



पुर्ना International School
Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul, Zundal

CLASS - VIII

SUBJECT - ENGLISH
[SAMPLE PLAN]

BOOK - 1. HONEYDEW

2. IT SO HAPPENED

APRIL - MAY

SESSION - 2021 - 2022

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CLASS - 8
SUB - ENGLISH

BOOK- HONEYDEW

CH - 1 THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN THE WORLD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdkagflUZro>

The Best Christmas Present in the World is a touching story by Michael Morpurgo. The narrator buys an old desk and finds in it a letter written by an English soldier Jim Mcpherson to his wife Connie whom the narrator goes to meet and hand over the letter.

The letter has a touchy account of how the English soldiers and German soldiers wished each other 'Happy Christmas', celebrated the festival with real Christmas spirit where there was no place for conflict, hatred, and violence. The letter was written on 26 December 1914 and Jim wrote in his letter that he would be back by the next Christmas as the incident between the two armies showed how soldiers from both sides wanted peace.

The narrator could not sleep the whole night, it was Christmas Eve, as he had intruded in someone's privacy by reading the letter. In the morning he went to the address mentioned in the letter, finds the house in shatters due to fire, asked a neighbour and reached where Connie was. Connie was 101 years and she mistook the narrator as Jim and talked about her happiness on Jim's arrival. It was the best Christmas present for her in the world.

❖ **NEW WORDS**

1. Nineteenth
2. Clumsily
3. Drawer
4. Underneath
5. Curiosity
6. Greatcoat
7. Parapet
8. Sausage
9. Outstretched
10. Carols
11. Lopsided



❖ **WORD MEANINGS**

1. Spotted it – saw it , found it
2. Scorch marks – burn marks
3. Restore – repair
4. Stuck fast – shut tight
5. Scruples – feelings that make you hesitate to do something wrong
6. Trenches – long deep ditches in the ground where soldiers hide from the enemy
7. Cello – A musical instrument like a large violin
8. Marzipan – A sweet covering on a cake made from sugar, eggs and almonds
9. Dugout – A shelter for soldiers made by digging a hole in the ground and covering it
10. Boarded up - Covered with wooden boards

11. Muddle headed – Confused
12. Suffused with – Spread all over her face

❖ **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS –**

Q 1. What did the author find in a junk shop?

Ans - The author found an old roll-top desk in a junk shop in Bridport. It was made in early 19th century of oak wood.

Q 2. Who had written the letter, to whom and when?

Ans - Jim had written the letter to his wife, Connie, dated Dec. 26, 1914.

Q 3. Who do you think had put it in there?

Ans - Most likely, it was put there by Mrs. Jim Macpherson, who was Jim's wife. Her name and address were on the envelope inside the box.

Q 4. How old was Mrs Macpherson now? Where was she?

Ans - Mrs. Macpherson was a hundred and one years old. She was admitted to Burlington House Nursing Home after her house had caught fire.

Q5 . Why did the author go to Bridport?

Ans - The author went to Bridport because that was the address where Mrs. Macpherson lived. He wanted to give that letter back to her.

Q6 .Who did Connie Macpherson think her visitor was?

Ans - Connie Macpherson thought that her visitor was her husband, Jim Macpherson.

❖ **ANSWER IN DETAIL –**

Q 1. Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?

Ans - The desk must have been sold when the house in which Connie Macpherson lived had caught fire. She was taken to a nursing home. All the burnt up things must have been sold by the neighbours after that.

Q 2. What is Connie's Christmas present? Why is it "the best Christmas present in the world"?

Ans - When the narrator came to see Connie and gave her the box, she mistook him for her husband Jim. She thought that Jim had come home for Christmas. This was Connie's Christmas present. It was the best Christmas present in the world for her because Jim had written in the letter that he would come home on Christmas. She had read that letter several times everyday to feel that he was near her. Now that he was finally there with her, she was extremely happy.

Q3 . Why was the letter written—what was the wonderful thing that had happened?

Ans - Jim wrote the letter to tell his wife about a wonderful thing that had happened on Christmas day. The British and the Germans were engaged in a war, yet on this day, both the troops met in no man's land. It was a thing of wonder because right in the middle of a war, the warring soldiers were making peace.

