

# English

(Honeycomb) (Chapter – 5) (Quality)  
(Class – 7)

## Working with the Text

Answer the following questions.

### Question 1:

What was the author's opinion about Mr Gessler as a bootmaker?

#### Answer 1:

According to the author, Mr. Gessler was one of the best shoemaker in the city. Their shop had quiet distinction. He made only what was ordered and whatever he made never failed to fit. The boot that he made seemed mysterious and wonderful. He was perfect for his job.

### Question 2:

Why did the author visit the shop so infrequently?

#### Answer 2:

The boots that Mr. Gessler made lasted terribly longer. It was like having something beyond temporary. They had essence of boot stitched into them. Therefore, the author visited the shop so infrequently.

### Question 3:

What was the effect on Mr Gessler of the author's remark about a certain pair of boots?

#### Answer 3:

When author made remarks on a certain pair of boots, Mr Gessler gazed at him surprisingly for a while expecting the author to withdraw or qualify his statement. He said the some are bad from birth and asked the author to get the pair back and if he could do nothing of them then he would take them off his bill.

### Question 4:

What was Mr Gessler's complaint against "big firms"?

#### Answer 4:

Mr Gessler's had a complaint against "big firms" that they didn't have self-respect. This was the first time ever he discussed about the hardships of his trade with the author. Mr Gessler added further that they got their business by advertisement not by work. Every year, sales for Mr Gessler were declining because of them and soon he would be left with no job.

### Question 5:

Why did the author order so many pairs of boots? Did he really need them?

#### Answer 5:

The author got shocked and filled with sorrow when he came to know about the death of Mr Gessler's elder brother. In order to help him, he ordered so many pairs of boots which he really didn't need.

## Working with Language

### Question 1:

Study the following phrases and their meanings. Use them appropriately to complete the sentences that follow.

**look after:** take care of

**look down on:** disapprove or regard as inferior

**look in (on someone):** make a short visit

**look into:** investigate

**look out:** be careful

**look up:** improve

**look up to:** admire

(i) After a very long spell of heat, the weather is \_\_\_\_\_ at last.



- (ii) We have no right to \_\_\_\_\_ people who do small jobs.  
 (iii) Nitin has always \_\_\_\_\_ his uncle, who is a self-made man.  
 (iv) The police are \_\_\_\_\_ the matter thoroughly.  
 (v) If you want to go out, I will \_\_\_\_\_ the children for you.  
 (vi) I promise to \_\_\_\_\_ on your brother when I visit Lucknow next.  
 (vii) \_\_\_\_\_ when you are crossing the main road.

**Answer 1:**

- (i) After a very long spell of heat, the weather is *looking up* at last.  
 (ii) We have no right to *look down on* people who do small jobs.  
 (iii) Nitin has always *looked up to* his uncle, who is a self-made man.  
 (iv) The police are *looking into* the matter thoroughly.  
 (v) If you want to go out, I will *look after* the children for you.  
 (vi) I promise to *look in* on your brother when I visit Lucknow next.  
 (vii) *Look out* when you are crossing the main road.

**Question 2:**

Read the following sets of words loudly and clearly.

cot — coat  
 cost — coast  
 tossed — toast  
 got — goat  
 rot — rote  
 blot — bloat  
 knot — note

**Answer 2:**

This is classroom activity, so do yourself under the teacher's guidance.

**Question 3:**

Each of the following words contains the sound 'sh' (as in *shine*) in the beginning or in the middle or at the end. First speak out all the words clearly. Then arrange the words in three groups in the table on page 80.

sheep trash marsh fashion  
 anxious shriek shore fish  
 portion ashes sure nation  
 shoe pushing polish moustache

Initial	Medial	Final
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**Answer 3:**

Initial	Medial	Final
Sheep	Fashion	Trash
Shriek	Ashes	Marsh
Shore	Pushing	Fish
Shoe	Moustache	Polish
Sure	Anxious	
	Portion	
	Nation	



#### Question 4:

In each of the following words 'ch' represents the same consonant sound as in 'chair'. The words on the left have this sound initially. Those on the right have it finally.

Speak each word clearly.

Choose	bench
child	march
cheese	peach
chair	wretch
charming	research

Underline the letters representing this sound in each of the following words.

