

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi, born on 19 June 1945 in Rangoon, is a pro-democracy activist and leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. She won the Rafto Prize and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1990 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. The Acceptance Speech, given here was delivered on behalf of Aung San Suu Kyi by her son Alexander Aris, on the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, December 10, 1991.



A. Work in small groups and discuss the following:

Suppose you are given the best student award at your school function. What would you speak on the occasion? What points would you include in your speech?

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you here today to accept on behalf of my mother, Aung San Suu Kyi, this greatest of prizes, the Nobel Prize for Peace. Because circumstances do not permit my mother to be here in person, I will do my best to convey the sentiments I believe she would express.

Firstly, I know that she would begin by saying that she accepts the Nobel Prize for Peace not in her own name but in the name of all the people of Burma. She would say that this prize belongs not to her but to all those men, women and children who, even as I speak, continue to sacrifice their well being, their freedom and their lives in pursuit of a democratic Burma. Theirs is the prize and theirs will be the eventual victory in Burma's long struggle for peace, freedom and democracy.

Speaking as her son, however, I would add that I personally believe that by her own dedication and personal sacrifice she has come to be a worthy symbol through whom the plight of all the people of Burma may be recognised. And no one must underestimate that plight. The plight of those in the countryside and towns, living in poverty and destitution, those in prison, battered and tortured; the plight of the young people, the hope of Burma, dying of malaria in the jungles to which they have fled; that of the Buddhist monks, beaten and dishonoured. Nor should we forget the many senior and highly respected leaders besides my mother who are all incarcerated. It is on their behalf that I thank you, from my heart, for this supreme honour. The Burmese people can today hold their heads a little higher in the knowledge that in this far distant land their suffering has been heard and heeded.

B.1.1. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statement:

1. Acceptance speech was delivered on September 10, 1991.
2. On the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Alexander Aris made a speech.
3. Alexander Aris is one of the brothers of Aung San Suu Kyi.
4. Alexander Aris thanked from his heart for this honour.

B.1.2. Answer the following questions very briefly:

1. Why had Alexander Aris accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of his mother?
2. Who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991?
3. Who were incarcerated in the struggle for peace, freedom and democracy?

We must also remember that the lonely struggle taking place in a heavily guarded compound in Rangoon is part of the much larger struggle, worldwide, for the emancipation of the human spirit from political tyranny and psychological subjection. The Prize, I feel sure, is also intended to honour all those engaged in this struggle wherever they may be. It is not without reason that today's events in Oslo fall on the International Human Rights Day, celebrated throughout the world.

Mr. Chairman, the whole international community has applauded the choice of your committee. Just a few days ago, the United Nations passed a unanimous and historic resolution welcoming Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's statement on the significance of this award and endorsing his repeated appeals for my mother's early release from detention.

Let it never be said by future generations that indifference, cynicism or selfishness made us fail to live up to the ideals of humanism which the Nobel Peace Prize encapsulates.

Let the strivings of us all, prove Martin Luther King Jr. to have been correct, when he said that humanity can no longer be tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war.

Let the efforts of us all, prove that he was not a mere dreamer when he spoke of the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace being

more precious than diamonds or silver or gold.

Let a new age dawn!

Thank you.

B.2.1. Complete the following sentences on the basis of the lesson:

1. The prize is also intended engaged in this struggle.
2. Mr. Chairman, the whole international community has applauded the choice of
3. Let a new dawn.

B.2.2. Answer the following questions very briefly:

1. Why has the whole international community applauded Mr. Chairman?
2. What is more precious than diamond or silver or gold?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

majesties (n) : sovereign powers, Maharajas

excellencies (n) : a title of honour, Maharajas

well-being (n) : welfare

pursuit (n) : employment, business

eventual (adj) : final

worthy (adj) : virtuous, valuable

plight (n) : condition

underestimate (v) : to estimate too low

incarcerated (v) : imprisoned

heeded (v) : took notice of

emancipation (n) : liberation. socially, politically and legally free

tyranny (n) : cruel government, cruelty

subjection (n) : control

applaud (v) : to praise

unanimous (adj) : agreeing in opinion

endorse (v) : to confirm, to express formal support for something

detention (n) : check, the state of being kept in prison

indifference (n) : unconcern, lack of interest or concern

cynicism (n) : surliness

encapsulates (v) : to express or show something in a short way

striving (here, noun) : one who makes a great effort to achieve something

C.1. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. “And no one must underestimate that plight”. Which plight is Aris referring to? Explain.
2. Peace, freedom and democracy are essential for human being. Do you agree? Give your own opinion.
3. The Nobel Peace Prize belongs not only to Aung San Suu Kyi but also to all men, women and children of Burma. Why does Aris say so?
4. “The beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more precious than diamond or silver or gold.” Why does Aris claim so? Do you agree with him?

C.2. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The survival of the human society depends on the peace and harmony in the society.
2. The greatest service to the society is to establish peace and harmony.

C.3. COMPOSITION

You are Vinay. You are the secretary of the cultural society of your school. You want to organise an award giving function in your school.

Write a letter to the Mukhiya of your Panchayat or the Chairman of your Zila Parishad inviting him to attend the function.

