

Unit 11

THE PLEASURE OF READING BOOKS

Students Learning Outcomes

On the completion of this unit, the students will be able to:

- scan the text to answer the comprehension questions.
- use context to infer missing words.
- write précis of the given passage.
- recognize and use parenthesis to mark off explanatory or supplementary material.
- use preposition of position, time and movement, and direction.
- change the narration.
- exhibit appropriate etiquettes of interacting with audience.

Pre-reading

- What do you do in your spare time?
- What is your favourite hobby?



What is the greatest pleasure of life? If anybody asks this question, different people may hold different views and acclaim aesthetic, **intellectual**, or typical ethical pleasure as their specific choice. There is, however, no second opinion that the greatest pleasures of life come from reading good books. Indeed, books bring **immense** joy, enlarge the frontiers of knowledge and

widen the outlook of the reader.

Happy is the man who acquires the habit of reading when he is young. He has secured a lifelong source of pleasure, instruction and inspiration. So long as he has his beloved books, he never feels lonely. He always has a pleasant occupation of **leisure** moments, so that he never feels bored. He is the possessor of wealth more precious than gold. Poor indeed is the man who does not read, and empty is his life.

The blessings which the reading habit **confers** on its possessor are many provided that we choose the right kind of books. Reading gives the highest kind of pleasure. We read some books, simply for pleasure and amusement. Good novels and books of imagination must have their place in everybody's reading. When we are tired or the



brain is weary with serious study, it is a healthy recreation to **immerse** ourselves in some absorbing story written by a master hand.

It is said, '**Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.**' That is why a civilized man is drawn to a good book more than he is drawn to any other form of entertainment like the movies, the television or football and cricket. The pleasure derived from the other entertainment may also be good, but their effect is not as lasting as the effect of reading.

Different kinds of books give us different types of pleasure. There are numerous books to please and satisfy different readers. There are many informative books on history, biography, philosophy, religion, travel, and science which we ought to read, and which will give us not only pleasure but also education and knowledge. Apart from it, reading poetry also holds immense importance, for the best poetry gives us the noble thoughts and beautiful imaginings clothed in lovely and musical language.

As a matter of fact, books are our everlasting friends. They stay with us during the whole life: in babyhood we hear parents read us fairy tales, in our teens we **swallow** exciting suspense novels page after page and when we become adults we still find gripping books that absorb us. But today many

people say that modern life is so fast and full of action that they do not have time and desire to read books; they consider reading to be nothing more than waste of time. Furthermore there are a lot of people who are sure that products of modern technologies like computers can replace traditional books. Nevertheless, there are people, who receive pleasure from reading books and believe that books will never disappear from their lives. They feel certain that books teach us what is right and what is wrong; they enrich the inner world of a reader and certainly entertain him.

Nevertheless, reading is a trend that is slowly **diminishing** as other media which seem more attractive are taking its place. More and more people prefer to watch TV or surf on the Internet instead of reading. Though mainly reading is the best way to make your brain work. When we read a book we entirely immerse into it: we try to **conjure** how the characters look like, how we would behave if we were in the shoes of this or that character – our brain doesn't stop working. Books contain grains of wisdom. They give us sound moral advice and teach us what is right and what is wrong.

A book guides us in different ways. It is a friend and a teacher. Books teach people to live. After reading some books it is easy to understand what should be done and what must not be done. Book also gives a unique chance to link up with authors who lived in different ages and countries. Through reading books we hear their voices, thoughts and feelings.

We can say that books are a veritable treasure: you can never be lonely in the company of a good book. Actually reading is such an amazing habit: the deeper you **delve** into it, the more you are drawn to it. Reading is a nice means to relax and de-stress after a hard day. However, books not only entertain us and provide valuable knowledge, but they also sharpen our intellect, encourage imagination and enhance vocabulary.

Reading and thinking skills

Comprehension

1. Answer the following questions.

- i. How does reading books provide pleasure to the readers?
- ii. What is the importance of reading poetry?
- iii. How do books stay with us during the whole life?

