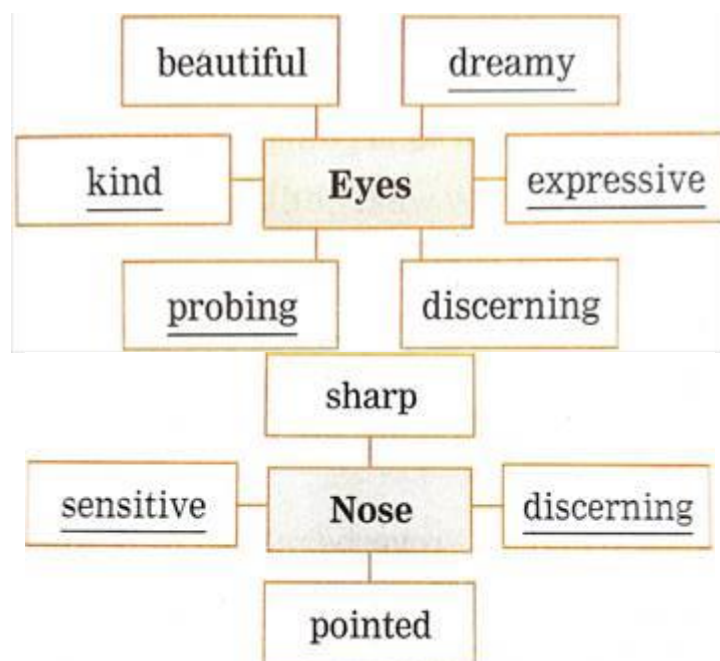


## 2.5 Nose versus Eyes

### Ice Breakers

- Complete the web with the help of adjectives used to describe eyes and nose in all respects. Two are done for you.

Ans.



- (i) Given below are some words from legal terminology used in court affairs. Discuss and complete the table accordingly.

Ans.

Sr.No	Legal terminology	Description
1	Affidavit	A written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation for use as evidence in court.
2	Argument	<u>An <b>argument</b> is a statement [or set of statements] used in order to convince people that your opinion about something is correct.</u>
3	Consent	<u>to give permission, approval, or assent in opinion to agree.</u>
4	Counsel	<u>[Countable noun] Someone's <b>counsel</b> is the lawyer who gives them advice on a legal case and speaks on their behalf in court.</u> <u>[Uncountable noun] <b>Counsel</b> is advice.</u> <u>[Transitive verb] If you <b>counsel</b> someone to take a course of</u>

		<u>action, or if you <b>counsel</b> a course of action, you advise that course of action.</u>
5	Judgement	<u>A <b>judgement</b> is a decision made by a judge or by a court of law.</u>
6	Trial	<u>A <b>trial</b> is a formal meeting in a law court, at which a judge and jury listen to evidence and decide whether a person is guilty of a crime.</u>
7	Verdict	<u>In a court of law, the <b>verdict</b> is the decision that is given by the jury or judge at the end of a trial.</u>
8	Contempt of court	<u>is the criminal offence of disobeying an instruction from a judge or a court of law.</u>
9	Notice	<u>A <b>notice</b> is one of a number of letters which an organization sends to people to give them information or ask them to do something.</u>
10	Stay order	<u>Is formally called '<b>injunction</b>'. An <b>injunction</b> is a court order, usually one telling someone not to do something.</u>

(ii) Name the five sensory organs and provide phrases/idioms/proverbs related to them. (One is given for you.)

**Ans.** The five sensory organs are eyes, nose, ears, tongue and skin.

**Phrases/Idioms/Proverbs related to sensory organs**

(a) To turn a deaf ear

(b) To turn a blind eye

(c) To be thick skinned

(d) To taste success

(e) To smell something fishy

### **Paraphrase**

Once there was an unusual contest. It was between the eyes and the nose. There was a fierce disagreement as to whom the spectacles belonged. The tongue argued the case skilfully while the ear listened as the judge.

The argument was that from time immemorial the Nose has always worn the spectacles. Displaying the spectacles to the court, the lawyer Tongue Nose claimed that it has a 'bridge' between the two lenses, to sit on the Nose. The size was exactly of the nose, and if the face did not possess a nose where would the spectacles be, he asked.

The Tongue concluded his arguments by saying that the court could not challenge that the Nose was made for the spectacles as the spectacles were made for the Nose.

Then just like a smart lawyer would, the Tongue changed to arguing for the

Eyes. But no one knew exactly what he did say. The arguments did not seem convincing.

Therefore the Judge gave the verdict in a grave tone, without any hesitation or doubt, that whenever the Nose put on his spectacles, the Eyes must remain shut!

## BRAINSTORMING

**(A1) (i) State whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.**

**(a) The Nose can use spectacles.**

**Ans. False.** The spectacles are for clear vision. Hence there is no use of spectacles for the Nose as it cannot see.

**(b) Eyes have to be shut when the Nose wears/puts on the spectacles.**

**Ans. False.** There is no need for the Eyes to remain shut when the spectacles are on the Nose.

**(c) The Ear was appointed as a judge.**

**Ans. True**

**(d) Eyes cannot use spectacles.**

**Ans. False.** The spectacles are solely for the purpose of helping the Eyes to see clearly.

**(ii) Discuss with your partner and match the following expressions given in column 'A' with their interpretations in column 'B'.**

A	B
While Chief Baron Ear sat to balance the laws,	Eyes are refrained from using spectacles.
They are made with the straddle as wide as the ridge of the Nose is.	The responsibility of giving verdict rested on the shoulders of the hearing organ.
That whenever the Nose put his Spectacles on, by daylight or candlelight Eyes should be shut!	Spectacles are meant for none other than the nose.
So his lordship decreed with a grave solemn tone, decisive and clear, without one if or but.	The judge delivered a firm verdict without any doubt.

