

Lesson - 15

EXCUSES, EXCUSES!

A. WARMER

What excuses do you make for being late or absent or not doing home work? Discuss some readymade excuses children often make?

Late again, Blenkinsopp?

What's the excuse this time?

Not my fault, Sir.

All dead, sir.

Whose fault is it then?

Grandma's sir.

Grandma's? What did she do?

She died, sir.

Died?

She is seriously dead all right, sir.

That makes four grandmothers this term, Blenkinsopp?

And all on P. E. days,

I know, It's very upsetting, sir,

How many grandmothers have you got, Blenkinsopp?

Grandmothers, sir? None, sir.

You said you had four?

All dead, sir.

And what about yesterday, Blenkinsopp?

What about yesterday, sir?

You were absent yesterday.

That was the dentist, sir?

The dentist died?

No sir, one teeth, sir.

You missed the math test, Blenkinsopp.

I'd been looking forward to it, sir.

Right. Line up for P. E.

Can't, sir.

No such word as 'can't' Blenkinsopp.

No kit, sir

Where is it?

Home, sir.

What's it doing at home?

Can't sir,

Why not?

Bad hand, sir.

Who usually does it?

Grandma, sir.

Why couldn't she do it?

Dead, sir.

GARETH OWEN

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

excuse	: (एक्सक्यूज), माफ़ी	pardon
fault	: (फॉल्ट), दोष	vice, defect.
serious	: (सीरियस), गंभीर	grave, big
upset	: (अपसेट), घबराया	perturbed, perplexed
physical education	: (फिजिकल एडुकेशन) शारीरिक शिक्षा	education related to the growth of body
dentist	: (डेंटिस्ट), दाँत बनानेवाला	one who cures the problems related to teeth
usual	: (युजुअल), सामान्य	common, general

B. COMPREHENSION

B.1 Think and Tell

B.1.1 Answer the following:

1. Why was Blenkinsopp late?
2. Why was Blenkinsopp absent?
3. Why was Blenkinsopp unable to line up for Physical Education?
4. Why did Blenkinsopp not put on kit for Physical Education?
5. Who helped Blenkinsopp to put on Physical Education kit?

B.2 Think and Write

B.2.1 True or False :

1. Based on the story write 'true' or 'false' next to each sentence given below :

- (a) Blenkinsopp was late because of his fault.
- (b) The excuse Blenkinsopp made for being absent for his maths test was his grandmother's death.
- (c) Blenkinsopp really wanted to miss the Maths test.
- (d) Blenkinsopp agreed to line up for P. E.
- (e) Blenkinsopp used the words "can't, sir" thrice in the poem.

B.2.2 Tick (✓) the correct option for each of the following :

1. What's the excuse this time? The teacher asked this question because

- (a) It was not the first time Blenkinsopp was late.
- (b) Blenkinsopp was late for the first time.
- (c) Blenkinsopp's teacher felt sorry for him.

2. Blenkinsopp's kit was at home because he wanted to prove that

- (a) It was dirty
- (b) Not ironed
- (c) Her grandmother was dead.

B.2.3 Answer the following questions :

- 1. How was the grandmother responsible for Blenkinsopp's coming late?
- 2. Why was Blenkinsopp's P. E. kit at home?
- 3. What excuses did Blenkinsopp make for his mistakes and negligence?
- 4. What is your opinion about Blenkinsopp?

C. WORD POWER

C.1 Go through the text again and guess the meaning of the following words :

excuse, fault, term, absent, missed, usually

C.2 Abbreviation

eg. P. E. - Physical education

An abbreviation is a shortened or contracted form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole.

Find out what these short forms stand for.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Mr. | 6. No. |
| 2. Dr. | 7. Min. |
| 3. Md. | 8. Kg. |
| 4. Govt. | 9. etc. |
| 5. Ltd. | 10. Max. |

D. GRAMMAR

D.1 Comma and Inverted Commas :

Comma is used to separate words from each other and to separate a reporting verb from the reported speech.

Example:

I have pens, pencils and books.

She says, "I am a girl."

Inverted Commas are used to show the actual words of a speaker.

Example:

The boy said, "I am a student."

Titles of songs, books, stories etc. are also put within Inverted Commas.

Example:

I am reading “India Today”.

We may use single commas in the place of double commas.

Have you read ‘Panchtantra’?

D.1.1 Use Commas or Inverted Commas wherever necessary :

1. He said I want to buy books note books pencils and pens.
2. There were lions elephants tigers and bears in the zoo.
3. Tanzim said I have eaten mangoes oranges grapes papayas and bananas.
4. Tufail Monu Farhan Rajesh Shivam and Ravi are friends.
5. He asked What is your father?

E. Let's Talk and Write

E.1 Role play the conversation between the teacher and Blenkinsopp.

E.2 You are sick. Write an application to your Headmaster requesting him to grant you leave for two days.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate the following into English :

यह गलती किसकी है?

वह किताब किसकी है?

आप किसके बेटे हैं?

यह किन लोगों का देश है?

हमलोग किनके छात्र हैं?