❖ **VALUE BASED QUESTION –**

Why do Jim and Hans think that games or sports are good ways of resolving conflicts? Do you agree?

Ans - Jim and Hans thought that games or sports are good ways of resolving conflicts than going to war because war only leads to death and destruction. No matter which camp wins the war, loss of life is common to both the armies, families too long are ruined and children are orphaned and wives are windowed. I completely agree with this line of thought as no one dies during matches. Peace constructs the society whereas war destroys it.

Moral:

War brings death and sadness; there are much better ways of resolving differences.

❖ **WORKING WITH GRAMMAR**

Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

My little sister is very naughty. When she **came** (come) back from school yesterday, she had **torn**(tear) her dress. We **asked** (ask) her how it had **happened** (happen). She **said**(say) she **had quarrelled** (have, quarrel) with a boy. She **had beaten**(have, beat) him in a race and he **had tried** (have, try) to push her. She **had told**(have, tell) the teacher and so he **had chased**(have, chase) her, and she **had fallen**(have, fall) down and **had torn**(have, tear) her dress.

THE ANT AND THE CRICKET (POEM)

❖ SUMMARY

This poem is about a cricket (an insect), who found himself in trouble as the winter season arrived. He found he had nothing to eat; nor had he cared to make a shelter for himself.

He decided to go to an ant for help. He wished to borrow some grain from her and to spend a day or two in her hole during the rainy days. His intention was to pay her back later on.

However, the ant did not help the cricket. She told him without mincing words that it was rule of ants that they neither borrowed nor lent. She asked the cricket in astonishment if he had not saved anything for the winter. To which the cricket replied in negative. She asked him the reason. He replied he was so busy enjoying his life, he did not bother to save or put by anything. The ant taunted him to go and dance during the winter also.

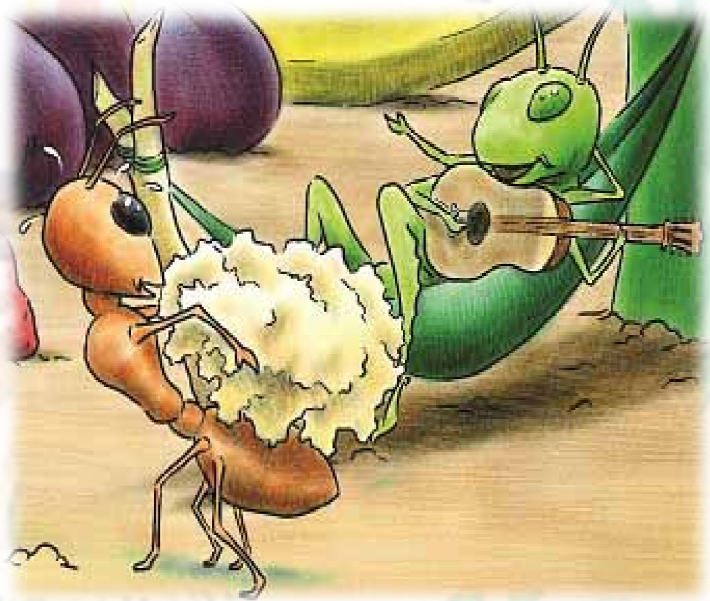
In conclusion it can be said that we must be responsible for our future. We must not just spend our good times idly; we must also secure our future against the bad times also.

❖ NEW WORDS

1. Complain
2. Snow- covered
3. Starvation
4. Famine
5. Shelter
6. Mouthful
7. Sorrow
8. Wicket
9. Cricket

❖ WORD MEANINGS

1. Accustomed to - addicted to, in habit
2. A crumb - a piece
3. Shelter - home
4. Starvation - hunger
5. Quoth - quoted
6. Gay - happy



❖ ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Q1. Why did the cricket complain?

Ans - The cricket had spent the entire summer season by singing, dancing and merry-making. Because of this he had empty cupboard which is of utter need in coming winter. That is why the cricket complained .

Q 2. What did the ant ask the cricket?

