

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 7TH



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Class : 7th

Subject : English-1

Chapter : 4

Chapter Name : The Ashes That Made Trees Bloom

Q1 Why did the neighbours kill the dog?

Answer. The neighbours dragged the dog around their garden to find a treasure for themselves. When the dog stopped near a pine tree and started scratching the ground, they dug happily hoping to find a treasure. When they saw that there was nothing in there except a dead kitten, they became furious at the dog. They kicked it and beat it to death. They killed it because it did not help them find a Treasure.

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Q2 Mark the right item.

- (i) The old farmer and his wife loved the dog
- (a) because it helped them in their day-to-day work.
 - (b) as if it was their own baby.
 - (c) as they were kind to all living beings.
- (ii) When the old couple became rich, they
- (a) gave the dog better food.
 - (b) invited their greedy neighbours to a feast.
 - (c) lived comfortably and were generous towards their poor neighbours.
- (iii) The greedy couple borrowed the mill and the mortar to make
- (a) rice pastry and bean sauce.
 - (b) magic ash to win rewards.
 - (c) a pile of gold.

Answer. (i) The old farmer and his wife loved the dog as if it was their own baby.
(ii) When the old couple became rich, they lived comfortably and were generous towards their poor neighbours.
(iii) The greedy couple borrowed the mill and the mortar to make a pile of gold.

Page : 60 , Block Name : Comprehension Check

Q1 The old farmer is a kind person. What evidence of his kindness do you find in the first two paragraphs.

Answer. The old farmer was a kind person. He loved his dog as if it was his own baby. He fed it with fish with his own chopsticks and all the boiled rice it wanted. He was patient and kind to everything that had life, and often dug up a sod on purpose to give food to the birds.

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Q2 What did the dog do to lead the farmer to the hidden gold?

Answer. The dog came running to the farmer, putting its paws against his legs and motioning with its head to some spot behind. He thought it was only playing and did not mind it. However, the dog kept on whining and running to and fro for some minutes. Then the farmer followed it a few yards to a place where it began scratching the ground. The farmer thought there was a bone or a bit of fish buried there and therefore, struck his hoe in the earth. However, what he found was a pile of gold.

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Q3 (i) How did the spirit of the dog help the farmer first?

(ii) How did it help him next?

Answer. (i) The spirit of the dog asked the farmer to cut down the pine tree over its grave, and make from it a mortar for rice pastry and a mill for bean sauce. The farmer did so. Some time close to the New Year, the farmer wanted to make some rice pastry. When the rice was boiled, his wife put it into the mortar and he pounded the mass into dough. When the pastry was ready for baking, the whole mass turned into a heap of gold coins. Similarly, when beans were ground in the hand-mill, gold started dropping from it like rain and in a few minutes, the tub under the mill was filled with gold.

(ii) Informing the farmer about how his wicked neighbours had burned the hand mill, the spirit of the dog asked him to take the ashes of the mill and sprinkle them on withered trees to make them bloom. The old man did so and found to his delight that the words of the spirit were indeed true. The bare cherry tree in his garden sprouted blossoms when a pinch of the ashes were sprinkled on it. Later, he was rewarded by the daimio for making an old withered cherry tree blossom once again.

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Q4 Why did the daimio reward the farmer but punish his neighbour for the same act?

Answer. The daimio rewarded the farmer for making an old withered cherry tree blossom once again. Like the farmer, his greedy neighbour also sprinkled ashes over a withered

cherry tree. However, the result this time was different. The tree did not blossom, while the wind blew the dust into the noses and eyes of the daimio and his wife. This was the reason why the greedy neighbour was punished.

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Q1 Read the following conversation.

RAVI : What are you doing?

MRIDU : I'm reading a book.

RAVI : Who wrote it?

MRIDU : Ruskin Bond.

RAVI : Where did you find it?

MRIDU : In the library.

Notice that 'what', 'who', 'where', are question words. Questions that require information begin with question words. Some other question words are 'when', 'why', 'where', 'which' and 'how'.

Remember that

What asks about actions, things, etc.

- Who asks about people.
- Which asks about people or things.
- Where asks about place.
- When asks about time.
- Why asks about reason or purpose.
- How asks about means, manner or degree.
- Whose asks about possessions.

Read the following paragraph and frame questions on the italicised phrases.

Anil is in school. I am in school too. Anil is sitting in the left row. He is reading a book. Anil's friend is sitting in the second row. He is sharpening his pencil. The teacher is writing on the blackboard. Children are writing in their copybooks. Some children are looking out of the window.

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____
- (iv) _____
- (v) _____
- (vi) _____
- (vii) _____

Answer. (i) Where is Anil?

