

3.4 How the first letter was Written

...Warming up!...

1. List the materials that man has used for the following purposes in the different ages.

Ans.

Objects	Neolithic Age (Later Stone Age)
Weapons	Stone/bones/animal teeth
Fuel	Wood, fire
Utensils	Hollow stones, earthen vessels, hollow bamboo stems, coconut shells, shells of dried gourds
Food	Meat, fruits, roots, berries, vegetables, fish
Clothes	Animal skins, bark of trees

1st Century CE	Modern Age
Bows and arrows, armour made of metal; swords, daggers, lances, clubs, etc.	Guns, grenades, missiles, bombs, nuclear warheads
Fat, wood, fire	Petrol, coal, kerosene, CNG
Iron, Copper, Bronze	Stainless steel, hindalium, various alloys and metals, plastic, glass
Cereals, fish, vegetables, fruits, meat, dairy products	Various types of grains, pulses, fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy products
Cloth made from cotton and other natural fibres; silk satin, velvet; woven cloth	Cotton, linen, synthetic fibres.

2. Write your name in bold capitals.

(a) Now, within 3 minutes try to make as many words as you can using the letters in your name. You cannot use the same letter twice in a word, unless it is so in your name.

(b) You may use the above idea to devise a game with your friends.

Name: Sandeep Joshi

Words: deep, seep, pane, pain, heap, sheep, etc.

3. List words from your mother tongue or from Hindi which do not have an exact English equivalent. Try to write their meaning in English.

Ans. 1. Schadenfreude

(German) A feeling of enjoyment that comes from seeing or hearing about the troubles of other people. Notice the “Freud” in there, perhaps Sigmund Freud loved hearing about people’s troubles and built up his psychodynamic field on that!

2. Fernweh

(German) That feeling you get of homesickness for a place you’ve never ever been to! This is quite similar to wanderlust except that wanderlust is a yearning to visit all those places rather than that distinct feeling of homesickness for them.

3. Sobremesa

(Spanish) The moment after eating a meal when the food is gone but the conversation is still flowing at the table. Usually after the main meal of the day where the Spanish often linger on at the table drinking coffee, chatting, playing cards or watching TV before returning to work later in the afternoon.

4. Treppenwitz

(German) That moment when we think of the perfect comeback long after the chance to actually use the comeback! It essentially means “a clever remark that comes to mind when it’s too late to say it”.

5. Backpfeifengesicht

(German) Do you ever just look at somebody and get so annoyed that you just want to hit them in the face? Well this is the word for you because “Backpfeifengesicht” is a face badly in need of a fist!

6. Lagom

(Swedish) Lagom is all about moderation. It means not too much and not too little, but just the right amount. Typically referring to the etiquette of taking your share. Lagom is just the perfect spot on the scale!

7. Estrenar

(Spanish) The definition is to wear or use something for the first time but it could be applied for meals, clothes, houses, cars, everything!

8. Razbliuto

(Russian) Describes the feeling a person has for someone he or she once loved. Quite a sad word but here it is for when you really want to convey that.

9. Bakku-shan

(Japanese) A beautiful girl as long as she’s being viewed from behind. Ouch.

10. Mencomot

(Indonesian) Stealing things of little to no value, not because you need them but for the fun of it! This has also become a condition called Kleptomania that refers to the inability to stop the urge to steal items reasons other than personal use or financial

gain.

11. Antier

(Spanish) A one-word way of saying the day before yesterday or a shorter version of “antes de ayer”. Can we have a word for the the day before before yesterday?

12. Yūgen

(Japanese) Means “a profound, mysterious sense of the beauty of the universe ... and the sad beauty of human suffering”. This concept is very important in Japanese culture and the exact translation often depends on the context. In Chinese philosophy the term was taken from “yūgen” meaning “dim”, “deep” or “mysterious”.

13. Schlimazl

(Yiddish) An “inept, bungling person” who is chronically unlucky! (Also Schlimazel or Shlimazl)

14. Hygge

(Danish) Relaxing with a few friends and loved ones while having a meal or some drinks. The word is all about coziness. This is also similar to just “chilling” with a bunch of good friends but Hygge is far more precise.

