



## The Nose-Jewel

C. Rajagopalachari

## Warm up



What are the life lessons that you can learn from the birds? Match the birds with the characters given in the box and fill in the blanks.



J3E9Z5

Arise and awake, Beautiful, Unity, Focused, Melodious, Time conscious

Qualities of birds	Life lessons I can learn from the birds
 <p>Time conscious</p>	<p>Be on time to school</p>
 <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
 <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
 <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
 <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
 <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>



Ramayya was a simple man living in the town. He lived with his wife in a nice house made of tiled roofs. He was not rich but he could take care of his family.



Two sparrows built a nest in a nice spot in the roof of Ramayya's house and the mother-bird laid her eggs in it.

"My dear," began the male sparrow.

"And what do you want now?" asked his wife.

"Why does the lady of this house always quarrel with her husband?"

"How am I to know?" said the female bird. "Let us mind our own business."

"You are always **self-centred**," said the male sparrow and added, "Should we not help this poor Ramayya?"

The female sparrow said with **disdain**, "Let me see what help you can do for him. Please do not talk about what does not concern us. See that the cat does not come near our nest. That would be enough for you and me."

Somewhere in the **muck-heap** lay a diamond nose-jewel. The male bird picked it up and came to the nest with the shining stud in his beak and said to his wife: "Look! Do you like this?"

The wife-bird replied, "What am I to do with diamond nose studs or with ear-rings? Find some **grub**; the young ones are hungry."





The bird dropped the diamond stud on the floor and went out in search of little worms for the young ones.

Ramayya's wife noticed the jewel as she was sweeping the floor. She picked it up with delight and wore it.

Ramayya questioned her angrily, "How did you get this diamond-stud?"

"I found it lying here yesterday and took it. That is all."

"We should go and handover it to the village **magistrate**. If tomorrow the police should come and search our house, it will be **disgrace** to us?"

In Meenakshi Ammal's house nearby, the talk went thus: "I forgot and left it in the bathroom. Kuppayi, the servant woman must have swept it out. She is very careless and **ignorant**."

The mother, Meenakshi Ammal, **consoled** her little girl saying, "Let us search and find it. Don't tell father yet. He would go into a rage if he knew that you had lost the diamond nose-stud."



A bird's eye takes up about 50 percent of its head; our eyes take up about 5 percent of our head. To be comparable to a bird's eyes, our eyes would have to be the size of baseballs.



"What is the secret you are whispering?" asked Ramanatham.

The loss of the jewel had to be admitted. Soon the whole village knew about it. The maid-servant Kuppayi was **suspected** by everyone to have stolen it.

The police came and searched her hut, but could find nothing.



Ramayya's heart was in a **flutter**. Ramayya's wife put the stud away in her box. She soon developed a severe fever and was **confined** to her bed. No one thought of searching their house.

The he-sparrow said, "Look at the fun, my dear, the lady of this house is scared and is down with fever."

"Nice fun indeed!" said the she-sparrow. "The poor woman is in a **panic**. The fever may be the end of her."

"And a good thing too," said the **cruel** male sparrow.

"It is all your doing you brought and threw it here and tempted her," said the female bird.



The male bird answered **gravely**, "Did I tell her to steal the thing? This is bound to happen when human are being greedy."

"Rightly said, we should never be greedy for what belongs to others". "Come, let us go now and bring some worms for the young ones." And the two flew out.

Ramayya and his wife spend the rest of life in fear of being caught. The diamond Nose Jewel may still be with them, but the fear of getting caught was even more.

### About the Author

Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878-1972) informally called Rajaji, was an Indian politician, independence activist, lawyer, writer, historian and statesman. Rajagopalachari was born in the village of Thorapalli in the Krishnagiri district. Rajagopalachari was the last Governor-General of India, as India soon became a Republic in 1950. Furthermore, he was the first Indian-born governor-general, since before him the posts were held by British nationals. He also served as leader of the Indian National Congress, Premier of the Madras Presidency, Governor of West Bengal, Minister for Home Affairs of the Indian Union and Chief Minister of Madras state. He was one of the first recipients of India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.



### Glossary



<b>self-centred (adj)</b>	– concerned with the self
<b>disdain (n)</b>	– feeling of contempt or scorn
<b>muck-heap (n)</b>	– heap
<b>grub (n)</b>	– food
<b>magistrate (n)</b>	– a judicial officer with limited authority to administer and enforce the law.
<b>disgrace (n)</b>	– the state of being dishonored, or covered with same
<b>ignorant (adj)</b>	– unaware
<b>consoled (v)</b>	– comforted (someone) in the time of grief, disappointment
<b>suspected (v)</b>	– believed to be a cause or at fault
<b>flutter (v)</b>	– to flap or wave quickly but irregularly
<b>confined (v)</b>	– restricted, kept in a limited space or area
<b>panic (adj)</b>	– frightened
<b>cruel (adj)</b>	– merciless or heartless
<b>gravely (adv)</b>	– in a grave or serious manner

## Read and Understand



### A) Choose the correct synonyms for the italicized words.

1. Nice fun *indeed*  
a. infact                      b. doubtedly                      c. fine
2. The poor woman is in a *panic*.  
a. fear                      b. grid                      c. crash
3. The mother *consoled* her little girl.  
a. pretended                      b. comforted                      c. left
4. You are always *self-centred*.  
a. egostic                      b. generous                      c. heroic
5. What is the secret you are *whispering*?  
a. rumour                      b. murmur                      c. louder

### B) Find the antonym for the following words.

1. Delight    ×
2. Disgrace    ×
3. Careless    ×
4. Secret    ×
5. confine    ×

### C) Fill in the blanks.

1. The sparrows built their nests in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The diamond jewel was lying in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The diamond jewel belonged to \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the servant maid of Meenakshi Ammal.
5. Ramayya and his wife lived with the fear of \_\_\_\_\_ .

