


# Puspa Shrestha

Best Quality Resource Site for Class 11 And 12 Students  
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Puspa Shrestha

## Reading

## The Romance of a Busy Broker

**Before you read**

- How busy is life in your city or village?
- “Busy life is better than the idle life.” Do you agree or not?



**Read the following story to see how busy work schedule makes a man absent-minded and do the given tasks.**

Pitcher, confidential clerk in the office of Harvey Maxwell, broker, allowed a look of mild interest and surprise to visit his usually expressionless countenance when his employer briskly entered at half past nine in company with his young lady stenographer. With a snappy “Good-morning, Pitcher,” Maxwell dashed at his desk as though he were intending to leap over it, and then plunged into the great heap of letters and telegrams waiting there for him.

The young lady had been Maxwell’s stenographer for a year. She was beautiful in a way that was decidedly unstenographic. She forewent the pomp of the alluring pompadour. She wore no chains, bracelets or lockets. She had not the air of being about to accept an invitation to luncheon. Her dress was grey and plain, but it fitted her figure with fidelity and discretion. In her neat black turban hat was the gold-green wing of a macaw. On this morning she was softly and shyly radiant. Her eyes were dreamily bright, her cheeks genuine peachblow, her expression a happy one, tinged with reminiscence.

Pitcher, still mildly curious, noticed a difference in her ways this morning. Instead of going straight into the adjoining room, where her desk was, she lingered, slightly irresolute, in the outer office. Once she moved over by Maxwell’s desk, near enough for him to be aware of her presence.

The machine sitting at that desk was no longer a man; it was a busy New York broker,

moved by buzzing wheels and **uncoiling** springs.

“Well--what is it? Anything?” asked Maxwell sharply. His opened mail lay like a bank of stage snow on his crowded desk. His keen grey eye, impersonal and **brusque**, flashed upon her half impatiently.



“Nothing,” answered the stenographer, moving away with a little smile.

“Mr. Pitcher,” she said to the confidential clerk, did Mr. Maxwell say anything yesterday about engaging another stenographer?”

“He did,” answered Pitcher. “He told me to get another one. I notified the agency yesterday afternoon to send over a few samples this morning. It’s 9.45 o’clock, and not a single picture hat or piece of pineapple chewing gum has showed up yet.”

“I will do the work as usual, then,” said the young lady, “until someone comes to fill the place.” And she went to her desk at once and hung the black turban hat with the gold-green macaw wing in its accustomed place.

He who has been denied the spectacle of a busy Manhattan broker during a rush of business is handicapped for the profession of anthropology. The poet sings of the “crowded hour of glorious life.” The broker’s hour is not only crowded, but the minutes and seconds are hanging to all the straps and packing both front and rear platforms.

And this day was Harvey Maxwell’s busy day. The ticker began to reel out jerkily its fitful coils of tape, the desk telephone had a chronic attack of buzzing. Men began to throng into the office and call at him over the railing, jovially, sharply, viciously, excitedly. Messenger boys ran in and out with messages and telegrams. The clerks in the office jumped about like sailors during a storm. Even Pitcher’s face relaxed into something resembling animation.

On the Exchange there were hurricanes and landslides and snowstorms and glaciers and volcanoes, and those elemental disturbances were reproduced in miniature in the broker’s offices. Maxwell shoved his chair against the wall and transacted business after the manner of a toe dancer. He jumped from ticker to ‘phone, from desk to door with the trained agility of a harlequin.

In the midst of this growing and important stress the broker became suddenly aware of a high-rolled fringe of golden hair under a nodding canopy of velvet and ostrich tips, an imitation sealskin sacque and a string of beads as large as hickory nuts, ending near the floor with a silver heart. There was a self-possessed young lady connected with these accessories; and Pitcher was there to construe her.

“Lady from the Stenographer’s Agency to see about the position,” said Pitcher.

Maxwell turned half around, with his hands full of papers and ticker tape.

“What position?” he asked, with a frown.

“Position of stenographer,” said Pitcher. “You told me yesterday to call them up and have one sent over this morning.”

“You are losing your mind, Pitcher,” said Maxwell. “Why should I have given you any such instructions? Miss Leslie has given perfect satisfaction during the year she has been here. The place is hers as long as she chooses to retain it. There’s no place open here, madam. Countermand that order with the agency, Pitcher, and don’t bring any more of ‘em in here.”

The silver heart left the office, swinging and banging itself independently against the office furniture as it indignantly departed. Pitcher seized a moment to remark to the bookkeeper that the “old man” seemed to get more absent-minded and forgetful every day of the world.