- iv. How has the media affected the habit of reading books?
- v. 'Books contain grains of wisdom.' Explain it.
- vi. Why does not a person feel lonely in the presence of books?
- vii. How can we hear the voices and thoughts of the authors who lived in different ages and countries?
- viii. What is the importance of choosing the right kind of books?
- ix. What sort of books do you read in your free time?
- x. How can books be our ever-lasting friends?

2. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentences.

- i. Happy is the man who acquires the habit of _____ when he is young.
 - a) writing
 - b) speaking
 - c) listening
 - d) reading
- ii. It is said, 'Reading is to the _____ what exercise is to the body.'
 - a) mind
 - b) head
 - c) body
 - d) hand
- iii. There are numerous books to please _____ readers.
 - a) same
 - b) different
 - c) old
 - d) young
- iv. More and more people prefer to watch TV or _____ on the Internet instead of reading.
 - a) surf
 - b) sit
 - c) use
 - d) look
- v. Reading is a nice means to relax after a hard day's work.
 - a) stress
 - b) de-stress
 - c) sit
 - d) sleep

3. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false sentences.

- i. Different kinds of books give us different types of pleasure.
- ii. The best poetry gives us the noble thoughts and beautiful imaginings clothed in depressed and musical language.
- iii. There are a lot of people who are sure that products of modern technologies like radio can replace traditional books.

- iv. After reading some books, it is easy to understand what should be done and what must not be done.
- v. Book also gives a unique chance to link up with authors who lived centuries ago.

Critical Thinking

4. Read the following paragraph and infer the missing words.

Reading books can develop a person's comprehension by learning _____ words. The easiest way to _____ this is to look up meanings of the words in the _____ which are not understood when they are read first time. Writing these words down and reciting them _____ also help to keep them in memory. Incorporating these new words in _____ speaking will increase language skills and _____ confidence of the speaker as well. The second effect that _____ books has is vocabulary growth. Along the same lines of comprehension, the growth of _____ is also very important. Having large vocabulary is not only impressive but also _____ in many areas of public speaking.

5. Can modern equipments replace the habit of reading books? Discuss in groups.

Writing

Précis:

A précis is a concise and clear statement of the substance of a longer passage in a connected and readable shape. A précis must be accurate, brief and clear. A précis should be about one-third of the original passage.

Rules for writing a good Précis:

- (i) **Determine the theme of the passage:** It is very important to find out the central idea or the theme of the passage. Soon you will be analyzing the passage to separate the major points from the minor ones, and the various points become major only in relation to the central or main theme of the passage.

- (ii) **Précis is not the reproduction of important sentences:** Do not form your précis by reproducing a few sentences and deleting others. Précis writing is not the art of selection and deletion; it is the art of remodeling.
- (iii) **Brevity is good but not at the cost of clarity:** Brevity is the soul of précis writing. But brevity is not to be achieved at the cost of clarity. If the addition or retention of a few words add to the clarity of your précis, they should be included by all means.
- (iv) **Use your own language:** Précis has to be written, as far as possible, in your own words.
- (v) **Précis is always written in the third person:** If the author has used the autobiographical form of narration or description, you should change the form. You should begin your précis with '*The author says...*' Secondly, you should avoid the use of direct speech in your précis. The use of indirect speech will make it more compact.
- (vi) **No comments please!** You are not supposed to give any comments, appreciative or critical, on the ideas expressed in the passage. Your job is to interpret faithfully and not to evaluate the mind of the author. You are reproducing – briefly and relevantly – and not creating.
- (vii) **Reduce the passage to its one third:** Unless otherwise indicated, you are supposed to reduce the passage to one-third of its original length.

6. Write précis of the second paragraph of the unit.

Punctuation

Parenthesis is also used to mark off explanatory or supplementary material.

Examples

- i. Mr. Ajmal (the fat man) has got a job.
- ii. My brother (the naughty boy) is sick today.
- iii. Shazia (the intelligent girl) is studying.
- iv. The boys (wearing black shoes) are playing in the ground.
- v. The phone (on the table) is ringing.

