

## Lesson 3

# THE HOUSE SPARROW

### A. WARMER

- 1. Which birds are most common in your locality? Name some of them.*
- 2. Which of these birds do you like most and why?*
- 3. What qualities of sparrows have you ever noticed?*



There are several birds which are very common in our locality.

The house sparrow is one of them. Sparrows are found in plenty in our locality. They like to live with people. So they make themselves quite at home in houses.

Sparrows build their nests wherever they can - on window-sills, the top of doors and almirahs, and in nooks and corners. Their nests can be found in holes and niches in walls and on roofs and in the most unlikely places, even inside the folds of hanging curtains! Their chirping pleases us but at times they are also a nuisance.

Sparrows are brown in colour, with white and black mingled together on the back and sides; they also have a whitish front. The male sparrow has a black patch on his throat.

Sparrows eat grain, insects and the tender shoots of plants. They are also fond of cooked food.

Sparrows love company. They are always found in pairs. We can see several pairs at a time.

The mother bird lays three or four eggs which are pale greenish white. Sparrows are known to raise several families in a year.

(Adapted from **Some Indian Birds**; A CBT publication, Delhi)

## WORDS TO KNOW

**nuisance(n)** : (न्यूसेन्स) दुःखदायी, तकलीफदेह **source of irritation**

**mingled (v)** : (मिंगल्ड) मिला हुआ **mixed**

**patch(n)** : (पैच) धब्बा **spot**

**tender (adj)** : (टेन्डर) मुलायम **soft**

**shoots: (n)** : (शूट्स) पौधे का ऊपरी कोमल भाग **upper soft part of a plant**

**niches (n)** : (नीशेज) दरार, ताक **cracks**

**pale (adj)** : (पेल) हल्का रंग, एक रंग का नाम **light in colour**

## **B. LET'S THINK AND TELL**

### **B.1. Answer the following questions in a word or phrase:**

1. Which sparrow has a black patch on its throat?
2. What do sparrows eat?
3. Where do sparrows build their nests?
4. Sparrows like to live with people. Can you guess why?
5. How many eggs does the mother bird lay at a time?

### **B.2. Say whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False'.**

1. Sparrows like to live alone.
2. Sparrows are always found in pairs.
3. Sparrows are not fond of cooked food.
4. Sparrows raise one family in a year

## **C. LET'S THINK AND WRITE**

1. List some of the qualities of sparrows mentioned in the lesson.
2. When does a sparrow give pleasure and when does it become a

source of nuisance?

3. How is a male sparrow different from a female sparrow?

4. What do sparrows like to eat?

## D. LET'S INCREASE WORD POWER

**D.1. Tick (✓) the correct spelling from the options given in each row below:**

1. (a) sparrow                      (b) sparrow                      (c) spparrow  
(d) sparoww
2. (a) nuisance                      (b) niusance                      (c) nuisanse  
(d) nuisence
3. (a) broun                      (b) braun                      (c) brounn  
(d) brown
4. (a) familie                      (b) familiy                      (c) phamily  
(d) family
5. (a) curtans                      (b) kertans                      (c) curtains  
(d) kurtains

**D.2. Sparrows produce a sound called 'chirping'. What sounds do the following birds and animals produce? Pick out the sounds they produce from the Help box.**

### Help Box

**gibber, yelp, grunt, cheep, coo, sing, scream, snort, squeak, caw, scream, quack, caw, screech**

pigs:

foxes:

peacocks:

bats:

crows:

ducks:

vultures:

camels:

rats:

apes:

chicks:

doves:

larks:

monkeys

**D. 3. What do the following words or expressions mean in the text? Guess their meanings and then check in a dictionary whether what you guessed was right.**

**Words****Meaning that you guessed****Dictionary meaning**

in plenty

company at home

nook and corner

fond of

several

## **E. LET'S LEARN GRAMMAR**

### **Prepositions**

**Read the following sentences carefully:**

*There are several birds which are very common in our locality.*

*The male sparrow has a black patch **on** his throat.*

*We can see several pairs **at** a time.*

In the above sentences, words like ‘in’, ‘on’ and ‘at’ are prepositions. A preposition is a word that is placed before a noun or a pronoun to link it with some other noun or pronoun in the same sentence. The other prepositions include ‘at’, ‘of’, ‘about’, ‘for’, ‘from’, ‘by’, ‘into’, ‘with’, ‘to’, ‘between’, ‘under’, ‘after’, ‘behind’, ‘above’, ‘near’, etc.

### Examples:

Look **at** the top of the page.

The pen is **on** the table.

Don't forget to bring a dictionary **with** you.

The dog is **under** the table.

The books are **in** the bag.

What is the name **of** this animal?

The fridge is **near** the table.

The bulb is **above** the table.

The chair is **behind** the table.

Do you come **from** Patna?

The cat ran **after** the dog.

This book is **for** my friend.

Can you come **to** me?

**E.1. Fill up each blank with a suitable preposition.**

- (1) Anwesha was born \_\_\_\_\_ 2000.
- (2) They are waiting \_\_\_\_\_ the bus.
- (3) I will go to the zoo \_\_\_\_\_ my father.
- (4) You can find this word \_\_\_\_\_ a dictionary.
- (5) Anita went \_\_\_\_\_ Delhi yesterday.
- (6) We will go home \_\_\_\_\_ bus.
- (7) The table is \_\_\_\_\_ the two chairs.
- (8) Anshu is looking \_\_\_\_\_ the map.
- (9) The picture hangs \_\_\_\_\_ my bed.
- (10) My friends don't want to go \_\_\_\_\_ the castle.

**E.2. Fill up the blanks with suitable prepositions.**

I'm Shubham. I live \_\_\_\_\_ Darbhanga. \_\_\_\_\_ summer I like to travel \_\_\_\_\_ Shimla \_\_\_\_\_ my family. Last summer I took a train \_\_\_\_\_ Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ Shimla. \_\_\_\_\_ the station we went to our hotel \_\_\_\_\_ bus. We stopped \_\_\_\_\_ a small restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ lunch. The driver parked the bus \_\_\_\_\_ the restaurant. Nobody could find the bus and the driver, so we waited outside the restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ one hour. The driver was walking through the small park \_\_\_\_\_ the restaurant which we did not know. So we were very angry \_\_\_\_\_ him. But my holidays were great.

**F. LET'S TALK**

**F.1. Mini and Anshu are sister and brother. Below is a talk between them. Some sentences of the content are missing.**



Pick them up from the help box and write it in the appropriate place.

**Mini:** There is good news, Anshu.

**Anshu:** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Mini:** Today I saw four eggs in the nest of a sparrow.

**Anshu:** Where is it?

**Mini:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anshu:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mini:** Look at the nest! The female sparrow is sitting on the eggs.

### Help box

On the niche of the verandah

What is it?

O.K. Let's see them.

## F.2. ROLE PLAY

Form a pair of two students and ask them to play the role of Mini and Anshu in the classroom.

## G. LETS' WRITE

Write a paragraph on 'The bird you like most'.

**Hints:** Name of the bird:



Places where it lives:

Its colour(s):

Its qualities:

What it eats:

Reasons for your liking it:

## H. ACTIVITY

Ranging from the great Himalayas to the dense forests, India is the home to some of the most sought after birds in the world. India is paradise for Bird Watching. Over 1200 species of birds are found in India, Check out the famous Bird Sanctuaries of India. The rich bird-life is the constant source of fascination for the tourists coming to India. Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary is one of the finest bird sanctuaries in the world.

**H.1. Many tourists visit the bird sanctuaries in our country every year. Make a list of sanctuaries in India.**

