

LESSON 22

Family conversations

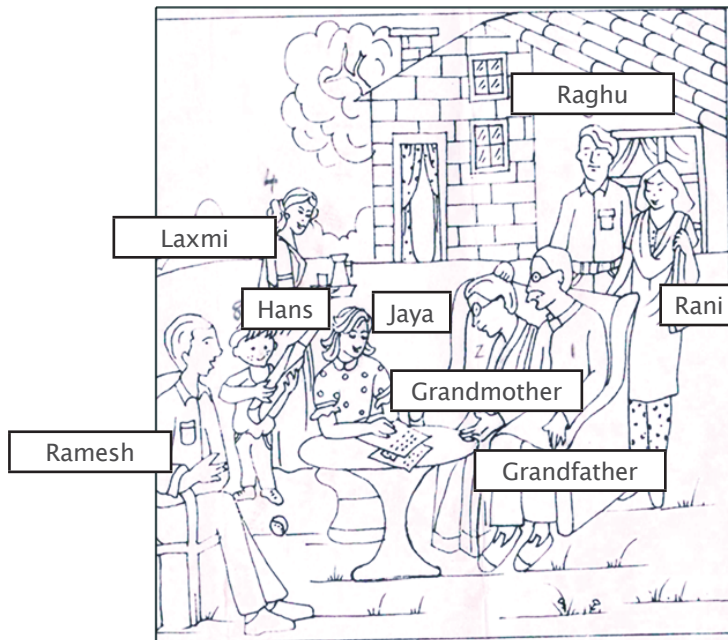
(i) A family get together

- Grandfather : What a nice family get-together!
- Ramesh (elder son) : It's so nice to have Raghu, his wife Rani, and our nephew Hans here today.
- Grandmother : It's the best way to celebrate Holi.
- Laxmi (*Ramesh's wife*) : What fun! Look Hans is happy with his new cricket bat.
- Jaya (*Ramesh and Laxmi's daughter*) : Come Hans, let's play cricket with your new bat.
- Hans (*Raghu and Rani's son*) : Thank you didi, I'd love to play with you!
- Raghu (*younger son*) : Jaya looks happy to have her cousin, Hans here.
- Grandmother : Wait children! Haven't you forgotten something?
- Raghu : What have we forgotten?
- Grandmother : It's your niece Jaya's birthday today.
- Rani (*Raghu's wife*) : Oh yes! It's the 19th of March. How old are you today Jaya?
- Jaya : I am twelve years old today.
- Everyone : Happy birthday Jaya. God bless you.
- Ramesh : Where is the cake Laxmi?
- Laxmi : Just a minute. Let me bring it.
- Hans : May I please put the candles on the cake?
- Laxmi : Of course you may. Now Jaya, blow out the candles.
- Rani : Jaya, cut the cake and give grandmother and grandfather a piece first.
- Grandmother : Let's have a family photograph

1. Grandfather 2. Grandmother

3. Ramesh (elder son) 4. Laxmi (wife of elder son) 5. Jaya (daughter)

6. Raghu (younger son) 7. Rani (wife of younger son) 8. Hans (son)



Word

1. get-together
2. nephew
3. niece
4. cousin

Meaning

- meeting/gathering
- the son of ones brother or sister
- the daughter of one's brother or sister
- a child of your aunt or uncle

Exercise

In the sentences given below, fill in the blanks with the words given in the table.

grandparents	cousins	nephew	niece	father-in-law
mother-in-law	younger brother	sister-in-law	parents	elder brother

1. Senior Mr. and Mrs. Menon are the _____ of Hans and Jaya.
2. Senior Mr. and Mrs. Menon are the _____ of Raghu and Ramesh.
3. Senior Mr. and Mrs. Menon are the _____-in-_____ and _____-in-_____ of Rani and Laxmi.
4. Jaya and Hans are _____.

5. Jaya is Raghu's _____.
6. Hans is Ramesh's _____.
7. Raghu is Ramesh's _____.
8. Rani is Ramesh's and Laxmi's _____-in-_____.
9. Ramesh is Raghu's _____.

Answers

1. grandparents 2. parents 3. father-in-law and mother-in-law 4. cousins
5. niece 6. nephew 7. younger brother 8. sister-in-law 9. elder brother

(ii) Cleaning the house

- Mother : Thank God for Sundays!
- Daughter : Mummy, today I can help you with the cleaning of the house.
- Father: I'll wash the car and do a bit of gardening, too.
- Son : I also want to help. I'll separate the wet garbage from the plastics and put the wet garbage into the compost pit.
- Mother : (to the daughter) Sita, get all the dirty clothes and woollens. You can hand wash the woollens and put the heavy clothes into the washing machine.
- Daughter : I must remember to clean my closet and dust my room.
- Father: Son, will you remove the cobwebs?
- Son : Yes Dad. I'll do that as soon as I've cleared the garbage.
- Mother : I'm off to the kitchen. It needs a very thorough cleaning.
- Father : It needs to be organized as well. Yesterday I spent about ten minutes looking for a can-opener, and couldn't find one!

Word

1. separate
2. compost pit
3. hand wash
4. closet
5. cobwebs

Meaning

- to keep apart, to put aside
- a deep hole in the ground to make manure
- washed by hand
- a small cupboard
- fine network of threads made by a spider

(iii) Tending to the garden

- Mother : Our garden is in a real mess. It looks so neglected.
- Father : Yes, it does. If you all help, we can tidy it up in a couple of hours. Where should we begin?
- Son : Let's begin with the hedge. Give me the shears. I'll trim it neatly.
- Father : Alright, then I'll rake up the dead leaves and put them in a wheel barrow.
- Son : I'll dig a compost pit. Mummy, there's a hoe on the ground near you, please pass it to me. It's got a loose handle but I'll just have to manage.
- Daughter : I want to do something. Can I prepare the flower beds and mow the lawn?
- Father : Leave the mowing to me. It's a heavy job. I'll get the lawn mower.
- Son : With what do I cut these thick stems?
- Mother : Here you are. Take the secateurs.
- Father : Well done! I think we've got a lot done in such a short time. The garden already looks neater!

