

LESSON 38

Miscellaneous

(i) Likes and dislikes

(In a shop)

- Wife : Listen, I was thinking of buying some new bed-sheets for the home.
Husband : Yes, we can certainly do with some.
Wife : Perhaps we could buy this pair? I like floral patterns.
Husband : I prefer this one with the geometric design. I think it looks smart.
Wife : I suppose you are right. Geometric design in lighter shades, will be nice for the summer.
Husband : Personally I prefer darker shades, but we'll settle for this lighter one.
Wife : I am glad we found something that we both like.
Husband : Please pack both these sets and get the bill made. Thank you.

Word/Phrase

Meaning

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. floral | decorated with pictures of flowers |
| 2. geometric | of or like the lines, figures used in geometry |
| 3. personally | in my opinion |
| 4. settle for | decide on |

(ii) Water - The Elixir of Life

(A classroom scene)

- Sita : Ms Kaul, I read in today's newspaper that 22nd of March is World Water Day. What is the importance of this day?
Ms. Kaul : Sita, did you read the important line that followed? "Pearls don't sustain life. Drops of water do". This sentence itself answers your question. It's a day to draw our attention to Water. Water you know is the elixir of life.
Gita : But I have read that 71% of the earth's surface is covered with water.
Ms. Kaul : You're right. But only 3 % of this water is non-saline. And all of this 3% is not potable.
Sita : Madam, but what is potable water?
Ms. Kaul : Potable water is water which is fit for human consumption.
Sita : These figures are eye-openers and we human beings are handling this precious gift so carelessly.
Ms. Kaul : Yes, you're absolutely right. We are not only polluting but are wasting water every second.

- Gita : Thank you madam. You have really made us aware of the importance of water. We promise to be careful in future. We will try and conserve every drop.
- Sita : Now we know why 22nd March is so important.

Word	Meaning
1. elixir	magic drink that is believed to cure illness or make people live forever
2. sustain	support
3. potable	drinkable
4. consumption	intake, use
5. eye-opener	making known
6. human being	man
7. precious	valuable
8. polluting	dirtying, contaminating
9. conserve	save

(iii) Plastics - A bane

- Customer : I'd like a loaf of bread, please.
- Shopkeeper : Certainly, sir. Would you like a plastic bag to put it in?
- Customer : No, thank you. I have brought my own basket.
- Shopkeeper : We do appreciate customers who help us in reducing the use of plastic bags.
- Customer : People are encouraged to reuse bags in most shops now. The world is slowly waking up to the ill effects of plastic on our environment.
- Shopkeeper : You are right, sir. The new code now is the three R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. I wish we had more customers like you.

Word	Meaning
1. appreciate	value, welcome
2. waking up	realising, getting interested in
3. environment	our surroundings– for example, land, air and water, in which we live

(iv) A visit to a library

- Librarian : Good morning. What can I do for you?
- Student : I am a student of the Social Sciences Department. I am looking for some resource material for a project. I need your guidance.

Librarian : Your card please. Have you made your entry?



Student : Yes, madam. Here is my card. Where can I find this reference material?

Librarian : We have a library catalogue, manual catalogue cabinets as well as computer terminals to help you locate your material. We even have a Technical Services Librarian to assist you.

Student : Can I get material issued?

Librarian : No, that won't be possible because reference material cannot be taken out of the library. You can read it here or request a photocopy. The Reference Services Librarian can help you.

Student : Thank you very much for your help.

Librarian : You're welcome.

Word

Meaning

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. resource | reference material |
| 2. reference | direction to page, a book |
| 3. library | collection of books |
| 4. catalogue | a book containing a list of items |
| 5. cabinet | a cupboard for storing |
| 6. librarian | in-charge of a library |
| 7. issued | given or made available |

(v) A visit to a barber

Barber : Hello Ram, I am seeing you after a long time.

Ram : Yes, the length of my hair tells how long it's been. I surely need a hair cut.

Barber : Have a seat and tell me how you would like it cut.

Ram : Well I would like to grow my hair, long enough, for a pony tail, but my father just won't agree!

Barber : The choice is yours. I could even shave your head, if you choose. It's the in thing these days.

Ram : Certainly not. Give me a short trendy hair-cut. Let me make my family happy.

Barber : OK. Then I will give you a crew cut.

Ram : Done!

(vi) Traffic chaos

- Sahil : Sorry I'm late for office. The traffic was chaotic today.
- Office Asst. : That's because they started the work on the new Metro yesterday.
- Sahil : Yes, and by tomorrow things are going to get much worse. You know they are sealing off a portion of the road?
- Office Asst. : In that case they will have to divert the traffic.
- Sahil : Yes, they will have to do that. Now commuting to office is going to take much longer for the next couple of years.
- Office Asst. : I am also told that work will be in full swing by next week. The pavement shops will be moved to another area in the next fortnight.
- Sahil : That will make shopping more difficult.
- Office Asst. : It will, but this is a small price for a new metro!

