

Reading Comprehension

UNIT 15



Objectives

On completion of this unit you'll be able –

- tell what are the different reading techniques
- apply different reading techniques for your understanding
- answer questions on reading comprehension



Overview

Lesson 1 : Introduction : How to Read

Lesson 2 : Passages for Practice

Lesson 3 : More Passages for Practice

Answer Key

Introduction : How to Read

LESSON

1

A



নিচের অনুে"দটি লক্ষ করুন।

Toys are small playthings suitable for amusement. **They** are colourful and attractive. **Toys** are of various kinds. There are **toy** animals and **toy** farmers. There are also **toy** cars, **toy** trains, **toy** ships, and **toy** everything. Children are very fond of **them**. But **toys** can be delightful to grown-up people also. The reason is that colourful **toys** have an artistic beauty which satisfies their aesthetic sense. Painted **toys** have a dream-like reality which is enchanting.



এই অনুে"দটির মূল বিষয়বস্তু কী? একটু খেয়াল করলেই আপনি বলতে পারবেন যে অনুে"দটিতে *toys* মর্মে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। অনুে"দটির প্রায় প্রতিটি বাক্যেই *toys*-এর উল্লেখ আছে অথবা pronouns (যেমন : *they* এবং *them*)-এর মাধ্যমে *toys* কে নির্দেশ করা হয়েছে। এভাবে কোনো paragraph বা অনুে"দ-এ যে বিষয় নিয়ে মূলত আলোচনা করা হয়, তাকে বলা হয় ঐ paragraph বা অনুে"দের **topic**.

এবার আসা যাক paragraph টিতে *toys* মর্মে কী আলোচনা করা হয়েছে সে বিষয়ে। অনুে"দের প্রতিটি বাক্যেই *toys* মর্মে বিভিন্ন কিছু বলা হয়েছে। কিন্তু এদের মধ্যে কি কোনো বাক্যকে আলাদা করা যায় যা সমগ্র অনুে"দ মর্মে ধারণা দেবে? বিষয়টি একটু জটিল মনে হতে পারে। তবে অনুে"দের প্রথম বাক্যটি লক্ষ করুন :

Toys are small playthings suitable for amusement.

এখানে *toys* এর দুটি সমার্থক গুণাবলীর কথা বলা হয়েছে। একটি হে"Q *playthings* এবং অপরটি হে"Q *suitable for amusement*. খেয়াল করলে দেখবেন অনুে"দ-এর অন্যান্য বাক্যে কেন *toys are suitable for amusements* সে বিষয়টিই ব্যাখ্যা করা হয়েছে। সুতরাং অনুে"দের এই প্রথম বাক্যটিকে বলা যায় মূল বাক্য বা **topic sentence**.

আরো লক্ষ করুন যে, topic sentence-এর দুটি অংশ রয়েছে। একটি হে"Q **topic** বা বিষয়বস্তু যেটি সাধারণত বাক্যটির subject বা উদ্দেশ্য এবং অন্যটি হে"Q **assertion** বা topic মর্মে যা বলা হে"Q, যেটি সাধারণত বাক্যটির predicate বা বিধেয়।

যেমন :

Topic sentence : Toys are small playthings suitable for amusement.
Topic : Toys (Subject)
Assertion : are small playthings suitable for amusement.
(Predicate)

সাধারণত প্রতিটি সুসংগঠিত paragraph-এরই কোনো না কোনো topic sentence থাকে। অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রেই paragraph-এর প্রথম বাক্যটি বা শেষ বাক্যটি সাধারণত topic sentence হয়ে

থাকে। তবে মাঝে মাঝে যে এর ব্যতিক্রম ঘটে না, তা নয়। কিন্তু যেভাবেই হোক পড়ার সময় topic sentence টিকে শনাক্ত করতে পারলে paragraph এর অর্থ অনুধাবন সহজ হয় এবং সহজেই অনুচ্ছেদের মলভাবকে চিহ্নিত করা যায়।

