

# The Old Sage and the Brothers



## 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 the dictionary or a mobile phone for correct pronunciation.)
3. Spellings

summoned	acquiring	approached	delighted	granted
annoyed	poultry	deny	journey	snatched

## Reading

### Let us read the story

#### The Old Sage and the Brothers

Long time ago, a rich farmer summoned his three lazy sons - Harry, Raman and Sandeep and said, "I have grown old. I have decided to divide my property among you. As you all know, I own three fields and three houses. Each one of you will get a field and a house only if you prove that you are worth it." The three sons were surprised. "What do you mean, father?," cried they. The farmer said, "These fields and houses are the fruits of my hard work. All the three of you are very lazy. I want the three of you to find some work. Return to me after six months with your earnings. I will decide if you are worthy of acquiring my hard-earned property."

The three brothers set out in search of work. On the way, they sat down under a banyan tree to rest. As they were eating, an old sage approached them.

"I'm very hungry. Could you give me something to eat?," said he.

Harry offered him a chapatti. The sage ate it happily and said, "God bless you, son! Here is a gift for you." Harry was delighted. The sage gave him a piece of cloth.

Harry was annoyed, "What is this? Are you kidding me?"

The sage smiled and said, "It's a magic cloth. It will grant you two wishes. Ask now."



Harry was overjoyed, "I want a big house."

"Granted!"

A beautiful house appeared.

"What's your second wish?", asked the old sage.

"Ten cows!", said Harry excitedly.

"Granted!"

Ten cows appeared out of nowhere. Harry's joy knew no bound.

Then the old sage said, "Promise me that if ever a poor man asks you for a cup of milk, you will not deny him."

"It's a gentleman's promise", said the lad "and whatsoever he wishes for-milk, butter, curd, sweets, I will never deny." The old sage smiled, "Do not break your promise."

"I will not," assured Harry.

The other two brothers continued on their way with the old sage. They went on till they came to a stream. The old sage looked sad and worried. "Oh! There's no boat. How will I cross the stream?" Raman said very kindly, "Don't worry! I'll help you. I'll carry you on my back." After crossing the river, the three of them sat down for some rest.

The sage thanked Raman and said, "God bless you, son! Here is a gift for you."

Raman was delighted. The sage gave him a piece of stick. Raman was surprised. "What is this?"

"It's a magic stick. It will grant you two wishes. Ask now."

Raman was delighted.

He said, "I want a big house."

"Granted!"

A beautiful house appeared.

"What's your second wish?" added the sage.

"A poultry farm!", said Raman excitedly.

"Granted!"

A poultry farm appeared out of nowhere. Raman's joy knew no bound.

Then the old sage said, "Promise me that if ever a poor man asks you for an egg, you will not deny him."



"It's a gentleman's promise", said the lad "and whatsoever he wishes for-egg, omelette, egg pudding, I will never deny." The old sage smiled, "Do not break your promise."

"I will not", said Raman confidently.

Sandeep moved on with the old sage. When they came to a desert, they sat down for some rest. The old sage said to Sandeep, "I know you are very tired but I'm very thirsty. Please get me some water."

"Don't worry! Please rest here. I'll find some water for you." Sandeep set out to find water for the old man. He returned after an hour with some water. The old sage drank the water and blessed Sandeep, "God bless you, son! Here's a gift for you."

Sandeep was delighted. The sage gave him a piece of rope. Sandeep became very happy. He knew he was going to be rewarded. The old sage smiled and said, "It's a magic rope. It will grant you two wishes. Ask now."

Sandeep was delighted, "I want a big house."

"Granted!"

A beautiful house appeared.

"What's your second wish?", added the sage.

"A field!", said Sandeep excitedly.

"Granted!"

A field appeared out of nowhere. Sandeep's joy knew no bound.

Then the old sage said, "Promise me that if ever a poor man asks you for something to eat, you will not deny him."

"It's a gentleman's promise", said the lad, "and whatsoever he wishes for-rice, wheat, vegetables, fruits, I will never deny." The old sage smiled, "Do not break your promise."

"I will not", promised Sandeep.