Ans- The ant asked the cricket that what he was doing in summer times.

Q 3. The ant refuses to help the cricket because of a principle. What is that principle?

Ans. The ants neither borrow nor lend.

❖ **READ THE EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**But tell me, dear cricket,
Did you lay nothing by
When the weather was warm?**

Quoth the cricket, Not I!

**My heart was so light/ That I sang day and night,
For all nature looked gay.**

You sang, Sir, you say?

Go then, 'says the ant and dance the winter away.

1. Who sang day and night?

(a) The poet (b) The cricket (c) The ant (d) The singer

Ans. (b) The cricket

2. Who saved nothing for the winter?

(a) The poet (b) The cricket (c) The ant (d) The singer

Ans. (b) The cricket

3. What does the ant tell the cricket to do?

(a) Dance (b) Sing (c) Die (d) Beg

Ans. (a) Dance

4. Why did the ant ask the cricket to “dance the winter away”?

Ans. The ant asked the cricket to dance the winter away because all through the winter he had done nothing but had fun.

5. What does the phrase “nature looked gay” mean?

Ans. It means that the nature is showing its happiness.



BOOK- IT SO HAPPENED

CH –1 HOW CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bE13T7qKLO>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJHty4j2AIM>

In the beginning of time, when the world is new, there is a Camel. The Camel is very lazy and he sits in the middle of the Howling Dessert, eating prickles and milkweeds. When anyone speaks to the Camel he responds with, “Humph”.

On Monday, the Horse comes and asks the Camel to help trot. The Camel replies, “Humph”. The Horse goes away and tells the Man. On Tuesday, the Dog comes and asks the Camel to help fetch and carry. The Camel responds, “Humph”. The Dog goes away and tells the Man. On Wednesday, the Ox comes and asks the Camel to help plough. The Camel states, “Humph”. The Ox goes away and tells the Man. At the end of the day, the Man calls the Three animals together. The Man says that since the Camel will not work, they will have to do extra work to make up for him. This makes the Three very angry, and they talk and complain about the Camel.

In rolls a Djinn, the man in charge of All Deserts, and he confers with the Three. They ask if it is alright for someone to be so lazy and not work. The Djinn, of course, says it is not.

The Djinn heads to the middle of the desert where the Camel is ogling his reflection. The Djinn asks the Camel why he is not doing any work and the Camel responds, “Humph”. The Djinn tells the Camel that since he has chosen not to work, he has given the Three extra work. The Camel says, “Humph”. The Djinn warns the Camel that if he says ‘humph’ again, something bad may happen. As soon as the Camel responds with “humph” again, and a huge hump grows on the back of the Camel!

The Djinn tells the Camel that is his very own hump, brought on by his selfishness and lack of activity. The Djinn says the Camel has to work, and the Camel asks how can he work with a giant hump on his back. The Djinn explains that the hump will hold enough fuel for him to be able to work for three days without eating.

The Camel goes to join the Three, and from that day always has a hump.

❖ NEW WORDS

1. Prickles
2. Saddle
3. Plough
4. Cud
5. Idleness
6. Humph
7. Dust-cloak
8. Sticks
9. Thorns

❖ WORD MEANINGS

1. Djinn – a Spirit that has supreme powers
2. Plough - a large farming implement with one or more blades fixed in a frame
3. Whistling – high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small hole between one's lips or



teeth

4. Dust-cloak –A loose outer garment
5. Remonstrated – Protested
6. Hump – now called as ‘hump’; a rounded raised mass of earth or land ; a rounded protuberance found on the back of a camel
7. Reflection –the throwing back by a body or surface of light, heat, or sound without absorbing it.
8. Stroke – an act of hitting or striking someone or something
9. Prickles - a small thorn

❖ ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Q1. Why did the camel live in the middle of the desert?

Ans- The camel lived in the middle of the desert because he did not want to work.

Q2. What tasks , do you think, were assigned to the dog and the ox?

Ans - The dog was given the task of fetching and carrying things in its mouth while the ox had a yoke around its neck and was required to plough the fields for agriculture.

Q3. What made the dog, the horse and the ox very angry?

