

## 1.2 The Fun they Had

### Warming up!

#### Chit-Chat

- What do you like best about your school?
- Do you think school is fun?
- Which is the part that you don't like?
- How often should the teacher give you a test?



### Classify!

1. Listen carefully and write each word in the appropriate column/columns.

ancient	modern	futuristic

- |                         |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| • bicycles              | • bullet trains         | • school            |
| • wheels                | • robots                | • flying cars       |
| • bullock carts         | • horse-drawn carriages | • tonga             |
| • tar roads             | • spaceships            | • homework          |
| • ships                 | • television            | • aeroplanes        |
| • computers             | • windmills             | • cameras           |
| • floppy disks          | • earth movers          | • axes              |
| • audio/video cassettes | • brushes               | • mortar and pestle |
| • telephone             | • mobile phones         | • hot air balloons  |
| • books                 | • notebooks             | • headphones        |
| • vacuum cleaners       | • ball pens             | • tests             |
| • umbrellas             | • water on tap          | • solar lamps       |
| • earthen stoves        | • electric lamps        | • electric lamps    |
| • fans                  | • air conditioners      | • candles           |
| • geography             | • microbiology          | • grammar           |

2. Listen to the pronunciation of these words and practise saying them properly yourself.



- |               |             |                |            |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| • grandfather | • geography | • satisfactory | • superior |
| • pronouncing | • betcha    | • nonchalantly |            |

The teacher should dictate the words in 'Classify!' one by one, giving students enough time to write the word in the appropriate column.

♦ Can you think of any devices/objects that came into use in the recent past but are now outdated?

Find an example of outdated devices/words from the list given here. Think of other examples on your own.

The teacher should demonstrate the use of an online dictionary or the audio available on the CD/DVD of a dictionary or a good dictionary in an electronic format.

## The Fun they Had

♦ When does the story take place?

♦ What does Margie mean by 'a real book'?

♦ Margie and Tommy use 'telebooks'. What are they like?

♦ Margie uses a diary. What would it be like?

♦ What do we understand by the words, 'took the teacher apart'?

Margie even wrote about it that night in her diary. On the page headed 17 May 2157, she wrote, 'Today Tommy found a real book!'

It was a very old book. Margie's grandfather once said that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper.

They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to - on a screen, you know. And then when they turned back to the page before, it had the same words on it that it had when they read it the first time.

"Gee," said Tommy, "what a waste! When you're through with the book, you just throw it away, I guess. Our television screen must have had a million books on it and it's good for plenty more. I wouldn't throw it away."

"Same with mine," said Margie. She was eleven and hadn't seen as many telebooks as Tommy had. He was thirteen.

She said, "Where did you find it?"

"In my house." He pointed without looking because he was busy reading. "In the attic."

"What's it about?"

"School."

Margie was scornful. "School? What's there to write about school? I hate school."

Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever. The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfully and sent for the County Inspector.

He was a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart. Margie had hoped he wouldn't know how to put it together again, but he knew how all right, and, after an hour or

so, there it was again, large and black and ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked. That wasn't so bad. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She always had to write them out in a punch code they made her learn when she was six years old, and the mechanical teacher calculated the marks in no time.

The Inspector had smiled after he was finished and patted Margie's head. He said to her mother, "It's not the little girl's fault, Mrs Jones. I think the geography sector was geared a little too quick. Those things happen sometimes. I've slowed it up to an average ten-year level. Actually, the overall pattern of her progress is quite satisfactory." And he patted Margie's head again.

Margie was disappointed. She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether. They had once taken Tommy's teacher away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely.

So she said to Tommy, "Why would anyone write about school?"

Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago." He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, "Centuries ago."

Margie was hurt. "Well, I don't know what kind of school they had all that time ago." She read the book over his shoulder for a while, then said, "Anyway, they had a teacher."

"Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher. It was a man."

"A man? How could a man be a teacher?"

"Well, he just told the boys and girls things and gave them homework and asked them questions."

"A man isn't smart enough."

"Sure he is. My father knows as much as my teacher."

♦ Which part of the machine did Margie hate most?

♦ What fault did the Inspector repair?