(i) feature

(iv) reaching

(vii) riches

(ii) archery

(v) nature

(viii) batch

(iii) picture

(vi) matches

(ix) church

#### Answer 4:

(i) feature

(iv) reaching

(vii) riches

(ii) archery

(v) nature

(viii) batch

(iii) picture

(vi) matches

(ix) church

## Speaking

#### Question 1:

Do you think Mr Gessler was a failure as a bootmaker or as a competitive businessman?

#### Answer 1:

Mr Gessler was a perfect artist for his job which was making custom shoes. The boots he made lasted very longer than of its competitors. He was not a rich wealthy guy. He never advertised for his product. The big firms were ahead of him in advertising due to which his sales were declining every year. Hence we can say he was a very good bootmaker but failed to become a competitive businessman.

#### Question 2:

What is the significance of the title? To whom or to what does it refer?

#### Answer 2:

Mr Gessler made boots on order. They were made to perfection with best quality of leather. The title signifies the importance of quality in products. It refers to the boots made by Mr Gessler.

#### Question 3:

- Notice the way Mr Gessler speaks English. His English is influenced by his mother tongue. He speaks English with an *accent*.
- When Mr Gessler speaks, p, t, k, sound like b, d, g. Can you say these words as Mr Gessler would say them?

It comes and never stops. Does it bother me? Not at all. Ask my brother, please.

#### Answer 3:

Mr. Gessler speaks English in a very different accent. At times he lays stress on such words, which sound funny as well evoke our pity.

The way Mr. Gessler would speak:

It comes and never stops. Does it bother me? Not at all. Ask my brother, please.



**Question 4:**

Speak to five adults in your neighbourhood. Ask them the following questions (in any language they are comfortable in). Then come back and share your findings with the class.

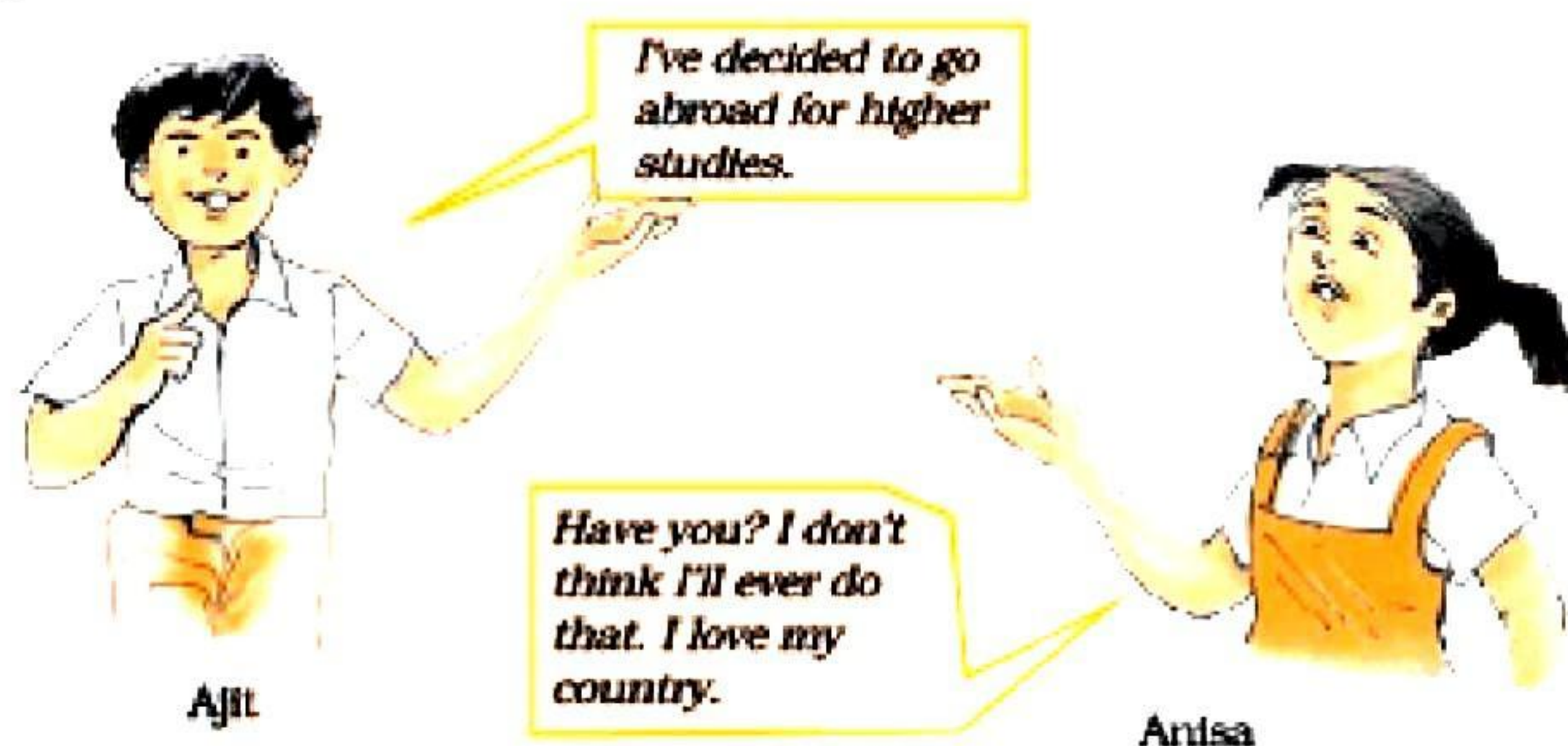
- (i) Do they buy their provisions packed in plastic packets at a big store, or loose, from a smaller store near their house?
- (ii) Where do they buy their footwear? Do they buy branded footwear, or footwear made locally? What reasons do they have for their preference?
- (iii) Do they buy ready-made clothes, or buy cloth and get their clothes stitched by a tailor? Which do they think is better?

