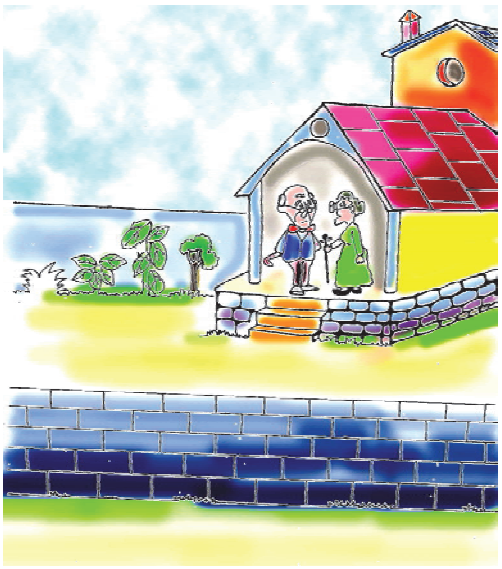
11. Grandchildren by Surprise

Is there any old couple in your village who live alone; without children or grandchildern?



Down the block at 1814 Beech Avenue lived Mr. and Mrs. Newton. She was short and round and neat. He was tall and thin and careful. Their house was as neat as a pin. Not even a shoe was out of place. Their meals were always on time. The neighbour's children knew that they should keep off their grass. When they stepped on it, Mr. Newton did not like it.

The Newtons didn't know much about children. But they did know that children make noise. They knew children are likely to mess up the house and spill things. The Newtons did not like anything to be messed or spilled. They liked everything to be just so.

Did the Newtons like children ?

The Newtons were busy doing things all day long. Together they knitted, baked, and built things. Mr. Newton made a tall clock that looked like a tree. It had a little bird that would fly out and sing sweetly. He made it all, and it was just right. Everything about the Newtons' lives was quiet and careful and neat.

One afternoon the Newtons got a letter. Mrs. Newton opened it right away for they did not get many letters.

Madrid
30 September 03

Dear grandma and grandpapa,

Surprise! One of these days soon you are going to get a surprise! There will be a knock at the door. When you open it, there we will be–all of us!

Love and kisses.

Your grandchildren

"How can this be?" asked Mrs. Newton.

"We have no grandchildren. Somebody is playing a joke on us."

Mr. Newton said, "It's not a funny joke. When they knock, we just won't answer the door. Children make a lot of noise and mess."

The next morning Mrs. Newton got out her mixer.

"I'll make some cookies for the grandchildren, if they come," she said.

The days went by and they waited and they waited for a knock. No one came. Finally, Monday afternoon, Mr. Newton said, "May be we read the letter wrong." He read it again. He looked at the letter a long, long time.

"We have made an awful mistake," he said quietly. "This letter was for 1814 Birch Avenue. The grandchildren are not for us."

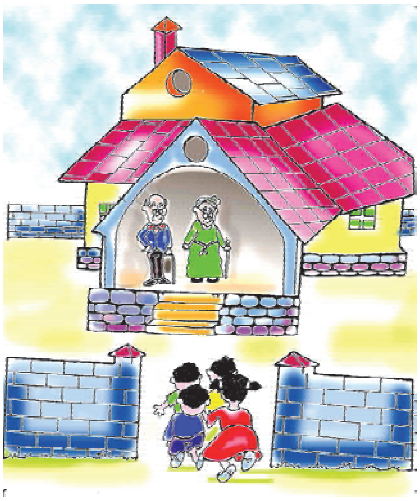
They were both sad. It was very quiet in the little house.

Then one afternoon an idea came to Mr. Newton. He put an ad in the paper. The ad read:

Wanted

Grandchildren to borrow. Any size or age. Please come to 1814 Beech Avenue on Saturday morning at nine.

There were only five days before Saturday. The Newtons made toys and baked more cookies. Finally it was Saturday. They waited and waited, but no one came. They waited all morning. They had worked so hard and hoped so hard. But no one came.

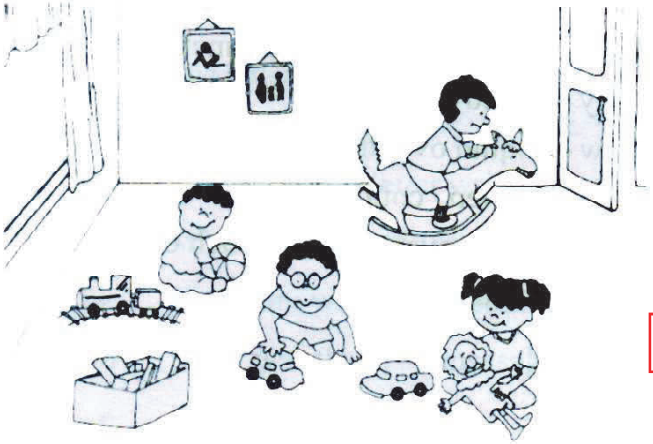


Mr. Newton went out into the yard. A little boy came by on his bike.

