


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Unit 10

Home Life and Family Relationship

“What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.” – *Mother Teresa*

Reading

The Tattered Blanket

Before You Read

Look at these pictures and discuss the questions with your friends.

Picture A



Picture B



- What is happening in the first picture? What does it indicate?
- What do you think is the elderly woman in the second picture doing? Does she look happy? Why/why not?

Now read the following story.

When he arrived unexpectedly at his home in the countryside in his office jeep and got down at the gate, his mother, who was lying in an armchair on the veranda, made a futile attempt to get up.

‘Kamalam, there is somebody at the gate,’ she said, ‘somebody in a car.’

Kamalam, her eldest daughter, a widow, who was sitting huddled up on the thinna on the veranda, her head and ears covered with a thin



bath towel, got up reluctantly, walked slowly to the gate and screwing up her eyes peered into the darkness.

She saw a bald, fat, middle-aged man walking in through the gate.

‘Oh, Gopi!’ She said in her grating voice. ‘Why this sudden unexpected visit?’

‘Kamalam, who is it?’ Her mother asked loudly from the veranda.

‘Gopi,’ the man said. ‘There was a meeting in Thiruvananthapuram. I just dropped in on my way back.’

‘Who? Kamalam, who is it?’ There was a note of alarm in Amma’s voice.

‘Amma, why are you so scared?’ Kamalam, Gopi’s eldest sister, asked her a little awkwardly. ‘As if you are seeing Gopi for the first time!’

‘Amma, it’s me, Gopi,’ he said again.

He bent down and brought his face close to her wrinkled cheeks. ‘Amma, it’s me.’

‘Gopi? Kamalam, I can’t believe it! Has his school closed for the vacation?’

‘Amma is often like this these days. She doesn’t recognise anybody.’ Gopi’s sister explained. ‘But sometimes her memory is quite sharp. Then she asks me if you have sent any letter. I tell her everything is fine with you, Vimala and the kids. What is the point of telling her that you haven’t written for a year? Poor thing! I wouldn’t dream of making her unhappy.’

‘I got a promotion last year. After that, I am always on my toes. And there are tours quite often. I don’t get any time to write letters.’

‘Why don’t you ask Vimala to write, or doesn’t she get any time, either?’

‘What are you mumbling over there?’ Amma said loudly. ‘I heard somebody coming in a car. Who is it?’

‘I told you, it’s Gopi.’

‘But Gopi is in Delhi, isn’t he?’

‘Yes, Amma, it’s me. I’ve come from Delhi.’

‘Who did Gopi marry?’ Amma said, suddenly lowering her voice. ‘I mean, what’s his wife’s name?’

‘Don’t say you’ve forgotten her name too. Don’t you remember, Vimala, District

Collector Nambiar's eldest daughter?' Gopi's sister said.

'Oh, I forgot the name. Was there a letter from Gopi today?'

'There was. He writes every day.'

'I'm terribly upset if I don't get a letter from him every day.'

'He knows it. That's why he writes every day.'

'Look at the way she talks.' Gopi's sister turned to him. 'Just as I told you. You know nothing about what's going on here, do you?'

'Who is that?' Amma said again. 'Who is that in a car?'

'It's me,' Gopi said. 'I had to come to Thiruvananthapuram. I thought I should drop in to see you, Amma.'

'Who is your Amma? What is her name? Where does she live? Is it far from here?'

'No, it is quite near.'

'I don't know how I can bring back her memory,' Gopi's sister said to him exasperatedly.

Gopi placed his briefcase on the thinna. He opened it and pulled out the contents. Clothes, files, a shaving set ...

'Do you know my son, Gopi?' Amma asked him. 'He is in Delhi... a Government Officer. He has well-settled He draws a salary of two thousand five hundred rupees. Do you know him?'

'Yes, I know him.'

'Tell him to send me a blanket. There is a cold mist in the mornings. If I catch a cold, it doesn't leave me for a long time. Tell him to send a blanket, won't you? A red one. I had a blanket, the one he bought for me when he was studying in Madras. It is all tattered now, just a ball of knotted yarn. Tell him to send me a red blanket, will you?'

'I'll tell him,' he nodded.

'Please don't forget to tell him. The mist is not good for me. I think I'll stretch myself out for a bit. I have been sitting too long in the armchair. I have a pain in the neck.'

Gopi's sister put Amma to bed and came back to the veranda.

'You didn't come to see Amma, did you?'

'Delhi is too expensive. You know I have four children to look after now. I can't make

ends meet with my salary. And one has to keep up one's status. It will be a great help if I can raise some money by selling my share of the family property. I came to talk it over with you.'

'You'll sell your land and go away with the money. I know you won't come here anymore after that.'