7. Write eight sentences using parenthesis to mark off explanatory or supplementary material.

Pronunciations

Preposition	Usage	Example
On	• Days of the week	<i>On Monday</i>
	• Calendar dates	<i>On 17th / on 17th May / on 17th May 2012</i>
	• 'Special' days	<i>On my birthday / on my wedding anniversary</i>
In	• Months/Seasons	<i>In January / in winter</i>
	• Year/Decade	<i>In 2012 / in the 1980s</i>
	• Period of the day	<i>In the morning / afternoon / evening</i>
	• After a certain period ('When')	<i>In two hours / in a few minutes</i> (literally - two hours/a few minutes from now)
At	• 'Night'	<i>At night, we... (not 'in the night')</i>
	• 'Weekend'	<i>At weekends, I normally - ('on weekends' is also correct)</i>
	• A precise time	<i>The staff meeting is at 9:30</i>
(From...) to	• Marking a period of time	<i>From Monday to Wednesday</i>
	• Telling the time	<i>Twenty (minutes) to five</i>
Past	• Telling the time	<i>Half past eight</i>
Till/until	• Marking a period of time	<i>From Monday till / until Wednesday</i>
	• Marking How long	<i>We are working on this till / until June</i>
By	• 'At the latest'	<i>I will finish it by Monday</i>
	• 'Up to this point'	<i>By December 2011, we had completed half</i>
Since	• 'From then to now'	<i>I've been working here since 2004</i> (= for six years)
For	• 'Over this period of time'	<i>The project was for four years</i>
Ago	• 'At this past point'	<i>It started three years ago (= in 2009)</i>
Before / Prior to	• 'Earlier than this point'	<i>Before / prior to this policy, no such mechanism existed</i>

8. Complete the following sentences by inserting the correct preposition.

- i. I went to Sibi _____ 2010.
- ii. He will meet me _____ Monday.
- iii. Come to my home _____ 3' O'clock.
- iv. He jumped _____ the river.
- v. My brother has gone _____ library.

Changing the narration

Direct Speech

In direct speech we repeat speaker's exact words. These words are in quotation marks, for example, He said, 'I am working hard.'

Indirect Speech

In indirect speech we do not repeat speaker's exact words rather it is a report on what someone else said or wrote without using that person's exact words, for example, He said that he was working hard.

9. Change the direct speech into indirect speech.

- i. She said, 'It is raining heavily.'
- ii. Amjad said, 'I have a car.'
- iii. The teacher said, 'I have been to Karachi.'
- iv. Mother said, 'I am going to prepare lunch in the kitchen.'
- v. He said, 'My brother bought a motorbike.'
- vi. He said to him, 'Please wait for me.'
- vii. My friend asked, 'Do you read books?'
- viii. She said to me, 'where do you work?'
- ix. The teacher said, 'Open the door.'
- x. She said, 'Who are you?'

10. Change the indirect speech into direct speech.

- i. He told that two and two make four.
- ii. Teacher told the class that earth revolves around the sun.
- iii. He requested me to lend him my book.
- iv. She exclaimed that the house was very lovely.

- v. Imran said that he would give me a pen.
- vi. He said that he had been teaching English for two years.
- vii. Amjad asked what they should learn that day.
- viii. Afzal said that he would be using the car next Sunday.
- ix. She said that she had been to Sibi.
- x. He asked me if I play football.

Oral Communication

Etiquettes of interacting with audience

- Be relaxed and confident.
- Give your short introduction.
- Introduce your topic in a sequence and logical manner.
- Use polite expressions, like I would like... May I have your attention please, I would like to draw your attention towards..., etc.
- Your voice should be audible to all the people listening to you.
- Involve your audience by asking questions.
- Do not discourage an individual whose answer is incorrect or not to the point.
- Follow proper manners, reflecting your maturity, sensibility and politeness.

11. Divide the class into different groups and ask each group to choose a group leader. Then assign them the task of preparing a presentation on 'importance of reading'. After their preparation each group leader will present a presentation on the given topic, take questions from the students and answer them.