♦ What is Margie like as a student – bright, average or below average?

♦ Do you think the school described in the 'book' existed centuries ago?

• loftily : airily, in a superior tone

• betcha : surely

• dispute : argue, quarrel with

- ♦ Do you think Tommy likes the school in the olden days?

- ♦ Is Tommy Margie's brother or friend?

Find the sentences that help you to decide that.

- ♦ Would you like your own mechanical teacher?

- nonchalantly : in an indifferent; cool manner

“He knows almost as much, I betcha.”

Margie wasn't prepared to dispute that. She said, “I wouldn't want a strange man in my house to teach me.”

Tommy screamed with laughter. “You don't know much, Margie. The teachers didn't live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there.”

“And all the kids learned the same things?”

“Sure, if they were the same age.”

“But my mother says a teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently.”

“Just the same they didn't do it that way then. If you don't like it, you don't have to read the book.”

“I didn't say I didn't like it”, Margie said quickly. She wanted to read about those funny schools.

They weren't even half finished when Margie's mother called, “Margie! School!”

Margie looked up. “Not yet, Mamma.”

“Now!” said Mrs Jones. “And it's probably time for Tommy, too.”

Margie said to Tommy, “Can I read the book some more with you after school?”

“May be.” he said nonchalantly. He walked away whistling, the dusty old book tucked beneath his arm.

Margie went into the schoolroom. It was right next to her bedroom, and the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday, because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

The screen was lit up, and it said: “Today's arithmetic lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday's homework in the proper slot.”

Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhood came, laughing and shouting in

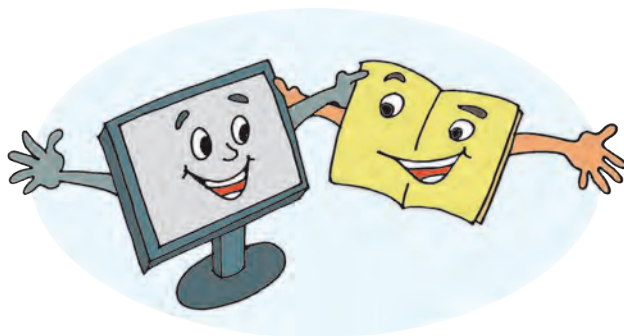
the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework and talk about it.

And the teachers were people ...

The mechanical teacher was flashing on the screen : When we add fractions  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  ...”

Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.

– Isaac Asimov



## ENGLISH WORKSHOP



1. Use the proper punctuation mark.
  - (a) Where did you find it
  - (b) What's it about
  - (c) They had a teacher
  - (d) How could a man be a teacher
  - (e) Sure, if they were the same age
2. The following sentences have an unusual meaning in the context of the story. **Write** what these sentences would mean today, and **what they mean in the context** of the story.
  - (a) She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether.
  - (b) They had taken Tommy's teacher away for nearly a month.
  - (c) It wasn't a regular teacher. It was a man.
  - (d) How could a man be a teacher?
  - (e) A teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches.

♦ Do you agree with Margie?

♦ What changes would you like to see in your own school?

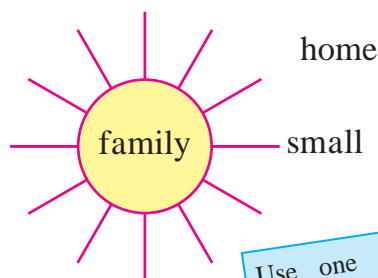
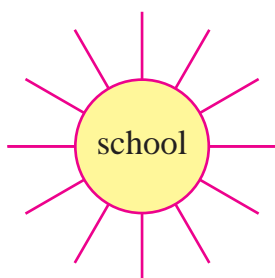
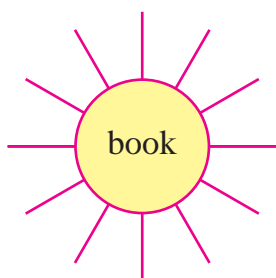
♦ Do you have fun playing/studying with your friends?

♦ Do you play outdoor games?

♦ Do you have fun playing video/mobile games? Which games do you play?

Make the students aware that this change in meaning according to change in the context gives rise to humour.