### D) Say the following statements are True or False.

1. Two sparrows built a nest on a tree top.
2. Kuppayi swept out the diamond jewel.
3. Ramayya gave the diamond jewel to the magistrate.

4. Ramayya's wife put the stud away in her box.
5. The Police searched Rammaya's home.

### E) Answer the following questions

1. Where did the sparrows build the nest?
2. Why did the bird drop diamond stud?
3. What were the words of Meenakshi Ammal to her daughter?
4. Who was suspected of stealing the diamond nose stud?
5. What did Ramayya's wife do with the stud?
6. What happened to Ramayya's wife at the end?

### F) Answer the following in about 100 words.

1. Why did the sparrow throw the nose jewel into Ramayya's house?
2. Explain how Ramayya's wife reacted when she saw the nose jewel?

## Vocabulary



## Homophone

Homophones are words with same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling.

For example:

new	–	knew
hole	–	whole
knight	–	night
see	–	sea

### a. Pick out the correct homophone.

1. I am not \_\_\_\_\_ to drink soda. (*aloud, allowed*)
2. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ the leaves. (*blue, blew*)
3. I will \_\_\_\_\_ my friend. (*meat, meet*)
4. He will play the \_\_\_\_\_ in the second play. (*role, roll*)
5. I have \_\_\_\_\_ the movie already. (*scene, seen*)

## b. Choose the correct homophone.

1. Every morning my father likes to look at the \_\_\_\_\_ on the grass.  
a) due                                      b) dew
2. Chennai is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Tamilnadu.  
a) capitol                                  b) capital
3. I was very \_\_\_\_\_ last weekend because my friends went to the village without informing me.  
a) bored                                    b) board
4. The cat caught the \_\_\_\_\_ of a mouse.  
a) scent                                    b) cent
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ rises in the east.  
a) son                                        b) sun

## Abbreviation and Acronyms

### a. Abbreviation:

An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or phrase.

Example: PM - Prime Minister

#### Example:

ATM	<u>A</u> utomated <u>T</u> eller <u>M</u> achine
GB	<u>G</u> iga <u>B</u> yte
PC	<u>P</u> ersonal <u>C</u> omputer
CEO	<u>C</u> hief <u>E</u> ducational <u>O</u> fficer
EMIS	<u>E</u> ducation <u>M</u> anagement <u>I</u> nformation <u>S</u> ystem
IAS	<u>I</u> ndian <u>A</u> dministrative <u>S</u> ervice
NMMS	<u>N</u> ational <u>M</u> eans cum <u>M</u> erit <u>S</u> cholarship
SBI	<u>S</u> tate <u>B</u> ank of <u>I</u> ndia
OTP	<u>O</u> ne <u>T</u> ime <u>P</u> assword
IFSC	<u>I</u> ndian <u>F</u> inancial <u>S</u> ystem <u>C</u> ode
PDF	<u>P</u> ortable <u>D</u> ocument <u>F</u> ormat
LED	<u>L</u> ight <u>E</u> mitting <u>D</u> iode
UPS	<u>U</u> ninterruptible <u>P</u> ower <u>S</u> upply
GSt	<u>G</u> oods and <u>S</u> ervices <u>T</u> ax



## b. Acronyms:

An acronym is a shortened form of a phrase and is usually made up of the initial letters of that phrase. for example: NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

### Example:

AVADI	<u>A</u> rmoured <u>V</u> ehicles and <u>A</u> mmunition <u>D</u> epot of <u>I</u> ndia
RAM	<u>R</u> andom <u>A</u> ccess <u>M</u> emory
ROM	<u>R</u> ead- <u>O</u> nly <u>M</u> emory
NEET	<u>N</u> ational <u>E</u> ligibility cum <u>E</u> ntrance <u>T</u> est
UDISE	<u>U</u> nified <u>D</u> istrict <u>I</u> nformation <u>S</u> ystem for <u>E</u> ducation
PAN	<u>P</u> ermanent <u>A</u> ccount <u>N</u> umber
WHO	<u>W</u> orld <u>H</u> ealth <u>O</u> rganization
NEWS	<u>N</u> orth, <u>E</u> ast, <u>W</u> est and <u>S</u> outh.
SIM	<u>S</u> ubscriber <u>I</u> dentification <u>M</u> odule
LAN	<u>L</u> ocal <u>A</u> rea <u>N</u> etwork
VAT	<u>V</u> alue <u>A</u> dded <u>T</u> ax

### Expand the following:

ECG	
ILO	
SCERT	
IIT	
ISRO	
FIR	
UNESCO	
UNICEF	
NASA	
AIDS	
ADHD	
UFO	
FAQ	

## Listening



### c) Listen to the passage carefully and choose the right answer.

- 1) Why do birds sing?
  - a) To locate one another
  - b) To warn other birds
  - c) To find a mate
  - d) All of the above
- 2) Birds perch very high so that .....
  - a) other birds can hear them
  - b) other birds can see them
  - c) they can hide there
  - d) Both A and B are correct.
- 3) The health of a bird can be determined...
  - a) by the length of its song
  - b) by the complexity of its song.
  - c) by the volume of its song
  - d) Both A and B are correct.
- 4) Shorter bird vocalizations are ...
  - a) territorial songs
  - b) mating songs
  - c) warnings
  - d) None of the above
- 5) Young birds perfect their songs by ...
  - a) natural instinct
  - b) listening and interaction
  - c) practice
  - d) Both B and C are correct
- 6) Fitness is ...
  - a) health.
  - b) danger
  - c) a song
  - d) a warning.
- 7) How do variations in the basic song help the birds?
  - a) recognize other members
  - b) Maintain health
  - c) Increase the length of their song
  - d) Communicate with one another.