**Answer 4:**

This is an activity, so do yourself.

**Question 5:**

Look at the picture.



Let pairs of students talk to each other about leaving the country. One student repeats Ajit's statement. The other gives a reason for not agreeing with Ajit. The sentence openings given below should be used.

- If I leave this country, I'll miss...
- There are some things which you can get only here, for example...
- There are some special days I'll miss, particularly...
- Most of all I'll miss...because...
- I think it's impossible for me to leave my country because...
- How can you leave your own country except when...?
- Depends on one's intention. I can't leave for good because...
- Maybe for a couple of years...

**Answer 5:**

- If I leave this country. I'll miss my family and friends.
- There are some things which you can get only here, for example the purity of the soil, the green fields and my own homely atmosphere and of course some traditional food items.
- There are some special days I'll miss, particularly the celebration of my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, celebration of Diwali and Holi.
- Most of all I'll miss my birthday celebration with my family because we all enjoy a lot on that day.
- I think it's impossible for me to leave my country because I love my country and its people.
- How can you leave your own country except when you don't get any opportunity of development here?
- Depends on one's intention. I can't leave for good because I love the soil of India.
- Maybe for a couple of years but I can't even think of permanently setting there.



## Writing

### Question I:

Based on the following points write a story.

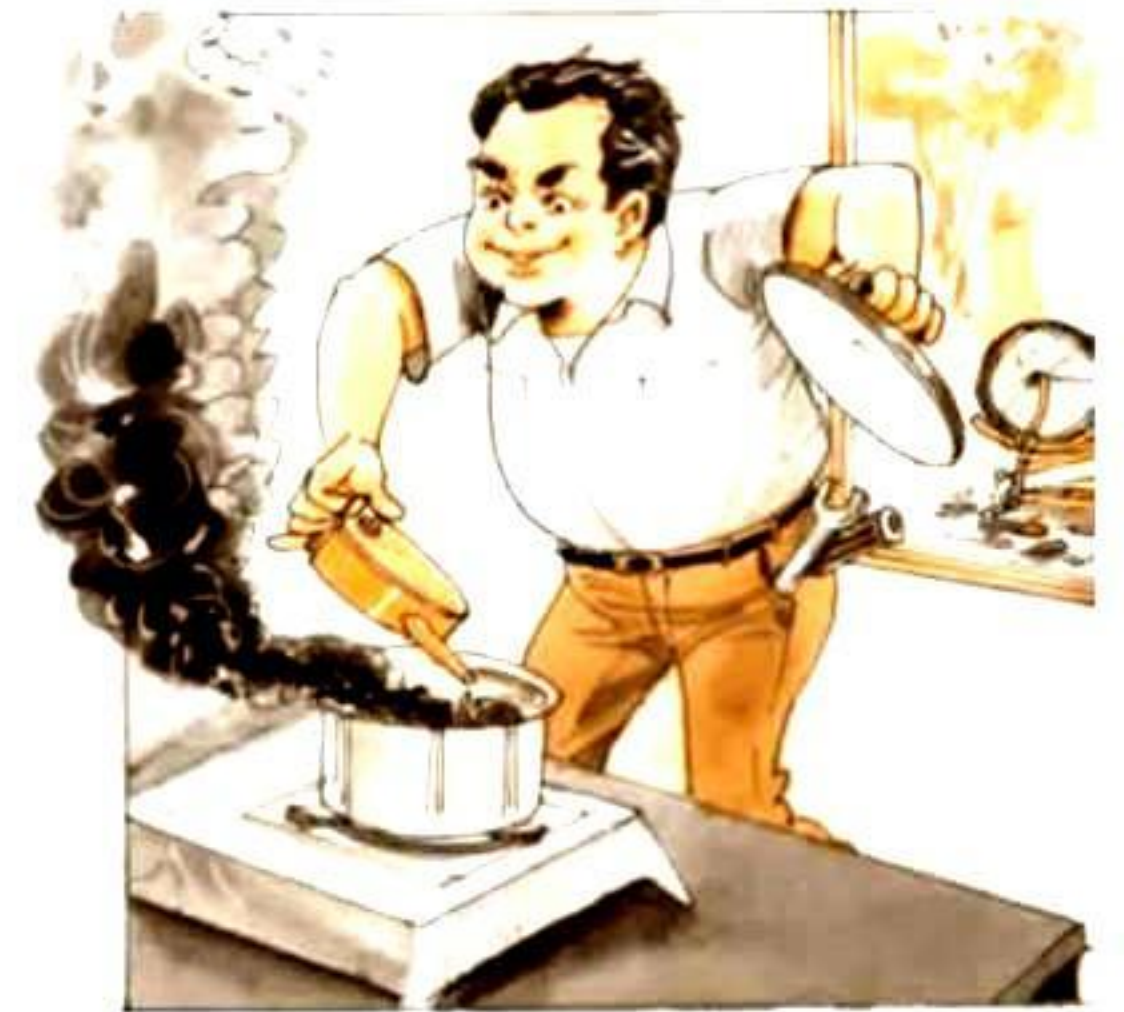
- Your aunt has gone to her mother's house.
- Your uncle does his cooking.
- He is absent-minded.
- He puts vegetables on the stove.
- He begins to clean his bicycle outside.
- The neighbor calls out saying something is burning.
- Your uncle rushes to the kitchen.
- To save vegetables, he puts some oil on them.
- Unfortunately, it's machine oil, not cooking oil.
- What do you think happens to the vegetables?

Begin like this:

Last month my aunt decided to visit her parents...