'Don't say that. I'll come when I get time.'

'Your time!'

He saw the irritation on his sister's face.

'It took you more than five years to find time to come here. Amma is eighty-three now. I don't think she will pull on much longer. It took you so long to visit her after the last time.'

'But Amma can't remember who I am,' he said smiling feebly.

'But do you remember your Amma?'

Kamala Das (Translated from Malayalam by K. M. Sherrif)

Ways with words

A. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word from the box.

irritation huddled up awkwardly futile grating mumbling feebly

- All my efforts to convince her for the tour were
- The lost traveller under a shelter made of branches and leaves.
- Her rude behaviour was the main cause of for him.
- She moved in the room, thinking that I was watching.
- She is something, but I can't hear her.
- When I met my sister after a long time, she talked to me in a voice.

B. Tick (✓) the correct words that are similar in meaning to the underlined words.

- Rupa studied Science reluctantly due to her father's pressure.
i. eagerly ii. unwillingly iii. willingly iv. enthusiastically
- She moved her fingers exasperatedly through her hair.
i. pleasingly ii. calmly iii. patiently iv. annoyingly

- c. My grandmother is over eighty. She lifted her hands feebly.
 i. strongly ii. robustly iii. weakly iv. firmly
- d. She is wearing a tattered shawl.
 i. old ii. torn ii. dirty iv. branded
- e. I have to work at two jobs to make ends meet in this expensive city.
 i. earn much money ii. spend much money
 iii. live on money iv. earn just enough money

C. Spell the following words correctly, adding the suffixes given against each root.

write + ing	arrive + al	army + es	monkey + es	fancy + ful
stop + ed	worry + ed	recur + ing	argue + ment	create + ive

D. Syllable

- a. The following words have only one sound-unit called a syllable. Pronounce them.**

dawn board straight spring prompt twelfths strong small
 text learn

- b. The following words have two syllables. Underline their syllables and pronounce them:**

beauty sleepy survive current woman hotel

- c. Consult an English dictionary and find the number of syllables in the following words. Underline and pronounce them.**

bury development syllabic vowel education discipline
 examination children separately pronunciation

Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

- Why didn't the mother recognise her son Gopi?
- Why is the sister living with her mother?
- What is the sister's attitude towards her brother?
- Does the son love his mother very much? How do you know that?
- What does the mother actually need: a blanket or the warmth of her son's love?
- What does the phrase the 'tattered blanket' mean? Is it only the blanket that is

tattered?

- g. The son says, 'Amma can't remember who I am'. Do you think that he remembered his mother? Why didn't he answer when his sister asked, 'Do you remember your Amma?'

Critical thinking

- a. What can be the expectations of the parents from their offspring at the old age?
- b. Some children who live in a distance tend to be indifferent to the feelings of their parents. Why do you think they are like that? Discuss.
- c. A mother's love is everlasting and indispensable. Justify.

Writing

Writing a diary

What is a diary entry?

Diary Entry/Journal

A diary is a personal record of things that a person has experienced. It can also record the writer's thoughts or feelings.

Tips for writing a diary

- Write in the first person 'I'
- Date at the top
- Organize paragraphs with topic sentences
- Give a clear sense of the writer's personality and explain their feelings and changing emotions
- Focus on key moments or incidents in one's world
- Provide a sense of time and sequence (use time connectives like finally, afterwards, earlier, later that day ...)
- Varied punctuation
- Varied sentence types

- A. Our country is put on lockdown for nearly three months due to COVID-19 pandemic. Following is an example of a diary entry about the feelings and experiences of a person who is locked up at home.**

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Today is the 5th day that we have been put on lockdown. Almost all the countries in the world are forced on to implement this system. And, my country is not an exception too. It is called the travellers' disease which transmits from one person to another through physical contact. WHO has advised people to maintain physical distance, use masks and sanitizer. Washing hands with soap very carefully is a common phenomenon. No vehicles are in operation in the street and shops are closed. People are locked up in their own homes like caged animals in the zoo. What a situation that has enforced us to be locked up in our own home!

A very microorganism is threatening the human existence. Are human beings enemies to nature so that we are facing such a threat? Maybe we have done irreparable damage to nature in the name of development. We have encroached upon nature and destroyed the habitats of other living beings. Developed countries are in a race to test nuclear weapons and missiles to demonstrate their power and pelf. Now where's their power gone? Why cannot they get victory over corona virus? What's the use of their so-called devastating weapons? Now it seems that corona virus is taking the side of creatures to challenge the so-called superpower of the cosmos. This microorganism is affecting human lives very badly irrespective of class, caste, religion, race, geography and ideology.

