

Unit 9

IMPORTANCE OF TREES

Students Learning Outcomes

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

- scan the text to answer the comprehension questions.
- generate questions to understand text.
- analyse information to write a short written report.
- use dictionary to locate phrases and idioms.
- write a persuasive/argumentative essay on a given topic.
- recognize and use semicolon between parts of a compound sentence when no conjunction is used.
- use first and second conditional sentences.
- share information and ideas.

Pre-reading

- Nature is the gift of Allah. Discuss it.
- What is the importance of trees?



Trees add beauty to the world we live in. Whenever we think of any place where we can enjoy ourselves and rest comfortably, trees always make an **essential** part of the scene. No place of beauty in the world is complete without

trees. That is why when we have to select a picnic spot, we generally keep in mind the presence of shady trees.

Trees have helped man in discovering new places. For the earliest man it was very difficult and dangerous to travel on land. He must have used tree-trunks to travel on the rivers. Then large boats and ships were built of wood and man was able to move from one part of the world to the other. Our history owes much to the trees whose wood helped large armies to move across to the foreign lands.



Trees provide the raw material for many industries. Commercially, they are **invaluable**. Furniture, boats, doors and window frames are made from wood. Paper is manufactured from wood. Similarly the blessed tree olive is one of the oldest trees of history. It is cultivated with variety of soils and ecological zones. It holds a significant economic value. Its fruit as well as wood is very worthwhile. Its fruit is specially used for edible oil and for different medicines also. Spain is the largest producer of olive oil in the world, growing olive trees on 2-6 million hectares area. Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with a suitable climate to grow olive trees over 4.4 million hectares area in all parts of the country.



Some countries have plenty of trees. They are prosperous because of their large forests. Good timber is sold for good cash. Malaysia is the largest producer of natural rubber in the world. Rubber is collected from rubber trees. So trees earn a lot of revenue for them.

Trees also serve us in many other commercial ways. They produce delicious fruits which we eat. We sell them to other countries, too. Pakistan exports apples, mangoes and oranges in large quantities and earns a lot of foreign exchange.

The leaves, the bark (outer-skin) and roots of trees are used for making different kinds of medicines. There was a time when malaria would kill large number of people. Malaria has been controlled by **quinine** which is made from Cinchona tree. Corks are obtained from the trunks of the cork-oak. Corks are used as stoppers for bottles.

The trees play a very important role in agriculture and farming. They check the force of winds and rain. They help to preserve land. The roots of trees bind the soil together. They do not allow rain water to carry away the rich soil. The trees prevent landslides and soil erosion in floods. They also preserve animal and bird life.

Trees help regulate the atmosphere. They absorb carbon dioxide and give out oxygen. Cutting and burning of trees lead to ever greater quantities of carbon mono-oxide being released. The gases make a blanket around the earth, which holds in the heat of the sun. This holding in of the heat is known as the 'green house effect'.

People living in cold countries keep their potted plants in glass rooms during winter. The glass-rooms allow the rays of the sun to give warmth and light to the plants. But they do not let the temperature inside fall to freezing points. Thus the plants are saved during the winter months. The glass-rooms where potted plants are kept are known as green house. The cover of carbon mono-oxide around the earth is making the whole world a big 'green house'. This situation is extremely dangerous for the future of the world and for the life on earth.

The increase in average world temperature is going to melt more and more ice near the poles. The amount of water will increase in the oceans and thus raise their level. Some islands in the South western Pacific are already the danger of being submerged.

People all over the world will have to make efforts to increase the number of trees so that a happy and healthy future of the world is ensured.



Reading and thinking skills

Comprehension

1. Answer the following questions.

- (i) Why are trees important for us?
- (ii) What are the uses of wood?
- (iii) How do trees help us to earn cash?
- (iv) How are trees useful in the field of medicine?
- (v) How do trees preserve the land?
- (vi) What is the importance of olive trees for us?
- (vii) What are the dangerous consequences of cutting down the trees?
- (viii) What do you mean by green house effect?
- (ix) What change in temperature has taken place during the last hundred years?
- (x) How can we ensure a happy and healthy future for ourselves?

