

Thinking about the Text

Given in the box are some headings. Find the relevant paragraphs in the text to match the headings.

An Orphaned Cub;

Bruno's Food-chart;

An Accidental Case of Poisoning;

Playful Baba; Pain of Separation;

Joy of Reunion;

A Request to the Zoo;

An Island in the courtyard

Answer: An Orphaned Cub – para 3

Bruno's Food-chart – para 6

An Accidental Case of Poisoning – para 8

Playful Baba – para 12

Pain of Separation – para 14

Joy of Reunion – para 16

A Request to the Zoo – para 18

An Island in the Courtyard – para 21

II. Answer the following questions.

1. "I got him for her by accident."

(i) Who says this?

(ii) Who do 'him' and 'her' refer to?

(iii) What is the incident referred to here?

Answer: (i) Narrator said this.

(ii) Here, 'him' refers to the sloth bear and 'her' refers to the narrator's wife.

(iii) About two years ago the narrator and his companions were passing through the sugarcane fields near Mysore. Suddenly, they saw a black sloth bear. One of the narrator's companions shot it on the spot. As they saw the fallen animal, they were surprised to see that the black fur on its back moved. Then they saw that it was a baby bear that had been riding on its mother's back. The narrator ran up to it and attempted to capture it. He finally succeeded in grabbing it and gifted it to his wife. This incident is referred to in the above statement

2. "He stood on his head in delight."

(i) Who does 'he' refer to?

(ii) Why was he delighted?

Answer: (i) 'He' refers to the bear, Bruno.

(ii) Bruno was delighted to see the narrator's wife after three months of separation.

3. "We all missed him greatly: but in a sense we were relieved."

(i) Who does 'we all' stand for?

(ii) Who did they miss?

(iii) Why did they nevertheless feel relieved?

Answer: (i) 'We all' stands for the narrator, his wife and his son.

(ii) They missed Bruno (Baba).

(iii) They felt relieved because Baba was getting too big to be kept at home. That is why they had sent him off to a zoo.

III. Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words each.

1. On two occasions Bruno ate/drank something that should not be eaten /drunk. What happened to him on these occasions?

Answer: Bruno ate some poison-barium carbonate. He also vomited and breathed heavily, but was later cured. In another incident, he drank nearly a gallon of old engine oil. Fortunately, he remained unaffected. The rats, which paralysed and weakened him.

2. Was Bruno a loving and playful pet? Why, then, did he have to be sent away?

Answer: Yes, Bruno was a loving and playful pet. Everybody in the family was attached to it, especially the narrator's wife. It had to be sent away to a zoo because it was getting too big to be kept at home.

3. How was the problem of what to do with Bruno finally solved?

Answer: Bruno was not happy at the zoo. Seeing its condition and its happiness at seeing the narrator's wife, Bruno was allowed to go back to Bangalore. There, an island was made for the bear, keeping all its needs in mind.

Thinking about Language

I. 1. Find these words in the lesson. They all have *ie* or *ei* in them.

f__ld	ingred__nts	h__ght	misch__vous
fr__nds	__ghty-seven	rel__ved	p__ce

Answer:

field	ingredients	height	mischievous
friends	eighty-seven	relieved	piece

2. Now here are some more words. Complete them with *ei* or *ie*. Consult a dictionary if necessary.

bel__ve	rec__ve	w__rd	l__sure	s__ze
w__ght	r__gn	f__gn	gr__f	p__rce

(There is a popular rule of spelling: 'i' before 'e' except after 'c'. Check if this rule is true by looking at the words above.)

Answer:

believe	receive	weird	leisure	seize
weight	reign	feign	grief	pierce

II. Here are some words with silent letters. Learn their spelling. Your teacher will dictate these words to you. Write them down and underline the silent letters.

knock	wrestle	walk	wrong
knee	half	honest	daughter
hours	return	hornet	calm
could	sign	island	button

Answer:

Knock	Wrestle	Walk	Wrong
Knee	Half	Honest	Daughter
Hours	Return	Hornet	Calm
Could	Sign	Island	Button

IV. 1. The Narrative Present

Notice the incomplete sentences in the following paragraphs. Here the writer is using incomplete sentences in the narration to make the incident more dramatic or immediate. Can you rewrite the paragraph in complete sentences?

