

Chapter 7

Packing

Thinking about Language

Q. 1 Match the words/phrases in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

A	B
(1) slaving	(i) a quarrel or an argument
(2) chaos	(ii) remove something from inside another thing using a sharp tool
(3) rummage	(iii) strange, mysterious, difficult to explain
(4) scrape out	(iv) finish successfully, achieve
(5) stumble over, tumble into	(v) search for something by moving things around hurriedly or carelessly
(6) accomplish	(vi) complete confusion and disorder
(7) uncanny	(vii) fall, or step awkwardly while walking
(8) (to have or get into) a row	(viii) working hard

Ans.:

A	B
(1) slaving	(viii) working hard Eg. In today's fast moving world, slaving is a virtue.
(2) chaos	(vi) complete confusion and disorder

	Eg. The event could not run smoothly because of the chaos happening backstage.
(3) rummage	(v) search for something by moving things around hurriedly or carelessly Eg. I rummaged my entire room but could not find the book.
(4) scrape out	(ii) remove something from inside another thing using a sharp tool Eg. The technician scraped out the entire sensor to detect the root cause of the problem.
(5) stumble over, tumble into	(vii) fall, or step awkwardly while walking Eg. She stumbled over the pebbles and hurt herself. (6) accomplish (iv) finish successfully, achieve Eg- Hard work Is the key to accomplish your goals.
(6) accomplish	(iv) finish successfully, achieve Eg. Hard work Is the key to accomplish your goals.
(7) uncanny	(iil) strange, mysterious, difficult to explain Eg- His uncanny behaviour at the party left everyone surprised.
(8) (to have or get into) a row	(i) a quarrel or an argument Eg- They often get into a row over petty matters.

Q. 2 Use suitable words or phrases from Column-A above to complete the paragraph given below.

A Traffic Jam

During power cuts, when traffic lights go off, there is utter_____ at crossroads. Drivers add to the confusion by_____over their right of way, and nearly come to blows. Sometimes passers-by, seeing a few policemen_____ at regulating traffic, step in to help. This gives them a feeling of having_____ something.

Ans.: A Traffic Jam

During power cuts, when traffic lights go off, there is utter chaos at cross roads. Drivers add to the confusion by getting into a row over their right of way, and nearly come to blows. Sometimes passers-by, seeing a few policemen slaving at regulating traffic, step into help. This gives them a feeling of having accomplished something.

Q. 3 A Look at the sentences below. Notice that the verbs (Italicized) are all in their bare form.

(a) Simple commands:

- Stand up!

- Put it here

(b) Directions: (to reach your home)

Board Bus No. 121 and get down at Sagar Restaurant. From there turn right and walk till you reach a book shop. My home is just behind the shop.

(c) Do's and Don'ts:

1. Always get up for your elders.

2. Don't shout in class.

(d) Instructions for making a fruit salad-

Ingredients

Oranges - 2

Pineapple - one large piece

Cherries - 250 grams

Bananas- 2

(Any other fruit you like)

Wash the fruit. Cut them into small pieces. Mix them well. Add a few drops of lime juice. Add sugar to taste. Now add some cream (or ice-cream if you wish to make fruit salad with ice-cream.)

(1) Now work in pairs. Give

(i) two commands to your partner.

(ii) two do's and don'ts to a new student in your class.

(iii) directions to get to each other's houses.

(iv) instructions for moving the body in an exercise or a dance, or for cooking something.

Answer :

You can perform this activity with one of your friends.

Q.3B The table below has some proverbs telling you what to do and what not to do. Fill in the blanks and add a few more such proverbs to the table.

Positive	Negative
(i) Save for a rainy day.	(i) Don't cry over spilt milk.

(ii) Make hay while the sun shines.	(ii) Don't put the cart before the horse.
(iii) ___ before you leap.	(iii) ___ a mountain out of a mole hill.
(iv) ___ and let live.	(iv) ___ all your eggs in one basket.

