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Lesson 13

Smashing the Glass Ceiling

Pre-reading

Dictionary Reference : Learning New Words



Activity 1

Look up the following words in a dictionary. You should seek the following information about the words and put them in your WORDS notebook.

1. Meaning of the word as used in the lesson (adjective/noun/verb, etc.)
2. Pronunciation (The teacher may refer to a dictionary or a mobile phone for correct pronunciation.)
3. Spellings

smashing	hugged	memories	regret	arthritis
charitable	skills	publishing	opportunity	sole
role-model	qualification	inspiration	promote	foreign

Glass ceiling stands for something unfair that stops women from getting important positions or jobs. For example : It could be the unfair belief that women should not step outside for work after marriage or that women are the best givers, so they should raise children. Through the glass ceiling, women can see what top positions and power look like but they are unable to get there.

Reading

Let us read the story

"Didi , you still look the same!" Paramjeet hugged Geet tightly.

Twenty-five years had passed. Both had been busy raising their own families. Geet had gone abroad after marriage. Their childhood memories, however, were still fresh. Paramjeet's mother, a widow, had been a trusted house help at Geet's house and Paramjeet was lucky to be treated as their daughter by Geet's parents.

"Look at you, Paramjeet! You seem to have done well in life."

Geet had noticed Paramjeet's good clothes, her costly mobile phone and her polished way of talking. One would hardly believe that she had been extremely poor as a child when her father had passed away.



Geet took Paramjeet with her to the rooftop where they had often played together as children. They admired the beautiful sunset as the birds returned to their nests.

"Didi, tell me all about yourself. How have you been? What took you so long to visit us?" Paramjeet asked.

Geet replied, "Do you see these birds? My life has been exactly like theirs. I flew away into an unknown land, built my family nest, looked after the needs of my husband and his old parents and raised two fine sons. But my nest is very lonely now. My parents-in-law have passed away and my sons have shifted out. My husband usually remains busy at work".

"Didi, you also must be working, right? I still remember you as a class topper in studies as well as sports. The medals and awards won by you are kept on that huge wooden rack," Paramjeet said.

"No, I was not allowed to work after marriage. My husband and his parents had to be looked after," Geet spoke with regret.

"Now tell me your story, Paramjeet. What have you been doing?"

"I could barely finish High School when my mother caught arthritis. I had to work during the day to earn money for her medical treatment. But Didi, your parents have always been very kind to us. They also got me to attend evening classes run by a charitable agency. The agency helped me set up a small business of my own", Paramjeet spoke proudly.

"What kind of business exactly?" asked Geet eagerly.

"The agency trained me in computer and internet skills. I also learnt desktop publishing. That means using a small computer and a machine for printing to produce books, magazines, and other printed materials. The agency also taught money skills and opened my bank account



and helped me get a nice loan to start my business. I made use of the growing online work opportunities right from this home and neighbourhood."

"Today, my shop serves customers like the Panchayat, government offices, local colleges and schools. I design posters and visiting cards for them. My shop also provides photography services. It even helps the local people with AADHAR registration, booking online tickets, banking and more."

"Did you do all this on your own?" Geet was impressed with Paramjeet's success.

"Not on my own, didi. I started this business with four more women partners, all trained at the same agency. But slowly, I bought the entire business from my partners and became the sole owner. Today, my business makes a big profit every month and employs other girls in this area. Everyone here respects me as their role-model."

"What about your children? Who takes care of them?" asked Geet.

"I have been blessed with a helpful husband and loving parents-in-law. Even my mother stays with me. We work together, cook together and enjoy raising the kids together as a team." Paramjeet spoke with confidence.

"I'm so proud of you, my dear friend!" Geet held Paramjeet's hands tightly, "Can you give me something to do?"

"Didi, you must be joking. How can I ask a post-graduate like you to work for me?" Paramjeet replied.

"You have earned the highest qualification through your work and set up a successful business. Your journey is an inspiration for so many girls." Geet explained.

"Didi, then I shall need your help to grow my business abroad. You can tell and write stories about the small group of women working here. You can promote the business and help me get more work from foreign customers." Paramjeet was excited.

"Yes! I shall do that and more. I think I have found my nest again", Geet spoke with tears of joy in her eyes.

Even after so many years, the rooftop gave the same energy and hope to Geet as it did for her as a child.

Post-reading

Vocabulary Expansion



Activity 2

Arrange the given words in an alphabetical order as they appear in a dictionary. A few words have already been arranged for you in the table.

memories, prosper, poverty, regret, arthritis, charitable, skills,
publishing, opportunity, sole, role-model, qualification, promote, joy

1	arthritis	8	prosper
2		9	
3	joy	10	
4		11	
5		12	role-model
6		13	
7	promote	14	



Activity 3

Write a meaningful sentence for each of the words given below. The meanings and picture cues have also been given here. The first one has been done for you.