Word

1. neglected
2. shears
3. hoe
4. lawn mower
5. secateurs

Meaning

- uncared for
- clipping or cutting tool
- long-handled tool with a blade
- a machine with revolving cutters for trimming lawns
- a pair of strong scissors for cutting stems and small branches

See Appendix 7 – Pictures of garden tools



(iv) Helping in the kitchen

- Mother : Rina, I want some help today.
- Rina : Are we having visitors?
- Mother : Papa has invited some colleagues for dinner.
- Rina : Oh! What do you want me to do?
- Mother : Your regular chores.
- Rina : Alright, I know. I have to knead the dough, wash and chop the vegetables and lay the table in the evening .

Mother : Rina, take out the blue plates and the napkins that go with them. The cutlery has to be taken out too.

Rina : Is that all?

Mother : Thank you Rina. I really don't know what I'd do without your help. Now let me get into the kitchen and start cooking. I'm making a special dessert.

Rina : Is it *kheer*?

Mother : Yes, it is.

Rina : Good!

Word

1. colleague
2. chores
3. knead
4. dough
5. cutlery
6. dessert

Meaning

- person with whom one works.
- tasks, responsibilities.
- press with the hands to form a paste.
- thick mixture of flour, water, etc.
- knives, forks and spoons for eating and serving food.
- pudding, sweet dish.

(v) Sharing the day's experiences

Ravi : Good to have you back early today, Dad.

Father : Yes, it feels good . What about your presentation, Ravi?

Ravi : It was pretty good. The examiner asked me a few tricky questions towards the end of the presentation but I managed alright.

Mother : How was your day at the office?

Father : Oh ! I had a very busy day. The boss was on leave so I had to take care of his work too.

Rina : I had the most fantastic day in school. Two of our teachers were absent. So another teacher made us play games which we enjoyed.

Father : Neena , did you go shopping with your sister?

Mother : No, she called to say she was unwell. So we postponed our shopping trip till tomorrow.

Father : Then it must have been a relaxed day for you?

Mother : Yes, I watched TV and also got time to catch up with my reading. I did a lot of cooking too.

Ravi : So we can look forward to an exotic meal!

Word

1. tricky
2. postponed
3. exotic

Meaning

- problematic, difficult, complicated
- to arrange for an event to take place at a later time or date
- out of the ordinary

(vi) At the dining table

- Rohit : Mother, I'm hungry. Can we have dinner please?
Mother : Dinner's ready. Rohit, please lay the table.
Rohit : Alright, I'll do that.
Mother : Remember to put a plate for each person, two bowls, a spoon and a glass. Also take out three serving spoons. Now call Kajal and papa to the table.
Kajal : The food smells delicious!
Rohit : My favourite peas and potato curry.
Father : Serve yourselves and pass the dishes around.

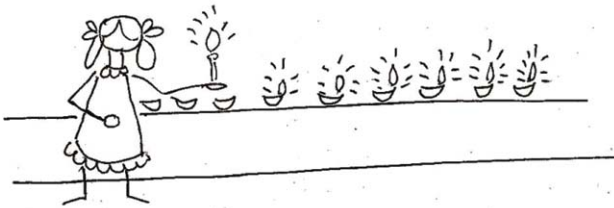
Word

1. bowls

Meaning

deep, round hollow dishes.

(vii) Preparations for Diwali



- Rina : Mom, when is Diwali? I have to get some clothes stitched.
Mother : You should have given them to the tailor much earlier. Diwali is just two days away.
Rina : Don't worry mother, I'll wear the kurta I got stitched on my birthday.
Mother : Forget about clothes, let us have a nice clean house before Diwali. There's so much to do and such little time.
Rina : Don't panic, there's enough time. First tell me what you need from the market. I'm going shopping with Ragini.
Mother : Pick up some candles, *diyas*, puffed rice and sweets. Don't spend too much money on crackers. It's like burning money. Also ask Bablu what he wants otherwise he'll create a big scene.
Bablu : Are you talking about me?
Mother : Give Didi your list of crackers. She's going to the market.
Bablu : Can I come with you?
Rina : I don't think so. I'm going with my friend.

Bablu : Here's my list of crackers. Don't forget the bombs and the sparklers.
 Rina : Do you need anything from the market for the *puja*?
 Mother : Don't worry. Papa will take care of that.
 Rina : If you feel you've forgotten something then call me on the mobile.
 I'll be back in about two hours. Bye.

Word	Meaning
1. panic	to get alarmed
2. create	to make something happen or exist

(viii) Coming back after games

Mother : Rohit, what have you done to yourself? Look at those soiled clothes!
 Rohit : The football field was extremely wet and slushy. Besides, I had a fall. I just could not help it.
 Mother : I hope there are no broken bones!
 Rohit : No.
 Mother : Head straight for the bathroom.
 Rohit : Could I please have a drink first? I'm very, very thirsty.
 Mother : Come on, just a little effort. It won't take long to wash up. Do that and I'll get your drink ready in the mean time.
 Rohit : All right, ma. I'll do that.

Word/Phrase	Meaning
1. soiled	dirty, stained
2. wet and slushy	full of mud and water
3. head straight for	go immediately
4. in the mean time	the period of time between two event