(ii) Where is Anil sitting?

(iii) What is Anil doing?

- (iv) Where is Anil's friend sitting?
 (v) Who is writing on the blackboard?
 (vi) What are some children doing?

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Q2 Write appropriate question words in the blank spaces in the following dialogue.

NEHA : _____ did you get this book?

SHEELA : Yesterday morning.

NEHA : _____ is your sister crying?

SHEELA : Because she has lost her doll.

NEHA : _____ room is this, yours or hers?

SHEELA : It's ours.

NEHA : _____ do you go to school?

SHEELA : We walk to school. It is near by.

Answer. NEHA: When did you get this book?

SHEELA: Yesterday morning.

NEHA: Why is your sister crying?

SHEELA: Because she has lost her doll.

NEHA: Whose room is this, yours or hers?

SHEELA: It's ours.

NEHA: How do you go to school?

SHEELA: We walk to school. It is nearby.

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Q3 Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box.

how what when where which

- (i) My friend lost his chemistry book. Now he doesn't know _____ to do and _____ to look for it.
 (ii) There are so many toys in the shops. Neena can't decide _____ one to buy.
 (iii) You don't know the way to my school. Ask the policeman _____ to get there.
 (iv) You should decide soon _____ to start building your house.
 (v) Do you know _____ to ride a bicycle? I don't remember _____ and _____ I learnt it.
 (vi) "You should know _____ to talk and _____ to keep your mouth shut," the teacher advised Anil.

Answer. (i) My friend lost his chemistry book. Now he doesn't know what to do and where to look for it.

(ii) There are so many toys in the shops. Neena can't decide Which one to buy.

(iii) You don't know the way to my school. Ask the policeman how to get there.

(iv) You should decide soon where to start building your house.

(v) Do you know how to ride a bicycle? I don't remember When and where I learnt it.

(vi) "You should know When to talk and when to keep your mouth shut," the teacher advised Anil.

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Q4 Add im- or in- to each of the following words and use them in place of the italicised words in the sentences given below.

patient proper possible sensitive competent

(i) The project appears very difficult at first sight but it can be completed if we work very hard.

(ii) He lacks competence. That's why he can't keep any job for more than a year.

(iii) "Don't lose patience. Your letter will come one day," the postman told me.

(iv) That's not a proper remark to make under the circumstances.

(v) He appears to be without sensitivity. In fact, he is very emotional.

Answer. (i) The project appears impossible at first sight but it can be completed if we work very hard.

(ii) He is incompetent. That's why he can't keep any job for more than a year.

(iii) "Don't be impatient. Your letter will come one day," the postman told me.

(iv) That's an improper remark to make under the circumstances.

(v) He appears to be insensitive. In fact, he is very emotional.

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Q5 Read the following sentences.

It was a cold morning and stars still glowed in the sky.

An old man was walking along the road.

The words in italics are articles. 'A' and 'an' are indefinite articles and 'the' is the definite article. 'A' is used before a singular countable noun. 'An' is used before a word that begins with a vowel.

- a boy
- a mango
- a university
- an actor
- an apple
- an hour

Use a, an or the in the blanks.

There was once _____ play which became very successful _____. A famous actor was acting in it. In _____ play his role was that of aristocrat who had been imprisoned in _____ castle for twenty years. In _____ last act of _____ play someone would come on _____ stage with _____ letter which he would hand over to prisoner. Even though aristocrat was not expected to read _____ letter at each performance, he always insisted that _____ letter be written out from beginning to end.

Answer. There was once a play which became very successful. A famous actor was acting in it. In the play his role was that of an aristocrat who had been imprisoned in a castle for twenty years. In the last act of the play someone would come on the stage with a letter which he would hand over to the prisoner. Even though the aristocrat was not expected to read the letter at each performance, he always insisted that the letter be written out from beginning to end.

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Q6 Encircle the correct article.

Nina was looking for (a / the) job. After many interviews she got (a / the) job she was looking for.

A : Would you like (a/an/the) apple or (a/an/the) banana?

B : I'd like (a/an/the) apple, please.

A : Take (a/an/the) red one in (a/an/the) fruit bowl. You may take (a/an/the) orange also, if you like.

B : Which one?

A : (A/An/The) one beside (a/an/the) banana.

Answer. A : Would you like an apple or a banana?

B : I'd like an apple, please.

A : Take the red one in the fruit bowl. You may take an orange also, if you like.

B : Which one?

A : The one beside the banana.