### Answer I:

Last month my aunt decided to visit her parents. She had made the plan at once to go, so she had not made any cooking. My uncle is present in home. He put the food on gas stove and went outside for the maintenance of my bicycle. Neighbours smelled something burning and called out to him. My uncle rushed to the kitchen. In hurry and confusion, he put machine oil, instead of cooking oil, in the vegetables. The vegetables had turned black and the smell was terrible. The whole place had turned into a furnace.





## Working with the Poem

### Question 1:

What are the games or human activities which use trees, or in which trees also 'participate'?

#### Answer 1:

The games or human activities which use trees are getting raw material for different purposes, making houses, playing hide and seek, giving shade from scorching heat in summer, fire camp parties in winter, fruits and many more.

### Question 2:

(i) "Trees are to make no shade in winter." What does this mean? (Contrast this line with the line immediately before it.)

(ii) "Trees are for apples to grow on, or pears." Do you agree that one purpose of a tree is to have fruit on it?

Or do you think this line is humorous?

#### Answer 2:

(i) During winter time, we need sunlight to protect us from the cold winds and we do not need the cool shades of tree as it is already cold. Whereas in summers, we need to protect ourselves from bright and glaring sun rays and trees provide us with cool shade.

(ii) Yes, one purpose of trees is to have fruits on it be it apple or pears. This line is not humorous but absolutely appropriate as apple and pears are most common fruit so poet used these two fruits name.

### Question 3:

With the help of your partner, try to rewrite some lines in the poem, or add new ones of your own as in the following examples.

Trees are for birds to build nests in.

Trees are for people to sit under.

Now try to compose a similar poem about water, or air.

#### Answer 3:

Trees are for shelter.

Trees are for oxygen.

Trees are for greenery

Trees are our support.

Water is our life

Water is our need

Please do not waste water

That is what I plead