1. **poverty** (noun) the condition of being poor; lack of money or possessions



Sentence : Her childhood was spent in **poverty** but later, she worked hard to become a successful business owner.

2. **prosper** (verb) to become successful usually by making money



Sentence : _____

3. **regret** (verb) to be sorry for something



Sentence : _____

4. **skills** (noun) ability that comes from training or practice



Sentence : _____

5. **curiously** (adverb) a manner of showing an eagerness to learn



Sentence : _____

6. **empty** (adjective) containing nothing; not occupied or lived in



Sentence : _____

Learning to Read and Comprehend



Activity 4

Read the lesson and answer the following questions.

1. How many years had passed before Geet could meet Paramjeet in India?

2. What was different about Paramjeet that Geet noticed this time?

3. Which new skills did Paramjeet learn at the charitable agency?

4. What help did Paramjeet seek from Geet at the end of the story?

5. Who was able to smash the glass ceiling in the story? How?



Activity 5

Fill in the blanks. Select suitable words from the story.

- Geet had gone _____ after marriage.
- Paramjeet's mother, a _____, had been a trusted house help at Geet's house.
- They also got me to attend evening classes run by a _____ agency.
- The agency trained Paramjeet in _____ and _____ skills.
- You have earned the highest _____ through your work and set up a successful business.



Activity 6

Who said these words to whom? The first one has been done for you.

1. "Didi, you still look the same." Paramjeet said to Geet
2. "Can you give me something to do?" _____
3. "I think I have found my nest again." _____
4. "You have earned the highest qualification through your work and set up a successful business." _____

Learning Language

Prepositions

My birthday is **in** May.

You can find your hat **on** the shelf.

The bird flew **over** the tree.

Read the above lines carefully. Look at the words in **bold**.

These words show **where** something is (like, **on** the shelf, **over** the tree) or **when** something happens (like, **in** May).

Do you know what these words are called?

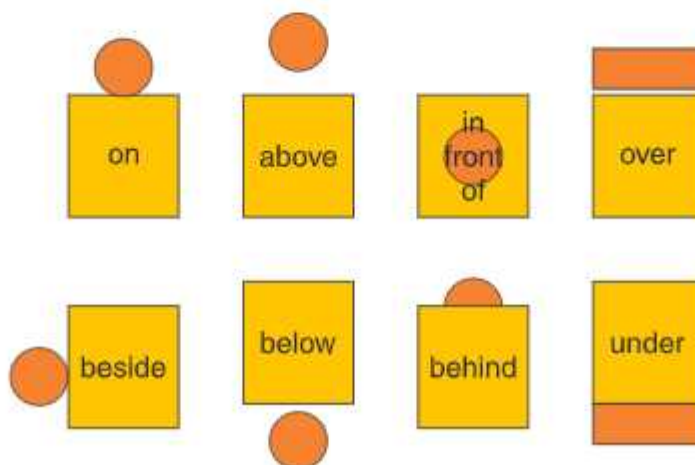
These words are called **Prepositions**.

Prepositions are words that tell us where a noun or a pronoun stands in relation to another.

Prepositions are often placed before a noun or a pronoun to show their relation to place, time, or direction.

Here are some more detailed examples:

Prepositions of Place



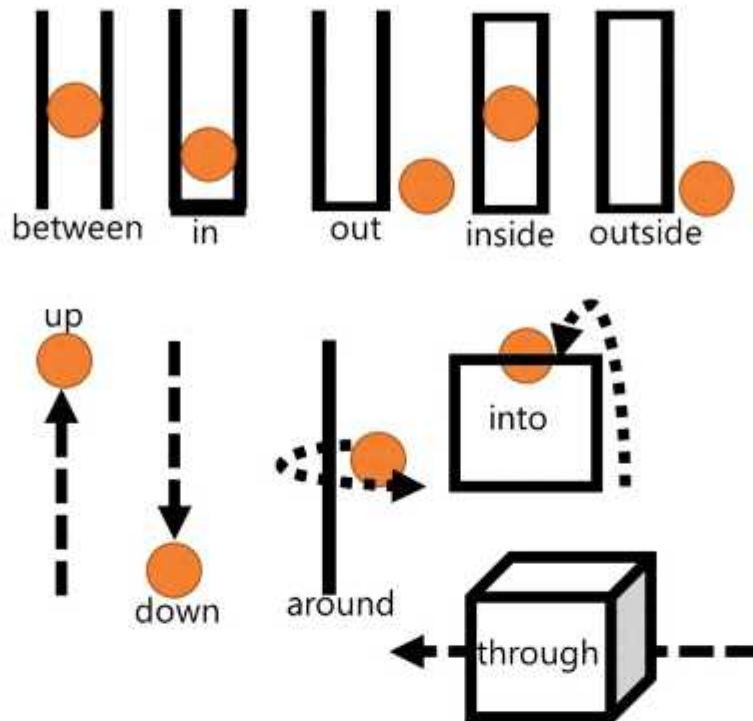
Prepositions of place describe the **position** of a person or thing in relation to another person or thing.