**Note: The listening passage is given at page no. 226.**



## Greetings

There are a number of greetings we use when meeting people. These greetings depend on whether we are meeting people, leaving people or meeting people for the first time.

### Meeting People for the First Time

When introduced to someone for the first time, use the following greetings:

Hello, it's a pleasure to meet you.

How do you do?

#### Example Dialogues

Fatima : Ameera, this is Fatima.

Ameera : Hello, it's a pleasure to meet you.

Fatima : How do you do?

Ameera : How do you do?

**Note:** The reply to 'How do you do?' is 'How do you do?' This is appropriate when you meet someone for the first time.

### Meeting People

When meeting people during the day, use the following phrases.

Formal	Informal
Good morning / afternoon / evening!	Hi!
How are you?	Hey, how's it going?
It's good to see you.	What's up?

## Example

Bhuvana : Good morning Roshini.

Ilango : Good morning. How are you?

Bhuvana : What's up?

Ilango : Nothing much. You?

## Formal Greetings: Arriving

- Good morning / afternoon / evening!
- Hello (name), how are you?
- Good day Sir / Madam (very formal)
- Good morning Mr. Raju.
- Hello Ms. Sherlyn. How are you today?

## Informal Greetings: Arriving

Hi / Hello!	How are you? / How are you doing?
How are you?	Very well, thank you. And you? (formal)
How are you doing?	Fine / Great (informal)
What's up? (very informal)	Not much. I'm just (watching TV, cooking dinner, etc.)

## Informal Greetings After a Long Time

If you haven't seen a friend or family member for a long time, use one these informal greetings to mark the occasion.

- It's great to see you!
- How have you been?
- Long time, no see.
- How are you doing these days?

## Formal Greetings: Departing

Use these greetings when you say goodbye at the end of the day. These greetings are appropriate for work and other formal and informal situations.



<b>Formal</b>	<b>Informal</b>
Good morning / afternoon / evening.	Nice seeing you!
It was a pleasure seeing you.	Goodbye / Bye
Goodbye.	See you later
Goodnight. (Note: Use after 8 p.m.)	Later (very informal)

## **Practice Dialogues**

### **Greetings in Informal Conversations:**

Amala: Sanjay, what's up?

Sanjay: Hi Amala. Nothing much. I'm just hanging out. What's up with you?

Amala: It's a good day. I'm feeling fine.

Sanjay: How is your sister?

Amala: Oh, fine. Not much has changed.

Sanjay: Well, I have to go. Nice seeing you!

Amala: Later!

### **Greetings in Formal Conversations**

Cecily: Good morning.

Prabu: Good morning. How are you?

Cecily: I'm very well, thank you. And you?

Prabu: I'm fine. Thank you for asking.

Cecily: Do you have a meeting this morning?

Prabu: Yes, I do. Do you have a meeting as well?

Cecily: Yes, Well. It was a pleasure seeing you.

Prabu: Goodbye.



## Formal letter

There are many situations in which we write formal letters. The formal letter has a specific format. The formal letter should be accurate and presented in an organised manner.

A formal letter includes:

- Sender's address
- Date
- Name/designation and address of the receiver
- Subject
- Salutation
- Body of the letter
- Closing Paragraph
- Complimentary close
- Subscription
- Sender's Name  
Designation (if applicable)

## Informal letter

An informal letter includes:

- Sender's address
- Date
- Salutation
- Body of the letter
- Closing Paragraph
- Complimentary close
- Subscription
- Sender's Name

## Sample formal Letter

Sender's address	— [ 210, Sunrise Avenue Chennai- 600 001
Date	— [ 10 April 2020
Name/designation and address of the receiver	— [ The Officer-in-charge, Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, The Municipality, Chennai
Subject	— [ <b>Subject:-</b> <i>Wastage of water due to a broken pipe.</i>
Salutation	— [ <b>Dear Sir/Madam,</b>
Body of the letter	— [ We have observed wastage of water for the last 15 days at a construction site, near our school. It makes the whole area slippery and muddy. Mosquitoes have begun to breed there and it has become a health hazard.
Closing Paragraph	— [ We request you to look into the matter immediately and get the pipeline repaired.
Complimentary close	— [ Thank you,
Subscription Sender's Name Designation (if applicable)	— [ Yours sincerely/faithfully/truly, — [ Iniyen

**Using the given letter as a model, write a complaining letter on any one of the topics given below.**

- To the Police commissioner about the noise caused by the loud speaker in a music shop near your school.
- To the Postmaster General on non – receipt of book parcel.
- To the Transport Manager, TNStC on non- stopping of buses near your school bus stop.

## Sample informal Letter

Sender's address — South Mount Road  
Kallanai, Tirunelveli Town

Date — 27 November 2020

Salutation — **Dear Mother,**

Body of the letter — I am fine here and hope this letter finds you in good health. I am enjoying my new school and hostel life. Though sometimes I feel homesick but your words of advice always help me overcome the feeling. I believe this school is one of the best school and we have all the facilities. The teachers are very well-learned, affectionate and efficient. My classmates are helpful and fun to be with.

Please convey my regards to dad and love to Suganya.

Subscription — Your loving daughter,

Sender's Name — Seema

**Using the given informal letter as a model, write a letter on any one of the topics given below.**

- Write letter to your father asking permission to go on a educational tour.
- Write letter to your friend about your summer holidays.
- Write letter to your sister advising her to take part in cultural programme in school annual day celebration.





## Parts of Speech

**Noun** is a word used as the name of a person, Place, or thing.

Example: Person - Akbar  
Place - Chennai  
Thing - Computer  
Animal - Dog

**Pronoun** is a word used instead of a noun.

Example: I, We, You, He, She, It, They, Me, Us, Him, Her, Them.