The rush and pace of business grew fiercer and faster. On the floor they were pounding half a dozen stocks in which Maxwell’s customers were heavy investors. Orders to buy and sell were coming and going as swift as the flight of swallows. Some of his own holdings were imperiled, and the man was working like some high-gear, delicate, strong machine--strung to full tension, going at full speed, accurate, never hesitating, with the proper word and decision and act ready and prompt as clockwork. Stocks and bonds, loans and mortgages, margins and securities--here was a world of finance, and there was no room in it for the human world or the world of nature.

When the luncheon hour drew near there came a slight lull in the uproar.

Maxwell stood by his desk with his hands full of telegrams and memoranda, with a fountain pen over his right ear and his hair hanging in disorderly strings over his forehead. His window was open, for the beloved janitress Spring had turned on a little warmth through the waking registers of the earth.

And through the window came a wandering--perhaps a lost--odor--a delicate, sweet odor of lilac that fixed the broker for a moment immovable. For this odor belonged to Miss Leslie; it was her own, and hers only.

The odor brought her vividly, almost tangibly before him. The world of finance dwindled suddenly to a speck. And she was in the next room--twenty steps away.

“By George, I’ll do it now,” said Maxwell, half aloud. “I’ll ask her now. I wonder I didn’t do it long ago.”

He dashed into the inner office with the haste of a short trying to cover. He charged upon the desk of the stenographer.

She looked up at him with a smile. A soft pink crept over her cheek, and her eyes were kind and frank. Maxwell leaned one elbow on her desk. He still clutched fluttering papers with both hands and the pen was above his ear.

“Miss Leslie,” he began hurriedly, “I have but a moment to spare. I want to say something in that moment. Will you be my wife? I haven’t had time to make love to you in the ordinary way, but I really do love you. Talk quick, please--those fellows are clubbing the stuffing out of Union Pacific.”

“Oh, what are you talking about?” exclaimed the young lady. She rose to her feet and gazed upon him, round-eyed.

“Don’t you understand?” said Maxwell, restively. “I want you to marry me. I love you, Miss Leslie. I wanted to tell you, and I snatched a minute when things had slackened up a bit. They’re calling me for the phone now. Tell ‘em to wait a minute, Pitcher. Won’t you, Miss Leslie?”

The stenographer acted very queerly. At first she seemed overcome with amazement; then tears flowed from her wondering eyes; and then she smiled sunnily through them, and one of her arms slid tenderly about the broker’s neck.

“I know now,” she said, softly. “It’s this old business that has driven everything else out of your head for the time. I was frightened at first. Don’t you remember, Harvey? We were married last evening at 8 o’clock in the Little Church around the Corner.”

- O’ Henry

### **Working with words**

#### **A. Match the following words with their definitions.**

- |               |                                                                                          |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. snappy     | i. a lady whose job is to take care of a building such as a school or a block of flats   |
| b. discretion | ii. happening only for short periods                                                     |
| c. radiant    | iii. irritable and inclined to speak sharply                                             |
| d. irresolute | iv. a very small spot                                                                    |
| e. brusque    | v. a quiet period between times of activity                                              |
| f. fitful     | vi. the ability to behave without causing embarrassment or attracting too much attention |
| g. harlequin  | vii. showing great happiness, love or health                                             |
| h. lull       | viii. not able to decide what to do                                                      |
| i. janitress  | ix. a humorous character in some traditional plays                                       |
| j. speck      | x. using very few words and sounding rude                                                |

#### **B. Consult a dictionary or search over the internet and write definitions of the following terminologies used in the stock market.**

- |                |               |                |             |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| a. Liquidity : | b. IPO :      | c. NEPSE :     | d. index :  |
| e. portfolio : | f. dividend : | g. turn over : | h. margin : |

**C. Based on the pronunciation, find the odd word from the following groups.**

a.	sell, cell, see, set	b.	stopped, laughed, saved, booked
c.	hare, mere, beer, here	d.	so, sew, sow, saw
e.	book, food, pool, tool	f.	fan, jam, past, van
g.	sell, cell, sale, said	h.	howl, bowl, fowl, growl
i.	learn, verb, turn, torn	j.	poor, sure, door, dog

**Comprehension**

**A. Write ‘T’ for true statements, ‘F’ for false ones or ‘NG’ if the information is not given in the text.**

- Harvey Maxwell was a stock broker.
- He was not happy with his clerk, Pitcher.
- Miss Leslie had been married to Maxwell for a year.
- Maxwell had hired a machine to work in his office.
- He had instructed Pitcher to get a new stenographer.
- Miss Leslie was amazed by Maxwell’s proposal.
- She thought that he had probably gone mad.
- She realized that he had been absent-minded due to his business.

**B. Answer the following questions.**

- How did Maxwell enter his office?
- Describe the physical appearance of the young lady.
- What changes did Pitcher notice in the young lady?
- What was Pitcher’s reply to the young lady concerning a new stenographer?
- What proposal did Maxwell make with Miss Leslie?
- How did she react to his proposal?