(You can begin: The vet and I made a dash back to the car. Bruno was still floundering...)

(i) A dash back to car. Bruno still floundering about on his stumps, but clearly weakening rapidly; some vomiting, heavy breathing, with heaving flanks and gaping mouth.

Hold him everybody! In goes the hypodermic – Bruno squeals – 10 c.c. of the antidote enters his system without a drop being wasted. Then minutes later: condition unchanged! Another 10 c.c. injected! Ten minutes later: breathing less stertorous – Bruno can move his arms and legs a little although he cannot stand yet. Thirty minutes later: Bruno gets up and has a great feed! He looks at us disdainfully, as much as to say, 'What's barium carbonate to a big black bear like me?' Bruno is still eating.

(ii) In the paragraphs above from the story the verbs are in the present tense (eg. hold, goes, etc.). This gives the reader an impression of immediacy. The present tense is often used when we give a commentary on a game (cricket, football, etc.), or tell a story as if it is happening now. It is, therefore, called the narrative present.

You will read more about the present tense in Unit 10

Answer: (i) The vet and I made a dash back to the car. Bruno was still floundering about on his stumps, but clearly he was weakening rapidly. There was some vomiting and heavy breathing. His flanks were heaving and his mouth was gaping.

Everybody was asked to hold him. The hypodermic medicine went into Bruno, who squealed. 10 c.c. of anecdote entered his system without a drop being wasted. Even ten minutes later, the condition was unchanged. Another 10 c.c. was injected into him. Ten minutes later, his breathing became less stertorous. Bruno could move his arms and legs a little although he could not stand yet. Thirty minutes later, Bruno got up and had a great feed. He looked at us disdainfully, as much as to say, 'What's barium carbonate to a big black bear like me?' Bruno was still eating.

2. Adverbs

Find the adverbs in the passage below. (You've read about adverbs in Unit 1.)

We thought that everything was over when suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun. Now I will not shoot a sloth-bear wantonly but, unfortunately for the poor beast, one of my companions did not feel that way about it, and promptly shot the bear on the spot.

(i) Complete the following sentences, using a suitable adverb ending in -ly.

(a) Rana does her homework ____.

(b) It rains ____ in Mumbai in June.

(c) He does his work ____.

(d) The dog serves his master ____.

(ii) Choose the most suitable adverbs or adverbial phrases and complete the following sentences.

(a) We should ____ get down from a moving train. (never, sometimes, often)

(b) I was ____ in need of support after my poor performance. (badly, occasionally, sometimes).

(c) Rita met with an accident. The doctor examined her _____. (suddenly, seriously, immediately)

Answer: We thought that everything was over when suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun. Now I will not shoot a sloth-bear want only but, unfortunately for the poor beast, one of my companions did not feel that way about it, and promptly shot the bear on the spot.

(i) (a) Rana does her homework timely.

(b) It rains heavily in Mumbai in June.

(c) He does his work properly.

(d) The dog serves his master faithfully.

(ii) (a) We should never get down from a moving train.

(b) I was badly in need of support after my poor performance.

(c) Rita met with an accident. The doctor examined her immediately.

3. Take down the following scrambled version of a story, that your teacher will dictate to you, with appropriate punctuation marks. Then, read the scrambled story carefully and try to rewrite it rearranging the incidents.

A grasshopper, who was very hungry, saw her and said, "When did you get the corn? I am dying of hunger." She wanted to dry them. It was a cold winter's day, and an ant was bringing out some grains of corn from her home. She had gathered the corn in summer.

"I was singing all day," answered the grasshopper.

"If you sang all summer," said the ant, "you can dance all winter."

"What were you doing?" asked the ant again.

The grasshopper replied, "I was too busy."

"I collected it in summer," said the ant. "What were you doing in summer? Why did you not store some corn?"

Answer: It was a cold winter's day, and an ant was bringing out some grains of corn from her home. She had gathered the corn in summer. She wanted to dry them. A grasshopper, who was very hungry, saw her and said, "When did you get the corn? I am dying of hunger." "I collected it in summer," said the ant. "What were you doing in summer? Why did you not

store some corn?" The grasshopper replied, "I was too busy." "What were you doing?" asked the ant again. "I was singing all day," answered the grasshopper. "If you sang all summer," said the ant, "you can dance all winter."