**Verb** is a word used to express an action or state.

Example: come, read, speak, write, learn, am, is, was, are, have, had, do, does, did

**Adverb** is a word that describes or modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

Example: very, beautifully, cleverly, quickly, quite, possibly, never, often.

**Adjective** is a word that describes or modifies a noun.

Example: beautiful, intelligent, good, bad, clever, little, honest, some, great, large.

**Preposition** is a word placed before with noun or a pronoun to show the relation of the noun or pronoun to something else.

Example: in, of, at, on, by, for, from, out, to, up, with, about, into.

**Conjunction** is a word used to join words or sentences.

Example: and, but, because, or, so, still, if, as, before, though, neither...nor so that, either...or,

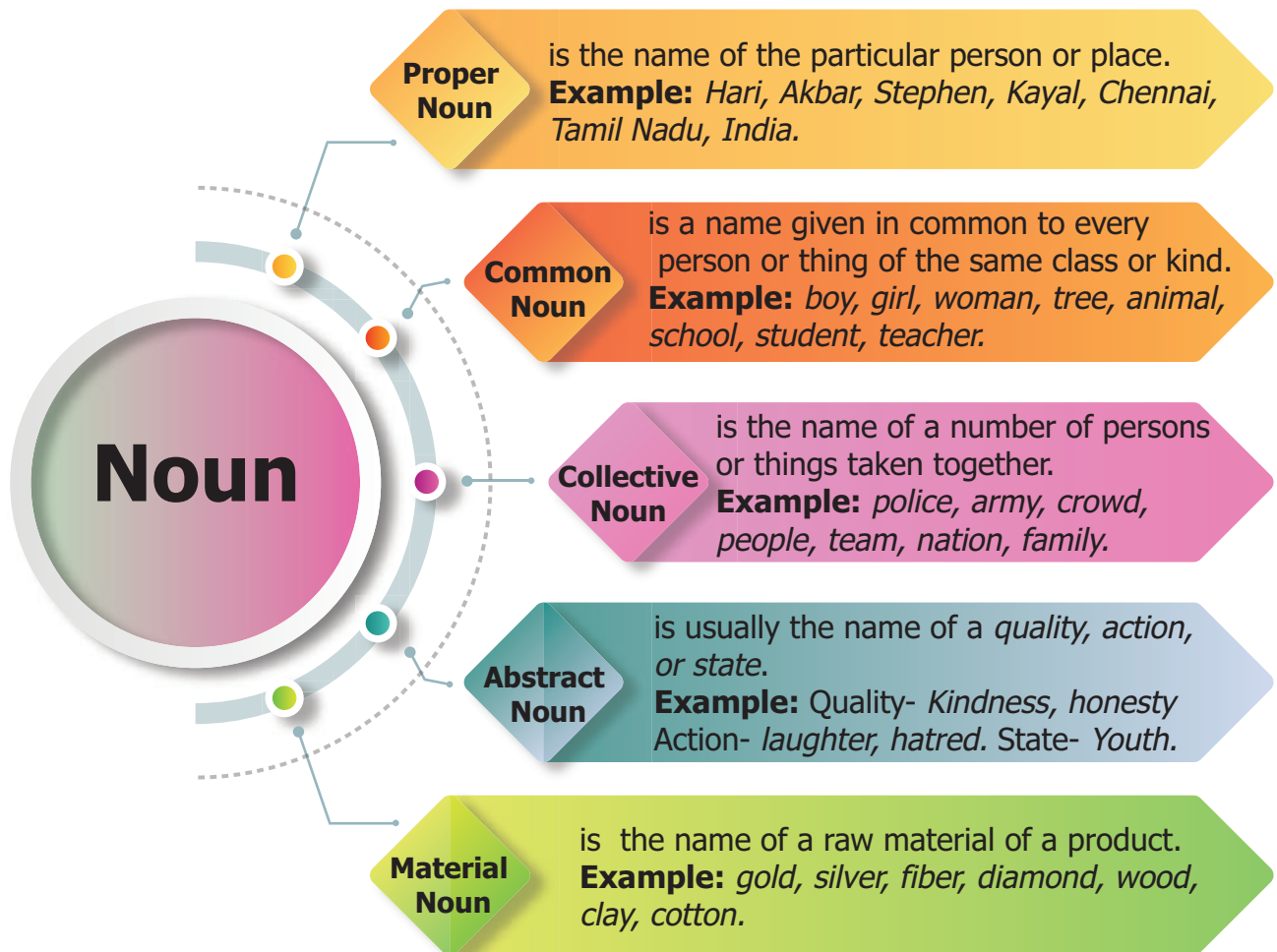
**Interjection** is a word which expresses some sudden feeling.

Example: Alas, Wow, Hurrah, Oh, Hello, Ah, Hush, Bravo.

## Noun

Noun is a word used as the name of a person, place, thing, animal or an idea.

**Types of nouns:** Proper noun, Common noun, Collective noun, Abstract noun, Material noun.



**a. Pick out the words from the list and put them appropriately in the table.**

David, Madurai, parrot, happiness, book, thought, green, tiger, Trichy, computer, Narayanan, fan, sister, Kalam, woman, pencil, Bharathi, problem, brother, Mumbai, swan, elephant, Vijay, solution, success, school, convent.

Person	Place	Thing	Animal	Ideas/feelings

**b. Read the following paragraph and pick out the different types of nouns and put them in the table.**

Hobby is an activity that we enjoy doing in our free time. It keeps us busy in our leisure time. People choose their hobby on the basis of their interests and personality. Do you know what Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's hobby was?