The old sage set out on his journey.

After a few days, Sandeep decided to visit his brothers because he missed them. The houses, the cows, the poultry farm and his brothers seemed to have vanished. He could not find them.

As he stood and wondered, he saw the sage coming towards him. The sage said to him, "Your brothers did not keep their promise. They did not help the poor and the needy. So, whatever was given to them was snatched away. You were as good as your word. So, you will enjoy as long as you remember your promise."

## Post-reading

### Vocabulary Expansion

Look at the following sentences.

- I **enjoyed** the film.
- The film gave us a lot of **enjoyment**.

In the sentence (a), the word '**enjoyed**' is a verb and in sentence (b), the word '**enjoyment**' is a noun. When you add suffixes such as '**-ment**', '**-ance**', '**-age**', '**-ion**', '**-ness**', '**-al**', '**-ure**', etc. to a word, they become nouns. Sometimes if you remove the suffix from a word, it becomes a noun. For example:

a. **escaped**

If you remove '-d', the word becomes 'escape' which is both a noun and a verb.

I had a narrow **escape**. (noun)

The thief wanted to **escape**. (verb)



## Activity 2

Let's do the following activity. Make nouns of the given words.

1. try \_\_\_\_\_

2. distract \_\_\_\_\_

3. move \_\_\_\_\_

4. educate \_\_\_\_\_

5. inform \_\_\_\_\_

6. agree \_\_\_\_\_

7. pay \_\_\_\_\_

8. argue \_\_\_\_\_

9. pass \_\_\_\_\_

10. bag \_\_\_\_\_

11. marry \_\_\_\_\_

12. refuse \_\_\_\_\_

13. propose \_\_\_\_\_

14. arrive \_\_\_\_\_

15. fail \_\_\_\_\_

16. press \_\_\_\_\_

17. confuse \_\_\_\_\_

18. decide \_\_\_\_\_

19. revise \_\_\_\_\_

20. teach \_\_\_\_\_

## Learning to Read and Comprehend



## Activity 3

Read the story and answer the following questions.

a. How many sons did the old farmer have?

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b. Why did the farmer summon his sons?

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c. What had the farmer decided to do?

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d. How did Harry help the sage?

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e. What did Harry ask for?

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f. Why could the sage not cross the river?

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g. How did Sandeep help the sage?

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h. Did all the brothers keep their promise?

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i. Why did the sage snatch away the gifts from Harry and Raman?

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j. What do you learn from this story?

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### Activity 4

Complete the following exercise on the basis of the lesson.

**Fill in the blanks.**

a. The farmer had \_\_\_\_\_ fields and three \_\_\_\_\_.

b. The sage made the brothers promise that they would help the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

- c. The sage gave a piece of \_\_\_\_\_ to Raman. (Choose the correct option.)  
(i) cloth (ii) stick  
(iii) rope (iv) cake
- d. Sandeep broke his promise. (True or False)
- e. The sage **punished**/ **did not punish** Harry and Raman. (Choose the correct option.)



### Activity 5

Imagine that you are Harry. Use five sentences to narrate your feelings after your gifts were snatched away from you.

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## Learning Language

### Verbs

There are two forms of main verbs in English.

- The Finite Verbs
- The Non-finite Verbs

### Finite Verbs

A finite verb is the form of a verb which is limited by the number, person and tense. For example:

- I eat an apple daily.
- She eats an apple daily.
- We eat apples daily.
- We ate an apple yesterday.
- We will eat apples tomorrow.

In the examples above, the verb 'eat' changes its forms with change in number, person or tense. Therefore, it can be called a finite verb.

## Non-finite Verbs

A Non-finite form of a verb is not limited by number and person of a subject and has no tense. Non-finite verb-forms are typically infinitive forms with or without 'to' (e.g. to go, go), -ing forms (e.g. going) and third form of the verb (e.g. finished, gone). Let's look at some examples:

- a. I want **to eat** an apple.
- b. She wants **to eat** an apple.
- c. We want **to eat** apples.
- d. They wanted **to eat** apples.
- e. They will want **to eat** apples tomorrow.