B

এবার মল অনুচ্ছেদটি আবার পড়ুন এবং নিচের প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর দিতে চেষ্টা করুন।



Choose the Correct Answer :

- What are toys suitable for?
 - For play
 - For artistic beauty
 - For amusement
 - For dream-like reality
- Who like toys most?
 - Children
 - Grown-up people
 - Farmers
 - Animals
- Why do the grown-ups like toys ? Because –
 - toys satisfy their aesthetic sense
 - toys can be delightful
 - their children like toys very much
 - toys are colourful and attractive

এখানে যে বিষয়গুলো নিয়ে প্রশ্ন করা হয়েছে সেগুলো হচ্ছে paragraph-এ প্রদত্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী সংক্রান্ত। paragraph টি পড়ে আপনি বুঝতে পেরেছেন কিনা তা যাচাই করাই এই প্রশ্নগুলোর উদ্দেশ্য। মনে রাখবেন একটি paragraph-এ বিভিন্ন ধরনের তথ্যাবলী থাকতে পারে। যেমন : বিষয় (topic) মর্মে বিস্তৃত বর্ণনা বা *details*; উপমা, উদাহরণ বা পরিসংখ্যানের মাধ্যমে বিষয়বস্তুর বিস্তারণ বা *illustration*; কোনো কারণ বা যুক্তি বা *reasons*; তুলনা এবং বৈপরিত্য বা *compare and contrast* ইত্যাদি। Topic sentence টি শনাক্ত করতে পারলে paragraph টি পড়ে আপনি সহজেই বুঝতে পারবেন paragraph টিতে কী ধরনের তথ্য রয়েছে। এক্ষেত্রে প্রদত্ত প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর দেবার জন্য আগে প্রশ্নগুলো মনোযোগ দিয়ে পড়ে বুঝে নিন – আসলে কি জানতে চাওয়া হয়েছে। এরপর জিজ্ঞাস্য তথ্যটি paragraph-এ খোঁজ করুন। তাহলে সহজেই প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর পেয়ে যাবেন। নিশ্চিত হওয়ার জন্য আপনার দেওয়া উত্তরগুলো Answer Key-তে দেওয়া উত্তরের সাথে মিলিয়ে দেখুন।

C



Reading comprehension এর জন্য নিচের ধাপগুলো অনুসরণ করুন।

- প্রথমেই paragraph গুলোর প্রথম ও শেষ বাক্যগুলো পড়ে অনুচ্ছেদটির বিষয়বস্তু মর্মে ধারণা করুন এবং topic sentence চিহ্নিত করতে চেষ্টা করুন।
- এরপর মর্মে অনুচ্ছেদটি দ্রুত একবার পড়ে প্রদত্ত তথ্যাবলীর ধারা (অর্থাৎ *details, illustration, reasons* ইত্যাদি) মর্মে ধারণা করতে চেষ্টা করুন। কোনো শব্দের অর্থ না জানলে ঘাবড়াবার কিছু নেই। সমগ্র অনুচ্ছেদ বা context থেকে ঐ শব্দগুলোর অর্থ অনুমান করে নিন।