Proper Noun	Common Noun	Collective Noun	Abstract Noun

**c. Fill in the blanks with the suitable collective noun.**

Choir, shower, bowl, flock, cup, pair, swarm, bunch, herd, bottle

- a \_\_\_\_\_ of cows
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of birds
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of singers
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of milk
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of tea
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of ants
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of grapes
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of rice
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of shoes
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of rain

## Pronoun

Pronoun is a word used instead of a noun.

### Example

*Shoba* always loves dancing. *She* wants to go to dance school.

In the above example, the word '*she*' replaces the noun '*Shoba*'. So the word '*she*' is a pronoun.

Subject pronoun	Object pronoun	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
I	me	my	mine
We	us	our	ours
You	you	your	yours
They	them	their	theirs
He	him	his	his
She	her	her	hers
It	it	its	its

Subject Pronoun	Object Pronoun
<p>A subject pronoun is a personal pronoun that is used as the subject of a verb. <i>I, We, You, He, She, It, They</i></p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>She is my friend. It is my dog. They are reading.</p>	<p>An object pronoun is a type of personal pronoun that replaces a noun with an object. <i>Me, Us, You, Him, Her, It, Them</i></p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>The painting is done by me. He called them. I will give you a book.</p>

**a. Change the underlined words with correct pronoun.**

(they, he, her, him, it, she )

1. I saw Mr. Balu this morning and gave Mr. Balu my homework.
2. Muthu likes computer games, but he doesn't play computer games very often.
3. My aunt lives in Trichy but, my aunt often comes to visit my family.
4. Neil Armstrong was born in 1930. Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969.
5. He helped the old lady. He gave the old lady food.

**Possessive pronoun and possessive adjective.**

Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
<p>To show something belongs to somebody</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p><b>My</b> shirt is green. <b>Your</b> book is new. <b>Her</b> dog is small. <b>Our</b> bird is noisy.</p>	<p>To replace the possessive adjective</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p>Green shirt is <b>mine</b>. New book is <b>yours</b>. Small dog is <b>hers</b>. Noisy bird is <b>ours</b>.</p>

**b. Change the possessive adjective into possessive pronoun.**

1. This is my pen. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Shenbah missed her purse. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Her speech is nice. \_\_\_\_\_
4. My book is new. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My bike is costly. \_\_\_\_\_



## C) VERB

Verb is a word used to express an action or state.

Transitive verbs	Intransitive verbs
<p><b>Transitive verbs</b> are verbs that express action with an object.</p> <p>The object of a transitive verb can be a noun, pronoun or a noun clause or phrase.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>I threw the ball. (Noun as object)          We beat them. (Pronoun as object)          I think that you are correct. (Noun clause as object)</p>	<p><b>Intransitive verbs</b> are verbs that express action without an object.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>I ran.          I ran swiftly.          I ran in the race</p>

List out the transitive and intransitive verbs in following words.

come, buy, teach, learn, arrive, sing, run, draw, jump, write.

### Language Check Point



Incorrect	Correct	Usage
I cannot cope up with this pressure.	I cannot cope with this pressure.	The meaning of cope is to manage. Cope is followed by the preposition 'with', and never followed by 'up'.
He has grey hairs.	He has grey hair.	All the hair on one's head is considered uncountable and so, 'hairs' is almost always incorrect.
What is the time in your watch?	What is the time by your watch?	In your watch is incorrect. Use by to ask time.

## Poem

### \*Special Hero

Christina M Kerschen

\*Memoriter

#### Warm up



What are the sacrifices made by your father for your family.



H3D9Z9



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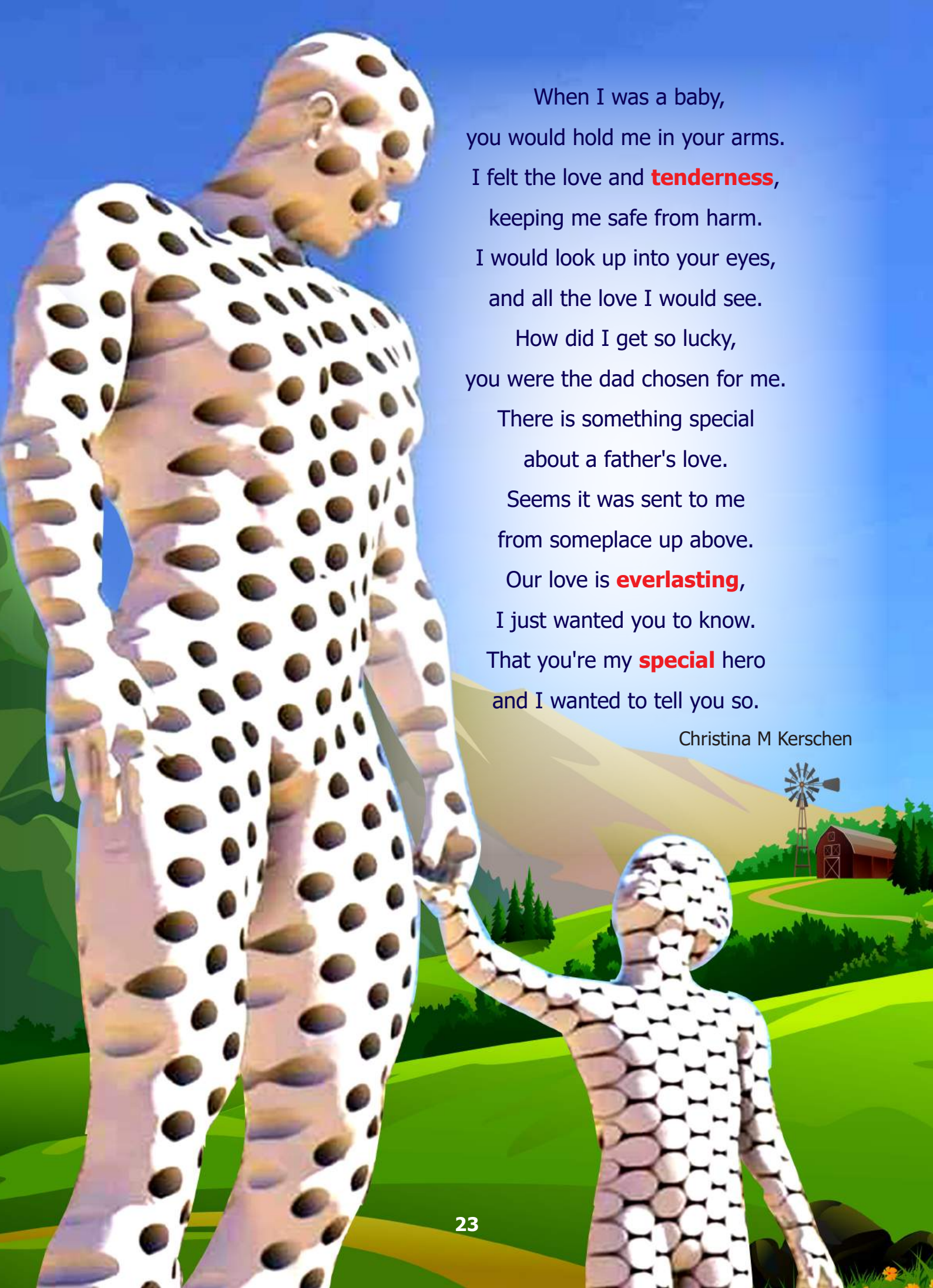
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When I was a baby,  
you would hold me in your arms.  
I felt the love and **tenderness**,  
keeping me safe from harm.  
I would look up into your eyes,  
and all the love I would see.