Ans - As the camel was not working, the man thought that it is incapable of doing any work and thus asked the other three animals to work double to make up for the idleness of the camel. This made the three very angry.

Q4. How did the Djinn know the horse was complaining against the camel?

Ans-The horse described the physical appearance of the camel and also told the djinn that the thing (camel) has not done any work since Monday morning. This made the djinn realise that the horse was talking about the djinn’s camel.

Q 5.The camel said, “Humph” repeatedly. How did it affect him?

Ans- The camel was used to of saying ‘Humph’ to everyone when he was asked to work; he did the same with the djinn as well which enraged the djinn and he gave the camel a hump in response to his ill behaviour.

Q 6.What, according to the Djinn, was the use of the ‘humph’?

Ans-The djinn told the camel that as he had missed the first three days of work, he would be able to live and work without eating for three days. This meant that the camel could live off the nutrition stored in his hump for three days.

BOOK- HONEYDEW

CH – 2 THE TSUNAMI

❖ NEW WORDS

1. Ignacious
2. Co-operative
3. Guest house
4. Overhead
5. Daze
6. Sea shore
7. Clinging
8. Fainted
9. Whirlpools
10. Landslides
11. Abandoned
12. Eyewitness



❖ WORD MEANINGS

1. Archipelago – A group of many islands and surrounding sea
2. Tremor – a slight earthquake
3. Chaos – complete disorder
4. Relief helicopters – helicopters bringing help for the people
5. Recede – move back from where it was
6. Traumatized – greatly shocked and distressed
7. Resort – a place where people go on holiday
8. Triggered – Caused
9. Hysterical – without any control over yourself
10. Refuge – Shelter or protection from danger
11. Withstood – endured without collapsing
12. Surge – force

❖ ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Q1. Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Ans- Tilly's family came to Thailand because it was a part of their plan to celebrate Christmas.

Q2. How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

Ans - As many as sixty people and only two water buffaloes died in Yala National Park.

Q 3. How do you think her geography teacher felt when he heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Ans - Tilly had used what she had learnt in class. The teacher felt satisfied and pleased and was very proud of her.

Q 4. Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?

Ans- Yes, such an odd thing as sudden excessive swelling of the sea alarmed Tilly's mother Penny Smith but She had absolutely no idea whatsoever, of what was happening, what to do .

Q 5. Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?

Ans- Before coming on vacation, Tilly saw the video of Tsunami in one of her geography classes.

❖ **ANSWER IN DETAIL**

Q1. Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami?

Ans- The Smith family and a few other families on the beach went to the swimming pool at the hotel initially. After a while, when the waves hit, the families ran for their lives and ended up on the third floor of the hotel to escape from the tsunami.

Q 2. What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?

Ans - Normally a sea constantly follows the ebb and flow routine but on that day Tilly and her mother saw that the sea was continuously surging forward, which in itself is highly unusual.

WRITING SKILL

MESSAGE WRITING

A message is a short piece of information that is written for someone to whom you are unable to speak for some reason.

Sometimes, a message is passed on through a telephone. However, if the person for whom the message is meant, is not available, then someone else receives the message and conveys it to the concerned person by writing it.

Points –

1. The conversation should be incorporated in the message accurately and clearly.
2. A message can also be written based on some written inputs, instead of a telephonic conversation.
For e.g. an announcement or written notes.
3. It should be enclosed in the box.
4. It should be written in the proper format.
5. Word limit should be fifty words.

MESSAGE WRITING FORMAT

MESSAGE

DATE - _____

TIME - _____

[LEAVE A BLANK LINE]

ADDRESSE - _____

[BODY OF THE TEXT]

[LEAVE A BLANK LINE]

ADDRESSER - _____

Read the following telephone conversation between Neerja and Sonam. Sonam is about to leave home and will not be able to meet Rohit. She leaves a message for him.

Write the message, using not more than 50 words.

