



Listening Passages

UNIT-I PROSE

For the attention of the public, here is an announcement from the Department of Disaster Management.

As per the warning issued today by the Meteorological Department, there exists a high probability of a widespread heavy downpour from the early hours of Sunday and consequent flooding of low-lying areas. In order to ensure safety of life and property, everyone is hereby warned and advised to take certain precautionary measures:

- ❖ First of all, prepare a household flood plan and be ready to respond to the situation.
- ❖ Find out the locations of the closest flood shelters available and routes to reach them.
- ❖ Maintain an emergency kit comprising water bottles, biscuit packets, medical supplies, a torch light, and a whistle to signal for help.
- ❖ Paste or fix a list of emergency telephone numbers on the wall in a visible spot.
- ❖ Switch off hazardous items like gas cylinders and disconnect electrical gadgets.
- ❖ Secure important personal documents and valuables in a waterproof case and place it in an accessible location.
- ❖ Place small pieces of furniture and clothing on tables and cots.
- ❖ Shift all the small objects safely to the loft.
- ❖ Empty your refrigerators and leave their doors open to avoid damage in case they float.
- ❖ Charge your mobile phones as well as your battery banks so as to communicate with friends, relatives and emergency services.
- ❖ Place sandbags in the toilet bowls and bathroom drain holes to prevent sewage inflow.
- ❖ Prepare and pack food with a long shelf life.
- ❖ Finally, listen to the periodic news updates through your portable communication devices and follow the instructions implicitly.

UNIT-1 POEM

Following is one of the most celebrated poems of Rupert Brooke. It describes the noble sacrifice of an English soldier.



The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

UNIT-2 PROSE

The Significance of Tea

Tea has been an important beverage for thousands of years. It is consumed by two-thirds of the world's population. India is the second largest tea producer in the world after China, although over 70 per cent of its tea is consumed within India. Tea has been proved to offer numerous health benefits. Scientists and researchers have found that drinking tea could reduce the risk of heart diseases. The antioxidants in tea might prevent cancer. Regular tea drinking might help one in

lowering blood sugar and blood pressure. Tea might be an effective agent in the prevention and treatment of neurological disorders. The consumption of tea results in the strengthening of one's teeth, bones and immune system. However, drinking too much tea may prove to be harmful to one's health. So, drinking tea moderately could make one healthier. Researchers have confirmed the significant overall health benefits of drinking tea.

UNIT-2 POEM

Midnight Wonders

I was tossing in my bed
in the midnight hour,
struggling to get a wink of sleep,
but my eyes lay on the clock tower.

I looked upon the dark sky;
it was adorned with sparkling pearls,
which giggled at me
and put a shine to my curls.

I gazed at the chubby moon,
who was white and glistening like milk.
Gave me a lovely, motherly smile
through her lips as rosy pink.

All these magnificent objects
made my mind calm.
My eyelids started drooping.
I was grateful for their wonderful charm.

Nature had arrived to aid me
when I was trying to catch sleep.
She, with her caring palms,
lulled me to a slumber, so deep.

Pratyusha Dasgupta

UNIT-3 PROSE

Boredom

We have all experienced boredom sometime or the other. Boredom occurs when a person is unable to stay attentive. It is something more than an unpleasant feeling. It can make you angry and frustrated and lead to negative physical health consequences.

How boredom affects one physically

A study reveals that when a person is affected by acute boredom his eyelids droop and the face assumes a frown. There is a gradual loss of ability to coordinate movements. These symptoms are accompanied by mental fatigue and a slowing down of thought processes. A bored person at work is likely to make

many more errors than one who is not bored. We should never let boredom take charge. There are several easy ways to overcome boredom.

Here are a few practical suggestions

- ❖ Set goals for yourself, work towards them.
- ❖ Develop an interest in hobbies and crafts.
- ❖ Socialize, stay in the company of cheerful people.
- ❖ Take up a charitable cause.
- ❖ Exercise regularly.

Coming out of boredom will feel like breaking free from a cold, dark room into the outdoors on a warm, sunny day.

UNIT-3 POEM

The World Is Too Much with Us

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon,
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers,



For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. --Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

William Wordsworth.

UNIT-4 PROSE

What were the reasons for our success?

There are many answers to this question. Firstly, I would say that we owed much to the work of previous climbers on Everest: to the experience and knowledge they passed on, and to the fact that they had gone on trying and had never given up hope.

Next, I would place the careful and thorough planning done before the climb began. On the Everest, a large number of people have to do different things in different places at the same time. Unless every detail had been worked out in advance, things would quickly have gone wrong.

The third reason was the excellence of our equipment. In particular, our oxygen apparatus was very important, and it worked well. Without it, we could not have reached the summit.

Our own fitness played a big part in the climb, and this was due to our periods of training, in which we got used gradually to great heights; and to our food; and to the care and attention we received from our doctors.