Word/phrase

Meaning

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. chaotic | great disorder |
| 2. sealing off | closing off |
| 3. divert | to change the route |
| 4. commuting | to travel regularly by bus, train etc., to your place of work and back |
| 5. in full swing | working at full speed |
| 6. fortnight | a period of two weeks |

(vii) A businessman's busy schedule

- Mr. Singh : You're really a busy man. How do you keep up with this schedule?
- Mr. Raju : One just has to keep going! Today, the 7th of May I'm with you in Delhi.
- Mr. Singh : And yesterday?
- Mr. Raju : Yesterday and the day before yesterday, that is on the 5th and 6th of May I was in Mumbai.
- Mr. Singh : Why don't you give yourself a break? Relax in Delhi for a day.
- Mr. Raju : Impossible! Tomorrow and the day after, that is, on the 7th and 8th of May, there are important meetings in Mumbai again. I'll have to fly back.
- Mr. Singh : Thank goodness for the weekend! You can take it easy on Sunday.
- Mr. Raju : I'm looking forward to it. It will give me time to relax.

Word

Meaning

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. schedule | agenda, plan, programme |
| 2. weekend | Saturday, Sunday |

(viii) Two friends talking about a film

- Sita : Where were you last evening? I tried to call you.
Geeta : I went to see a film. It was an excellent film and very moving.
Seeta : What was it about?
Geeta : It was about a ten year old dyslexic child who was given up as a hopeless case both at home and school.
Sita : That's interesting. Then what happens?
Geeta : A dedicated teacher takes up this child as a challenge and works wonders with him.
Sita : What does the teacher do?
Geeta : With love, patience and perseverance he develops the latent artistic skills in the child.
Sita : And the film ends on a happy note?
Geeta : Yes, the once depressed, hopeless child turns out to be a budding artist. He sees a ray of hope in his life. He has a reason to live.

Word

Meaning

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. dyslexic | person having mental difficulty in reading and writing |
| 2. dedicated | devoted to a cause |
| 3. patience | having the quality of putting up with difficulties and hardships in a calm and quiet manner |
| 4. perseverance | the quality of not giving up, continue steadfastly |
| 5. latent | existing but undeveloped |
| 6. budding | beginning to develop |

(ix) Opening a bank account

- Client : Good morning, sir. May I come in?
Bank manager : Good morning. Yes please do. Can I help you?
Client : I would like to open a savings account in your bank. What is the procedure?
Bank manger : Would you like to open an account in a single name or in joint names?
Client : I would like to open a joint account with my father.
Bank manager : In that case both of you have to submit identification papers and a set of two photographs each.
Client : Would it be alright if I brought a photocopy of my driving licence?
Bank manager : Yes that would be fine. In fact, photocopies of your voter's card electricity bill, or pan card are accepted.
Client : Is that all that is required?
Bank manager : Just one more requirement, we need an introduction by an account holder of our bank.

Client : Fine I'll get that. Just two more clarifications, please. What is the minimum bank balance needed for opening the account and what is the interest rate on a savings account?

Bank manager : The minimum balance is ₹ 500 and we are offering an interest rate of 3.5% on the savings account these days.

Client : I'll be back with the identification papers, the photographs, the letter of introduction and the money.

Bank manager : Yes, on opening an account with us we will give you a cheque book for withdrawals and a pass book for keeping an account. Both you and your father can operate the account

Client : Thank you for all the help.

Bank manager : A friendly and prompt customer service is our motto.

Word

Meaning

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. procedure | the correct way of doing something |
| 2. joint account | a bank account in the name of more than one person |
| 3. identification | the process of showing who somebody is |
| 4. accept | to take or receive something |
| 5. required | needed |
| 6. clarification | to make clear or easy to understand |
| 7. client | a person who uses the services of an organisation |
| 8. withdraw | to take out |

(x) Global warming



Two students cycling to school...

Ravi : Look at that ugly garbage dump in our Heritage City, Agra.

Sumit : Just put a match stick to it! It will be over in two minutes.

Ravi : Easier said than done, Sumit. The garbage has so much plastic material in it and burning plastic can be tragic for the atmosphere.

Sumit : How?

Ravi : It will only add more toxic gases to the atmosphere and speed up global warming.

Sumit : Well, what is the solution?

Ravi : Most of the garbage is just waste food, vegetable peels, scrap paper, bits of cloth etc., that can be put into compost pits to become manure.

Sumit : So the problem is with the plastic material in the garbage heaps.

Ravi : Yes, it must be stored separately and sent for recycling. That is one of the solutions.

Sumit : I have so many queries. Let's talk to our environment expert, Ms. Kaul tomorrow about this burning issue.

Global Warming

Classroom Scene

Sumit and Ravi: Good morning, Ms. Kaul!

Ms. Kaul : Good morning, boys!

Ravi : Sumit and I had some queries about global warming.