Ans.:

Positive	Negative
(i) Save for a rainy day.	(i) Don't cry over spilt milk.
(ii) Make hay while the sun shines.	(ii) Don't put the cart before the horse.
(iii) Look before you leap.	(iii) <u>Don't make</u> a mountain out of a mole hill
(iv) Live and let live.	(iv) <u>Don't pull</u> all your eggs in one basket.
(v) A stitch in time saves nine.	(v) Don't keep things for tomorrow.
(vi) Cleanliness is next to godliness.	(vi) Don't keep your surroundings dirty.

Thinking about the Text

Q. 1 A Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

How many characters are there in the narrative? Name them. (Don't forget the dog!)

Ans.: There are four characters in the narrative. Following are the names of the characters:

1. George

2. Harris
3. Jerome (the narrator himself)
4. Montmorency (the dog)

Q. 1 B Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

Why did the narrator (Jerome) volunteer to do the packing?

Ans.: The narrator (Jerome) readily volunteered to do the packing himself as he felt that packing was one among those things he knew more than the other person. He also felt proud of his packing skills and wanted to show them.

Q. 1 C Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

How did George and Harris react to this? Did Jerome like their reaction?

Ans.: When the author volunteered to do the packing by himself, George and Harris promptly accepted his suggestion. George put on a pipe and spread himself over the easy-chair and Harris spread his legs on the table and lit a cigar. Jerome was irritated by their reaction.

Q.1D Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

What was Jerome's real intention when he offered to pack?

Ans.: Jerome's real intention was to superintend the work of packing. He wanted to make Harris and George work under his directions. He wished to pinpoint them at every small mistake and at the same time showcasing his skills of proper packing.

Q.1 E Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

What did Harris say after the bag was shut and strapped? Why do you think he waited till then to ask?

Ans.: Harris instantly reminded Jerome that he had forgotten about packing the boots after the bag was shut and strapped. He deliberately waited for this moment to arrive and did not say anything before in order to sarcastically lift a finger at Jerome and also make fun of his packing skills.

Q.1F Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

What "horrible idea occurred to Jerome a little later?

Ans.: The "horrible idea" that came up in Jerome's mind a little later was the doubt about whether he had packed his toothbrush or not. He considered it to be a "horrible idea" because his toothbrush was the only thing he could almost never remember while travelling. As a result, most of the times he had to deal with that chaotic situation at the end moment which always haunted him.

Q.1G Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

Where did Jerome finally find the toothbrush?

Ans.: Jerome was compelled to conduct a thorough search of the bag by unpacking everything in order to find his toothbrush. He was finally able to find it inside the boot when he tried to check each and every thing one by one while putting them back in the bag.

Q.1H Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

Why did Jerome have to reopen the packed bag?

Ans.: Jerome had to reopen the packed bag twice due to his inadvertent habit of forgetting about certain things.

In the first instance, he was forced to unpack when the doubtful state of whether he had packed his toothbrush or not arose. Eventually, in the second instance, he was again forced to unpack as soon as he found that he had packed his spectacles in the bag.

Q.1 I Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

What did George and Harris offer to pack and why?

Ans.: George and Harris offered to pack the hampers as they were the only ones left to be packed along with the fact that it was already getting late. They offered to do the rest of the packing with the underlying intention of exhibiting their skills in front of Jerome.

Q.1 J Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

While packing the hamper, George and Harris do a number of foolish and funny things. Tick the statements that are true.

- (i) They started with breaking a cup.
- (ii) They also broke a plate.
- (iii) They squashed a tomato.
- (iv) They trod on the butter.

- (v) They stepped on a banana.
- (vi) They put things behind them, and couldn't find them.
- (vii) They stepped on things.
- (viii) They packed the pictures at the bottom and put heavy things on top.
- (ix) They upset almost everything.
- (x) They were very good at packing.

Ans.: The statements which stand true in the case of George and Harris are as follows:

- (i) They started with breaking a cup.
- (iii) They squashed a tomato.
- (iv) They trod on the butter.
- (vi) They put things behind them, and couldn't find them.
- (vii) They stepped on things.
- (ix) They upset almost everything.

