

### 3.3 The Last Leaf

**Warning up:-**

**1. Suppose you suffer from a long-term illness (one or two weeks), what should you do and what should you avoid? Fill up the table of Dos and Don'ts.**

<b>Dos</b>	<b>Don'ts</b>
(1) Go to a doctor for diagnosis	(1) Do not try any medication on your own
(2) Take medicines on time	(2) Do not avoid medication on time
(3) Take a suitable diet	(3) Avoid junk food
(4) Take rest	(4) Avoid physical stress and exertion
(5) Rest in a properly ventilated	(5) Do not close doors and windows
(6) Have cheerful thought, courage, a positive attitude.	(6) Do not lose hope and courage

**2. You already know that Homophones are pairs of words that sound the same but differ in spellings and meanings.**

**For example: sum and some**

**There are some words that even have the same spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings in different situations or contexts.**

**For example: bat (a bird) and bat (sports / games equipment)**

**Such words are called Homographs.**

**Make pairs of sentences of your own to point out the different meanings of the following Homographs.**

**(1) fine**

**Ans:-** (i) The new driver had to pay a fine for breaking the signal.

(ii) We decided to go for a picnic only if the day was fine.

**(2) wave**

**Ans:-** (i) Ronny waved to his father before going for the picnic.

(ii) The waves in the sea before the tsunami were huge.

**(3) bear**

**Ans:-** (i) The grizzly bear hibernates during winter.

(ii) Simi could not bear to see the two cats fighting.

**(4) rose**

**Ans:-** (i) The rose is a beautiful flower.

(ii) The teacher rose from her chair to explain the sum.

**(5) lead**

**Ans:-** (i) Lead is used in pencils.

(ii) A good king leads his country to prosperity.

**(6) match**

**Ans:-** (i) Though we lost the match, we were not upset.

(ii) "Buy the shoes only if they match the dress," said mother to Madhu.

**(7) second**

**Ans:-** (i) Every second counts when we are writing an examination paper.

(ii) "Take the second turn on the right directed the policeman.

**(8) object**

**Ans:-** (i) The lawyer objected to what the witness said.

(ii) The objects on the table were taken away before the girl could see them properly.

**English Workshop:-**

**1. Read the story and choose the appropriate meanings.**

**(a) Struggling artists.**

**Ans:-** artists trying hard to earn a living.

**(b) Skeleton branches**

**Ans:-** bare branches.

**(c) Wielded the brush**

**Ans:-** painted skillfully.

**(d) Palette**

**Ans:-** a board used by artists to mix colours.

**(e) Masterpiece**

**Ans:-** an exceptionally beautiful work of art.

**2. Make pairs of sentences to show the difference between the meanings of the following Homographs from the story.**

**(1) interest**

**Ans:-** (i) The bank promised a high rate of interest to its customers.

(ii) The audience soon lost interest in the boring match.

**(2) well**

**Ans:-** (i) The well was so deep that one could not see the water.

(ii) The Principal sent Sumeet home as he was not feeling well.

**(3) left**

**Ans:-** (i) When Roma turned to her left, she saw a long line of taxis. (ii) The Mayor had left before it began to rain.

**(4) just**

**Ans:-** (i) The children had just left when the magician arrived.  
(ii) It is the duty of a judge to be just.

**(5) mind**

**Ans:-** (i): "Mind your language!" said the man to the rude young boy angrily.  
(ii) We should try not to have any negative thoughts in our mind.

**3. State the facts about the story.**

**(1) Main characters**

**Ans:-** Sue, Johnsy, the doctor and Behrman

**(2) Problem**

**Ans:-** Johnsy's negative attitude, her lack of will to live and the fancy that she would die when the last leaf fell from the ivy vine.

**(3) Attempts made to solve it**

**Ans:-** The doctor informed Sue that Johnsy would recover only if she had the wish to live. Sue looked after her well and tried to make her think positively. Finally, Behrman painted a leaf on the wall so that the last leaf would never fall, and Johnsy would live.

**(4) Climax/Turning point**

**Ans:-** (i) When Johnsy sees the last leaf still clinging to the vine, and realizes that she has been given a message that she was wicked to want to die.  
(ii) The sweeper finding Behrman in very wet clot...

