

**Unit 1**  
**Developing the**  
**reading skills-1**

**Unit 1 : Developing the reading skills - 1**

**Lesson 1.1 Reading instructions - 1**

**Objectives :** *After you have studied the lesson you will be able*

- to follow written instructions or directions about how to grow vegetables,
- to use such words as loamy, friable, nursery beds, disinfect, sow, seedlings, transplant.



**A. Look at the picture and try to say what the man is doing.**



Fig 1.1 : Nursery beds

**A1. Read the text.**

Jamil Ahmed is a successful farmer. He lives in a village in Sribordi thana. Yesterday he went to the Thana Agricultural Officer (TAO) and got a small book on how to grow vegetables. Today Jamil is reading the booklet to some of his neighbours. This is what the booklet says :

If you want to grow good vegetables you have to follow these instructions:

- Select a loamy, friable soil.
- Plough and break the soil properly.
- Mix manures into the soil.
- Disinfect the soil with boiling water.
- Mix the seeds with a little disinfected sand.
- Sow the seeds in the beds.



- Water the beds twice a day.
- Lift the seedlings from the nursery beds about 3 weeks after sowing.
- Now transplant the seedlings as soon as possible.

**B. Study these words.**

- loamy** (adj) - Loamy soil or loam does not contain too much sand or too much clay. This type of soil is good for growing vegetables and crops.
- friable** (adj) - easily broken up
- friable soil** - soil that you can break and prepare easily
- nursery beds** - seed-beds where seedlings are grown
- disinfect** (v) - destroy germs of diseases with disinfectants, i.e. germ-killing substances (germicides) in liquid or powder form

You can disinfect a wound or a place with dettol or other germicides. You can disinfect the soil of nursery beds with just boiling water.

**sow** (pt sowed, pp sown or sowed) - put or scatter seeds in or on the ground

We can sow grass, jute, etc. We can sow a field with rice, wheat, etc.

**seedlings** (n, sing - seedling) - A seedling is a young plant newly grown from a seed.

**transplant** - remove a young plant with its roots and replant it elsewhere. We usually transplant aman paddy.



**C. Match the expressions in Column A with the expressions in Column B. No. 1 is done for you.**

Column A	Column B
1. For growing vegetables you should select	(a) in seed-beds
2. Seedlings grow	(b) manures into the soil
3. You can prepare the soil	(c) after they have been 3 weeks in the beds
4. You should put	(d) mix them with some disinfected sand
5. You can use boiling water	(e) to kill the germs of diseases in the soil
6. Before you sow the seeds	(f) an easily breakable soil
7. You should pour water on the seed-beds	(g) by ploughing and breaking it
8. Seedlings become ready for transplantation	(h) in the morning and in the evening

No 1(f): For growing vegetables you should select an easily breakable soil.



**D. Write directions/ instructions for someone who wants to grow tomatoes.**

Use the following action verbs and clues. Use other necessary words to write the instructions.

**Verbs** : select, make, apply, use, sow, pour

**Clues** : a loamy soil, manures, seed-beds, germicides, seeds in rows, water, a plough or a spade

Example : Select a loamy soil for growing vegetables.



**E. Self-assessment**

**Choose the best answer.**

1. A booklet is
  - a. a book on agriculture.
  - b. a small book.
  - c. a fat book.
  - d. any book on village life.
  
2. What is the booklet Jamil got from the TAO about?
  - a. growing vegetables
  - b. Sribordi thana
  - c. Jamil's neighbours
  - d. Agricultural offices
  
3. Loamy soil means
  - a. sandy soil.
  - b. clay.
  - c. a mixture of sand and clay.
  - d. loose soil.
  
4. A nursery bed is
  - a. for giving shade to the bed.
  - b. a bed for a child in a nursery school.
  - c. for using manures and disinfectants.
  - d. for growing seedlings.
  
5. Which is the correct statement?
  - a. Seeds should be mixed with sand before they are sown.
  - b. You should water the seed-bed every now and then.
  - c. If you transplant the seedlings long after they have been lifted from the seed-bed, they might die down.
  - d. All types of soil are loamy and friable.