Page : 66 , Block Name : Working With Language

Q1 Do you remember an anecdote or a story about a greedy or jealous person and

the unhappy result of his/her action? Narrate the story to others in your class. Here is one for you to read.

Seeing an old man planting a fig tree, the king asked why he was doing this. The man replied that he might live to eat the fruit, and, even if he did not, his son would enjoy the figs.

“Well,” said the king, “if you do live to eat the fruit of this tree, please let me know.” The man promised to do so, and sure enough, before too long, the tree grew and bore fruit. Packing some fine figs in a basket, the old man set out for the palace to meet the king.

The king accepted the gift and gave orders that the old man’s basket be filled with gold.

Now, next door to the old man, there lived a greedy old man jealous of his neighbour’s good fortune. He also packed some figs in a basket and took them to the palace in the hope of getting gold.

The king, on learning the man’s motive, ordered him to stand in the compound and had him pelted with figs. The old man returned home and told his wife the sad story. She consoled him by saying, “You should be thankful that our neighbour did not grow coconuts.”

Answer. There was a farmer. He had a hen. He loved his hen very much. It was a gifted hen because it laid one golden egg everyday. The farmer used to go to the market and sell that egg. It was the source of his livelihood and happy life. His earning from the golden egg began to grow. Now he was living a good life. But as he grew rich, his greed also grew. One day he thought that there may be some treasure of gold in the hen's stomach. If he got all the gold, he would be richer. So he decided to get it one day. He cut out the hen's stomach. But he found nothing inside the stomach except some blood and flesh. The hen was dead. Then the farmer realized what he had done. But now he was helpless. He himself killed the source of his all happiness due to his greed.

Page : 67 , Block Name : Speaking and Writing

Q2 Put each of the following in the correct order. Then use them appropriately to fill the blanks in the paragraph that follows. Use correct punctuation marks.

- English and Hindi/both/in/he writes
- and only/a few short stories/many books in English/ in Hindi
- is/my Hindi/than my English/much better

Ravi Kant is a writer, and _____ . Of course, he is much happier writing in English than in Hindi. He has written _____ . I find his books a little hard to understand

-
- Answer. 1. he writes both in English and Hindi
 2 many books in English and only few short stories in Hindi
 3. My Hindi is much better than my English

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Q3 Are you fond of reading stories? Did you read one last month? If not, read one or two and then write a paragraph about the story. Use the following hints.

- title of the story
- name of author
- how many characters • which one you liked
- some details of the story
- main point(s) as you understand it

Tell your friends why they should also read it.

Answer. Last week I read a story from Panchtantra. It was a simple story of only two characters. In the story there was a hermit. He was very kind and pious. He devoted all his time in his prayer. One day he was having his bath in the river. Then he began to offer his prayer to the sun god. While he was praying he saw an ant drowning in the water. The hermit thought to save it. The ant bit in the palm of the hermit. It was a painful bite. But the hermit again tried to save it. Again and again it tried to save it. But the ant bit him repeatedly. A man was watching all this from a distance. Finally he saw that the hermit brought the ant out of water. The man was surprised at the patience of the hermit. He asked the hermit why he did so. The hermit replied that it is the nature of the ant to bite any one. But a hermit's nature is to do welfare to all. So he saved the ant. One can't change one's nature. It is really a nice story. All should read it.

Page : 68 , Block Name : Speaking and Writing

Q1 Discuss these questions in small groups before you answer them.

- (i) When is a grown-up likely to say this? Don't talk with your mouth full.
- (ii) When are you likely to be told this? Say thank you.
- (iii) When do you think an adult would say this? No one thinks you are funny.

Answer. 1. The grown-ups are likely to tell the children not to talk while their mouth is full of food.

2 The children are likely to be reminded to Say thank you when they receive a gift

or a favour from someone.

3. Adults are likely to tell children, 'no one thinks you are funny' when the children are too shy to speak or perform before the others.

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Q2 The last two lines of the poem are not prohibitions or instructions. What is the adult now asking the child to do? Do you think the poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable? Why?

Answer. The adult is now asking the child to think independently. The poet finds this entirely unreasonable because the young child has not been trained to use his mind. He has only been trained to follow the instructions given by the adults.

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Q3 Why do you think grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem? Is it important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public?

Answer. The adults constantly give instructions to their children for various reasons. They try to train them to behave in a decent, well-mannered and sophisticated way. This, however, robs away their childlike innocence.

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Q4 If you had to make some rules for grown-ups to follow, what would you say? Make at least five such rules. Arrange the lines as in a poem.

Answer. Don't dictate and impose your rules. Your ways and thinking is different from ours and so are the times. Don't talk over the phone while eating. Please spend some time with us.

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