more than a kilometre. It was flying towards its nest. Eagles build their nests on high rocks. This one’s nest was on the side of a mountain. Growing tired, the bird put the child down on a flat rock. This rock was eight hundred feet high on the side of the mountain. The bird’s nest was just fifty feet away.

But by this time, the child’s mother and father, and a large party of men had set out to look for the child. They noticed the eagle flying round and round over a rock in the mountain. They thought that the child might be there, and climbed quickly to the place. But they did not have much hope that they would find her alive.

When they finally reached there, the little Svenhild was fast asleep. She was not even hurt except for a few scratches.

People say that usually, an eagle kills the animal it catches, before taking it to its nest. Why didn’t the eagle kill the child? We do not know. We can only say that the child was very, very lucky.

Svenhild is now a grown-up woman. She is married. But she still keeps the torn dress she wore during this amazing adventure.

Unit – 7

Health and Strength

Hello children! My name is Health and my husband’s name is Strength. The world is our home. We have two daughters. Their names are Games and Sports. They are twins. They look alike. People often mistake Games for Sports and Sports for Games. But if you observe carefully, you will know who is who.

Sports has grace and dignity in every movement and she likes a lot of physical activity. She is not proud, but she doesn’t like the company of others much. Therefore, you hardly find anybody with her except on festive occasions.

Games, unlike her sister, likes the company of others. You will find at least 2 or 3; and sometimes, as many as 11 people with her. They talk to each other, encourage one another, and enjoy themselves by taking sides and playing against each other. One day, Games told me that she wanted to marry Pleasure, who loved her so much. I remember his name. He is the son of my close relative Entertainment. I performed

their marriage in a big stadium. Soon, they had a lot of children (some of them are twins). She gave her wonderful names. I'll just tell you the names as they come to my mind. OK.? Here you are. Volleyball, Football, Cricket, Carrom, Kabaddi, Hockey, Table-tennis, oooooom Ah! Yes, Chess. That's it for now.

OK. Now, let me tell you about my second daughter. One day, as I was taking my evening walk, I found her with a young and energetic boy called Confidence. He is the son of my distant relative from my husband's side. "They will make a good couple," I thought. Soon they were married in a very big place called Olympiad. They too had children. In fact as many as Games had. Confidence, my son-in-law, is very much interested in giving children fancy names. I can never tell you all the names unless you give me enough time. For now, I'll give you a few. Right! Here you are. Where can I start?.oooooom. Let me start with my dynamic girl Running. Yes, then you have High Jump, Long Jump, Hurdles, Discus Throw, Swimming, Javelin Throw... Ah! My memory fails me. OK children. Though I cannot give you the names of all my grandchildren, I can show you some pictures of them. I'm sure you will recognize them since they have become popular all over the world. O.K. That's it for now. Bye!

Unit – 8

The Farmer and the Cobra

At the far end of the village lived a poor farmer. He lived in a small hut, in the middle of a small piece of land. Years before, when he had come to live in the village, people had tried to be friendly. But the farmer was a strange man. He did not talk much to the people. Soon they went about doing their own work and left him to himself.

Near the farmer's hut was an old tree. The tree had a hole, and in the hole lived a cobra. When the days were hot, the cobra would come out of its hole and coil itself up in the shade of the tree. The farmer sat on the ground nearby until the sun had set and he would then return to his house.

One day, the man who owned the place came to the farmer and said to him, "I must have firewood for my home. I want you to cut down the tree. Tomorrow I will ask a man to come and help you with the cutting." And then the land owner left. The farmer watched him as he disappeared down the road.

The farmer stood there thinking. His tree was to go - his tree which gave him shade and comfort! And the cobra? Yes, what about the cobra? If the tree were cut down, he would lose more than shade. He would lose the cobra too, his friend of the summer days.

The farmer sat on the ground in the cool shade of the tree to think. Near the opening of the hole, the cobra lay coiled and the two remained in complete stillness. The sun set, but the man did not return to his house. The cobra sank into its coils as if it understood the great trouble of its friend. The next day, a man came to the farmer's hut. "I've been sent by the land owner to help you cut down the tree, he said." "Well," the farmer said sadly, "if it must be so, let's begin."

They walked from the hut towards the tree, the farmer stopped suddenly and his heart sank. In front of its hole lay the cobra, cold and dead.