15. Desvelado

(Spanish) Being unable to sleep or to be sleep deprived. Not very pleasant.

16. Fisselig

(German) Being flustered to the point of incompetence. Some say this would be the same as “jittery” but it’s different because it conveys this temporary state of inexactitude and sloppiness that is caused by another person’s nagging!

17. Tsundoku

(Japanese) Leaving a new book unread after buying it and just letting it pile up with the other unread lonely books in your house, possibly the meanest thing you could do to something as valuable as a book! Don’t tsundoku!

18. Shouganai

(Japanese) Connected to the idea of fate, this word means that something can’t be helped, so why worry about it? Worrying won’t stop the bad things from happening, it will only stop you from enjoying the good ones.

19. Tuerto

(Spanish) A man with only one eye. Loosely translates to “The One-Eyed”.

20. Uffda

(Swedish) This Swedish exclamation is a sympathetic word to use when someone else is in pain. Pronounced “OOF-dah”, it’s like a mix between “Ouch for you” and “I’m sorry you hurt yourself!”

4. Now, list at least twenty English words which do not have an exact equivalent in your mother tongue.

Ans. 1. Awkward

Awkward is the perfect word to describe that peculiarly British blend of embarrassment, discomfort and uncertainty that arises most often in social situations when someone has said something that they shouldn't. There is no direct equivalent in Italian – the closest word is 'scomodo,' which means uncomfortable.

2. Jinx

Jinx can either refer to an object (or person) that brings bad luck, or be used as a verb. There is no single word equivalent in Polish, so 'jinx' has to be translated to 'something that brings bad luck.'

3. Shallow

The use of 'shallow' to mean something that is not deep has no direct equivalent in French, so has to be translated as 'peu profond.' The same is true in Italian. This is distinct from 'superficial,' which in French is 'superficiel.'

4. Insight

Insight is the ability to gain a deep, accurate and intuitive understanding of someone or something. It cannot be directly translated into Spanish, so the words for 'perspicacity,' 'perception,' 'penetration' or 'intuition' have to be used instead.

5. Nice

The word 'nice' is used a great deal in England and, depending on the context and tone of voice of the speaker can actually have quite a subtle range of different meanings. It is a word that many other languages struggle to incorporate in quite the same way.

6. Put

There is no direct equivalent in German of the word 'put.' Instead, Germans have to opt for 'set,' 'place,' 'lay' or a similar suitable substitute.

7. Off

The word 'off' is hard to translate into French. As a preposition, it tends to be covered by 'de,' though this more accurately translates as 'of,' 'to,' 'from,' 'by,' or 'with.'

8. Bully

The Portuguese don't have a single word that translates as 'bully,' though they do have some fantastic words that we don't have a direct equivalent for in English ('tez' meaning 'the skin of your face' is a great example). There are also some English words that, while they do translate into Portuguese, lose much of their definition in the process. 'Pasta' becomes 'massa' in Portuguese. 'Pastry' also becomes 'massa.' 'Dough,' 'batter' and 'cake mix,' meanwhile, all translate to... yes, you guessed it: 'massa.'

9. Fortnight

Interestingly, the word 'fortnight' in English (meaning a period of two weeks) doesn't have a direct equivalent in US English, where it is not commonly used. Though 'biweekly' is used to mean 'fortnightly' in the US, the word 'fortnight' itself doesn't have a 'translation' between the two versions of English.

5. Browse the internet to find names of people/places, etc. in any language that is not familiar to you. Can you pronounce the names correctly? How will you find the correct pronunciation?

Ans. Names of people: The name Xi in Chinese is pronounced as 'she' and the English name 'Sean' is pronounced as 'Shawn'.

Name/es of place/es: The name of a town Muvattupuzhe' in Kerala is not pronounced the way it is written. The last three letters are pronounced as 'Th' with a roll of the tongue. I will get the information from the net or ask people when I want to know the correct pronunciation of names or places.