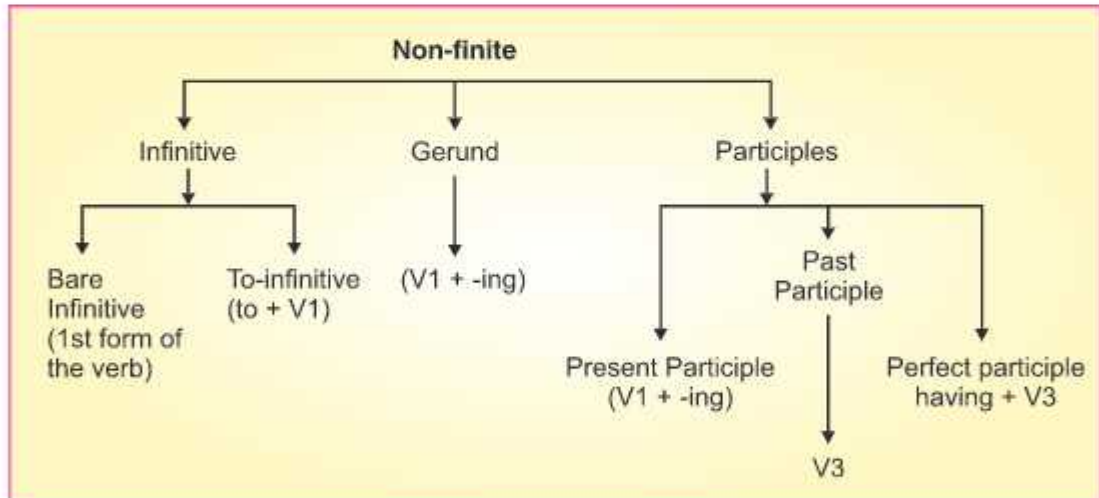
In the examples above, 'to eat' does not change even when the other verb 'want' keeps changing according to number, person or tense. Therefore, 'to eat' is a non-finite verb.

## Types of Non-Finite Verbs

There are three types of Non-finite verbs. These are

- a. The Infinitive
- b. The Gerund
- c. The Participles

Let us look at the following flowchart to have a better understanding.



## The Infinitives

The infinitive can further be divided into **two categories**:

- a. Bare infinitive
- b. To - infinitive

### Bare infinitive:

Bare Infinitives are also called plain infinitives or infinitives without 'to'.



## Use of Bare infinitive

The bare infinitive is used:

1. **with verbs such as 'bid', 'have', 'left', 'make'**
  - a. The teacher made the student **repeat** the lesson.
  - b. He bade me **write** an essay.
  - c. He didn't let me **enter** the room.
2. **with auxiliaries 'will', 'would', 'shall', 'should', 'can', 'could', 'do', 'must', 'may,' etc**
  - a. You can **go** now.
  - b. You shall **know** your results tomorrow.
3. **with auxiliaries 'need' and 'dare', the bare infinitive is used primarily in interrogative and negative sentences, for example:**
  - a. Dare you **go** into the forest at night?
  - b. He daren't **touch** his sister's mobile phone.
  - c. Need you **go** home so soon?
  - d. You needn't **come**.
4. **with expressions like 'would rather', 'rather than', 'had better', etc.**
  - a. I would rather **stay** at home.
  - b. You had better **ask** him for money.
  - c. I would die rather than **beg**.
5. **It may follow 'but' and 'except'**
  - a. He did nothing but **cry**.
  - b. He does nothing except **complain**.
6. **with questions denoting suggestions or advice and beginning with 'why', 'why not'.**
  - a. Why **make** such a noise over a small matter?
  - b. Why not **take** your brother with you?



## To-infinitive

### Use of To-infinitive

The To-infinitive is used in many sentence constructions, often expressing the purpose of something or someone's opinion about something.