Prepositions of Time

Here is a list of the time words that need 'on', 'in', 'at' and some that do not need any preposition at all. Be careful! Many students of English use 'on' with months (it should be 'in'), or put a preposition before 'next' when we do not need one.

at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • times: at 8:00 p.m., at midnight, at 6:30 • festivals: at Christmas, at Baisakhi, at Holi • at night • at the weekend • at lunch time, at dinner time, at breakfast time
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • days: on Monday, on my birthday, on Christmas Day • days: on Tuesday morning, on Sunday evening • dates: on the 20th of June
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • years: in 1992, in 2006 • months: in December, in June • decades: in the sixties, in the 1790s • centuries: in the 19th century • seasons: in winter, in summer • time of day: in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening
no preposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • next week, next year, month etc. • last night, last year etc. • this morning, this month etc. • every day, every night, every year etc. • today, tomorrow, yesterday

Prepositions of Direction



Activity 7

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions. Also identify the type of preposition — time / place / direction. One has been done for you.

1. The dog jumped over the fence.(place)
2. Meena was seen playing _____ the street.(_____)
3. The airplane flew _____ the mountains.(_____)
4. The earth revolves _____ the sun.(_____)
5. She went _____ the classroom when I saw her.(_____)
6. I will meet her _____ 9 o'clock.(_____)
7. The function was held _____ last Monday.(_____)
8. She was sitting _____ her father and mother.(_____)
9. It is extremely hot _____ the month of June.(_____)
10. It is usually very cold _____ night _____ deserts.(_____)

Learning to Speak



Activity 8

Role-play: Read the conversation that took place between Paramjeet and Geet. Imagine you have also met your friend after many years. Read and practise this conversation with your partner with the help of the lines given below.

- Paramjeet** : Hello didi ! We are meeting after such a long time.
- Geet** : Yes, you are right. Twenty-five years have passed.
- Paramjeet** : Oh My God! But you still look the same.
- Geet** : Oh really? Thank you. I am also happy to see you. You have become more confident and smarter than before.
- Paramjeet** : Thank you didi. How have you been?
- Geet** : I am a home-maker now, raising my family.
- Paramjeet** : All right, didi. But your dream was to work in a company, right?
- Geet** : Yes, but I was not allowed to work after marriage. You have made a great progress.
- Paramjeet** : Yes didi, I was lucky to get some good opportunities.
- Geet** : You are an inspiration to so many girls.
- Paramjeet** : Thank you so much, didi!

Learning to Write

Letter Writing (Informal)

What is an informal letter?

An informal letter is a personal letter that can be written to a family member or a close friend. You can write to let them know more about something in your life and to convey your love and regards. The language used in an informal letter is casual.

How can we write an informal letter?

Here is an example of an informal letter to a friend inviting her to the Book Fair.

Your friend, Manpreet Kaur is fond of reading good books. Write a letter to her inviting her to visit the Book Fair which is going to be held in your city in December. You are Hardeep Singh living at 1809, Sector 37 D, Chandigarh.

FORMAT

Address of the writer

1809 Sector 37 D

Chandigarh

Date

November 10, 20.....

Salutation

Dear Manpreet

Body of the letter

(i) introduction: 1st para
contains a short description

I am writing to inform you about a 5-day book fair being held in our city in the 3rd week of December.

(ii) main content: 2nd para contains
a long description

I know that you are fond of reading and you look for opportunities to buy good books. In this book fair, all the renowned publishers from the country and from abroad will participate. Therefore, you will be able to find some good books of your choice.

(iii) conclusion/end of letter: 3rd
para contains the conclusion or
end part

I am, therefore inviting you to come to Chandigarh and visit the book fair. Do let me know your date and time of arrival so I can receive you. It will also be a good opportunity to meet some old friends.

I am eagerly waiting for your reply.

Subscription including the writer's
name

Yours sincerely
Hardeep Singh



Activity 9



You are Harnoor Kaur, living at A-29 Ranjit Avenue Amritsar. Write a letter to your aunt thanking her for the laptop she has gifted you.