... English Workshop...

1. Read the remaining part of the original story.

Ans. Do it yourself

2. Make as many 5 to 8 letter words as you can within 5 minutes, from the name.
TESHUMAI TEWINDROW

Five-letter words	Six-letter words	Seven-letter words	Eight-letter words
Drawn, shore, sword	Window, wander, estate	Shutter, smarter, maestro	Estimate, minutest, meditate

3. How do the following characters in the story live up to their names? Provide points from the story.

(a) Tengumai Bopsulai

Ans. The meaning of Tegumal is Man-who-does not-put-his-foot-forward-in-a-hurry. He lived up to his name when he showed patience in mending his spear and did not just rush off home or send Taffy back to get another spear. He also did not ask Taffy too many questions about what she had been doing when he was busy repairing his spear, or about her conversation with the Stranger-man. He was patient and cautious.

(b) Taffimai Metallumai

Ans. The meaning of Taffimal is Small-person without-any-manners-who-ought-to-be-spanked. She lived up to her name in the way in which she ordered the stranger 'Come here', stamped her foot and called him silly. She wanted the stranger to do her bidding and she succeeded in it. She pulled off the shark's tooth from his necklace without his

permission. She would not tell her father what she had done and she wanted him to promise to be surprised. This was a silly thing to do but he did it.

(c) Teshumai Tewindrow

Ans. The meaning of Teshumai is Lady-who-asks very-many-questions. Though she did not ask many questions, she talked and shouted continuously at the poor stranger. She drew wrong conclusions and she spoke continuously to her friends telling them all that she had understood from Taffy's drawing.

4. The story is written in an informal, colloquial style - the way it would be told orally. Find and write the expressions where the author addresses the audience directly in the story - for example, 'but we, O Best Beloved, will...', 'Now attend and listen !'

Ans. Following are the expressions where the author addresses the audience directly in the story:

He did this, Best Beloved, to show that his heart was as white as the birch-bark

...

The Stranger-man-did you know he was a Tewara?

5. Write a character-sketch of the 'Stranger-man' using examples from the story to support the following attributes.

(a) ignorant, innocent and polite

(b) calm and cool

(c) jumps to wrong conclusions

(d) hasty and unwise at times

Ans. The 'Stranger-man' was a very simple and ignorant person. He was so innocent and ignorant that he thought that Tegumai was a great tribal chief merely because he ignored him. He was polite enough to disregard Tegumai's rudeness in ignoring him. He admired every action of Taffy's, drawing his own wrong conclusions from them. He did not even object when Taffy pulled the shark's tooth from his necklace. He again jumped to wrong conclusions when he saw Taffy's drawing, and without even waiting to consult Tegumai he rushed off to do Taffy's bidding. This was very unwise of him, because Taffy's mother drew her own wrong conclusions from the drawing. He was cool, calm and polite when he met Teshumai, even though he was tired, his legs were scratched with brambles and Teshumai was rude to him.

6. Note the punctuation used in the story. Here, single inverted commas or quotation marks have been used to show conversation. Rewrite the following using double quotation marks:

1. 'Here's a pretty kettle of fish!' said Tengumai.

Ans. "Here's a pretty kettle of fish!" said Tengumai.

2. 'It will take me half the day to mend this.'

Ans. "It will take me half the day to mend this."

7. Underline the main clauses in the following sentences :

Ans.

(a) And she was Tegumai Bopsulai's Best Beloved and her own Mummy's Best Beloved, and she was not spanked half as much as was good for her; and they were all three very happy.

(b) One day Tegumai Bopsulai went down through the beaver-swamp to the Wagai river to spear carp-fish for dinner, and Taffy went too.

(c) They were miles and miles from home and Tegumai had forgotten to bring any extra spears.

(d) Just then a Stranger-man came along the river, but he belonged to a far tribe, the Tewaras, and he did not understand one word of Tegumai's language.

8. Imagine Taffy comes to you for help to write a letter of apology, in the modern script we use. She wants to express her regret to the stranger-man for her mother's action. Write that letter of apology (informal) on her behalf.