1. **as a noun:**
  - a. To **speak** effectively needs a lot of practice. (subject)
  - b. To **err** is human. (infinitive as subject)
  - c. To **criticize** others is an easy job. (subject)
  - d. He likes to **play** cricket. (infinitive as objects )
  - e. To **play** with fire is a very risky game. (subject)

- f. My duty is to **serve** my country. (as a complement to a linking verb)
- g. It is easier to **preach** than to **practise**. (after the dummy subject 'it')
2. **as adverb to modify verbs and adjectives:**
- a. We go to school to **learn**. (modifies the verb 'go')
- b. She's hard to please. (modifies the adjective 'hard')
3. **as adjective to qualify nouns:**
- a. It was a match to **remember**. (qualifies 'match')
4. **as object complement :**
- a. He advised me to **keep** quiet.
- b. I advised him to **accept** the offer.
5. **too + adjective/adverb + infinitive :**
- a. He's too weak to **walk**.
- b. Mona is too young to **understand** this.
- c. They worked too slowly to **achieve** the target.
6. **enough + infinitive :**
- a. He has enough money to **pay** the bill.
- b. He's kind enough to **help** you.



### Activity 6

Pick out infinitives in the following sentences and underline them.

1. I saw him go.
2. He promised to come.
3. To forgive is difficult.
4. I watched her dance.
5. It is bad to cheat your family.



### Activity 7

Fill in the blanks with appropriate non finite forms:

- a. You ought \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up earlier.
- b. It is easy \_\_\_\_\_ (make) mistakes.

- c. He made me \_\_\_\_\_ (repeat) the lessons.
- d. You needn't \_\_\_\_\_ (say) anything.
- e. Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in my car?
- f. He will be able \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) very soon.



### Activity 8

Combine the following pairs of sentences into one sentence using **too/enough + infinitive**.

- a. You are very young. You can't have a gun.



\_\_\_\_\_

- b. He's very ill. He can't eat anything.

\_\_\_\_\_

- c. Mickey was very foolish. He told lies to the police.

\_\_\_\_\_

- d. The fire isn't very hot. It won't boil the kettle.

\_\_\_\_\_

- e. I am rather old. I can't walk that far.

\_\_\_\_\_

### The Gerunds

Gerunds are verb + -ing form used as nouns. They can be used in the following ways:

- a. as a subject
- b. after prepositions
- c. after certain verbs
- d. in noun-compounds

### Read the following sentences:

- a. **Swimming** is a good exercise.

The word '**swimming**' is formed from the verb 'swim' by adding -ing to it. It therefore appears to be a verb.

The word '**swimming**' is the name of an action and is also the subject of the sentence. Hence, it does the work of a noun.



The word ‘**swimming**’ is like a verb as well as a noun. It is therefore a verb – noun and is called a gerund.



**Note :** The form of the gerunds and of the present participles are identical. However, Gerunds are verbal nouns and Participles are verbal adjectives.

**Examples:**

- a. He is fond of riding. (Gerund)
- b. Riding along the road, he saw a porcupine. (Present participle)

**Use of a gerund:**

As already mentioned above, a gerund can be used as-

**a. the subject of a verb: as**

- i. Seeing is believing.
- ii. Collecting stamps is his hobby.

**b. as the object of a transitive verb: as**

- i. I enjoy reading poetry.
- ii. I like watching the stars at night.

**c. as object of a preposition: as**

- i. She's fond of dancing.
- ii. He was punished for telling a lie.

**d. after certain verbs: the gerund is used after verbs such as given below:**

admit, avoid, consider, death, differ, delay, deny, detest, dread, enjoy, excuse, fancy, finish, forgive, imagine, invoke, keep, miss, pardon, postpone, prevent, recollect, resend, risk, stop, suggest, understand, etc.



**Examples:**

- a. He stopped writing as I entered the room.
- b. Please pardon my saying so.
- c. I enjoy watching this game.



## Activity 9

**Pick out gerunds in the following sentences:**

- Swimming is a good exercise.
- I enjoy sleeping.
- Old men enjoy gossiping.
- I hate waiting.
- Stealing is a crime.
- I am fond of walking.
- I am good at spelling.
- We took part in boating.
- My sister does not like cooking.
- She's fond of dancing.