3. Write words related to the following words. (At least ten words each.)



Use one minute  
to write one set  
of related words.

4. Discuss: How would you like to learn –  
from a human teacher or a mechanical teacher?  
**Present** your arguments **in the form of a chart**.

Human teacher		Mechanical teacher	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages

5. Rewrite the following using complete words instead of **contracted forms**.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| (a) ...when you're through.            | (e) "What's it about?"           |
| (b) ...and it's good for plenty more.  | (f) I've slowed it up.           |
| (c) I wouldn't throw it away.          | (g) I don't know.                |
| (d) She hadn't seen as many telebooks. | (h) It wasn't a regular teacher. |

### Language Study

6. **Underline the verbs and choose the correct option** from the brackets.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a)   | (b)   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margie even wrote about it.<br/>(present tense/past tense)</li> <li>• Today Tommy found a new book.<br/>(present tense/past tense)</li> <li>• My father knows as much as my teacher.<br/>(present tense/past tense)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margie was scornful.<br/>(singular/plural)</li> <li>• This is the old kind of school.<br/>(singular/plural)</li> <li>• And the teachers were people ...<br/>(singular/plural)</li> </ul> |

Thus, we see that verb forms show tense, number, etc. Here, the verb form changes according to the subject. A verb form which is decided by and changes according to the subject of the sentence is known as a **finite verb**.

Example: 'You **are** very kind.' If the subject 'you' is changed to 'she', the sentence will be 'She **is** very kind.'

Now change the verb form according to the change in the subject.

I don't know : Change 'I' to 'She'.

My father knows : Change 'My father' to 'We'

I am following in your footsteps : Change 'I' to 'He'.



## 7. Activity : **Live English : Online shopping**

(a) Read the following conversation between two cousins.

**Tejaswini :** Hi, Santosh. What are you thinking about?

**Santosh :** Hi, Teju. Next week's Didi's birthday.

We want to give her a surprise gift.

**Tejaswini :** Great idea! What is your surprise gift?

**Santosh :** Well, we don't have any big shops here, there's little to choose from. Nothing new or surprising.

**Tejaswini :** So why don't you try online shopping?

**Santosh :** Is it safe?

**Tejaswini :** Yes, it is. If we take proper care, it is one of the most convenient ways of shopping. Plus, you will get so much variety.

**Santosh :** True. But I don't know how to do it.

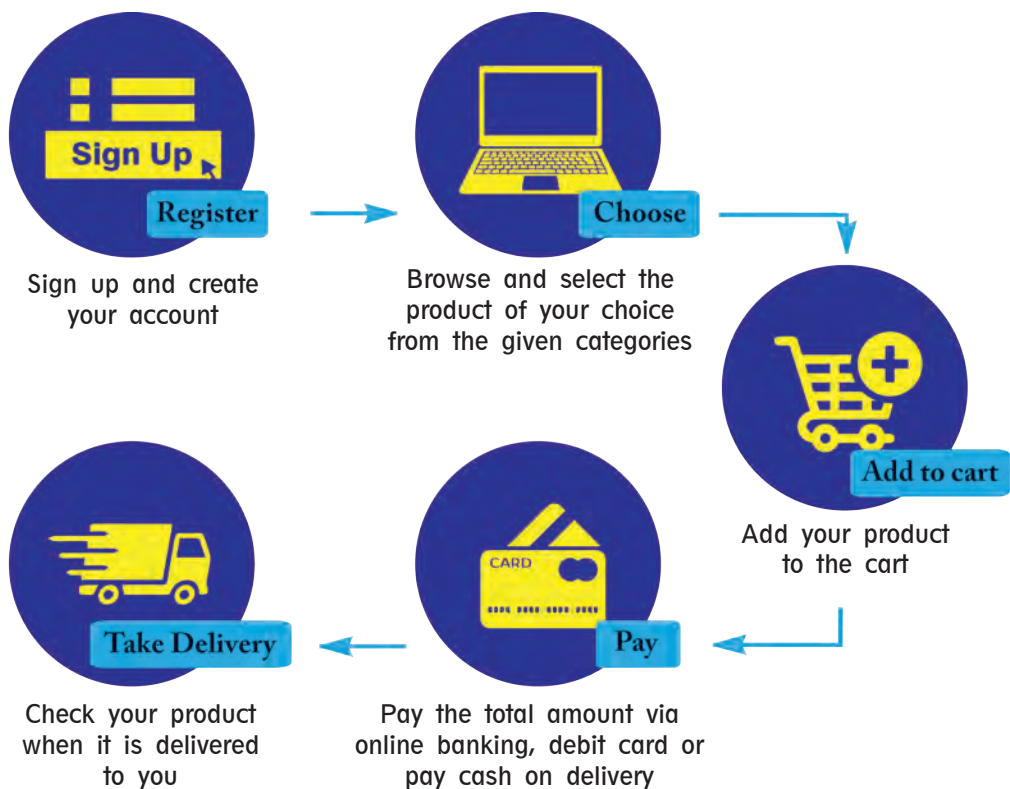
**Tejaswini :** It's ok. I will show you. Do you have an internet connection?