D. WORD STUDY**D.1. Dictionary Use**

Ex.1. Correct the spelling of the following words:

circumstanse

permitt

destitution

strugglle

secretory

selfisness

gennune

precius

tyrranny

Ex.2. Find out the words from the lesson which have the following meanings:

act of dedication

extreme bodily pain

society

freedom

to put one within the other to set free

Ex. 3. Match the words given in Column 'A' with their meanings given in Column 'B'

A

B

(a) detention

(i) isolated

(b) plight

(ii) cause

(c) tyranny

(iii) valuable

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| (d) worthy | (iv) delay |
| (e) lonely | (v) condition |
| (f) reason | (vi) cruelty |

D.2. Word Formation

great	greatest
personal	personally
nation	national
child	childhood, children

We see the suffixes '- est', '- ly', '-al', '-hood', '-en' are added to make new words. Add suitable suffixes to the words given below and make new words.

heavy	high	bright	love
clear	selfish	brother	hard
bold	slow	humble	music

E. GRAMMAR

(Subject verb Agreement)

Look at the following sentences:

- (1) *Circumstances do not permit my mother to be here in person.*
- (2) *Children continue to sacrifice their well being.*

In sentences given above “**Circumstances** and **Children**” are used as subjects. Both are plural. So, verbs are plural there:

Note: A verb must agree with its subject in number and person. Singular subject takes singular verb. Plural subject takes plural verb. Now study the sentences given below:

- (i) The colour of these houses **is** white.

- (ii) Oil and water **do** not mix.
 (iii) Nothing but water **is** seen.

	Subject	-	Verb
(i)	colour	-	is
(ii)	oil and water	-	do
(iii)	nothing	-	is

Some important rules:

- (i) Two or more singular nouns or pronouns joined by 'and' require a plural verb;

He and I **were** playing there.

Are your brother and sister at home?

- (ii) If the nouns suggest one idea to the mind or refer to the same person or thing, the Verb is singular.

Bread and butter **is** the basic need of the human beings.

The poet and singer **is** on the stage.

Two and two **makes** four.

- (iii) Words joined to a singular subject by with, as well as, together with etc. are parenthetical. The Verb should, therefore, be put in the singular: The teacher with all the students **has** gone.

English as well as Hindi **is** taught here.

- (iv) Two or more singular subjects connected by 'either ...or' or 'or' require singular Verb.

Ravi or Vinayak **does** not know how to swim.

Either the tiger or the bear **has** not been seen there.

- (v) When two subjects are joined by 'either.....or' or 'neithernor' the Verb agrees with the subject near to it

Either he or I **am** to do it.

Neither you nor he **is** to blame.

- (vi) Either, neither, each, everyone, many a, take a singular Verb.

Neither of my friends **is** guilty.

Each boy and each girl **sings** well.

- (vii) 'A number of' takes a plural verb but 'the number of' takes a singular verb.

A number of students **are** in the hall. The number of students **is** eighty.

- (viii) Some nouns which are singular in form but plural in meaning take a plural verb. The cattle **are** grazing.

- (ix) Some nouns which are plural in form, but singular in meaning, take a singular Verb:

The news **is** good.

Politics **is** harmful.

- (x) When a plural noun denotes some specific quantity or amount considered as a whole, the Verb is singular.

Three fourth of the work **has** been done.

Sixty miles **is** a long distance.

- (xi) A collective noun takes a singular Verb when the collection is thought of as one whole, but it takes a plural verb when the individuals of which it is composed are thought of:

The committee **has** issued its report.

The committee **are** divided on this point.

- (xii) A team of, a set of, a bunch of, a flock of, a pair of etc. take singular Verb.

A team of players **has** come.

A set of books **has** been sold.

- (xiii) Nothing but/everything but takes singular verb.

Nothing but car **is** sold here.

- (xiv) If the rich, the poor, the blind, the honest, the dumb (the + Adjective) etc. are used as the subject, they take plural verb.

The rich **are** happy.

The poor **are** generally honest.

- (xv) One third of, half of etc. + uncountable noun takes a singular verb but one third of, half of etc. + plural countable nouns take plural verb:

One third of milk **is** to be sold.

One third of students **have** passed.

Ex.4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of verbs given in the brackets:

- (i) Truth and honesty the best policy (is / are)
- (ii) Pooja, Rani and Mona good friends (is / are)
- (iii) Smoking and drinking injurious to health (is / are)
- (iv) Each of the boys given a book (have been / has been)
- (v) A committeebeen appointed to study the situation (has / have)

- (vi) The jury divided in their opinions (is / are)
 (vii) Measles a serious disease (is /are)
 (viii) Seventy rupees enough for this work (is / are)
 (ix) A bunch of keys been lost (has / have)
 (x) The rest of the books published (was / were)

F. ACTIVITY

1. Do a project work on the Nobel prize. Mention the fields for which the Nobel prizes are given. Include the Nobel prize winners from Asia.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. दो और दो चार होता है।
2. मेरे शिक्षक ने कहा कि ईमानदारी सब से अच्छी नीति है।
3. सच्चाई एवं ईमानदारी कभी परास्त नहीं होती।
4. सूर्य अभी पूरब में उग रहा है।
5. पेड़ों के अलावा वहाँ कुछ भी दिखायी नहीं देता है।
6. सूरज के डूबने के पहले मैं घर आ जाऊँगा।
7. बेईमान कभी भी उदार नहीं होते।
8. टहलना एवं हँसना स्वास्थ्य के लिए लाभदायक है।
9. डाक्टर ने धूम्रपान मना किया।
10. क्या पृथ्वी सूर्य का चक्कर लगाती है ?