Ans. Neolithic Cave

Bopsu Forest

Rassamalai

28th July, 2020

Dear Stranger-man Uncle,

I am Taffy, the girl who gave you the drawing on the birch-bark two days back and sent you to my Mummy with it.

When we reached home that day, Mummy told me that you had come with the birch-bark. She also told me what she had understood from my drawing, and how she had treated you. I was really horrified.

Stranger-man Uncle, I am really very sorry for what happened to you. I did not know that Mummy would misunderstand my drawing and beat you up. Please accept my apology. See, I am not spoilt like people say. I am sorry for what happened. I will learn to write properly so that such things do not happen again. From a sorry little girl,
Taffy.

9. Imagine the Stranger-man narrates how the Neolithic ladies overpowered him. Write an account of the same making him the narrator.

Ans. I reached the cave and saw the little girl's mother standing there with some other women. I recognized her immediately, for she looked very much like the little girl. Relieved, I handed over the birch-bark to her. I thought that she would immediately call upon the

other members of the tribe to go to the Chief's help; but she did nothing of the sort. She screamed something to the other ladies, and they immediately pounced on me and flattened me. I was caught completely unawares, and thrown onto the ground. Those heavy and strong ladies sat on my back to prevent me from escaping. The little girl's mother began shouting and pulling my hair. I wonder why they are doing all this, instead of helping their poor Chief?

10. Making suitable groups, convert the entire episode into a short skit and write it down. Each group leader must discuss at first with the others and add a different end to the skit.

(1) Happy ending

(2) Sad ending

(3) Surprise ending

(4) Humorous ending

Ans. (Tegumat Bopsulat accidentally broke his spear while fishing. He had forgotten to bring any extra spears, and mending the broken spear would take him half a day.)

Tegumal Bopsulai: Oh, no! It will take me half a day to mend this!

Taffy: I'll run back to the cave and ask Mummy to give your big black spear.

Tegumal Bopsulai: It's too far, daughter, and you may fall into the beaver-swamp. I'll try to mend this.

(Tegumal settles down to mend the spear. A Stranger-man comes along and Taffy begins to talk to him.)

Taffy: Do you know where my Mummy lives? Oh! I see! You want my Mummy's living address? Well, I can't write, but I can draw pictures if I have something sharp. Please lend me the shark's tooth off your necklace.

(Taffy pulls at the necklace. The Stranger-man was already in awe of Taffy and afraid of her father. He is even more impressed when she pulls at the shark's tooth and comes to no harm, for the sharks' tooth was supposed to be a magic one, which would make the person touching it swell up or burst.)

11. Write a short passage/essay on 'Women Power' in the Neolithic, Medieval and Present Times.

Ans. 'Women Power' in Neolithic, Medieval and Present times

The position of women in society and the power they wield has changed through the ages. During the Neolithic Age, women spent their days gathering berries, roots, nuts, etc. They also gathered materials to make pots and weapons. Women stayed on the home front and looked after the children, but were thought to be equal to men. The men hunted and brought home the food. Later on, with the start of agriculture, women also began to farm and weave cloth.

Medieval society, however, was patriarchal. Women were to fall under male control, and

regardless of class women had to submit to the male head of her household. Rural women had many domestic responsibilities, like caring for the children, preparing food and tending livestock. They also had to lend a hand in other household activities like grinding, brewing and spinning. During harvest time, women often helped their husbands in the field to bring in the crops. However, slowly women were increasingly relegated to low-paying tasks like spinning. They suffered a lot of criticism, lacked freedom and stood nowhere next to men. Today, around the world, women's status in each society and culture varies. In some societies, women's status improved gradually, while in other, it has declined or remained unchanged. This is due to the major changes that have taken place in areas such as legislations, education, employment, awareness of their rights on the part of women, etc. In some societies, women have emerged as major political leaders, statesmen, doctors, lawyers, etc. In some places, she is still subjected to inhuman cruelty, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, etc.

12. Read: 'Just So Stories' and 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling.

Ans. It's an activity for students.