## Lesson 1.2 Reading instructions - 2



**Objectives :** *After you have studied the lesson you will be able*

- to follow written instructions or directions about how to make compost,
- to describe the instructions using *should be, can be, is/are, etc,*
- to use such words as *compost, container, bin, poultry droppings.*



### A. Read the following instructions for making compost.

Plants need food for their healthy growth. Compost is perhaps the best food for plants. It is a good manure. It is made of such materials as leafy plants, rubbish, cowdung, poultry droppings, etc.

Here are some instructions or directions about how to make compost :

- 1) Collect enough **plant materials** like grasses, leaves, hyacinth, straw, shrubs, etc. **waste materials** like sweepings, dirty water, kitchen rubbish, rice hulls, etc. and **farmyard manures** like cowdung, poultry droppings, etc.
- 2) Make a bamboo or wooden container inside or near your garden.

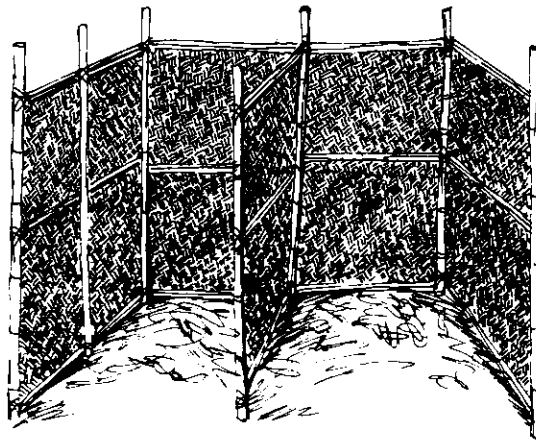


Fig 1.2 : A container

- 3) Make the container 2.4 metres long, 1.2 metres wide and 1.2 metres high. Put a removable partition with bamboo or wood in the middle so that you have two bins.
- 4) Deposit in one of the bins about a 30-cm layer of plant and waste materials.

- 5) Put about an 8-cm layer of farmyard manures such as cowdung or poultry droppings on top of the layer.
- 6) On top of it put a thin layer of soil.
- 7) Sprinkle some water on the soil. Make the materials moist, but not wet.
- 8) Repeat the whole process twice more until your pile rises to the upper limit of the bin, ie until it becomes 1.2 m high.
- 9) Cover the top of the pile with bamboo mats or a straw roof to protect it from the sun and rain.
- 10) Remove the partition after 2 weeks and put the rotten materials into the other bin.
- 11) Make more compost in the emptied bin, following the same process.

The removed pile of rotten materials becomes good compost after another 2/3 weeks. Now it is ready for use.

### B. Study these words.

- compost** (n) - a kind of fertilizer made of rotten plants such as grasses, leaves, etc. and farmyard manures like cowdung, poultry droppings, etc.
- container** (v contain) - anything such as a box, a bottle, etc used for holding something

See the picture above.

- bin** (n) - A bin is also a container.
- removable** (adj) - which is not fixed. It can be removed or pushed aside and brought back to its former position.
- poultry droppings** - waste matter from the bowels of farmyard birds such as hens, ducks, etc.

### C. Study the example :

- (a) Collect enough plant materials (instruction).
- (b) Enough plant materials can be/are collected (description).

While (a) is an instruction or direction, (b) is a description or statement, but both (a) and (b) tell about the same thing.

Now use *should be*, *can be*, *could be*, *is/are* and describe each of these directions for transplanting tomatoes :

1. Prepare the soil of the tomato beds several weeks before transplanting.
2. Put manures into the soil.



3. Put stakes in the beds.
4. Transplant the seedlings in rows 50 cms apart with 40 cms between seedlings.
5. Transplant tomato seedlings 5 to 6 weeks after sowing.
6. Cover roots well with earth.
7. Water the soil twice a day.



Example : 1) The soil of the tomato beds should be prepared several weeks before transplanting.

