

## THE NECKLACE



*Notes*

The story ‘The Necklace’ is written by French author **Guy de Maupassant**, one of the greatest short story writers of all time. The story is a satire that gives a strong message on human values like honesty and truthfulness. We often see that false pride and a desire to show off is the cause of all suffering. We should be proud of ourselves and learn to accept our flaws and weaknesses and inculcate good qualities in ourselves. By accepting our weakness, we improve ourselves. The story teaches us that we should be content with whatever that we have and be what we are. So, the story ‘The Necklace’ tells us about the negative effects of pride and vanity and emphasises on the importance of honesty. Ironically, Mathilde dreams of a better life but is not able to achieve it despite hard work and determination.



### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson, the learner:

- Recognises classic texts in English translated from the foreign languages;
- Discusses the foreign culture and norms through literary texts;
- Uses English words of French origin;
- Ascertains the value of truthfulness, honesty and lack of pretentiousness.

### 8.1 SECTION I

The girl was one of those pretty and charming young creatures who sometimes are born, as if by a slip of fate, into a family of clerks. She had no dowry, no expectations, no way of being known, understood, loved, married by any rich and distinguished man; so, she let herself be married to a little clerk of the Ministry of Public Instruction.

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## Notes

- **Caste** – (here) social system based on economic class
- **Ingenuity** – ability to think of clever new ways of doing something.
- **Supple** – able to be bent easily; yielding.
- **Hierarchy** – social order based on one's class

She dressed plainly because she could not dress well, but she was unhappy as if she had really fallen from a higher station; since with women there is neither **caste** nor rank, for beauty, grace and charm take the place of family and birth. Natural **ingenuity**, instinct for what is elegant, a **supple** mind are their sole **hierarchy**, and often make of women of the people the equals of the very greatest ladies.

## LET US UNDERSTAND 8.1

Mathilde, a young and pretty girl, was born in a family of clerks. She continuously bemoaned being born into a family with limited means. Being poor she could not marry a rich and distinguished man and had to marry a petty clerk working in the Ministry of Public Instruction. Her husband could afford to provide her only with a modest though not uncomfortable lifestyle. She was unhappy and angry at not being able to lead a life of luxury and suffered incessantly, as she felt her beauty entitled her to a higher status.



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1

1. Who is the protagonist of the story?
2. What is Mathilde's main desire at the beginning of the story?
3. Do you think Madame Loisel was happy being married to her husband? Give a reason to substantiate your answer.
4. Who did Mathilde's husband work for?
5. Mathilde *let herself be married to a little clerk of the Ministry of Public Instruction*. Mathilde felt her marriage was based on \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a) compromise
  - b) love
  - c) choice
  - d) compulsion
6. Why was Mathilde constantly dissatisfied?

## 8.2 SECTION II

Mathilde suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born to enjoy all delicacies and all luxuries. She was distressed at the poverty of her dwelling, at the bareness of the walls, at the shabby chairs, the ugliness of the curtains. All those things, of which another woman of

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her rank would never even have been conscious, tortured her and made her angry. The sight of the little **Breton** peasant who did her humble housework aroused in her despairing regrets and bewildering dreams. She thought of silent antechambers hung with Oriental **tapestry**, illumined by tall bronze **candelabra**, and of two great footmen in **knee breeches** who sleep in the big armchairs, made drowsy by the oppressive heat of the stove. She thought of long reception halls hung with ancient silk, of the dainty cabinets containing priceless curiosities and of the little **coquettish** perfumed reception rooms made for chatting at five o'clock with intimate friends, with men famous and sought after, whom all women envy and whose attention they all desire.

When she sat down to dinner, before the round table covered with a tablecloth in use three days, opposite her husband, who uncovered the soup **tureen** and declared with a delighted air, "Ah, the good soup! I don't know anything better than that," she thought of dainty dinners, of shining silverware, of tapestry that peopled the walls with ancient personages and with strange birds flying in the midst of a fairy forest; and she thought of delicious dishes served on marvellous plates and of the whispered **gallantries** to which you listen with a **sphinx-like** smile while you are eating the pink meat of a trout or the wings of a **quail**.

She had no gowns, no jewels, nothing. And she loved nothing but that. She felt made for that. She would have liked so much to please, to be envied, to be charming, to be sought after.