- Neerja : It is Neerja here. Sonam, Do you know India International Trade Fair 2021 has started . I plan to visit it today.
- Sonam : Oh! it is a wonderful idea. But why not make it tomorrow?
- Neerja : No. Tomorrow I am busy. Let's make it today. Surinder is coming with me. You bring Rohit with you.
- Sonam : He is not at home at present. But rest assured. He will be happy to be with us. He had expressed a desire to visit it earlier.
- Neerja : Then it is settled. Please wait for us at Gate No.3 at 1.30 pm today. In case, you reach earlier, please wait for us. If we reach earlier, we shall look for you.
- Sonam : Fine, It shall be all right. We shall reach in time.
- Neerja : All right. Bye till then.
- Sonam : Bye.

MESSAGE

15-04-21

Rohit,

We are visiting India International Trade Fair 2021 today. Neerja and Surinder shall wait for us at 1.30 pm at Gate No.3. I shall be back from office at 12 noon to go there. Please wait till then. I shall tell you everything.

-Sonam

You are Sonakshi. Your father is on tour. Today morning he called upon your mother. As your mother was not at home, you received the call and had the following conversation with him:

Father : Hello! Who is speaking?

Yourself: Sonakshi here.

Father : Well Sonakshi, I am here now in Chennai. Where is your Mom?

Yourself: Papa, she has gone to the market and will be back in an hour. Have you any message for her?

Father : Oh, yes. Please tell her that my meeting may prolong for two more days. In that case I may be back on the 5th. Otherwise I'll return as per scheduled programme. After coming back we will go to

Kashmir.

So be ready for that.

Yourself: Thank you Papa. I'll convey it to Mom and all.

As you are leaving for your dance class, leave a message for your mother in not more than 50 words.

Put your message in a box.

MESSAGE

25.5.20**

9 AM

Dear Mom

Father had called upon you when you were out in the market. He has left a message that his meeting may be extended by two days more. In that case he will be back on 5th, otherwise he will be back as per schedule. After he returns, he has a programme to take us to Kashmir. So be ready for that.

Sonakshi

ACTIVITY

Silly sentence strips - 1

Make colourful strips and write any one thing which you want to be as a best present (Gift) for yourself.

Write it like this – I (NAME) would be very happy to get (NAME OF THE GIFT).

***Now , all the strips will be pasted in the form of collage.**

**** Make a separate notebook for Grammar and Writing skills.**

Ch- 1 PHRASES AND ITS TYPES

A phrase is any group of words, often carrying a special idiomatic meaning. It work together to make meaning, but it is not a complete sentence. In other words, it does not have both a subject and a verb.

There are 5 types of phrases:



1. Noun Phrase - A noun phrase includes a noun—a person, place, or thing—and the modifiers which distinguish it. Think of it as a phrase that plays the role of a noun.

Examples –

1. My new pair of jeans is very comfortable.

Here, My new pair of jeans is a noun phrase, with the head noun jeans *functioning as the subject noun*.

Grammar Text book Exercise- (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

A. Underline the noun phrases in the sentences –

1. The big bright full moon adorned the sky.
2. The big black dog is very friendly.
3. My piano lessons are progressing well.
4. The paperback edition of this book is not available anywhere.
5. Chemical pesticides and fertilizers are poisoning waterbodies too.
6. Beth dreamt she was all alone on a lonely planet.

2. Adjective Phrase - An adjective phrase is a group of words that functions as an **adjective** and modifies a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun in a sentence. It can be modify with other words like -

Determiners (eg- Sheena bought **few fresh oranges** ... where **few** is **determiner** , **fresh** is **adjective** and **oranges** are **noun**)

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

B. Underline the adjective phrases in this description-

It was a cold and bleak wintry evening. The gentle murmuring breeze tapped the window blinds.

Outside , the wind lifted the yellow fallen leaves and dropped them at another lonely place. Soon, white featheryflakes covered the earth, preparing us for a chilly white morning.

3. Verb Phrase - A verb phrases includes the main verb and one or more helping verbs.

Examples: Samay was born in Mumbai. Where *was* is *helping verb* and *born* is *main verb* .

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

c. Underline the verb phrases in these sentences -

1. The lunar mission Chandrayaan -1 was launched by India.
2. Widespread water has been detected on the surface of moon.
3. This could make a manned base on the moon possible.
4. It will not be surprising if people start travelling to the moon.
5. International space missions have found evidence of ice on Mars.
6. None of us expected such discoveries ten years ago.