**Ans. (1) While Chief Baron Ear sat to balance the laws.** - The responsibility of giving verdict rested on the shoulders of the hearing organ.

**(2) They are made with the straddle as wide as the ridge of the Nose is.** - Spectacles are meant for none other than the nose.

**(3) That whenever the Nose put his Spectacles on, by daylight or candlelight Eyes should be shut! - Eyes are restrained from using spectacles.**

**(4) So his lordship decreed with a grave solemn tone, decisive and clear, without one if or but. - The judge delivered a firm verdict without any doubt.**

**(A2) (i) The tongue justifies the possession of the spectacles on behalf of the nose. Pick up the expressions from the poem that argue in favour of the Nose and complete the following web diagram.**

**Ans.** i. That the Nose has had spectacles always in wear, Which amounts to possession time out of mind.'

ii. they are made with a straddle As wide as the ridge of the Nose is;

iii. That the visage or countenance had not a Nose, Pray who would, or who could wear spectacles then?

**(ii) Comment on the following characters depicted in the poem, in a sentence or a phrase.**

**(1) Nose (2) Eyes**

**Ans. Nose:** An undeserving person who claims possession over something even though he has no use for it, is not fit to use it. Personification of Nose.

**Eyes:** Are like silent, hard-working, honest and deserving people who are often denied their rights. Personification of eyes.

**(iii) "Lend thy ears to all but few thy tongue".... is a famous quote by William Shakespeare. Justify.**

**Ans.** The quote means that we should listen. Whether in argument or discussion, one should listen to all. But when giving an opinion or speaking during a disagreement, it is better to say very little.

These words by Shakespeare are wise words to remember, because one may not know enough to give advice. One may unnecessarily or unintentionally make enemies when taking one side in a dispute. So it is better to speak less.

**(A3) Pick out examples of Inversion from the poem.**

**Ans.** ..the visage or countenance had not a Nose..' this would be normally '.. did not have a nose.'

**(A4) (1) Justify the verdict delivered in the poem.**

I can support my answer with the help of the following suitable arguments:

**Ans.** a. Spectacles are always worn on the nose.

b. Without the nose for support, the spectacles would be of no use.

c. A pair of spectacles are designed to perfectly fit the shape of the nose.

d. The sole purpose of a nose is to balance the spectacles on its ridge to keep them from falling.

**(ii) Compose two lines of your own on any sensory organ.**

**Ans. Eyes**

'Windows into a person's soul and heart, sadly  
The lovely pair, themselves cannot see!'

**(iii) Imagine that you are a lawyer defending the case of the eyes in court. Present your counter-statement in support of your client.**

**Ans.** 'On behalf of the Eyes I would like to present the argument about the nature of the spectacles. The spectacles are a piece of equipment meant to provide clear sight. When a person has weak or faulty eyesight, glasses are prescribed to correct the vision for that person's weak eyes. The Nose is an organ for smelling and has no use for corrective glasses. The Nose merely serves to hold up the glasses for the Eyes to see. Since the Nose is conveniently below the Eyes on the face, the spectacles are merely supported on the Nose. Hence I would argue that the spectacles belong to the Eyes, your Lordship.'

**(A5) (i) Write the appreciation of the poem.**

**Ans.** The strange title hints at a humorous poem. William Cowper pokes fun at how the Law works, sometimes in absurd ways, in 'Nose versus Eyes'. The theme also points to those greedy undeserving people who cheat the deserving ones who are not so cunning. The four lined stanzas have abab rhyme. The sensory organs are personified. The Ear is the impartial judge. The Tongue is the learned lawyer who argues a case well, who jumps from one side of the case to another.

**(ii) Write the summary of the poem.**

**(Both appreciation and the summary can be written with the help of the points given in previous poems.)**

**Ans.** The title is perfect because that is what the poem is about. But it is mystifying and funny because we wonder how the nose and eyes which belong on the same face can be opposed to each other, as the work of each is quite different from the other. The poet at the very beginning explains why the title is apt by explaining there was an unusual disagreement between the Nose and the

Eyes over the possession of the spectacles. The roles of lawyer and judge are respectively allotted to the Tongue and Ear on account of their attributes (functions in humans). The arguments made by the Tongue are perfect and the verdict is given. Only that the decision is absurd as the very function of the spectacles is lost! The poem reminds us of two things - Justice should be tempered with humanity. Decisions based purely on rules of the law book may end up being silly. Very often the claim of possession is made by those who don't deserve it at all and the deserving person is deprived of what is his. Even the legal system is tied up by rules. So it is for the judge to exercise his intelligence and discretion.

**(A6) Project**

**Read different stories about intelligent ministers of kings, whose judgements helped to bring about law and order in society. For example, Birbal, Tenalirama etc. Write 5 such stories in your notebook.**

**Ans. Do it your own**