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

- (i) Trees add _____ to the world.
 - a) pollution
 - b) noise
 - c) beauty
 - d) dirt
- (ii) Man used _____ to travel on the rivers.
 - a) tree-trunks
 - b) boats
 - c) ships
 - d) trees
- (iii) Trees provide _____ material for many industries.
 - a) expensive
 - b) raw
 - c) rough
 - d) old
- (iv) Spain is the largest _____ of olive oil in the world.
 - a) producing
 - b) producer
 - c) reproducer
 - d) provider
- (v) Different kinds of _____ are made from trees.
 - a) medicine
 - b) fruit
 - c) polishes
 - d) food

- (vi) Quinine is made from _____ tree.
a) palm b) banana
c) cinchona d) apple
- (vii) Trees _____ the land from its erosion.
a) grow b) enhance
c) break d) preserve
- (viii) Trees produce _____ fruits.
a) delicious b) rotten
c) spicy d) salty
- (ix) Trees _____ the atmosphere of dangerous gases.
a) protect b) purify
c) wash d) neglect
- (x) Men should _____ more and more trees.
a) water b) clean
c) plant d) cut

3. Write a short report on 'Trees are a blessing'.

4. Consult dictionary and locate meanings of the given phrasal verbs and idioms.

Idioms	Meanings
read between the lines	_____
cry wolf	_____
time flies	_____
see eye to eye	_____
go from strength to strength	_____

Writing

Persuasive Essay

A persuasive essay expresses an opinion about something and shows why that opinion makes sense. The writer tries to get the reader to agree with that opinion.

Guidelines for writing a persuasive Essay

- Begin by getting your audience's attention and by stating your opinion.
- Offer three reasons for your view. Give each reason its own paragraph, and use facts and details to support it.
- Give the strongest reason last.
- Write a conclusion. Restate your opinion, and then call upon the reader to take action.

Example of a persuasive essay

What can I do?

Do you ever think about people in your community who need help? 'What can I do?' you might ask. 'I don't have any money. I am just a kid.' There are many ways you can help others—if you are willing to volunteer.

Volunteering doesn't cost anything but time. Take a look at the way you spend your time. If you add up the time you waste, you may find several hours a week that you could use to help someone. The help can be something simple. For example, you might give an elderly neighbour a hand with shopping. You

might form a classroom 'clean team' to straighten things up once or twice a week. You might read to a younger sister or brother. There are all kinds of things that you could do.

Volunteering can also be educational. Depending on your volunteer job, you might get to know new people. These people might have interesting stories to tell you about themselves and their families. You also might learn new skills-skills that could be useful to you in the future.

Most important, volunteering helps you personally. I know, because it has happened to me, by volunteering, I learned to care more about other people and to be more understanding. I like and value myself more because I help others.

By volunteering, you can make a difference, help others, and help yourself. Why not look around, find a job that needs to be done, and then volunteer to do it.

5. Write a persuasive essay on 'Seeking Education is Essential for All.'

Punctuation

Semicolon (;)

The semicolon or semi-colon (;) is a punctuation mark that separates major sentence elements. A semicolon can be used between two closely related independent clauses, provided they are not already joined by a coordinating conjunction.

It is easy to remember that semicolon takes place between two independent clauses.

Examples

- i. Some people write with marker; other write with pen or pencil.
- ii. The sky is clear; the stars are twinkling.
- iii. The waves were crashing on the shore; it was a lovely sight.

6. Punctuate the following sentences by using semicolon (;) wherever required.

- (i) You should stop eating so much food you will have to go on diet.
- (ii) Your car needs new brakes otherwise you may not be able to stop in time.

- (iii) She did not see the other car coming now her car has a huge dent.
- (iv) I will be there as soon as I finish my work that is a promise I will definitely help.
- (v) We made too many mistakes we lost the match.