**D. Self-assessment****Choose the best answer.**

1. You can make good compost in
  - a. 2 weeks.
  - b. 3 weeks.
  - c. 4 weeks.
  - d. 5 weeks.
  
2. To make compost we use
  - a. cows.
  - b. ploughs.
  - c. water.
  - d. rice.
  
3. Plant materials include
  - a. dirty water.
  - b. banana leaves.
  - c. farmyard manure.
  - d. sweepings.
  
4. Waste materials include
  - a. onion.
  - b. hyacinth.
  - c. small trees.
  - d. cowdung.
  
5. Farmyard manures include
  - a. sweepings.
  - b. straw.
  - c. grasses.
  - d. animal urine.
  
6. The length of a compost container is
  - a. four times its width.
  - b. three times its height.
  - c. twice its width.
  - d. the same as its height.
  
7. How many layers of farmyard manures do you have to deposit in one of the bins of a container to make compost ?

a. one	b. three
c. four	d. six

### Lesson 1.3 Reading instructions - 3



**Objectives :** *After you have studied the lesson you will be able*

- to inform others about various crops grown in Bangladesh,
- to recognise the suitable seasons for growing those crops,
- to tell the meaning of these words : *tropical, deltaic, topography, crisscross, alluvia, monsoon, temperature, humanity.*



**A. Read the passage to answer the following question.**

Bangladesh is a tropical country. Its climatic factors like temperature, rainfall, air, light, etc are favourable for the production of various crops.

It is also a deltaic country. As a result, its topography and soil conditions are favourable for the growth of certain crops. Think about the vast expanse of flat land we have! Also the few hills we have are not very big and high.

Bangladesh is crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers – big and small. They give the land a lot of alluvia after each flooding. This alluvial soil is fertile and easy to prepare for cultivation.



**A1. Question :**

Explain how the vast expanse of our flat land and hundreds of our rivers are favourable for growing various crops.

**B. Read the following text to answer the question that follows.**

A wide variety of tropical crops is grown in Bangladesh throughout the year in three distinct cropping seasons. These are :

- (i) The spring or pre-monsoon season (March–May)

This season with moderate temperature and humidity, and occasional rainfall produces a lot of rice (aus), jute, sugarcane, vegetables, etc.

- (ii) The monsoon season (May–September)

This season with high temperature and humidity, low solar energy and heavy rainfall is suitable for the growth of rice (T aman\*\*), oil seeds, vegetables, etc.

- (iii) The rabi season (October–March)

With low humidity and temperature this dry season produces a variety of crops, such as boro rice, wheat, potatoes, pulses, spices, mustard, vegetables, etc.

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\*\* T aman = Transplanted aman



**B1. Question :**

Suppose you are a Department of Agricultural Extension Specialist. You are writing a booklet to inform farmers about which crops they should grow in what seasons. Explain why they should do so. Find a calendar that shows both English and Bengali months and write the pieces of information either in the form of instruction/direction or in the form of description or in both.

**C. Study these words.**

**a tropical country** - a country situated between about 23.5° north and 23.5° south of the equator. See a world map for a clear idea.

Bangladesh is situated between about 20° and 27° north of the equator. So according to its geographical position, Bangladesh is a tropical country. A tropical country is hot and humid. It has rainy and dry seasons.

- favourable** (adj) - helpful
- a deltaic country** - a country having flat alluvial area with some big rivers
- topography** (n) - geographical features like rivers, valleys, hills, mountains, roads, etc of a place
- expanse** (n) - wide and open area
- crisscross** (v) - move crosswise; one cutting across another. Many rivers crisscross the whole of Bangladesh.
- alluvia** (n, sing alluvium) - soil consisting of mud, silt and sand deposited by flowing water, especially by flood-water
- distinct** (adj) - clear; separate
- moderate** (adj) - not extreme; having neither too much nor too little of something
- temperature** (n) - degree of heat and cold; high temperature, low temperature, etc.
- humidity** (n) - moisture in the air; dampness in the air
- monsoon** (n) - a season in Southern Asia (including Bangladesh, India and other countries around the Indian Ocean) with heavy rain and high temperature



### D. Self-assessment

#### Choose the best answer.

1. The climate of Bangladesh is suitable for the growth of various crops, because it is
  - a. a tropical country.
  - b. a deltaic country.
  - c. an agricultural country.
  - d. a rainfed country.
  