SSC Programme

- এবার প্রদত্ত comprehension question গুলো মনোযোগ দিয়ে পড়ে দেখুন কী ধরনের তথ্য জানতে চাওয়া হয়েছে।
- অনুচ্ছেদটিতে দ্রুত চোখ বুলিয়ে জিজ্ঞাস্য তথ্যগুলো শনাক্ত করার চেষ্টা করুন। কোনো ক্ষেত্রে সন্দেহ দেখা দিলে ঐ অংশটি মনোযোগ দিয়ে পড়ে সঠিক অনুমান করতে চেষ্টা করুন।
- জিজ্ঞাস্য তথ্যগুলো শনাক্ত করার পর অনুচ্ছেদটি মনোযোগ দিয়ে পড়ে নিশ্চিত হয়ে নিন, আপনার অনুমান সঠিক কিনা।
- উত্তর লিখিত চাওয়া হলে সংক্ষেপে সরাসরি পূর্ণবাক্যে প্রদত্ত প্রশ্নগুলো উত্তর লিখুন। মনে রাখবেন উত্তরে কখনোই নিজস্ব মতামত বা অনুচ্ছেদে বর্ণিত নেই এমন তথ্য উল্লেখ করা যাবে না। তবে উত্তর দেওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে প্রদত্ত অনুচ্ছেদ থেকে কোনো বাক্য সরাসরি কপি না করে একই তথ্য নিজের মতো করে প্রকাশ করাই ভালো।

পরবর্তী lesson গুলোতে আপনার অনুশীলনের জন্য বেশ কিছু অনুচ্ছেদ দেওয়া হল। বর্ণিত ধাপগুলো অনুসরণ করে প্রদত্ত passage গুলো পড়ুন এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর দিতে চেষ্টা করুন।



Choose the correct answer :

- a. What generally happens to a man before an interview? He –
 - i. feels confident
 - ii. becomes sad
 - iii. gets nervous
 - iv. takes preparation
- b. What is the best policy for a candidate?
 - i. To hope for the worst and prepare for the best
 - ii. To hope for the best and prepare for the worst
 - iii. To prepare for the the possible questions
 - iv. To prepare for the nervousness
- c. What is equally important as knowledge?
 - i. Presentation
 - ii. Courage
 - iii. Confidence
 - iv. Preparation
- d. How should a candidate answer? In a –
 - i. quick and honest way
 - ii. slow and hesitating way
 - iii. prompt and orderly way
 - iv. bold and confident way
- e. What is the best remedy for the nervousness of a candidate? To –
 - i. answer all the questions and try to be good.
 - ii. remain silent and admit his/her ignorance.
 - iii. answer in a prompt and orderly way.
 - iv. trust one's ability and honest labour.

3



A parrot is a beautiful bird. It has a round head, a curved beak and a long tail. Its feathers are green in colour but the beak is red. In nature it moves in flocks. It chatters quite a lot. The special ability of a parrot is to imitate sounds including the human voice. People often catch a parrot, put it in a cage and teach it how to speak. When trained, it can call people by their names and ask or answer questions. It accepts captivity and becomes a companion to human beings. Many people have parrots as pets.



Choose the correct answer :

- a. What is the shape of the head of a parrot?
 - i. small
 - ii. oval
 - iii. curved
 - iv. round
- b. What special ability does a parrot have? To –
 - i. chatter quite a lot
 - ii. move in flocks
 - iii. imitate sounds
 - iv. accept captivity
- c. When can a parrot call people by their names and ask or answer questions?
 - i. When it is trained
 - ii. When it becomes a companion of a man
 - iii. When it is captivated
 - iv. When it lives freely in nature

4



The real heroes are those whom the world knows not of. They work among the poor and the distressed. They don't expect any reward from them. They are moved by the sufferings of others and their main object is to relieve the sufferings of others. Theirs is the work of love. They don't hanker after money. No medal glitters on their breasts; no poet sings in their praise.

They work and die for others. Such heroes live unknown and die unwept. Actually they are the real glory of the nation.

Choose the correct answer :



- a. Why do the real heroes work among the poor and the distressed? Because they –
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| i. expect reward from them | ii. are moved by their sufferings |
| iii. hanker after money | iv. want to live unknown |
- b. What is the main object of a real hero? To
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i. live among the poor | ii. expect a reward |
| iii. relieve the sufferings of others | iv. live unknown and die unwept |
- c. Who do the real heroes die for? For –
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| i. themselves | ii. their love |
| iii. the poor and the distressed | iv. others |
- d. How do they live?
- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| i. unwept | ii. unknown |
| iii. in praise | iv. in glory |
- e. How do they die?
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| i. unknown | ii. unpraised |
| iii. unwept | iv. unsung |

5



Previously Sailas had two interests in life. Working and hoarding money. But he had now only one interest – to bring Eppie up in a proper way. Whatever he earned, he spent it for Eppie. After fifteen years of life of aloofness he started living a normal social life. He came out of his old life of confinement. He found joy and peace in life. He got back his belief in God and man.