**Santosh :** Yes.

**Tejaswini :** That's good, then. We can do it in five easy steps. Let's start.

Note that the word 'Live' rhymes with 'five' and not with 'give'. Here, it is used as an adjective.

### **Online shopping in 5 easy steps :**



(b) **Write in a step-by-step manner**, how Tejaswini and Santosh bought a gift for Didi online.

(c) Use this website ([www.chalashikuya.com](http://www.chalashikuya.com)) to try your hand at a practical/mock trial of online shopping.

The screenshot displays the Chalashikuya website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Sign up', 'Login', 'Offers', 'e-learning', 'Stationery', 'Educational Toys', 'Books', 'Cart', 'Track Order', 'Sell', 'Gift Coupons', 'FAQs', and 'Help'. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, the 'Books' category is highlighted. The main content area features a 'Filters' section on the left with expandable categories: Books, Educational, Religious and Spiritual, Story Books, e-learning, Languages (English, Marathi, Hindi), and Discount. The central part of the page shows a grid of book products with their covers, titles, and prices. For example, 'My First English-Marathi Dictionary' is listed for Rs. 92.25 (25% off). To the right, there are promotional banners for stationery items like pencils, paintbrushes, and highlighters, offering discounts such as 'Flat 50% off on a set of 5 highlighters' and 'Buy a pack of 8 poster colours and get a paint brush FREE'. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with the time 20:05:45 and the date 20-07-2017.

Look at above webpage and tell :

- The name of the website
- What we can buy there
- The offer on poster colours



- (d) Read the following questions and answers. Form pairs and **frame similar questions and answers** for this website.

**How to use this website:**

1. If I want to buy a story book on this website, where can I find it?
  - In the categories on the left, in the options under Books you will find story books. Click that option.
2. I want a CD of the dictionary.
  - Go to 'e-learning'. Under that Click the 'dictionary' option.
3. Where can I look for books in the Hindi language?
  - You can go to the Languages option on the left and tick the box before Hindi.
4. How can I find what discounts are available?
  - Under the filters on left you will find discounts.
5. Are there any specific deals/offers on specific days?
  - There is a CSY (Chalashikuya) deal. You can click on it and find out the deal of the day.
6. Can I purchase only one thing at a time?
  - No, you can buy many things at a time. Select whatever you want and add to the cart and then browse again for another product.
7. When will my order be delivered?
  - Maximum in 10 working days. You can also track your order by clicking the icon 'track order.'

8. There is one icon 'Gift Coupons'. What does it mean?
  - You can give a gift coupon to your friend by using this icon and he/she can purchase the product of his/her choice with the help of it.
9. Is this site only for purchasing?
  - No, you can also sell your old books and other educational things here.
10. How can I find out whether the product is good or not?
  - You can see the ratings and reviews of users below each product.

- (e) Suppose one of your parents or an older relative wants to know about online shopping and you are explaining how to do it. **Write a conversation** between you and your parent/relative about it.

- (f) Form pairs. **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages** of online shopping and fill the following table.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Time saving	1. Delay in delivery
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.



- **Write a paragraph** on 'Online Shopping' using the points in the above table.