2. A deltaic country has
 

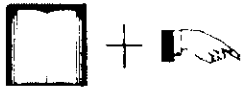
a. high hills.	b. heavy rainfall.
c. big rivers.	d. a tropical climate.
  
3. The topography of a country refers to its
  - a. climatic factors like air, light, etc.
  - b. surface features like hills, rivers, etc.
  - c. varieties of crops like high yielding rice, traditional potatoes, etc.
  - d. soil conditions like alluvial soil, sandy soil, etc.
  
4. In the spring season we in Bangladesh usually have
  - a. rain from time to time.
  - b. high temperature.
  - c. a very dry weather.
  - d. high humidity.
  
5. The monsoon season includes the month of
 

a. April.	b. July.
c. October.	d. December.
  
6. Boro rice can be better produced in
 

a. May.	b. June.
c. August.	d. January.
  
7. In the monsoon season we have
  - a. a lot of rain.
  - b. low temperature.
  - c. a lot of solar energy.
  - d. low humidity.
  
8. Potatoes are usually
 

a. a spring crop.	b. a monsoon crop.
c. a rabi crop.	d. an all-season crop.

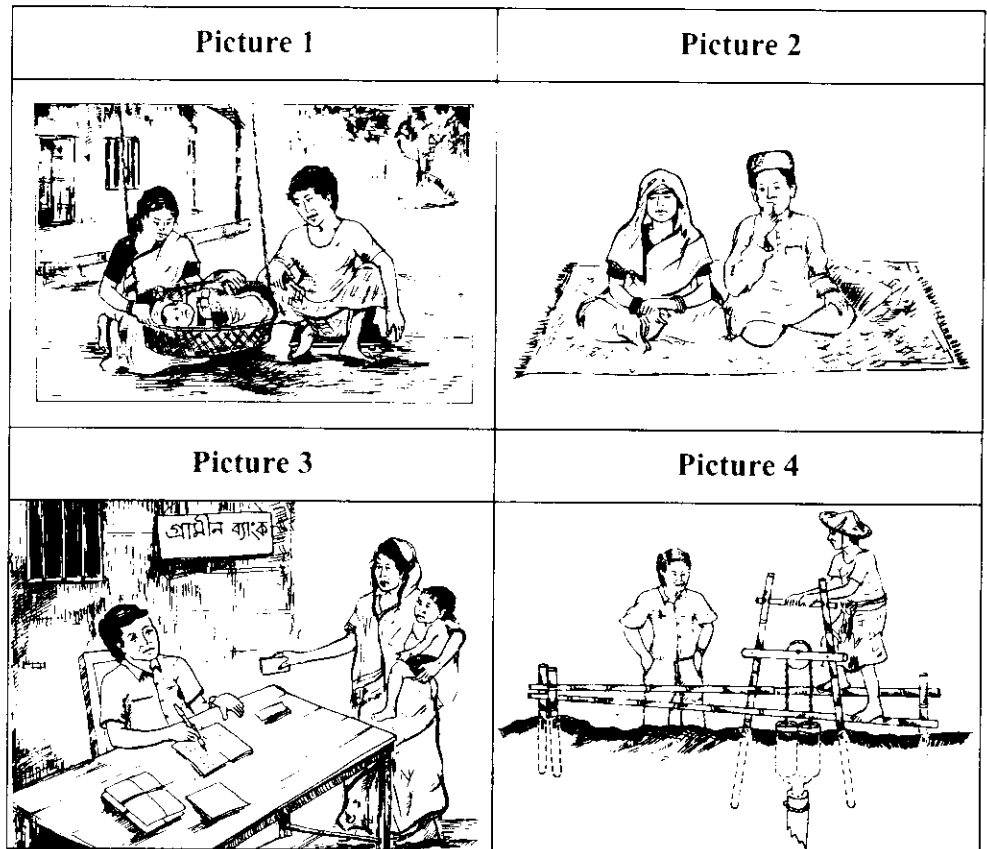
## Lesson 1.4 Reading events



**Objectives :** *After you have read the story you will be able*

- to tell or write about the events in a person's life sequentially (i.e. in the order the events happen).
- to tell the meanings of such words as *survive, celebrate, bite, raise, install, irrigate.*

**A.** Look at the pictures. They are not numbered (1,2, . . . . 8) in the right order. Try to think about the story of the woman in the picture and write the numbers of the pictures sequentially, i.e. in the order the events in her life happened. Now read the story and check your answer.



