

6 UNIT

(Story) THE BIRD AND THE ELEPHANT

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- answer the comprehension questions.
- recognize the rules of and change the narration of statements, requests / orders and questions.
- identify and demonstrate use of relative pronouns.
- write comparisons and contrast essay.
- ask and express preferences.

Pre-reading

- Describe the given picture.

In the middle of a jungle stood a tall but thin tree. At its top, a tiny bird had made a nest for her family of three little chicks. They enjoyed peace and quiet there.

One day, an elephant passed by. He had walked a long way and he was feeling hot and tired. His thick skin **itched** in the **prickly heat**.

So, he **leaned against** the tree and began scratching his back. The tree started to **crack** and to move to and fro. The **swaying** of the tree frightened the little birds. They drew closer to their mother for protection. The bird stuck her beak out of the nest and said: "Hey, you!



There are other trees in this jungle. Why are you shaking this one? Stop this nonsense at once! You've frightened my chicks. If you don't stop, they'll soon fall out of the nest."

The elephant said nothing. He just looked at the bird and **flapped** his big ears in the wind. Then he left.

The next day he returned to the same spot to scratch his back against the same tree. Once again the little ones hid under their mother's wings. Now the mother was really very angry.

"Stop shaking our tree", she screamed, "or else I'll teach you a lesson!" "What can you do to a giant like me?" laughed the elephant. So saying, he caught hold of the tree with his trunk and tusks. He pushed it and pulled it with all his strength. The tree **creaked** and shook dangerously as if it would break. The little chicks cried in panic.

In a flash, the mother bird flew into one of the elephant's ears; she **tickled it** with her feet. The elephant stopped dead in his tracks. He could not understand what was happening to him. He shook his head, rubbed his ears against the tree, and ran here and there, and then he rolled on the ground to get rid of the strange sensation he felt. But all in vain. He still felt that irritating sensation inside his ear.

Finally he begged the bird to leave him alone and in return he promised that he would never again scratch his back against her tree.

The bird flew out of the elephant's ear and went back to her nest. She never saw that elephant again.



Reading and thinking skills:

Comprehension

Activities

1. Answer the following questions.

- i) How many birds lived in the nest?
- ii) Why did the elephant feel hot?
- iii) Why were the little birds frightened?
- iv) What made the elephant stop dead in his tracks?
- v) Why did the bird leave the elephant's ear?

2. Choose the correct answer from the given options to complete the sentences.

- i) The little birds drew close to their mother because they:
 - (a) were thirsty
 - (b) were hungry
 - (c) felt cold
 - (d) felt insecure
- ii) The mother bird flew into one of the elephant's ears to:
 - (a) whisper something to him
 - (b) teach him a lesson
 - (c) tell secret
 - (d) caress him
- iii) The elephant begged the mother bird to leave him alone because he:
 - (a) did not want to hurt her
 - (b) was tired of the joke
 - (c) could not defend himself
 - (d) wanted her to go and look after her babies
- iv) She never saw that elephant again because:
 - (a) she did not invite him
 - (b) he had learnt a good lesson
 - (c) he was a giant
 - (d) he didn't like the jungle
- v) The expression 'to and fro' means:
 - (a) backwards and forwards
 - (b) to return
 - (c) to go away
 - (d) to stop

3. Match the meanings of the following phrases.

Column (A)

- cried in panic
- leaned
- irritating
- prickly heat
- stopped dead

Column (B)

- without any movement
- extreme heat
- cried due to fear or pain
- annoyance / annoying feelings
- to rely for support against something

Critical thinking

What is the main theme of the story?

Grammar

Direct and Indirect Speech

Direct speech:

When we quote the actual words of the speaker, it is called direct speech. His / her actual words are quoted in inverted commas.

Examples:

- "Stop shaking our tree", she screamed.
- Ali said, "I am very busy."
- The teacher said, "I will check your copies."

Indirect speech:

When we report what someone said without quoting his actual / exact words, it is called indirect speech. Here we don't use inverted commas.