Above all else, I should like to mention how well we worked together. That was the biggest single reason why we got to the top. In the four months we were together we lived and worked as a team. Not everyone could climb to the top. Some of the members had jobs to do on other parts of the mountain; jobs that were less exciting than climbing to the summit, but just as dangerous and uncomfortable. But everyone played his part to the full. That was the biggest thing of all.

In the same way, our Sherpas were magnificent. Without our tents, our oxygen, our food, our climbing gear, the summit could not have been reached. And without the Sherpas, we could not have lifted all this equipment, which weighed 750 lb., upto 26,000 feet, ready for the assaults. No praise is too high for these cheerful and gallant men.

Finally, there was the weather. For five weeks we had bad weather; then, after the middle of May, we were lucky. It no longer snowed, and even the wind sometimes dropped.

UNIT-4 POEM

Wander-thirst

BEYOND the East the sunrise, beyond the West the sea,
And East and West the wander-thirst that will not let me be;
It works in me like madness, dear, to bid me say good-bye;
For the seas call, and the stars call, and oh! the call of the sky!

I know not where the white road runs, nor what the blue hills are;
But a man can have the sun for a friend, and for his guide a star;
And there's no end of voyaging when once the voice is heard,
For the rivers call, and the roads call, and oh! the call of the bird!

Yonder the long horizon lies, and there by night and day
The old ships draw to home again, the young ships sail away;
And come I may, but go I must, and, if men ask you why,
You may put the blame on the stars and the sun and the white road and the sky.

Gerald Gould

UNIT-5 PROSE

Hippocratic Oath

I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate
my life to the service of humanity;

I will give to my teachers the respect
and gratitude which is their due;

I will practice my profession with
conscience and dignity;

The health of my patient will be my
first consideration;

I will respect the secrets which are
confided in me;

I will maintain by all the means in my
power, the honour and the noble tradition
of the medical profession;

My colleagues will be my brothers; I
will not permit considerations of religion,
nationality, race, party politics or social
standing to intervene between my duty
and my patient;

I will maintain the utmost respect for
human life, from the time of conception,
even under threat. I will not use my
medical knowledge contrary to the laws
of humanity;

I make these promises solemnly,
freely and upon my honour.

UNIT-5 POEM

Lincoln's Letter to his Son's Teacher

He will have to learn, I know,
that all men are not just,
all men are not true.
But teach him also that
for every scoundrel there is a hero;
that for every selfish politician,
there is a dedicated leader...
Teach him for every enemy there is a
friend,

Steer him away from envy,
if you can,
teach him the secret of
quiet laughter.

Let him learn early that
the bullies are the easiest to lick...
Teach him, if you can,
the wonder of books...
But also give him quiet time
to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in
the sky,
bees in the sun,
and the flowers on a green hillside.

In the school teach him
it is far honourable to fail
than to cheat...
Teach him to have faith
in his own ideas,
even if everyone tells him
they are wrong...
Teach him to be gentle
with gentle people,
and tough with the tough.

Try to give my son
the strength not to follow the crowd
when everyone is getting on the band

wagon...
Teach him to listen to all men...
but teach him also to filter
all he hears on a screen of truth,
and take only the good
that comes through.

Teach him if you can,
how to laugh when he is sad...
Teach him there is no shame in tears,
Teach him to scoff at cynics
and to beware of too much sweetness...
Teach him to sell his brawn
and brain to the highest bidders
but never to put a price-tag
on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears
to a howling mob
and to stand and fight
if he thinks he's right.
Treat him gently,
but do not cuddle him,
because only the test
of fire makes fine steel.

Let him have the courage
to be impatient...
let him have the patience to be brave.
Teach him always
to have sublime faith in himself,
because then he will have
sublime faith in mankind.

This is a big order,
but see what you can do...
He is such a fine little fellow,
my son!

Abraham Lincoln

UNIT-6 PROSE

A boy was flying a kite with his father. He was excited to watch the kite soar high and asked his father, "What kept the kite up?" Dad replied "The String". The boy said "No dad, the string is holding the kite down." The father suddenly broke the string, the kite came crashing down. Now the boy understood, what was holding the kite up. This is true in life as well. We are advised to follow a set of rules or a

prescribed code of conduct to enable us to reach our full potential. However, very often we hear the phrase "I want to be free." If you take the train off the track, it is free. But where would it go? If each one of us follow our own traffic rules and drive on any side of the road what would you call it? Freedom or chaos? By observing rules we are actually gaining freedom. This is what discipline is all about.

UNIT-6 POEM

The Drum

I hate that drum's discordant sound,
Parading round, and round, and round:
To thoughtless youth it pleasure yields,
And lures from cities and from fields,
sell their liberty for charms
Of tawdry lace, and glittering arms;
And when Ambition's voice commands,
To march, and fight, and fall, in foreign lands.
I hate that drum's discordant sound,
Parading round, and round, and round;
To me it talks of ravag'd plains,
And burning towns, and ruin'd swains,
And all that Misery's hand bestows,
To fill the catalogue of human woes.