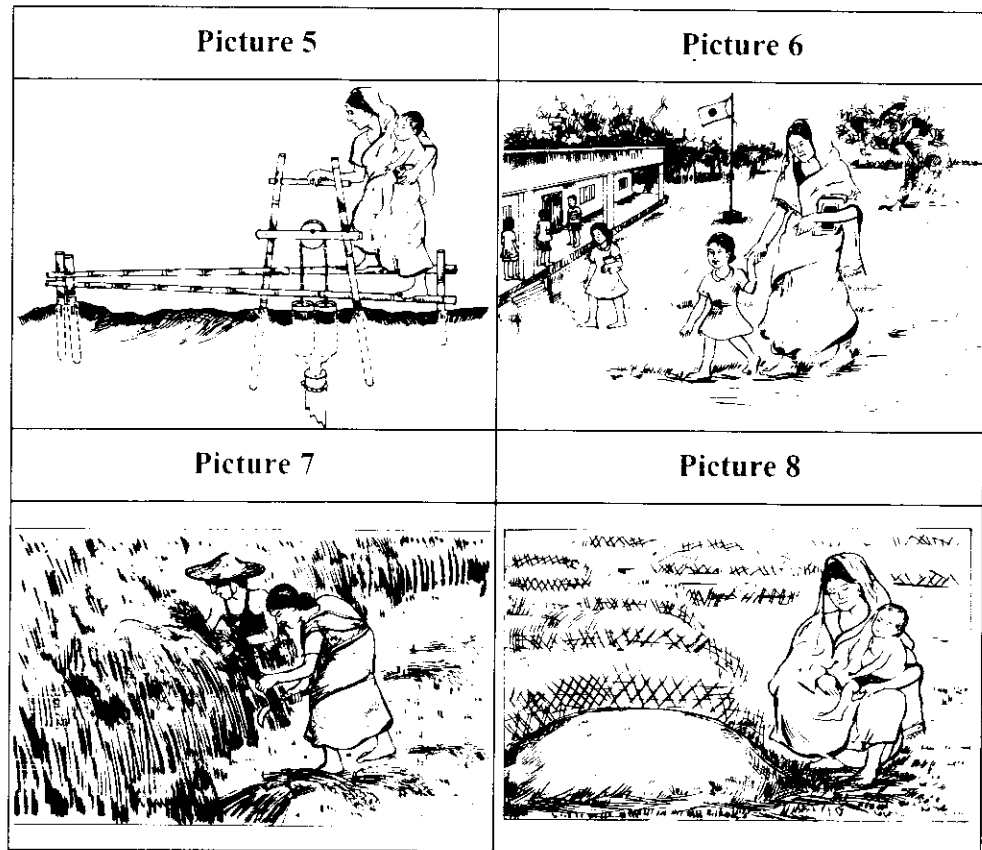


Fig 1.3 : Events in a woman's life



Majeda Begum was a village girl. She was the oldest among her 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Majeda went to school. But when she was in class 5, her father died and she had to leave school.

Majeda was a hard-working girl. She used to work in some farmers' houses in the village. With the little money she earned, the little amount of rice she got from the farmers' wives, Majeda helped her family to survive.

Majeda was married when she was only 17 to Halim, 20, in the same village. They were a happy couple. Together they worked hard and in 4 years they could buy a plot of land. In the 5th year of their marriage they had a lovely daughter, Ayesha.

But their happiness did not last long. To celebrate their 7th marriage day Majeda was cooking some special food in the afternoon. Suddenly she was called outside. Some villagers brought Halim's dead body in the yard. He was probably bitten by a snake while he was cutting jute in his field.

At first Majeda could not think about anything. But one thing she thought she must do. And that was to raise little Ayesha properly. So she took a loan from the Grameen Bank, bought a treadle pump and had it installed in her field. The Thana Agricultural Extension Officer helped her a lot.

Majeda is now happy. She herself operates the pump and irrigates the field when necessary. Now she grows enough rice for her and Ayesha.