Q.2 What does Jerome say was Montmorency's ambition in life? What do you think of Montmorency and why?

Ans.: Montmorency was an extremely mischievous dog whose highest ambition in life was to get in the way of everything and eventually get scolded and cursed for his troublesome acts.

He particularly got involved at the places where he was not wanted and became a 'perfect nuisance' making people go mad at him and resulting in things being thrown on his head. A dog like him never wanted any encouragement. He was born with such a nature that made him do things do like that

Q.3 A Discuss in groups and answer the following in two or three paragraphs. (100-150 words)

Of the three, Jerome, George and Harris, who do you think is the best or worst packer? Support your answer with details from the text.

Ans.: There are three packers in this story, namely, George, Harris and Jerome. Of the three, Jerome seems to be the best packer because of his orderly arrangement of things. Although he too forgot about the boots and the toothbrush and accidentally packed his spectacles, he managed the packing in a systematic manner without making things turn topsy-turvy.

However, on the other side, George and Harris made a complete mess of everything. The breaking of a cup followed by squashing of the tomato in the strawberry jam and stepping on almost everything; putting things behind themselves and then searching for the same exhibit their reckless behaviour. Moreover, they miserably failed in handling things and the sheer nuisance created by Montmorency throw light on the big blunder they created, being the central theme of this story.

Q.3 B Discuss in groups and answer the following in two or three paragraphs. (100-150 words)

How did Montmorency 'contribute' to the packing?

Ans.: The packing adventure had already gone topsy-turvy due to the chaos created by George and Harris but the entry of Montmorency was responsible for adding fuel to the fire. Montmorency's highest ambition of poking his nose in places where he was not required and the eventual scolding and cursing were his 'inborn natural and original sin.' His blunder of coming and sitting on things ready to be packed along with the instance where he had put his leg in the jar of the jam and then ultimately entering the hamper and killing the lemons which he pretended to be rats throw light on the ways where he could become a 'perfect nuisance.'

Q.3 C Discuss in groups and answer the following in two or three paragraphs. (100-150 words)

Do you find this story funny? What are the humorous elements in it?(Pick out at least three; think about what happens, as well as how it is described.)

Ans.: Yes, this story is undoubtedly a humorous one. The central idea of ‘packing’ is not only amusing because of the utter funny business involved but the way the author narrates the story is all the more interesting.

First of all the funny episodes in the story includes the instance where Jerome’s expectations of bossing George and Harris in packing go completely opposite and he is the only one left to work with the other two complacently sitting idle and only pointing him to put the things he forgot.

Secondly, the entire situation where in George and Harris began packing the hampers was not only chaotic but extremely entertaining. Harris’s act of sitting on the butter and then both of them searching every nook and corner for it and eventually finding him at his back was among the funniest elements. In addition to this, the smashing of the pies kept inside by putting heavy things on the top reflected their mindless behaviour.

Thirdly, the entry of Montmorency, the highly mischievous element of all, was the ultimate icing on the cake in the end. His troublesome acts of sitting on things to be packed, the destruction of lemons in the hamper and the act of putting his leg inside the jam were among the most notorious episodes of this story.

Thus, the story presented a good series of humorous incidents time and again.

Writing

Q.1 You have seen how Jerome, George and Harris mess up their packing, especially of the hamper. From their mistakes you must have thought of some 'dos' and 'don'ts' for packing. Can you give some tips for packing by completing the paragraph below?

First pack all the heavy items, especially the ones you don't need right away. Then. . .

Here are some words and phrases you can use to begin your sentences with:

- Then ● Next ● Now
- Remember ● Don't forget ● At last/ Finally

Ans.:

First pack all the heavy items, especially the ones you don't need right away. Then keep the less heavy items which are firm and durable. Next spread a layer of a newspaper in order to avoid any kind of damage. Now arrange these things properly. Remember that packing needs systematic organization of things. Do not forget to put all the essential items. Finally strap properly.