**Critical thinking**

- What message does the writer want to give by presenting Maxwell as an extremely absent-minded person?
- Imagine you are Miss Leslie. Write how you were troubled emotionally when your own husband came to you and made a marriage proposal.

**Writing**

**Study the following text and its summary.**

Nepal’s migration situation is dominated by migration of Nepalis for foreign employment. The 2011 census on population and housing showed that almost 50

per cent of Nepal's households had a member who was either working overseas or had returned. While this labour migration has a significant positive effect on Nepal's economy, it also has a series of socioeconomic impacts on the welfare of Nepali nationals and their communities. Exploitation of migrant workers is rife and aspiring labour migrants may find themselves in a situation of irregular migration or trafficking. Nepal's environmental vulnerability also has an impact on the scale of internal and international migration. Climate change, environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters cause displacement and dislocation from the land, meaning that many Nepalis migrate to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Nepal's open border with its close neighbor India is another defining and unique characteristic in Nepal's migration context. Although the lack of data on this issue is of concern, it is recognized that there are frequent and extensive cross-border movements, which have significant impacts for Nepal, both positive and potentially negative. The 2011 census data shows that nearly two fifths (37.2%) of the Nepali absentees are in India, however such data has its limitations in the case of an open border where crossing can be short-term or seasonable and will be undocumented. There are also no records kept on how many Nepalis work in India or where they are.

Traditionally, Nepali migrant workers sought employment mainly in India, however from the mid-1980s, Nepalis started also to migrate to the Gulf States and Malaysia for work which resulted in an increase in migrant workers as well as in a proliferation of labour recruitment agencies and brokers. The decentralization of passport issuance in Nepal also facilitated the migration of many unskilled and semi-skilled Nepalis.

During past two decades, Nepal has also witnessed an increase in the number of Nepali women who are seeking work abroad and being gradually recognized as important economic actors. The risk of exploitation and abuse of women migrant workers is high, particularly in largely unregulated sectors such as domestic work and the Government has put in place a series of measures seeking to protect women migrants. To date, these measures have met with limited success and there is still evidence that many women migrants are in situations of risk.

## Summary Notes

**Main Idea:** Migration in Nepal takes place mainly for foreign employment

### Key points

- 50 percent of Nepali household had a member who had migrated to overseas
- Overseas migration can also create the problem of human trafficking
- Various factors play role in migration
- Migration of Nepali workers has spread to Gulf States and Malaysia
- The number of women migrants for employment is at the rise



## Summary

Nepal's migration situation is heavily dominated by people migrating to foreign countries for employment. According to census report of 2011, 50 percent of Nepali households had a member who had migrated to foreign countries. Many Nepalis migrate to foreign countries to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Nepal's open border is another cause of migration. Data shows that about 37.2% of Nepali migrants are in India. Traditionally India is the main destination of Nepali migrants. However, people have started to migrate to Gulf countries and Malaysia from mid -1980s. There is also an increase in number of Nepali women migrating to foreign countries for job. This has increased the risk of exploitation and abuse of them.

**Now, summarize the following part of “The Romance of a Busy Broker”. Consider the following points while writing the summary.**

She looked up at him with a smile. A soft pink crept over her cheek, and her eyes were kind and frank. Maxwell leaned one elbow on her desk. He still clutched fluttering papers with both hands and the pen was above his ear.

"Miss Leslie," he began hurriedly, "I have but a moment to spare. I want to say something in that moment. Will you be my wife? I haven't had time to make love to you in the ordinary way, but I really do love you. Talk quick, please--those fellows are clubbing the stuffing out of Union Pacific."

"Oh, what are you talking about?" exclaimed the young lady. She rose to her feet and gazed upon him, round-eyed.

"Don't you understand?" said Maxwell, restively. "I want you to marry me. I love you, Miss Leslie. I wanted to tell you, and I snatched a minute when things had slackened up a bit. They're calling me for the phone now. Tell 'em to wait a minute, Pitcher. Won't you, Miss Leslie?"

The stenographer acted very queerly. At first she seemed overcome with amazement; then tears flowed from her wondering eyes; and then she smiled sunnily through them, and one of her arms slid tenderly about the broker's neck.

"I know now," she said, softly. "It's this old business that has driven everything else out of your head for the time. I was frightened at first. Don't you remember, Harvey? We were married last evening at 8 o'clock in the Little Church around the Corner."



## Grammar

### Relative clause

**A. Study the following sentences and underline the relative clauses.**

- a. I snatched a minute when things had slackened a minute.
- b. Instead of going straight into the adjoining room, where her desk was, she lingered slightly irresolute in the outer office.
- c. She was beautiful in a way that was decidedly stenographic.