If you ask her, “What is the happiest day in your life ?” she will answer, “I have three happiest days - not one - in my life. They are : the day I was married, the day Ayesha was born and the day the treadle pump came to my field.”

**B. Study these words.**

- survive** (v) - to cope with difficult circumstances; to continue to live or exist in adverse or difficult situations or conditions
- celebrate** (v) - to enjoy oneself on a special occasion; to celebrate, for example – a birthday, a marriage day, a team’s victory in the football match, etc.
- bitten** (pp, pr t bite, pt bit) - A dog can bite a man. but a man cannot or should not bite a dog.
- raise** (v, pt & pp raised) - to bring up; to look after
- install** (v, n installation) - to set up an apparatus or a piece of equipment so that it is ready for use  
to install an air-conditioner, an intercom, etc.
- irrigate** (v, n irrigation) - to supply water to especially dry land



**C. Here are the main events in the life of Mr Kamal Ahmed. Arrange the events in the order they happened and write a paragraph using them.**

1. 1st job - Agricultural Extension Worker, Sherpur district, 1983
2. Born 1960
3. Primary education, Kakilakura Primary School, Sribordi thana
4. Master’s in Tropical Crops, Houston University, Texas, 1988
5. Married 1984
6. SSC, 1st division, Bakshigonj High School, Jamalpur, 1975
7. B Ag, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, 1982
8. HSC, 1st division, AM college, Jamalpur, 1977



- D. Activity : Write a paragraph about yourself (about 300 words) describing the main events in your life, such as date of birth, education, job, (if any).**



**E. Self-assessment**

**Choose the best answer.**

1. How old was Majeda when Ayesha was born?
  - a. 17 years
  - b. 19 years
  - c. 22 years
  - d. 26 years
  
2. How old was Ayesha when her father died?
  - a. 1 year
  - b. 2 years
  - c. 3 years
  - d. 4 years
  
3. He was probably bitten by a snake. Which of the following can replace the underlined word in the sentence?
  - a. surely
  - b. nearly
  - c. likely to be
  - d. certainly
  
4. Majeda was determined to raise Ayesha properly. This means that Majeda was going to
  - a. look after her (Ayesha's) growth and education.
  - b. take her always into her lap.
  - c. give her to an orphanage for food and education.
  - d. teach her how to work together.
  
5. What do you consider is the main strength of Majeda's character?
  - a. strong determination
  - b. fear for Ayesha
  - c. concept of love
  - d. school education



## Answer Key Unit - 1

### Lesson 1.1

- C. 2. a    3. g,    4. b,    5. e,    6. d,    7. h,    8. c  
 E. 1. b    2. a,    3. c,    4. d,    5. c

### Lesson 1.2

- C. 1. The soil of the tomato beds should be prepared several weeks before transplanting.  
 2. Manures should be put into the soil.  
 3. Stakes should be/are put in the beds.  
 4. Seedlings should be transplanted in .....  
 5. Tomato seedlings should be transplanted 5 to 6 weeks .....  
 6. Roots are/should be covered well with earth.  
 7. The soil should be/ could be watered twice a day.
- D. 1. d,    2. c,    3. b,    4. a,    5. d,    6. c,    7. b

### Lesson 1.3

- A1. hints: flat land easy to plough, irrigate, etc. – rivers bring alluvia – soil – fertile
- B1. Only when you have a calendar showing both English and Bengali months, you can answer the question comfortably. Read text C above for information about which crops the farmers should grow in what seasons. For example:
- Sow jute in March-May (Falgun- Baishak), because jute grows well in this pre-monsoon season which has moderate temperature and humidity with occasional rainfall.

- D. 1. a,    2. c,    3. b,    4. a,    5. b,    6. d,    7. a,    8. c

### Lesson 1.4

- A. 5,    3,    7,    6,    2,    8,    1,    4  
 C. 2,    3,    6,    8,    7,    1,    5,    4

Write the paragraph based on the events numbered in C above and show it to your tutor.

- D. While writing a paragraph about yourself, you may get some help from the paragraph you have written for C above.
- E. 1. c,    2. b,    3. c,    4. a,    5. a