She had a friend, a former schoolmate at the convent, who was rich, and whom she did not like to go to see any more because she felt so sad when she came home.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.2

Mathilde felt she was so beautiful that she was born for the delicacies and luxuries, for a life of elegance. She suffered from the poverty of her apartment, the shabby walls and the worn chairs. She was dissatisfied and discontented. Her husband expressed his pleasure at the small, modest supper she prepared for him. But she dreamed of an elaborate feast served on fancy china and eaten in the company of wealthy friends. She wanted to be envied and sought after, but she had no gowns, jewels, or other material possessions. Without them, she felt undesirable. She had one wealthy friend, Madame Forestier, but Mathilde refused to visit her because of the heartbreak it brought her when she came home.



### Notes

- **Breton** – native of Brittany, a place in France
- **Tapestry** – an ornamental piece of cloth used for covering walls and furniture, or as curtains, whose pattern or picture is created by weaving different coloured woollen threads onto a special type of strong cloth.
- **Candelabra** – a branched or ornamental candlestick
- **Knee breeches** – knee-length trousers often having decorative buckles at, or near, the bottom commonly worn by men in the 17th to 19th centuries.
- **Coquettish** – flirtish or attempting to attract attention. (here) rooms with ornate furniture and attractive ambiance
- **Tureen** – a large deep serving dish with a cover.
- **Gallantries** – polite attentiveness to women
- **Sphinx-like** – enigmatic; in Greek mythology, a sphinx was a monster with the head of a woman and the body of a lioness that lay outside the city of Thebes and asked riddles to travellers, strangling those who could not solve them
- **Quail** – a small brown bird with a round body, small head, short neck and short tail, which is similar to partridges, but smaller and mysterious

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## Notes

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.2**

1. What did Mathilde feel as she looked around her house? Why?
2. How does Mathilde's perception of her appearance affect her behaviour? Choose the most suitable answer from the options given below.
  - a) She becomes arrogant and vain.
  - b) She becomes more confident and outgoing
  - c) She becomes indifferent towards her appearance.
  - d) She becomes self-conscious and withdrawn.
3. Which of the following words best describes Mathilde? Give reasons for your answer.
  - a) imaginative
  - b) dissatisfied
  - c) short-tempered
  - d) content
4. How was Mathilde's husband different from her?
5. What advice would you like to give Mathilde? Why?
6. Who was Mathilde's friend? Why did Mathilde not like to visit her any longer?

**8.3 SECTION III**

But one evening her husband reached home with a triumphant air and holding a large envelope in his hand.

"There," said he, "there is something for you."

She tore the paper quickly and drew out a printed card which bore these words:

The Minister of Public Instruction and Madame Georges Ramponneau request the honour of M. and Madame Loisel's company at the palace of the Ministry on Monday evening, January 18th.

Instead of being delighted, as her husband had hoped, she threw the invitation on the table **crossly**, muttering:

“What do you wish me to do with that?”



Fig. : 8.1

“Why, my dear, I thought you would be glad. You never go out, and this is such a fine opportunity. I had great trouble to get it. Everyone wants to go; it is very **select**, and they are not giving many invitations to clerks. The whole official world will be there.”

She looked at him with an irritated glance and said impatiently:

“And what do you wish me **to put on my back**?”

He had not thought of that. He stammered:

“Why, the gown you go to the theatre in. It looks very well to me.”

He stopped, distracted, seeing that his wife was weeping. Two great tears ran slowly from the corners of her eyes toward the corners of her mouth.



*Notes*

- **Crossly** – irritably
- **Select** – exclusive
- **To put on my back** – to wear

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## Notes

- **Despair** – misery
- **Economical** – (here) frugal; avoiding wasteful expenditure

“What’s the matter? What’s the matter?” he answered.

By a violent effort she conquered her grief and replied in a calm voice, while she wiped her wet cheeks:

“Nothing. Only I have no gown, and, therefore, I can’t go to this party. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better equipped than I am.”

He was in **despair**. He resumed:

“Come, let us see, Mathilde. How much would it cost, a suitable gown, which you could use on other occasions—something very simple?”

She reflected several seconds, making her calculations and wondering also what sum she could ask without drawing on herself an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the **economical** clerk.