Choose the best answer :



- a. What were the two interests of Sailas?
- | |
|--|
| i. Working and playing |
| ii. Working and hoarding money |
| iii. Hoarding money and living in confinement |
| iv. Finding joy and peace in life and believing in God |
- b. What was his only interest later on? To –
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| i. believe in God | ii. earn money |
| iii. bring Eppie up | iv. spend money |
- c. How did he spend his earning ? For –
- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| i. Eppie | ii. his social life |
| iii. himself | iv. joy and peace in life |
- d. What did Sailas get back after 15 years? He got back –
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| i. Eppie | ii. a normal social life |
| iii. joy and peace in life | iv. his belief in God and man |

More Passages for Practice

LESSON

3

1



A book is like a store house of knowledge and a source of joy. In books we can see the society reflected. By reading books we can equip ourselves for life and realise our best selves. So reading books is one of the worthiest things that we can do. But books have become quite costly these days. Still the money is well spent if we buy books. Sometimes cheaper editions are available and we can save on second-hand books. A good book is a good companion. It can give knowledge, pleasure and, during periods of suffering, a consolation we badly need.

Questions :



- a. What is a book like?
- b. What can we do by reading books?
- c. How can we spend our money well?
- d. What can a good book give?

2



Jean Valjean came of a poor peasant family. He did not go to school. His mother's name was Jeanne Mathieu and his father was also called Jean Valjean. He lost both of his parents at an early age. All he had was a sister who brought him up. But unfortunately her husband died. He left seven children. The eldest was eight and the youngest was only one year old. When Jean Valjean reached manhood, he became a tree-pruner.

Questions :



- a. What was Jean Valjean's father?
- b. When did Jean Valjean become an orphan?
- c. By whom was Jean Valjean brought up?
- d. How many children did Jean Valjean's sister have?
- e. How old was the first child of Jean Valjean's sister?

3



There are three main basic necessities of human life : food, clothing and accommodation. The last one has become a great problem these days and is the most difficult to solve. People and Governments find it difficult to cope with this great problem. In many countries of the world population is increasing at a fast rate, but houses are not being built in sufficient number. The main reasons for this are the high cost of building materials and lack of space.

Questions :

- a. What are the main basic necessities mentioned in the passage?
- b. What has become the most difficult problem to solve?
- c. What do people and Governments find difficult cope with?
- d. What is increasing at a fast rate?
- e. Why are not sufficient houses being built?

4

We get various kinds of vegetables in the winter. They are colourful and tasty. Among those bright coloured vegetables we have the tomato, carrot, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, beans and peas. There are also plenty of leafy vegetables grown in this season. All these vegetables are full of vitamins and mineral salts. They are nutritious and, therefore, good for health. When properly cooked, they are not less tasty than a dish of meat or fish. The winter vegetables are really excellent. They are splendid.

Questions :

- a. How many names of vegetables are mentioned in the passage?
- b. What do vegetables contain?
- c. Why are they good for health?
- d. When are vegetables as tasty as a dish of meat or fish?
- e. Which vegetables are splendid?

5

One day when Newton was fifty years old, he went out of his chamber, leaving his little dog asleep before the fire. On the table lay heaps of papers containing his discoveries of twenty years. When he was gone, the dog jumped upon the table. The lighted candle was overturned and the papers were burnt. Newton returned shortly after. Though greatly grieved at heart, he gently patted the dog with his usual kindness, saying that it did not know the mischief it had done.