Conditional Sentences Type 1 and 2

First conditional sentences

If clause	Main clause	Use
If + Present Tense (simple or continuous) or Present perfect Simple (if the action has already finished)	• Future tense If Bilal gets the job, he will move to Karachi. • Can/may/might/ should + infinitive If you have finished your homework, you may go out with your friends.	real or probable situations in the present or future
	Present Simple If you mix blue and yellow, you get green.	General truths
	Imperative If you miss the train, take the bus.	Instructions or commands

NOTE:

- If clauses either precede or follow the main clause, if they precede the main clause, we separate them with a comma.

If you eat a lot of sweets, you'll gain weight.

OR

You'll gain weight if you eat a lot of sweets.

- If there is only a slightly possibility of something happening, we can use **should**.

If you should ever go to Lahore, visit the museum.

In this case, **If** can be omitted: **should** comes before the subject (inversion).

Should you ever go to Lahore, visit the Museum.

Examples

- i. If you work hard, you will succeed.
- ii. If it rains, I will not go to the playground.
- iii. I will go to the party if he invites me.

7. Write eight first conditional sentences.

Second Conditional Sentences

If clause	Main clause	Use
If + Past Tense (simple or continuous)	would } could } + present infinitive might }	Unreal or imaginary situations in the present
	If he were still living with his parents, he would be able to save more money.	
	If I won a lot of money, I would spend most of it travelling around the world.	Events that are unlikely to happen in the future
	If I were you, I wouldn't argue with my employer.	To give advice

NOTE:

- We use **were** instead of **was** in type 2 conditional sentences in formal English.
If he were not so lazy, he would be more successful.
- **If** can be omitted when it is followed by **were**; **were** comes before the subject (inversion).
Were he taller, he could become a basket ball player. (= If he were taller, ...)
- We can use **will/would** in the if-clause (Type 1+2 conditional sentences) to express desire, willingness, politeness, insistence, annoyance,

uncertainty or to make a request.

If you will keep on being so noisy, I'll have to report you.

I would appreciate it if you would turn the radio down.

Examples

- i. If it rained today, I would bring umbrella.
- ii. If I had enough money, I would travel around the world.
- iii. I would launch more developmental projects if I were the president of Pakistan.

8. Write ten second conditional sentences.

9. Change the following first conditional sentences into second conditional sentences.

- i. If he comes, I will go with him.
- ii. If she has a doll, she will give it to you.
- iii. If I win a million rupees, I will stop working.
- iv. If you give respect, you will get respect.
- v. If my mother cooks food, I will eat happily.

10. Change the following second conditionals into first conditional sentences.

- i. If I had enough money, I would buy a plane.
- ii. If he worked hard, he would pass the exams.
- iii. If my boss phoned, I would attend his call.
- iv. If they wrote letters, the teacher would read.
- v. If you got sick, father would take you to doctor.

Oral Communication

Three students sharing ideas in a group

Kamal: Why don't all the children go to school?

Ajmal: Well, their parents do not have enough money. If they had enough money, they would send their children to schools.

Akbar: Yes, you are right and even, they don't have money to buy books. Poor people are living hand to mouth.

Kamal: My friends, I think we all should help such children.

- Ajmal:* Yes. It is our religious and moral duty to help them.
- Kamal:* But how can we help them?
- Akbar:* Well, in my opinion, we can help poor children by providing books.
- Akmal:* How and where would we provide them?
- Akbar:* I believe, we can collect money and arrange books for the poor children and provide them in our respective areas.
- Ajmal:* Good point, but how to manage it?
- Akbar:* Let's go and take advice of our teacher. He can guide us properly.
- Ajmal and Kamal:* Let's go.

11. Group discussion

Divide the class into different groups and ask them to share their ideas and information about 'The Causes of Environmental Degradation', and plan to raise awareness of the trees plantation.