Finally, she replied hesitating:

“I don’t know exactly, but I think I could manage it with four hundred francs.”

He grew a little pale, because he was laying aside just that amount to buy a gun and treat himself to a little shooting next summer on the plain of Nanterre, with several friends who went to shoot larks there of a Sunday.

But he said:

“Very well. I will give you four hundred francs. And try to have a pretty gown.”

### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.3

One day, Mr. Loisel got an invitation from the Minister of Public Instruction to a formal party with spouse at their residence. He was proud of having been selected for the honour. He hoped that Mathilde would be thrilled with the chance to attend an event of this sort. But, much to his surprise, she was in despair and began to cry. Through her tears, she told him that she had nothing to wear to the party and that he ought to give the invitation to one of his friends whose wife could afford better clothing. Upset by her reaction, Mathilde’s husband asked her how much a suitable dress would cost. She thought carefully about it and told him that 400 francs would be enough. Her husband, though he hesitated at the sum, agreed to give her the money that he had set aside to buy a gun and treat himself to a little shooting next summer on the plain of Nanterre, with his friends.



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.3

1. What was the 'something' Monsieur Loisel got for his wife from his office?
2. How did Mathilde react at the invitation?
3. How did Mathilde's husband react to her request for a new dress?
4. Why did Monsieur Loisel give Mathilde the money he had saved for himself?
5. What does this tell about him?
6. Mathilde's happiness depends on material possessions. Do you agree? Why/Why not?

## 8.4 SECTION IV

The day of the party drew near and Madame Loisel seemed sad, uneasy, anxious. Her frock was ready, however. Her husband said to her one evening:

“What is the matter? Come, you have seemed very queer these last three days.”

And she answered:

“It annoys me not to have a single piece of jewellery, not a single ornament, nothing to put on. I shall look poverty-stricken. I would almost rather not go at all.”

“You might wear natural flowers,” said her husband. “They're very stylish at this time of year. For ten francs you can get two or three magnificent roses.”

She was not convinced.

“No; there's nothing more humiliating than to look poor among other women who are rich.”

“How stupid you are!” her husband cried. “Go look up your friend, Madame Forestier, and ask her to lend you some jewels. You're intimate enough with her to do that.”

She uttered a cry of joy:

“True! I never thought of it.”

The next day she went to her friend and told her of her **distress**.

*Notes*

- **Distress** – problem; difficulty

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## Notes

- **Immoderate** – excessive
- **Ecstasy** – a state of extreme pleasure and happiness

Madame Forestier went to a wardrobe with a mirror, took out a large jewel box, brought it back, opened it and said to Madame Loisel:

“Choose, my dear.”

She saw first some bracelets, then a pearl necklace, then a Venetian gold cross set with precious stones, of admirable workmanship. She tried on the ornaments before the mirror, hesitated and could not make up her mind to part with them, to give them back. She kept asking:

“Haven’t you any more?”

“Why, yes. Look further; I don’t know what you like.”

Suddenly she discovered, in a black satin box, a superb diamond necklace, and her heart throbbed with an **immoderate** desire. Her hands trembled as she took it. She fastened it round her throat, outside her high-necked dress, and was lost in **ecstasy** at her reflection in the mirror.



Fig. : 8.2

Then she asked, hesitating, filled with anxious doubt: “Will you lend me this, only this?”

“Why, yes, certainly.”



She threw her arms round her friend's neck, kissed her passionately, then fled with her treasure.

The night of the party arrived. Madame Loisel was a great success. She was prettier than any other woman present, elegant, graceful, smiling and wild with joy. All the men looked at her, asked her name, sought to be introduced. All the **attaches** of the Cabinet wished to **waltz** with her. She was remarked by the minister himself.



Fig. : 8.3

She danced with **rapture**, with passion, intoxicated by pleasure, forgetting all in the triumph of her beauty, in the glory of her success, in a sort of cloud of happiness, comprised of all this **homage**, all this admiration, all these awakened desires and of that sense of triumph which is so sweet to a woman's heart.

#### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.4

As the day of the party approached, Mathilde started to behave oddly. She now said she had no jewellery to wear to the party. Monsieur Loisel suggested her to wear flowers, but she refused. He implored her to visit Madame Forestier and borrow something from her. Madame Forestier showed Mathilde her jewels and promised to lend Mathilde whatever she wanted. Mathilde selected a diamond necklace and was overcome with gratitude at Madame Forestier's generosity. Mathilde was the most beautiful woman at the party, and everyone noticed her. She was intoxicated by the attention she received. She danced with passion and won the hearts of all the men with



#### Notes

- **Attaches** – a junior officer attached to an ambassador's staff
- **Waltz** – a German formal party room dance performed by couples who move around a large room in circular motion to music that is specially written for this style of dancing
- **Rapture** – a state of great joy
- **Homage** – showing great respect

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## Notes

- **Modest** – marked by simplicity; (here) inexpensive
- **Seine** – river flowing through Paris
- **Quay** – sea front
- **Shabbiness** – old and uncared for

her pretty looks and elegant smile. She was filled with happiness and self-satisfaction.



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.4

1. After she got her dress, what other objection did Mathilde have for going to the party?
2. How did Madame Forestier solved this problem?
3. What piece of jewellery did Mathilde choose?
4. What was Madame Forester's response when Madame Loisel asked to borrow the diamond necklace?
5. What made Mathilde a great success at the party?
6. What was Mathilde's reaction to the admiration she received at the party?

## 8.5 SECTION V

She left the party about four o'clock in the morning. Her husband had been sleeping since midnight in a little deserted anteroom with three other gentlemen whose wives were enjoying the party.

He threw over her shoulders the wraps he had brought, the **modest** wraps of common life, the poverty of which contrasted with the elegance of the party dress. She felt this and wished to escape so as not to be remarked by the other women, who were enveloping themselves in costly furs.

Loisel held her back, saying: "Wait a bit. You will catch cold outside. I will call a cab."

But she did not listen to him and rapidly descended the stairs. When they reached the street they could not find a carriage and began to look for one, shouting after the cabmen passing at a distance.

They went toward the **Seine** in despair, shivering with cold. At last they found on the **quay** one of those ancient night cabs which, as though they were ashamed to show their **shabbiness** during the day, are never seen round Paris until after dark.

It took them to their dwelling in the Rue des Martyrs, and sadly they mounted the stairs to their flat. All was ended for her. As to him, he reflected that he must be at the ministry at ten o'clock that morning.

**LET US UNDERSTAND 8.5**

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While Mme (Mrs., in French) Loisel danced till 4am, her husband went off to sleep at midnight in a deserted little anteroom. When she finally was ready to leave, he put her cloak around her bare shoulders. He advised her to wait inside, away from the cold night air, while he got a cab. But Mathilde was ashamed at the shabbiness of her wrap and did not want any of the other ladies to see her. So she left the place. They walked for a while before hailing a cab at the quay by the Seine. When they finally returned home, both of them were tired. But while Mathilde was saddened that the night had ended, Monsieur Loisel was thinking of resting as he had to be back at the office at ten.

*Notes***INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.5**

1. How did Monsieur Loisel had spent the evening at the party? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What does his behaviour at the party tell you about Monsieur Loisel's character?
3. Monsieur Loisel's behaviour towards his wife is one of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Give a reason for your choice.
  - a) care and concern
  - b) scorn and mockery
  - c) annoyance and irritability
  - d) indifference and coolness
4. Why was Mathilde in a hurry to leave the party?
5. Where did the Loisels get the cab?
6. How were the feelings of Monsieur Loisel and Mathilde different as they reached home?

**8.6 SECTION VI**

She removed her wraps before the glass so as to see herself once more in all her glory.

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## Notes

- **Distractedly** – having one’s thoughts or attention drawn away and be unable to concentrate or give attention to something
- **Vestibule** – an entrance hall
- **Thunderstruck** – extremely surprised or shocked.

But suddenly she uttered a cry. She no longer had the necklace around her neck!

“What is the matter with you?” demanded her husband, already half undressed.

She turned **distractedly** toward him.

“I have—I have—I’ve lost Madame Forestier’s necklace,” she cried.

He stood up, bewildered.

“What!—how? Impossible!”

They looked among the folds of her skirt, of her cloak, in her pockets, everywhere, but did not find it.

“You’re sure you had it on when you left the party?” he asked.

“Yes, I felt it in the **vestibule** of the minister’s house.”

“But if you had lost it in the street we should have heard it fall. It must be in the cab.”