Sumit : What exactly is global warming?

Ms. Kaul : Global warming means the average increase in the earth's temperature. This happens mainly because of the alarming rise in the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

Ravi : So, what are the adverse effects of this rise in carbon dioxide and temperature?

Ms. Kaul : Even one degree centigrade can cause serious damage to plants, wildlife and humans on our planet.

Sumit : What exactly will happen?

Ms. Kaul : There will be glacial meltdown and sea-levels will rise, which will lead to changes in the climate and rainfall patterns.

Ravi : What about us in India?

Ms. Kaul : Well, environmentalists are putting their heads together to work out solutions, but it is a difficult task requiring the co-operation of all the nations of the world.

Sumit : Do you mean that they will not co-operate?

Ms. Kaul : Cutting down carbon dioxide emissions is a major task and not easy to control.

Ravi : What can we do at our end to stop the world from becoming uninhabitable?

Ms. Kaul : Start working on projects like:
Cleaner Earth, Greener Earth!
Say No to plastics!
Say No to cars! Walk and cycle to save the Earth!

Word/Phrase

1. garbage
2. it will be over
3. easier said than done

Meaning

- waste material
- it will finish
- not a simple task

4. compost pits	pits where vegetable waste is kept to decompose into manure
5. recycle	reuse
6. burning issue	very urgent problem
7. drought	shortage of water
8. putting their heads together	working together to solve a problem
9. uninhabitable	not fit to live in

(xi) Interviews

Interview 1

- Interviewer : Are you Ravi?
- Ravi : Yes Sir. I'm Ravi Prasad.
- Interviewer : Do come in. Have a seat please.
- Ravi: : Thank you, Sir.
- Interviewer : Ravi, tell me about yourself. Your family background, educational qualifications (achievements in your college life) and any other thing you would like to mention.
- Ravi : Sir, my father is a teacher in the Allahabad University. He is the Head of the Department there. I have two brothers. I have just completed my Masters degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Human Resources.

Interview 2

- Vikram : Sir, may I come in?
- Interviewer : Come in Vikram. Sit down.
- Vikram : Thank You Sir.
- Interviewer : Now tell me, why you applied for the post.
- Vikram : Sir, Sri Ram Fibers is a renowned firm and I was keen to get into the corporate world. The post of Junior Engineer in this firm was something that I could take up as I have the qualification and experience required for this job.
- Interviewer : Your résumé here tells me you have done your B. Tech from IIT Delhi. Any other experience that you would like to mention.
- Vikram : Sir, I had the opportunity for a Summer Internship with Voltas, an established company. I was exposed to the business environment and the daily routine in the corporate world. I experienced meeting clients, designing employee benefit plans. I also observed analysis of market statistics and strategies. I can say that this summer internship has given me a great deal of confidence.

Interview 3

- Interviewer : Why do you think you are the right person for this job?

- Applicant : Sir I am confident that I would fulfill your requirement for this job. I hold a Diploma in engineering with a good academic record. I scored a grade average of 9.01. My knowledge about automobiles is good as I had the opportunity of training in an automobile company for my summer internship. I understand the environment of the workshop floor as I was exposed to it.
- Interviewer : Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself.
- Applicant : Sir I would like to mention that I have the interpersonal skills that are required in any workplace today.
- Interviewer : You mentioned that you have interpersonal skills. Have you faced a conflict with any fellow student or a senior? How did you solve it?
- Applicant : Yes I have faced conflicts from time to time. When working in/with a team there are often differences in the operating procedures. On one occasion the deadline for completion of a major poster presentation project was not met. There were misunderstandings and disagreements. We discussed the matter and I was able to convince them to re-do the poster. This prevented us from getting a poor grade, and in fact, we got a perfect score for our work.

Some Commonly Asked Questions

Why did you apply for this job with New Holland?

1. I had the qualifications and training required for this job. I have completed my degree in and have had the opportunity for Summer Training/ Internship with Eicher Tractors. During my training I observed the process of manufacturing and assembling of tractor components. We studied time and energy saving devices and techniques to improve production.
2. I have the qualifications that are required for the post of Software Designer/ Consultant in your company (Headstrong). I have completed my MBA with aggregate of 88.2 and have had exposure to designing and programming of I.T. related courses. I am quite confident that I will be able to handle this job/ assignment to the satisfaction of the company.

What are your weaknesses?

1. The area in which I think I need to improve is in communicating with people. Although I speak English there are times when I am unable to convey and convince people of what I actually want. To overcome this weakness, I am trying to improve my vocabulary and fluency in speaking English. I listen to the news and read the newspaper regularly. I think this has helped in improving my command over the English language.
2. One other area in which I think I need to improve is the field of Information and Technology. Although I have basic computer skills, I would like to gain more proficiency and knowledge about different Software and their applications. I am attending a special course in this field for the past few months to improve in this area. This would help me to perform better in my work.