Mr. Newton said, "Hello there. What's your name?"

"Davey," the boy answered. "My mom saw your ad in the paper where you wanted to borrow some kids. She says no one would ask for kids when they could have a neat and quiet house."

"Not us," said Mr. Newton. "We have too much quiet. Our house is too neat. We would like children to visit us. We have never had any children. We would like to borrow some. Tell all your friends."



"You mean it?" asked Davey.

"I really mean it!" said Mr. Newton. "I'll tell them. I'll ride all over."

Almost before the Newtons knew it, there was a knock at the door. Children came!

Why did Davey ask, "You mean it?"

Some looked happy. Some were very quiet. In a short time they had all been hugged and welcomed.

Then there was another knock, and more children were on the porch.

"I am glad we made more cookies," said Mrs. Newton.

Then more came, and more. Their house was full of children, of all sizes and ages! It was more than they had hoped for.

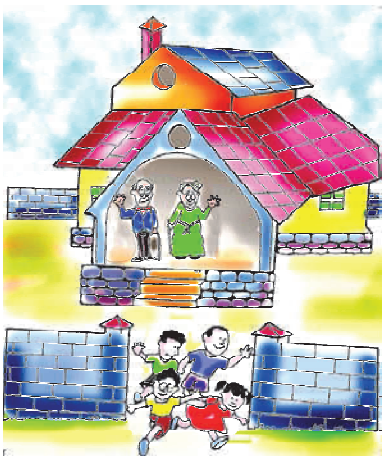
The ones who liked trucks and trains had trucks and trains to play with. The ones who liked dolls had dolls. They played with the doll-house. They were pleased

that Mr. Newton had made all the dolls and toys for them. They had a wonderful time all afternoon.

The children left late in the afternoon. They promised to come back the next Saturday.

The neat little house was a mess. Even the clock went tock-tick. But Mrs. Newton looked very pleased. "Do you think there were enough toys and cookies for everybody?" she asked.

"There was enough of everything." said Mr. Newton. "Toys and cookies and LOVE!"



- Jane Flory

Word Meanings

meals	food eaten during breakfast, lunch, dinner
mess	dirty or untidy condition
spill	flow of liquid over the edge of a container
knit	make woollen / cotton cloth
bake	to cook in an oven without much oil or ghee (like biscuits)
quiet	silence
neat	clean
surprise	something that happens suddenly
joke	something that you say or do to make people laugh
borrow	take something from someone for sometime and return it later
yard	a piece of land or empty space between a building and its boundary walls
porch	verandah
hug	to put arms around somebody and hold them tightly
keep off	be away from
on time	at the correct time
out of place	not in the right place
play a joke	make someone angry or sad by doing funny things
go by	pass by
ad	advertisement
cookies	sweet biscuits

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. Read the letter given in the lesson carefully and answer the following questions.
   a. When was the letter written?
   b. Where was the letter sent from?

c. Who was the letter sent to?

d. What was the main message in the letter?

e. Who wrote the letter?

2. How was the address on the letter different from the address of the Newtons?
3. Do you find anything funny in the ad put in the newspaper? If yes, what is it?
4. What did the grandchildren play with?
5. Did the children enjoy the time they spent with the grandparents?
6. "Even the clock went tock-tick."

   a. How do clocks go?

   b. Why does the writer say that the clock went tock-tick?
7. Name the things that the Newtons gave to the children.

Vocabulary

1. Put the words given in the list of word-meanings in the order in which you find them in the dictionary.

2. Look at the difference in the two spellings of the word :

Neighbor - neighbour

The first is American and the second is British.