“Yes, probably. Did you take his number?”

“No. And you—didn’t you notice it?”

“No.”

They looked, **thunderstruck**, at each other. At last Loisel put on his clothes.



Fig. : 8.4

“I shall go back on foot,” said he, “over the whole route, to see whether I can find it.”

He went out. She sat waiting on a chair in her party dress, without strength to go to bed, overwhelmed, without any fire, without a thought.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.6

As Mme Loisel removed her wrap before the mirror, she noticed the necklace was gone and let out a cry. Monsieur Loisel, who was getting ready for bed, rushed to his wife. They looked for the necklace among the folds of her skirt, of her cloak, in her pockets, everywhere, but could not find it. Mathilde remembered she had it while in the minister's entrance hall. They thought she might have dropped it in the cab but neither of them had taken down its number. Monsieur Loisel decided to go over the whole route they had taken on foot. Terrified, Mathilde sat at home waiting for him.



*Notes*



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.6

1. Why did Mathilde utter a cry as she looked at herself in the mirror?
2. Where did the Loisels first look for the necklace?
3. What mistake did they both make regarding the cab?
4. Why did Monsieur Loisel go out into the cold night minutes after returning from the party?
5. What do you think were Mathilde's feelings as she waited for her husband to return?
6. What does Monsieur Loisel's decision to search for the necklace suggest about his character?

### 8.7 SECTION VII

Her husband returned about seven o'clock. He had found nothing.

He went to police headquarters, to the newspaper offices to offer a reward; he went to the cab companies—everywhere, in fact, whither he was urged by the least spark of hope.

She waited all day, in the same condition of mad fear before this terrible calamity.

Loisel returned at night with a hollow, pale face. He had discovered nothing.

“You must write to your friend,” said he, “that you have broken the clasp of her

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## Notes

necklace and that you are having it mended. That will give us time to turn round.”

She wrote at his dictation.

At the end of a week they had lost all hope. Loisel, who had aged five years, declared:

“We must consider how to replace that ornament.”

The next day they took the box that had contained it and went to the jeweller whose name was found within. He consulted his books.

“It was not I, madame, who sold that necklace; I must simply have furnished the case.”

Then they went from jeweller to jeweller, searching for a necklace like the other, trying to recall it, both sick with **chagrin** and grief.

They found, in a shop at the Palais Royal, a string of diamonds that seemed to them exactly like the one they had lost. It was worth forty thousand francs. They could have it for thirty-six.



Fig 8.5

So they begged the jeweller not to sell it for three days yet. And they made a bargain that he should buy it back for thirty-four thousand francs, in case they should find the lost necklace before the end of February.

Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs which his father had left him. He would borrow the rest.

He did borrow, asking a thousand francs of one, five hundred of another, five louis here, three louis there. He gave notes, took up ruinous obligations, dealt with **usurers** and all the race of lenders. He compromised all the rest of his life, risked signing a note without even knowing whether he could meet it; and, frightened by the trouble yet to come, by the black misery that was about to fall upon him, by the prospect of all the physical **privations** and moral tortures that he was to suffer, he went to get the new necklace, laying upon the jeweller's counter thirty-six thousand francs.

When Madame Loisel took back the necklace Madame Forestier said to her with a chilly manner:

“You should have returned it sooner; I might have needed it.”

She did not open the case, as her friend had so much feared. If she had detected the substitution, what would she have thought, what would she have said? Would she not have taken Madame Loisel for a thief?

### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.7

Monsieur Loisel returned home much later in the morning; he had not found the necklace. He had lodged a report with the police and put an advertisement in the newspaper, but in vain. The Loisels decided to replace the necklace. He instructed Mathilde to write to Madame Forestier and say that she had broken the clasp of the necklace and would get it mended. Meantime, they went from shop to shop looking for a necklace like the one that was lost. They found, in a shop at the Palais Royal, a string of diamonds that seemed exactly like the lost necklace. Monsieur Loisel had eighteen thousand francs left to him by his father. They borrowed eighteen thousand francs from money lenders at very high rates of interest and bought it for thirty-six thousand francs. They handed the jewel box to Mrs. Forestier who said irritably that it had taken Mathilde quite long to get it back. But much to Mathilde's relief she did not open the case and inspect it.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.7

1. Where did Monsieur Loisel look for the necklace?
2. How long did the Loisels think they would wait for the necklace to be found?
3. What letter did Mathilde write to her friend?
4. Why did the Loisels decide to write the letter to Madame Forestier?