**4. Say whether the following statements are right or wrong.**

**(a) Sue and Johnsy were very close friends.**

**Ans:-** Right

**(b) Sue was a rich girl.**

**Ans:-** Wrong

**(c) Johnsy was hopeful that she will live.**

**Ans:-** Wrong

**(d) Behrman was a hard-hearted person.**

**Ans:-** Wrong

**(e) The last leaf fell off during the rain.**

**Ans:-** Right

**(f) Johnsy realised that her thinking was wrong.**

**Ans:-** Right

**(g) Behrman did not know anything about the last leaf on the ivy.**

**Ans:-** Wrong

**5. Correct the following statements.**

**(a) Sue and Johnsy were good neighbours.**

**Ans:-** Sue and Johnsy were very good friends.

**(b) Johnsy was eager to recover from her illness.**

**Ans:-** Johnsy had made up her mind that she was not going to recover.

**(c) Sue ignored Johnsy completely.**

**Ans:-** Sue looked after Johnsy well.

**(d) Behrman was a very heartless person.**

**Ans:-** Behrman was a very kind-hearted person.

**(e) The real ivy leaf did not fall off at all.**

**Ans:-** The real ivy leaf fell off the night it rained and snowed.

**(f) The last leaf was a real leaf that survived.**

**Ans:-** The last leaf was a leaf painted on the wall by Behrman.

**6. Read the descriptions of the following from the story and describe any one of them using your own words.**

**(1) The ivy vine**

**Ans:-** Outside the window there was an old ivy vine, gnarled and decayed at the roots. It had climbed half way up the brick wall. It had lost most of its leaves due to the cold autumn. Only a few bare branches were left, clinging to the bricks.

**(2) Behrman**

**Ans:-** Behrman was a struggling painter who lived on the ground floor of the building where Sue and Johnsy lived. He was a failure in art, for though he had been painting for forty years, he had not made any money. He always dreamt about painting a masterpiece, and often spoke about it, but had never got round to doing it. He served as a model for the young artists in the colony, who could not afford other models. He was shocked when he heard about Johnsy's fancy and thought that the place was not good for her. He was a generous, compassionate and kind-hearted man. Even though he was old, he braved the wind, rain and snow to go out and paint the last leaf on the wall. He died in order that Johnsy could live.

**(3) The last leaf that Johnsy saw**

**Ans.** The last leaf that Johnsy saw was not a real leaf but a leaf painted on the wall by Behrman. It was dark green near its stem, but its edges were tinted with yellow. It hung

from a branch some twenty feet above the ground. Naturally it never fluttered or moved when the wind blew. It was Behrman's masterpiece and had been painted the night when the real last leaf had fallen.

**7. You have learnt that a Clause is a group of words that has a Subject and a Verb, and a part of a larger sentence.**

In the sentence, 'We returned home, when school was over' there are two clauses.

(i) 'We returned home and

(ii) 'When school was over'.

The first one makes complete sense, so it is called **Main / Principal Clause**. The second one is not complete by itself. It depends on the **Main Clause** to convey proper sense. So it is called **Dependant** or **Subordinate Clause**. 'When' is the joining word, and it is called a **Subordinator**.

In the following sentences, point out the Main Clause and Subordinate Clause. Encircle the Subordinator.

**(a) There was a colony, where many struggling artists lived.**

**Ans:-** Main Clause:- There was a colony.

Subordinate Clause:- where many struggling artists lived

Subordinator:- where

**(2) Though Sue looked after her very well, Johnsy showed no signs of improvement.**

**Ans:-** Main Clause:- Johnsy showed no signs of improvement.

Subordinate Clause:- Though Sue looked after her very well.

Subordinator:- Though

**(3) Sue thought that she had fallen asleep.**

**Ans:-** Main Clause:- Sue thought.

Subordinate Clause:- that she had fallen asleep.

Subordinator:- that

**(4) Old Behrman was a painter, who lived on the ground floor.**

**Ans:-** Main Clause:- Old Behrman was a painter.

Subordinate Clause:- who lived on the ground floor.

Subordinator:- who.

**(5) Johnsy was sleeping, when the two went upstairs.**

**Ans:-** Main Clause:- Johnsy was sleeping.

Subordinate Clause:- when the two went upstairs.

Subordinator:- when

**(6) I want to see the last one before it falls.**

**Ans:-** Main Clause:- I want to see the last one

Subordinate Clause:- before it falls

Subordinator:- before

**8. Compose an imaginary dialogue between Sue and Johnsy, when they realise about what Behrman had done for Johnsy.**

**Ans:-**

**Johnsy:-** Sue, did you know that Mr. Behrman had painted that last leaf?

**Sue:-** No, I knew it just now, too.

**Johnsy:-** Sue, that means that he got wet that night painting the last leaf!

**Sue:-** And got pneumonia after that!

**Johnsy:-** Yes, because of my stupid fancy that I would die when the last leaf fell.

**Sue:-** It certainly was a stupid idea.

**Johnsy:-** I feel so guilty now! Sue, it is as if.... as if.... he died for me!

**Sue:-** Yes, so that you may live.

**Johnsy:-** Oh, what a wonderful, compassionate man! To go out in that cold, wintry, snowy night just to paint that leaf!

**Sue:-** And develop pneumonia ....

**Johnsy:-** What can I do now? How can I ever thank him?

**Sue:-** I know what you can do!

**Johnsy:-** What? What?

**Sue:-** Paint your masterpiece of the Bay of Naples and dedicate it to him.

**Johnsy:-** Yes, I think that's a good idea. Yes, I'll do that. Thanks, Sue.