Now complete the table given below:

American Spelling	British Spelling
Neighbor	Neighbour
Color	Colour
----------	Favour
Labor	----------
Valor	----------
----------	Parlour
Vapor	----------
----------	Rumour
----------	Harbour

3. Use following phrases in your own sentences.

out of place, play a joke on, come by, keep off

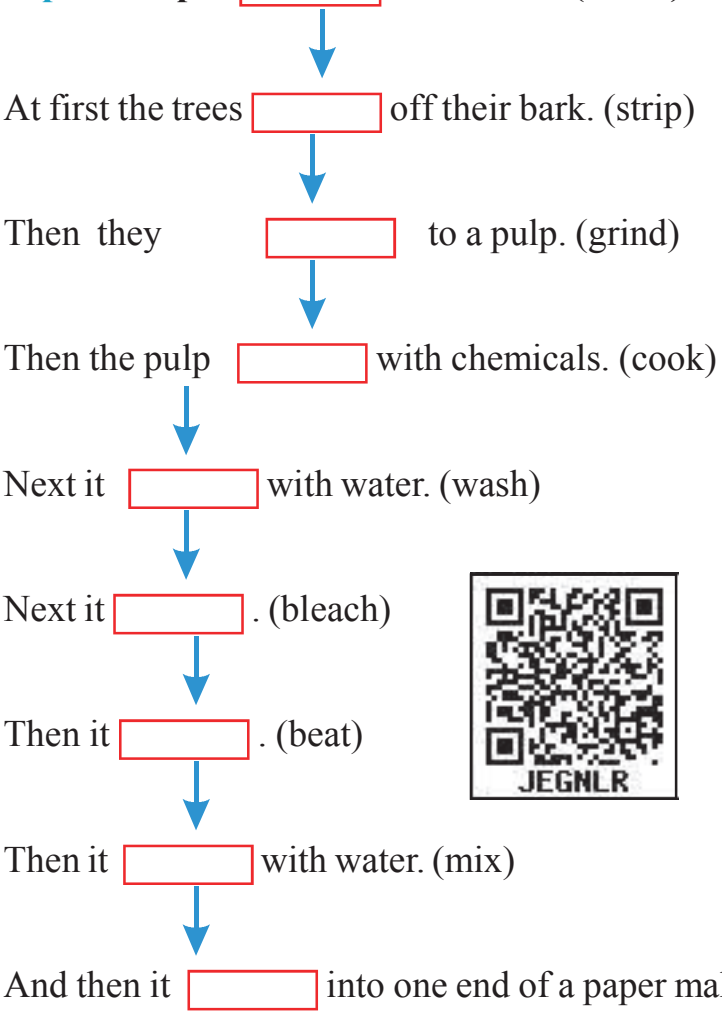
Grammar

Work in pairs

A. Look at the flow chart carerfully. You will know how the paper is made:

Use is/ are + V (III) form of the words given in the brackets and put them in the boxes. An example is given for you.

Example: **Paper [is made] from trees. (make)**



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Note: We use the **'passive voice'** when we are interested in an action, and not in the person responsible for the action.

Active voice:

Subject + Verb + Object
Hari + writes + a letter.

Passive voice:

Object + Verb + (Subject)
A letter is written.
In passive voice the sentence is made using
Object + is/are/am + V (III form)

B. Pick out the words from the box and complete the statements given below. One has been done for you :

Use as + adj + as

neat - pin	Example: The room was as neat as a pin.
cold - ice	His hands were as .....
black - coal	His hair is as .....
hot - fire	The kettle is as .....
white - milk	Her teeth are as .....
blue - sky	The water looks as .....
red - blood	The colour of this rose is as .....

Writing

Look at the following notice in the 'Lost and Found' box of your school notice board:

Lost! Lost!

07.03.04

Lost my lunch box. It is red. It is new. It has an oval shape.

One who finds it and returns it, will be given a treat.

Satish

Now write a notice for a newspaper about a dog you have lost. Take the help of the words given in the box:

fat

white

black eyes

with red collar

long tail

Activity

A. Listen to the passage carefully and complete the task given below:

See Appendix 1 Lesson 11.

(1) Name of the boy : .....

(2) At the age of two, he could name .....

(3) At the age of 9, he did .....

(4) At the age of 13, he was nominated for .....

B. Make a list of your classmates who are afraid of the following insects, animals etc. Talk to each other.

Example : Are you afraid of .....?

Yes, I'm/No, I aren't.

Now tell the class :

Most of my friends are afraid of .....

A few students are afraid of

Insects/animals	Name of Students
a rat	.....
a frog	.....
a dog	.....
a cockroach	.....
a lizard	.....
a snake	.....
a spider	.....
an ant	.....
a mosquito	.....

Project

Imagine how Mr. and Mrs. Newton's home looked neat and decorated before the children came in. They must have messed it up later. Collect the picture of a messed-up room and paste it in your note book. Show it to the class and say something about it.

JEQJNE