



Study Tour Four



4.1 The Nightingale and the Nobleman

A nobleman in a faraway land once caught a nightingale and put him in a cage. No bird likes to be shut up in a cage. The nightingale began to plead :

“Please set me free. If you let me go, I will tell you the secret of happiness”.

The nobleman was rich but not happy. He wanted to know the secret of happiness. So he let the bird go.

“Listen,” said the nightingale, “This is the secret of happiness : Never cry over spilt milk. And never trust idle words”.

The nobleman didn’t think much of the secret. “This is just a silly piece of advice !” He exclaimed.

The nightingale flew a little higher and said, “Too bad you let me go. I have rare diamonds under my wings. Now you won’t get any of them !”

Now the nobleman was really very angry and very unhappy. “Oh, no ! How stupid of me ! You wicked bird, you nasty bird ! Wait till I catch you again.” he began to wail.

“Don’t be so upset, My Lord,” said the nightingale. “It was kind of you to let me go. That’s why I gave you a good piece of advice. Think over it. The first thing I said was ‘Don’t cry over spilt milk’. I am already far away from you. You can’t catch me again. Then why make yourself unhappy about it ? Secondly, how can an ordinary bird like me have diamonds under his wings ? Those were just idle words of mine. It’s a mistake to trust such words ! Use my bits of advice and be happy. Farewell”.

The nobleman watched as the bird flew away.

- **nobleman** : person with a high rank like a lord
- **plead** : give reasons and request, appeal
- **cry over spilt milk** : 'It's no use crying over spilt milk' is a 'proverb' or saying. It means you should not feel unhappy about a mistake or something bad that has happened.

A similar proverb is 'What's done cannot be undone !'

- **idle words** : words which have little meaning.
- **rare** : not common, not easy to get
- **wail** : cry with sorrow, making long sounds
- **be upset** : feel bad
- **farewell** : goodbye

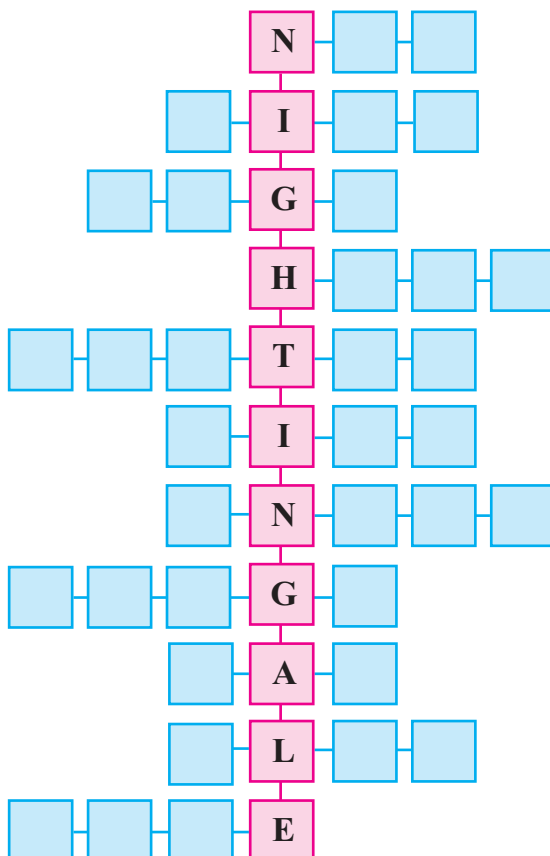
POINTERS

1. Read the story and say whether the following statements are true or false.

- No bird likes to be shut up in a cage.
- The nobleman was rich and happy.
- The nobleman did not set the bird free.
- The nobleman didn't think much of the secret.
- The nightingale had rare diamonds under his wings.
- The nobleman believed that the nightingale had diamonds.
- The nightingale flew away.



2. Solve the following puzzle. The letters in the pink boxes form the name of the bird in the story. Use the letters given on the right and the letter in the pink box to make words from the story.



W O
D B R
E C A
G U E
M S A E R
C H R
D E R U
I N W S
Y D
F W E
A V G

3. The nightingale gave the nobleman two bits of advice. Form groups and discuss each of them. Can you think of a story/event/any experience related to each? Write it down. Try to find similar sayings or proverbs in your mother tongue.

- Never cry over spilt milk.
- Never trust idle words.

4. Read aloud the last speech of the nightingale with proper intonation.

5. Use the given words in place of the highlighted words and translate each sentence you make.

- The bird flew **a little** higher. (much, a lot, just a little)
- I **never** trust idle words. (often, always)
- The bird flew **away**. (up, down, left, right, far away)

Now, drop the highlighted word and translate the sentence.

6. Try to collect at least 20 proverbs or sayings in English.

7. Use some other suitable word/words in place of the highlighted words at every step.

- (a) • If you let me go, I will tell you **the secret of happiness** .
- If you let me go, I will **tell** you _____ .
 - If you let me **go**, I will _____ you _____ .
 - If you let me _____ ,I will _____ you _____ .



If you let me sleep, I will give you something.

- (b) • How **stupid** of me !
- How _____ of me !
 - How _____ of _____ !



How nice of her !



- (c) • The nobleman watched as the bird **flew** away.
- The nobleman watched as the **bird** _____ away.
 - The **nobleman** watched as the _____ away.
 - The _____ **watched** as the _____ away.
 - The _____ as the _____ away.
 - The _____ as the _____ .

The baby clapped when the cat jumped down.



8. What bits of advice do you often get from your family and friends? Write down 3 of the bits in your mother tongue. Try to translate the bits into English.

9. Note the plurals : man-men, nobleman - noblemen, woman-women, child-children.