**B. Fill in the blanks with suitable relative pronouns: *who, which, that, whom, whose, where, why, how, what* or *when*.**

- a. There is a lady .....wallet has been stolen.
- b. Do you know the man .....sold these glasses?
- c. The knife .....you cut the bread with is very sharp.
- d. Why do you blame him for everything .....goes wrong?
- e. A cemetery is a place.....dead bodies are buried.
- f. This school is for those children.....mother tongue is not Nepali.
- g. I don't know the name of the person.....I spoke over the telephone.
- h. I came to Kathmandu on the day.....the devastating earthquake took place.
- i. In the application form she wrote.....she needed a good payment.
- j. The pilot explained .....he made force landing on the road.

**C. Join the following pairs of sentences using *who, which, that, whose, whom, where, when* or *what*.**

- a. The building was destroyed in the fire. It has now been rebuilt.
- b. A new cricket stadium is being made in Chitwan. It can accommodate one hundred thousand people.
- c. Shanghai is the most populated city in the world. I stayed there for five years.
- d. This is the man. I gave some money to him this morning.
- e. Do know the man? His son was awarded in the school yesterday.
- f. His step-mother was not very kind to him. He had been staying with her.
- g. He can never forget Nakkhu Jail. He had spent 14 years there.
- h. He showed me his new tab. He had paid a hundred thousand rupees for it.
- i. Nelson Mandela joined ANC in 1930s. He was a student then.
- j. She forgot to buy the things. Her mother had told to buy them.

## Listening

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

- a. What do you see in the picture?
- b. What goods are they carrying with them?



### B. Listen to the audio and tick the best answer.

- a. The Dutch East India Company started the global trade of gold, spices and porcelain in the .....century.
  - i. 16<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. 17<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. 18<sup>th</sup>
- b. The company distributed share to different sectors to.....
  - i. meet its expenses
  - ii. make welfare state
  - iii. pay off the debts
- c. The practice of distributing share to the public resulted in the creation of the world's first.....
  - i. multinational company
  - ii. stock market
  - iii. private company
- d. If you want to start a new company, first of all, you have to.....
  - i. find individual investors
  - ii. offer IPO
  - iii. take loan from a financial company
- e. Many people will buy the stocks if they think the company.....
  - i. has made much advertisement
  - ii. is of large size
  - iii. has made good profit
- f. The share price of the company increases if there is.....of the stocks.
  - i. more demand
  - ii. balance between demand and supply
  - iii. enough supply
- g. The investor will hurry to sell their stocks if they think.....
  - i. the profit is sufficient
  - ii. the price will go down
  - iii. the company will make a large profit next year
- h. The price of stocks usually remains in .....
  - i. balance
  - ii. imbalance
  - iii. fluctuation

**C. Listen to the audio and answer the following questions.**

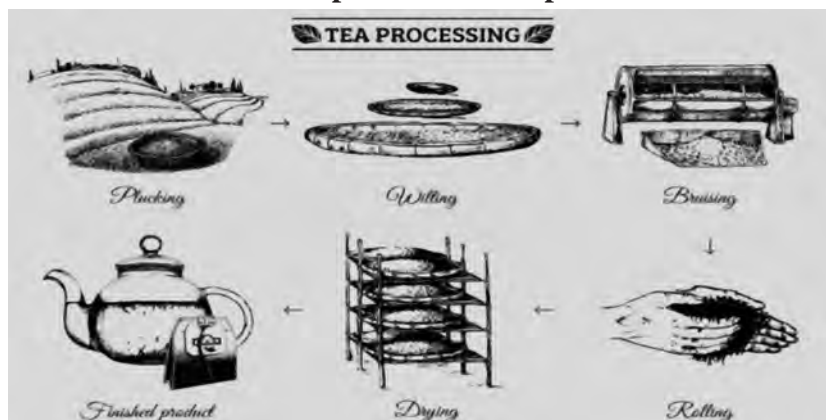
- How does a company enter into the official public market?
- When do the stock prices increase?
- Mention any two factors that affect demand and supply of stocks.
- What causes day to day noise in the stock market?
- What has encouraged everyday investors to come to the market?
- Which website does the speaker recommend for the prospective investors?

**D. How do you buy stocks in Nepal? Describe the process in short.**

## Speaking

### Describing process

**A. The picture below shows the steps of how tea is processed. Talk about them.**



**B. Read the conversation and have similar conversations in pairs using the given situations.**

**A:** *Do you know how to set a mousetrap?*

**B:** *First, you cut off a piece of cheese. When you have cut off the cheese, you place it in the trap. When you have placed it in the trap, you set the spring.*

- mend a bicycle puncture
- replace an electric bulb
- recharge a mobile phone
- withdraw money from an ATM
- wind the film in a camera

## Project work

Visit the website of Nepal Stock Exchange Limited (NEPSE) and prepare a short stock trade report of a particular day.