- She asked to stop shaking their tree.
- Ali said that he was very busy.
- The teacher said that he would check our copies.

Activity

Change the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. He said, "My master is writing letters."
2. Ali said, "I am happy."

3. She said, "I have passed the examination."
4. Abdullah said, "I bought a new pen."
5. You said, "You played football."
6. Shazia said to her mother, "You did not buy new shoes for me."
7. I said to him, "You are not sincere to me."
8. They said to us, "We helped you in solving your problems."
9. Mother said to her son, "It is raining outside."
10. Mujtaba said to his brother, "We shall go for a picnic on Sunday."

Rules for changing the narration of questions, orders and requests

1. For questions:

While changing into indirect speech we use asked, inquired, whether or if.

Read the following examples:

- He said to me, "What are you doing."
He asked to me what I was doing.
- "Where do you live?" asked the stranger.
The stranger enquired where I lived.
- He said, "Will you listen to such a man?"
He asked them whether they would listen to such a man.
- She said, "Do you play football."
She asked me if I played football.
- He said to me, "Where do you live?"
He asked me where I lived.

Information!

- In indirect speech 'wh' questions like, who, where, when etc. are not changed.
- Questions with helping verbs like do, does, is, are, was etc. are replaced with if / whether.

2. For orders and requests

In reporting orders and requests, the indirect speech is introduced by some verb expressing order or request, and the imperative mood is changed into the infinitive.

Read the following examples:

- Ali said to Abdullah, "Go away."
Ali ordered Abdullah to go away.

- He said to him, "Please wait till I return."
He requested him to wait till he returned.
- "Call the first witness", said the judge.
The judge ordered them to call the first witness.

Information!

Expressions used for order and requests.
requested, ordered, commanded, shouted, urged.

Activities

1. Change the narration of the following sentences by following the rules of changing the narration of questions, orders and requests.

- He said to me, "What is your name?"
- Abdullah said to me, "How old are you?"
- He said to me, "Give me a book, please."
- The teacher said to the student, "Show me your note books."
- She said, "Will you help me?"
- Sana said to me, "When did you arrive in Quetta?"
- The teacher said to Saad, "Why were you absent."
- The gardener said, "Do not pluck the flowers."

2. Change the narration of the following sentences.

- All said, "I am sick."
- The teacher said, "They are my students."
- She said, "It is raining."
- Father said to me, "Your English is good."
- She said, "Hina is a good student."
- The judge said, "Call the first witness."
- Shazia said to Saira, "Please help me."
- The policeman said to us, "Where are you going?"

Relative Pronouns

Activity

Read the following extract and identify the relative pronouns.

The following day which was cloudy and rainy unfortunately, we went to a museum where they have some dinosaur skeletons that local people have found in the area. The horrible weather never improved all day so we visited a superb seafood restaurant later in the afternoon and had an early dinner. The waiters who were all dressed in traditional fisherman's clothes, were very friendly and told us about the history of the restaurant whose name was Moon Restaurant.

Do you remember?

Who, which, that, where, whose, when all are relative pronouns.

Writing Skills

Write an essay showing comparison and contrast between modern and old means of transportation by using the connectives of comparison and contrast.

Connectives of Comparison

instead of
where as
otherwise
on the other hand

Connectives of Contrast

in the same way
similarly
likewise
like

Oral Communication

(Ask & express preferences) Two sisters at shopping centre.

Saira: Listen, I want to buy some new bed sheets for the home.

Bano: Yes, sure.

Saira: Perhaps we could buy this pair? I like floral patterns.

Bano: I prefer this one with the geometric design. I think it looks attractive.

Saira: I suppose you are right. Geometric design in lighter shades will be nice for the summer.

Bano: Personally I prefer darker shades, but if you like lighter shades then it is okay.

Saira: I am glad we found something that we both like.

Bano: Please pack these bed sheets and get the bill ready.

Shopkeeper: Okay.

Activity

Role Play:

Construct dialogues using expressions of preferences and perform in pairs.