Now I could imagine how caged birds and animals feel when they are behind the bar. We are in the cage! I am feeling as if I am locked up in the human zoo. Perhaps it is the demand of time to teach humans a serious lesson about their existence. I can feel how badly people might be suffering due to lock down. The world has stood still due to corona virus. The worst thing about this situation is that there is no vaccine or any medicine made for the cure of this pandemic virus. Just staying at home and maintaining physical distance is the only solution to COVID-19.

I hope we will soon be free from this pandemic. Let's stay at home safe and sound!

Makar

- B. Suppose a child who lived in a city with his/her parents accompanied his/her father to visit an elderly grandmother in the village. The grandmother was waiting for her son to come back to the village and look after her, but her son was not willing to do so. Write a diary on behalf of the elderly grandmother describing her feeling of not living with her children and grandchildren.**

Connectives (but, however, although/even though, in spite of/despite)

A. Look at these examples to see how subordinating conjunctions are used.

Your mother always remembers you **but** you don't do so.

I was very weak at Mathematics. **However**, I could top the class.

Although/Even though it rained all day, we enjoyed the picnic very much.

Despite/In spite of the fact that it rained all day, we enjoyed the picnic very much.

Despite/In spite of the fact that I was late, my teacher let me enter the class.

Despite/In spite of being late, my teacher let me enter the class.

In spite of her old age, she is still very active.

B. Complete the following sentences with *however, although or in spite of*.

- a. the fact that he is an octogenarian; he still leads an active life.
- b. I still enjoyed the week the weather was bad.
- c. He has passed MA., he hasn't got a job.
- d. I had a headache, I enjoyed the movie.
- e. Ramila didn't get the job the fact that she had all the necessary qualifications.
- f. the fact that he had no money, he bought the car anyway.
- g. We can go to the park for lunch. , the weather report says it's going to rain.
- h. I speak English well, my first language is actually Maithili.

C. Combine the following sentences using the words given in brackets.

- a. He was annoyed. He didn't say anything. (although)
- b. Playing the stock market is exciting. It can be risky. (however)
- c. He works slowly. He never makes a mistake. (even though)
- d. It was raining. We still went to the park. (in spite of)
- e. Hark bought the watch. It was expensive. (despite)
- f. He is very poor. He wears expensive clothes. (but)

D. Rewrite the following sentences using (a) *although* and (b) *in spite of*.

- a. He had very little time, but he offered to help us.
- b. She is very poor, but she still wears expensive clothes.
- c. He's a millionaire, but he lives in a very small flat.
- d. They have a lot of money, but they are still not happy.
- e. The traffic was heavy, but we got there in time.

Listening

A. Look at the following picture, and guess answers to these questions.

- a. Who are these people?
- b. What are they talking about?
- c. What relation do they have?



B. Now, listen to the conversation and write whether these sentences are True or False.

- a. The boy has graduated in English and Psychology long back.
- b. He worked as a full time teacher in Japan initially.
- c. He had to teach only English to his students.
- d. It's not been long since he returned back to the USA.
- e. More than two dozen candidates have submitted their application for the post.
- f. The man is multilingual.

C. Listen to the conversation again and answer these questions.

- a. Which two subjects did the man teach when he was in Tokyo?
- b. What did his students want to do in the future?
- c. Why did he have to return back to his homeland?
- d. How many reasons did the interviewer ask the man to apply for the job?
- e. Name the language the man speaks fluently.

D. Have you ever got selected for a job? If yes, share your experience how you got that job.

- E. What makes a person suitable for a job? Discuss in groups and list down some of the important traits of a good prospective candidate. Collaboratively, make a common list of such traits.

Speaking

Expressing reactions

- A. Look at these expressions of expressing reactions.



- B. Now, look at some of the ways to react on sudden/unexpected events.

Positive reactions	Negative reactions
That's (so) good.	That's (so) sad.
That's great.	That's bad.
I'm glad to hear that.	I'm sorry to hear that.
That sounds good.	That sounds bad.
How wonderful/fantastic.	How awful/terrible.
What wonderful news!	What a pity!
Great/Superb/Brilliant!	Too bad!
Really? That's amazing!	Really? I find that hard to believe.

C. Work in a pair. Make dialogues between two friends using the situations below.

- a. A has won boys single badminton game.
- b. A has been engaged.
- c. Someone says his/her pet dog died yesterday.
- d. A spilt tea over his favourite novel.
- e. Somebody stole your precious watch.
- f. Your house was broken into.
- g. Your friend suggests you to go for a horror movie.

Project Work

Visit to the senior citizens who live alone in your community. Talk to them for about an hour. Ask them where their children and grandchildren are and how often they meet. Also, talk about how they feel being away from their children and what specific problems they face in this age. Write a newspaper article on how the senior citizens could be supported in their old age when they are living alone.