Questions :

- a. What did the papers contain?
- b. What was the source of the fire?
- c. What happened to the papers?
- d. How long did Newton stay outside?
- e. How did Newton take the accident?

6



There was a knock on the door. The Bishop opened the door and asked the stranger to get in. The man entered and said that his name was Jean Valjean. He was an ex-convict. He passed nineteen years in the prison. That evening he came to the town D. Nobody gave him food and shelter. He was lying in a bench in the open air. He was tired and hungry. A kind woman asked him to knock at the Bishop's door.

Questions :



- a. Who knocked on the Bishop's door?
- b. Did the Bishop know Jean Valjean?
- c. Why did Jean Valjean knock at the Bishop's door?
- d. How long did Jean Valjean pass in the prison?
- e. Where was Jean Valjean lying?

7



Jerusalem is a holy place for both the Muslims and the Christians. It was in possession of the Muslims and the Christians. Both the parties wanted to have it under them. So a long and terrible fight was going on between the two parties. One day, all on sudden, the fight came to a stop. A white flag was found flying on the Christian tent as King Richard, the General of the Christian soldiers, was ill.

Questions :



- a. Why was a long terrible fight going on?
- b. Between whom was the fight going on?
- c. Why did the fight come to a stop?
- d. What was flying on the Christian tent?
- e. Who was the Christian General?

 **LESSON : 1**
B

- a. iii b. i c. i

 **LESSON : 2**

Passage 1

- a. i b. iii c. i d. iii e. iv

Passage 2

- a. iii b. ii c. i d. iii e. iv

Passage 3

- a. iv b. iii c. i

Passage 4

- a. ii b. iii c. iv d. ii e. iii

Passage 5

- a. ii b. iii c. i d. iv

 **LESSON : 3**

Passage 1

- a. A book is like a store house of knowledge and a source of joy.
b. By reading books we can equip ourselves for life and realise our best selves.
c. We can spend our money well by buying books.
d. A good book can give knowledge, pleasure and consolation.

Passage 2

- a. Jean Valjean's father was a peasant.
b. He became an orphan at an early age.
c. Jean Valjean was brought up by his sister.
d. Jean Valjean's sister had seven children.
e. The first child of Jean Valjean's sister was eight years old.

Passage 3

- a. The main basic necessities mentioned in the passage are food, clothing and accommodation.
b. Accommodation problem has become the most difficult to solve.

- c. People and Governments find it difficult to cope with accommodation problem.
- d. Population is increasing at a fast rate.
- e. Sufficient houses are not being built because of high cost of building materials and lack of space.

Passage 4

- a. Seven names of vegetables are mentioned in the passage.
- b. Vegetables contain vitamins and mineral salts.
- c. They are good for health because they are nutritious.
- d. Vegetables are as tasty as a dish of meat or fish when they are properly cooked.
- e. The winter vegetables are splendid.

Passage 5

- a. The papers contained Newton's discoveries of twenty years.
- b. The lighted candle was the source of the fire.
- c. The papers were burnt.
- d. Newton stayed outside for a short time.
- e. Newton was greatly grieved at heart. But he patted the dog with his kindness because he understood that the dog did not know what mischief it had done.

Passage 6

- a. Jean Valjean knocked on the Bishop's door.
- b. No, he didn't.
- c. Jean Valjean needed food and shelter. So he knocked at the Bishop's door at the suggestion of a kind woman.
- d. Jean Valjean passed nineteen years in the prison.
- e. Jean Valjean was lying in a bench in the open air.

Passage 7

- a. A long and terrible fight was going on because both the Muslims and the Christians wanted to have Jerusalem under them.
- b. The fight was going on between the Muslims and the Christians.
- c. The fight came to a stop because the General of the Christian soldiers was ill.
- d. A white flag was flying on the Christian tent.
- e. King Richard was the Christian General.