How did I get so lucky,  
you were the dad chosen for me.

There is something special  
about a father's love.

Seems it was sent to me  
from someplace up above.

Our love is **everlasting**,  
I just wanted you to know.  
That you're my **special** hero  
and I wanted to tell you so.

Christina M Kerschen

## Glossary



<b>tenderness (n)</b>	–	gentleness and kindness
<b>everlasting (adj)</b>	–	lasting forever or a very long time
<b>special(adj)</b>	–	different from what is usual

### A) Read the poem aloud in pairs.

### B) Find a line from the poem to match the statements given below and write it in the blank.

1. He always saves me from harm .....
2. I am so lucky to get you .....
3. The affection between us has no end .....

### C) Answer the following questions.

1. Who is the speaker?
2. Who is the special hero mentioned in the poem?
3. How did the child feel when it was hold by its dad?

Seems it was sent to me

From someplace up above.

4. What do the above lines mean?
5. What did the child want to tell its dad?



### D) Work in pairs and answer the questions below.

1. *"There is something special about a father's love".*  
Identify the alliteration in the given lines.
2. Pick out the rhyming words from the poem.

## WRITING



### E) Write a paragraph on the father's love as described in the poem.



## Parallel Reading

### ONLY A DAD

Only a dad, with a tired face,  
Coming home from the daily race,  
Bringing little of gold or fame,  
To show how well he has played the game,  
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice  
To see him come, and to hear his voice.

Only a dad, with a brood of four,  
One of ten million men or more.  
Plodding along in the daily strife,  
Bearing the whips and the scorns of life,  
With never a whimper of pain or hate,  
For the sake of those who at home await.

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,  
Merely one of the surging crowd  
Toiling, striving from day to day,  
Facing whatever may come his way,  
Silent, whenever the harsh condemn,  
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad, but he gives his all  
To smooth the way for his children small,  
Doing, with courage stern and grim,  
The deeds that his father did for him.  
This is the line that for him I pen,  
Only a dad, but the best of men.

Edgar Albert Guest



### The Woman on Platform 8

Ruskin Bond



#### Section-I

It was my second year at boarding school, and I was sitting on platform no. 8 at Ambala station waiting for the northern bound train. I think I was about twelve at the time. My parents considered me old enough to travel alone and I had arrived by bus at Ambala early in the evening. Now there was a wait till midnight before my train arrived. Most of the time I had been pacing up and down the platform, browsing at the bookstall, or feeding broken biscuits to stray dogs: trains came and went, and the platform would be quiet for a while and then, when a train arrived it would be an **inferno** of **heaving**, shouting, agitated human bodies. As the carriage doors opened, a tide of people would sweep down upon the nervous little ticket-collector at the gate and every time this happened I would be caught in the rush and swept outside the station. Now tired of this game and of ambling about the platform, I sat down on my suitcase and gazed **dismally** across the railway tracks.

Trolleys rolled past me and I was conscious of the cries of the various vendors -the men who sold curds and lemon, the sweet meat. seller, the newspaper boy- but I had lost interest in all that went on along the busy platform, and continued to stare across the railway tracks, feeling bored and a little lonely.

'Are you all alone, my son?' asked a soft voice close behind me.

I looked up and saw a woman standing near me. She was leaning over, and I saw a pale face, and dark kind eyes. She wore no jewels, and was dressed very simply in a white sari

"Yes, I am going to school," I said, and stood up respectfully; she seemed poor, but there was a dignity about her that commanded respect.

'I have been watching you for some time,' she said 'Didn't your parents come to see you off,'

'I don't live here; I said. 'I had to change trains Anyway, I can travel alone.'

'I am sure you can.' she said, and I liked her for saying that and I also liked her for the simplicity of her dress and for her deep soft voice



and the **serenity** of her face.

'Tell me, what is your name?' she asked

'Arun.' I said.

'And how long do you have to wait for your train?'

'About an hour, I think. It comes at twelve o'clock.'

