Unit 16 · Narrating Past Events

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Full marks 25

Write your answers on separate paper.

1 Where were you when the jar fell? [6]

At four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, a jar of pickle fell off the kitchen shelf at Hajurama's house and broke. Hajurama asked each of her four grandchildren, "What were you doing when the jar fell?"

- **Rehan:** "When the jar fell, I was feeding the hens in the yard."
- **Prapti:** "When the jar fell, I ran into the kitchen."
- **Sangam:** "When I got to the kitchen, the jar had already fallen."
- **Dolma:** "I was standing on a stool by the shelf. I was reaching for the biscuit tin when the jar fell."

a. Which grandchild was in the kitchen at four o'clock? Which one was somewhere else? Two answers don't tell you where the speaker was at four. Whose are they, and what do they tell you instead?

b. Prapti's reply doesn't answer Hajurama's question. Why not? At four, Prapti was doing her homework on the roof. Write the reply she should have given, and then add what she did next.

c. Sangam's cousin says that his words mean the same as *When I got to the kitchen, the jar fell.* Is she right? What would that sentence tell Hajurama?

d. Hajurama now thinks she knows who knocked the jar off the shelf. Who, and why does she think so? Write her sentence with *while*.

2 Two tellers, one evening [6]

These are the events of *A Party in a Restaurant* in your textbook. (The times are made up; the order is the story's.)

Time	What happened
7:00	A large group of tourists came into the restaurant.
7:30	The writer and his friends arrived. Every table was taken.
7:45	The people at the corner table left, and the friends sat down.
8:40	A tired waiter came and took their order.
8:45	The waiter came back: there was no meat or fish left.

a. The writer begins his story at 7:30, when he and his friends walk in. Which event does he tell out of its time order? Write the sentence in which he tells it.

b. That night the waiter tells his family about the evening, starting at seven. Write his first three sentences, up to the friends sitting down. Does he need *had* for the tourists? Explain why the writer needs it and the waiter doesn't.

c. Complete the sentence about the meat and fish: *By the time the waiter took our order, the tourists .....*

d. At 8:40, what were the other waiters doing? Write a sentence from the story's facts.

3 Told fourth, happened first [5]

These sentences tell a short story, but they are mixed up. (The story is made up.)

- **A.** So she ran back to school, and the canteen didi was waiting at the door with something in her hand.
- **B.** Her bus pass wasn't there.
- **C.** Bhumika thanked her and caught the last bus home.
- **D.** That morning she had shown it to the conductor, and at lunch she had taken some money out of the same pocket to pay for a samosa at the canteen.
- **E.** On Friday evening, Bhumika was waiting for the bus home when she put her hand in her pocket.
- **F.** "You dropped this when you paid for your samosa," the didi said with a smile.
- **G.** She tried to remember when she had last opened that pocket.

a. Write the letters in the right order. Name two words or phrases that helped you.

b. Sentence D tells the first events of all. Why isn't it the first sentence of the story? Which word in it shows that it happened earlier?

c. In sentence F the didi says *dropped*, not *had dropped*. Is that a mistake? Explain.

4 Too much -ing [5]

Abinash wrote this story. He put every verb in the past continuous.

Last Tuesday it was raining heavily, and the wind was blowing hard. I was walking home from school. Suddenly a big branch was falling across the path in front of me. I was jumping back. Then I was calling my father, and he was coming with his torch. We were moving the branch together.

a. Three of the verbs are right as they are. Which three, and why? Rewrite the other sentences with the right verbs.

b. Join two of his sentences into one, with *while*.

c. How does the word *Suddenly* help you to choose the tense?

5 Start in the middle [3]

Tell Abinash's story again (in *Too much -ing* above), but start at the moment his father arrived. Write three or four sentences, beginning: *When my father arrived with his torch, …*