4. Adverb Phrase - An adverb phrase is a group of words that acts as an adverb and modifies the verb in a sentence.

It gives information about manner (**how**), place (**where**), time (**when**) ,frequency (how often) and degree of the verb.

Examples - The team danced very nicely for the first time. (manner)

Here, *danced* - *main verb*, *very* - *adverb* and *nicely*- *head adverb or main adverb*

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

D. Underline the adverb phrase in these sentences –

1. The train moved quite slowly as it neared the station.
2. He spoke surprisingly well though it was his debut.
3. We dine out only occasionally.
4. The firefighters got into action without any delay.
5. You should have submitted the report much earlier.
6. My grandmother looked after me with loving care.

5. Prepositional phrase- A prepositional phrase will begin with the preposition, follow the noun phrase, adjective and adjective phrase.

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

Fill in the blanks with the suitable prepositions . Then underline the prepositional phrases formed.

1. The tall tree swayed from side to side during the storm.
2. They have ordered for some furniture online.
3. They sat by the river with their fishing rods dipped in.
4. Please bear with a temporary disruption in your network.
5. If you take pride in your work, you will always give your best.
6. Sheeba is slow in the game and may not move to the next level

3. Vansh has paid back the money **borrowed from his friends.**
4. Lenny loves vegetables **with a lot of cheese.**
5. Someone daily visits the orphans **in the night shelter.**
6. Newspapers **reporting the incident** have already been circulated.
7. Cottages **built on the hilltop** are centrally heated for winter.
8. The jar **of peanut butter** slipped from my hand.
9. Children **cheering the team** were asked not to make noise.
10. Villagers are often awed by the traffic **on city roads.**

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in notebook , not in book)

C. Rewrite the sentences changing the highlighted premodifiers into postmodifiers.

1. This is an interesting topic for me.
This is a topic of interest for me.
2. The teak table is an antique.
The table of teak is an antique
3. We bought the world-famous Persian carpets.
We bought the world-famous carpets from Persia.
4. A government officer helped us.
An officer from the government helped us.
5. That is our recreation room.
That is our room for recreation
6. Grandpa is a very patient man.
Grandpa is a man of great patience.
7. We enjoyed the summer vacation.
We enjoyed the vacation during summer.
8. The expiry date is printed on the flap.
The date of expiry is printed on the flap.
9. He has been a successful man.
He has been a man of success
10. We should aim to live a contented life.
We should aim to live a life of content.

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

D. Underline the noun complements and cross out the post modifiers in these sentences.

1. The road ~~to Pune~~ is very well-laid.
2. The plant ~~with red leaves~~ is very delicate.
3. The girl ~~with curly hair~~ is a good dancer.
4. Look at the picture ~~of the man wanted for embezzlement.~~

5. The bottle ~~with medicine~~ has been labelled.
6. *No postmodifier*
7. The advice ~~to the winners~~ is to stay humble.
8. A gift ~~of ten thousand~~ rupees was given to each player.

Grammar Book Exercise (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

E. Underline the noun phrase complements in these sentences.

1. The sound of this alarm is very pleasant.
2. A fear of water is deeply rooted in me.
3. The smoke from burning leaves is harmful.
4. I appreciate the way you serve the poor.
5. He gave me an impression of being haughty.
6. The stream running down the hill joins the river.
7. Trina helped herself to a spoonful of honey.
8. The only game I enjoy is lawn tennis.
9. His claim of being innocent was rejected.
10. I was overcome with a feeling of fear.

F. Complete the noun phrases in these sentences by adding noun complements. (to be done in book only, not in notebook)

1. The beauty of the Taj Mahal at night is an attraction.
2. My bag is the one with a red tag.
3. What is your reason for such long absence?
4. Our hope for winning the trophy is fading now.
5. Their need for more funds is quite reasonable.
6. I am looking for information on ancient civilisations.
7. The staff was in awe of the new manager.
8. The joy of having helped someone is the greatest joy.
9. Education has the power to change one's thinking.
10. My passion for classical music has been there since my childhood.