Then come with me and have something to eat'

I was going to refuse out of shyness and suspicion, but she took me by the hand, and then I felt it would be silly to pull my hand away. She told a coolie to look after my suitcase, and then she led me away down the platform. Her hand was gentle, and she held mine neither too firmly nor too lightly. I looked up at her again. She was not young. And she was not old. She must have been over thirty but, had she been fifty, I think she would have looked much the same.

She took me into the station dining-room, ordered tea and and samosas and jalebies, and at once I began to thaw and take a new interest in this kind woman. The strange **encounter** had little effect on my appetite. I was a hungry school boy, and I ate as much as I could in as polite a manner as possible. She took obvious pleasure in watching me eat, and I think it was the food



that strengthened the bond between us and cemented our friendship, for under the influence of the tea and sweets I began to talk quite freely, and told her about my school, my friends, my likes and dislikes. She questioned me quietly from time to time, but preferred listening; she drew me out very well, and I had soon forgotten that we were strangers. But she did not ask me about my family or where I lived, and I did not ask her where she lived. I accepted her for what she had been to

me — a quiet, kind and gentlewoman who gave sweets to a lonely boy on a railway platform...

After about half-an-hour we left the dining-room and began walking back along the platform. An engine was shunting up and down beside platform No.8 and as it approached, a boy leapt off the platform and ran across the rails, taking a short cut to the next platform. He was at a safe distance from the engine, and there was no danger unless he had fallen; but as he leapt across the rails, the woman **clutched** my arm. Her fingers dug into my flesh, and I winced with pain. I caught her fingers and looked up at her, and I saw a spasm of pain and fear and sadness pass across her face. She watched the boy as he climbed other platform, and it was not until he had disappeared in the crowd that she relaxed her hold on my arm. She

smiled at me reassuringly, and took my hand again: but her fingers trembled against mine.

'He was all right.' I said, feeling that it was she who needed reassurance.

She smiled gratefully at me and pressed my hand. We walked together in silence until we reached the place where I had left my suitcase, one of my schoolfellows, Satish, a boy of about my age, had turned up with his mother.

## Section-II



'Hello, Arun!' he called. 'The train's coming in late, as usual. Did you know we have a new Headmaster this year?'

We shook hands, and then he turned to his mother and said: 'This is Arun, mother. He is one of my friends, and the best bowler in the class.'

'I am glad to know that,' said his mother, a large **imposing** woman who wore spectacles. She looked at the woman who led my hand and said: 'And I suppose you're Arun's mother?'

I opened my mouth to make some explanation, but before I could say anything the woman replied: 'Yes I am Arun's mother.'

I was unable to speak a word. I looked quickly up at the woman, but she did not appear to be at all **embarrassed**, and was smiling at Satish's mother.

Satish's mother said: 'It's such a **nuisance** having to wait for the train right in the middle of the night. But one can't let the child wait here alone. Anything can happen to a boy at a big station like this, there are so many suspicious characters hanging about. These days one has to be very careful of strangers.'

'Arun can travel alone though,' said the woman beside me, and somehow I felt grateful to her for saying that. I had already forgiven her for lying: and besides, I had taken an instinctive dislike to Satish's mother.

'Well, be very careful Arun,' said Satish's mother looking sternly at me through her spectacles. 'Be very careful when your mother is not with you, and never talk to strangers!'

I looked from Satish's mother to the woman who had given me tea and sweets, and then back at Satish's mother.

'I like strangers,' I said.

Satish's mother definitely **staggered** a little, as obviously she was not used to being contradicted by small boys. 'There you are, you see! If you don't watch over them all the time, they'll walk straight into trouble. Always listen to what your mother tells you,' she said **wagging** a fat little finger at me. 'And never, never talk to strangers.'

I glared **resentfully** at her, and moved closer to the woman who had befriended me. Satish was standing behind his mother, **grinning** at me, and delighting in my clash with his mother. Apparently he was on my side.

The station bell clanged, and the people who had till now been **squatting** resignedly on the platform began **hustling** about.

'Here it comes,' shouted Satish, as the engine whistle **shrieked** and the front lights played over the rails.

The train **mowed** slowly into the station, the engine hissing and sending out waves of steam. As it came to a stop, Satish jumped on the footboard of a lighted compartment and shouted, 'Come on, Arun, this one's empty!' and I picked up my suitcase and made a dash for the open door.

We placed ourselves at the open windows, and the two women stood outside on the platform, talking up to us. Satish's mother did most of the talking.

'No don't jump on and off moving trains, as you did just now,' she said. 'And don't stick your heads out of the windows, and don't eat any rubbish on the way.' She allowed me to share the benefit of her advice, as she probably didn't think my 'mother' a very capable person. She handed Satish a bag of fruit, a cricket bat and a big box of chocolates, and told him to share the food with me. Then she stood back from the window to watch how my 'mother' behaved.

I was smarting under the **patronizing** tone of Satish's mother, who **obviously** thought mine a very poor family: and I did not intend giving the other woman away. I let her take my hand in hers, but I could think of nothing to say. I was conscious of Satish's mother staring at us with hard, beady eyes, and I found myself hating her with a firm, unreasoning hate. The guard walked up the platform, blowing his whistle for the train to leave. I looked straight into the eyes of the woman who held my hand, and she smiled in a gentle understanding way. I leaned out of the window then, and put my



lips to her cheek, and kissed her.

The carriage **jolted** forward, and she drew her hand away.

'Goodbye, mother!' said Satish, as the train began to move slowly out of the station. Satish and his mother waved to each other.

'Good-bye,' I said to the other woman, \*goodbye — mother ...'