**Fill in the blanks with the correct gerund or infinitive form of the verbs given in the brackets.**

- He agreed \_\_\_\_\_ me. (help)
- Suresh enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ football. (play)
- We failed \_\_\_\_\_ the train. (catch)
- They decided \_\_\_\_\_ hard. (work)
- She loves \_\_\_\_\_ to music. (listen)
- I am learning how \_\_\_\_\_. (drive)
- The class wanted \_\_\_\_\_ for a picnic. (go)
- He urged us \_\_\_\_\_ faster. (work)
- She loves \_\_\_\_\_ books. (read)
- I am looking forward \_\_\_\_\_ you. (meet)



## Learning to Listen



### Activity 10

You will listen carefully to your teacher. Your teacher will read a passage slowly. Write in your notebook what you hear. Do not make spelling mistakes and put appropriate punctuation marks such as comma, question mark or full stop where ever needed. (Refer to Appendix I at page no. 166.)

## Learning to Speak



### Activity 11

Look at the pictures given below. There are 8 differences. Do this activity with your partner. While identifying the differences, you all must speak in English only.

Spot the differences



You may use sentences such as

I can see a difference here. ....

## Learning to Write

Given below is an application written to the Principal of a school asking for exemption from examination. Read it carefully and also look at its format.



The Principal

Dev Samaj Senior Secondary School

Jalandhar

Sir

July 5, 20 \_\_ \_\_

I am a student of Class VIII A of your school. Our bimonthly exams are starting from November 01, 20 \_\_ \_\_. Sir, I always stand first in all the exams. My sister's wedding is falling on November 05, 20 \_\_ \_\_. As I am the only helping hand of my father, I can't take the exam this time.

This time, I request you to exempt me from the examination. I shall be very thankful to you.

Thanking you

Yours obediently

XYZ.....

Roll No. 21 VIII A



## Activity 12

**Write an application to your Principal asking for a School Leaving Certificate in the space given below. You must write.**

- your reason for leaving the school
- when you will leave the school
- where you will take admission after leaving the school

## Learning to Use the Language



### Activity 13

Read the four conversations given below and fill in the blanks using the words and phrases given in the table.

What's the problem?	Do you mind if I ____	Go ahead !
Is it OK if ____	telling me ____	Thanks !
Here you are !	Could you turn ____	Can I borrow ____

#### Conversation 1

Raghav : Yeah?

Gurtej : Hello, ..... turn the music down, please? It's one o'clock and I'm trying to sleep.

Raghav : Oh, sorry. Is that okay?

Gurtej : Yes, ..... Perhaps I can get some sleep now. Good Night !

#### Conversation 2

Japtej : I'm sorry, ..... leave early today? I'm going to take my dog to see the vet.

Palak : You're going to take your dog to the vet? What's the matter with him?

Japtej : I don't know. That's why I'm going to take him to the vet.

Palak : Oh, I see! Sure, ..... Thanks for .....

#### Conversation 3

Sheenam : Divyam, do you have your mobile phone with you?

Divyam : Um... yes. Why?

Sheenam : ..... it, please? I need to make a quick call to my mother.

Divyam : OK, .....

#### Conversation 4

Jyoti : ..... change seats?

Rajneesh : Yes, all right. ....?

Jyoti : I can't see because of the sun.

Rajneesh : OK, then. Why don't you sit there, next to Piyush.



## Activity 14

Given below are some polite requests with equally polite responses. Match the questions in Column A with the correct responses in Column B.

S.No.	Column A	S.No.	Column B
1	Can I have a glass of juice?	1	Yes, of course!
2	Is it alright if I make a phone call?	2	I said that some friends were coming over.
3	Could you say that again, please?	3	Well, OK, if it's a local call.
4	Can I speak to you for a moment?	4	Oh sure. The remote's on the table.
5	Do you mind if I look at your books?	5	Well, not really. Why can't you come?
6	Is it OK if I miss the class tomorrow?	6	Of course, there's some in the fridge.
7	Could you move a little, please?	7	You can borrow some if you want.
8	Do you mind if I turn the TV up?	8	Yes, sorry. I didn't realise you wanted to sit down.