I didn't wave or shout, but sat still in front of the window, gazing at the woman on the platform. Satish's mother was talking to her, but she didn't appear to be listening; she was looking at me, as the train took me away. She stood there on the busy platform, a pale sweet woman in white, and I watched her until she was lost in the milling crowd.



## About the Author

Ruskin Bond is a short story writer, novelist and poet, the favourite writer of Indian children. His first novel, *Room on the Roof*, was published when he was still in his teens. This novel won him the John Rhys Memorial Award in 1957. He also writes about children and the simple hill folk of Uttarakhand.

Simplicity and fluency of language and an insight into human nature are hallmarks of his style. His major writings include *An Island of Trees*, *A Bond with the Mountains* and *The India I Love*. He has also been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution to Indian literature.





## Glossary



<b>inferno (n)</b>	– region that resembles hell
<b>heaving (v)</b>	– to raise or lift with force
<b>dismally (adv)</b>	– cheerless
<b>serenity (n)</b>	– reverence
<b>encounter (v)</b>	– brief meeting
<b>clutched (v)</b>	– grasped (something) tightly
<b>imposing (adj)</b>	– grand and impressive in appearance
<b>embarrassed (v)</b>	– felt awkward, self-conscious, or ashamed
<b>nuisance (n)</b>	– causing inconvenience or annoyance
<b>staggered (v)</b>	– walked or moved unsteadily, as if about to fall
<b>wagging (v)</b>	– move rapidly to and fro
<b>resentfully (adv)</b>	– feeling or expressing bitterness or indignation at having been treated unfairly
<b>grinning (v)</b>	– smiling broadly
<b>squatting (v)</b>	– crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching the back of one's thighs
<b>hustling (v)</b>	– push roughly; jostle
<b>shrieked (v)</b>	– uttered a high-pitched piercing sound
<b>mowed (v)</b>	– moved slowly into the crowd station
<b>patronizing (adj)</b>	– treat in a way that is apparently kind
<b>obviously (adv)</b>	– in a way that is easily perceived or understood; clearly
<b>jolted (v)</b>	– moved with sudden jerk



### A. Choose the best answer.

- Satish's mother handed to her son \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. bag of pencil    b. bag of vegetables    c. big box of chocolates    d. cricket ball
- The train would come at \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. one o' clock    b. twelve o' clock    c. two o' clock    d. eleven o' clock
- The strange lady gave \_\_\_\_\_ to Arun.  
a. coffee and vadai    b. tea and bajji  
c. tea and samosas    d. black tea and cake

4. Arun was sitting on platform \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. no. 7      b. no. 8      c. no. 4      d. no. 3
5. Satish and Arun were \_\_\_\_\_ years old boys.  
a. 12      b. 11      c. 13      d. 10

**B. Match the following.**

- |                   |   |                  |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. woman in white | - | mother of Satish |
| 2. train          | - | boy of same age  |
| 3. bowler         | - | dressed simply   |
| 4. Satish         | - | waves of stream  |
| 5. spectacles     | - | Arun             |

**C. Identify the character.**

1. I am glad to know that.
2. Are you all alone, my son?
3. Yes, I am going to school.
4. He is one of my friends.
5. Goodbye mother.

**D. Answer the following questions.**

1. Where was Arun sitting?
2. What was the expected arrival time of the train?
3. What were the sight Arun had seen on the platform?
4. What did the vendors sell?
5. How did the women appear?
6. Where was Arun travelling to?
7. What did the woman buy for him?
8. What was the advise of Sathish's mother?
9. What were the Arun's last words?
10. What was the reaction of the woman at the end?

## Step to Success



### Sentence Rearrangement

- A. Miss Sullivan arrived at the Keller home when Helen was seven.
- B. The deaf and blind Helen learned to communicate verbally.
- C. But, eventually, Miss Sullivan's effort was rewarded.
- D. Before Helen Keller was two years old, she lost her sight and her hearing.
- E. Miss Sullivan worked closely with Helen, her new student.
- F. At times the teacher became frustrated.

1. DEFACB

2. DAEFCB

3. ACFDEB

4. CFDABE

5. FDACEB

### Connecting to Self



Think you are in the following situation and write what would you do and why.



*Will you ignore/take and give to its owner/ take and keep it yourself.*

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*Will you ignore/go and help him/ stand watching him feeling shy to help*

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*Will you ignore/try to stop them fighting / be afraid and go away from there.*

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## ICT CORNER

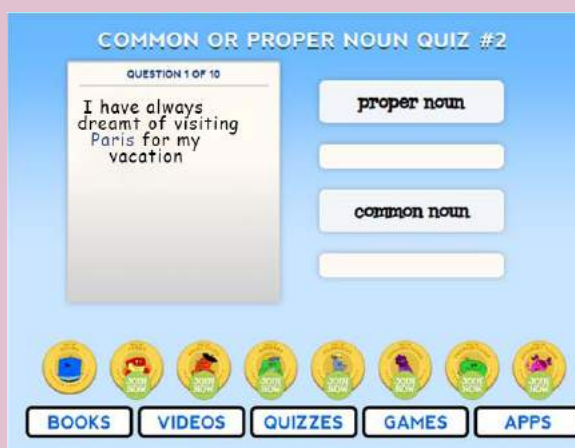
### GRAMMAR – NOUN

To learn the parts of speech and also about the Nouns and its kind.



#### STEPS TO PLAY THE GAME:

1. Type the URL link given below in the browser or scan the QR code.
2. Click the arrow button to know about nouns with examples.
3. Click QUIZZES at the bottom and answer the questions.
4. Click GAMES to play a game related with noun.
5. Continue the same with the remaining parts of speech to strengthen your learning.



#### WEBSITE URL:

Click the following link or scan the QR code to access the website.

<https://grammaropolis.com/noun.php>

\*\* Images are indicatives only.



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