### Notes

- **Chagrin** – a feeling of annoyance or embarrassment.

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## Notes

- **Usurers** – money lenders who lend money at an exorbitant rate of interest
- **Privations** – being deprived of food or money or rights.
- **Notes** – (here) a written legal promise that a debt, plus interest, will be repaid over a set period of time

5. How did the Loiseles arrange for money to buy another diamond necklace?
6. How did Mathilde feel when Madame Forestier did not open the case?

## 8.8 SECTION VIII

Thereafter Madame Loisel knew the horrible existence of the needy. She bore her part, however, with sudden heroism. That dreadful debt must be paid. She would pay it. They dismissed their servant; they changed their lodgings; they rented a **garret** under the roof.

She came to know what heavy housework meant and the **odious** cares of the kitchen. She washed the dishes, using her dainty fingers and rosy nails on greasy pots and pans. She washed the soiled linen, the shirts and the dishcloths, which she dried upon a line; she carried the **slops** down to the street every morning and carried up the water, stopping for breath at every landing. And dressed like a woman of the people, she went to the fruiterer, the grocer, the butcher, a basket on her arm, bargaining, meeting with impertinence, defending her miserable money, **sou** by sou.



Fig 8.6

Every month they had to meet some **notes**, renew others, obtain more time.

Her husband worked evenings, making up a tradesman's accounts, and late at night he often copied manuscript for five sous a page.



This life lasted ten years.

At the end of ten years they had paid everything, everything, with the rates of usury and the accumulations of the compound interest.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.8

From that time on, the life of the Loiseles changed. They led a humble and poor life for ten years. They rented an attic and sent away the maid. Mathilde spent all her time doing the heavy housework, while Monsieur Loisel worked three jobs to earn the money to repay their loan. In ten years, their loan was repaid.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.8

1. How much money did the Loiseles have to pay for the necklace?
2. How did they arrange for the money?
3. How did the life of the Loiseles change as they repaid their loans?
4. In what ways does the loss of the necklace become a turning point in Mathilde's life?
5. Which of the following qualities did Mathilde now display? Justify your choice.
  - a) frugality
  - b) greed
  - c) pride
  - d) heroism
  - e) courage
6. Which of the following qualities did Monsieur Loisel display?
  - a) hardworking
  - b) accepting
  - c) complaining
  - d) understanding



### Notes

- **Garret** – a room just under the roof of a house; an attic room
- **Odious** – worthy of hatred or strong dislike
- **Slops** – waste
- **Sou** – a French five centime piece used in olden days; a very small amount of money

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## Notes

- **Frowsy** – having a slovenly or uncared-for appearance.
- **Askew** – dishevelled.
- **Champs Elysees** – (Pronounced shonsay- lee-say) a famous open space and avenue in Paris

## 8.9 SECTION IX

Madame Loisel looked old now. She had become the woman of impoverished households—strong and hard and rough. With **frowsy** hair, skirts **askew** and red hands, she talked loud while washing the floor with great swishes of water. But sometimes, when her husband was at the office, she sat down near the window and she thought of that gay evening of long ago, of that party where she had been so beautiful and so admired.

What would have happened if she had not lost that necklace? Who knows? Who knows? How strange and changeable is life! How small a thing is needed to make or ruin us!

But one Sunday, having gone to take a walk in the **Champs Elysees** to refresh herself after the labours of the week, she suddenly perceived a woman who was leading a child. It was Madame Forestier, still young, still beautiful, still charming.

Madame Loisel felt moved. Should she speak to her? Yes, certainly. And now that she had paid, she would tell her all about it. Why not?

She went up.

“Good-day, Jeanne.”

The other, astonished to be familiarly addressed by this plain good-wife, did not recognize her at all and stammered:

“But—madame! —I do not know—— You must have mistaken.”

“No. I am Mathilde Loisel.”

Her friend uttered a cry.

“Oh, my poor Mathilde! How you are changed!”

“Yes, I have had a pretty hard life, since I last saw you, and great poverty—and that because of you!”

“Of me! How so?”

“Do you remember that diamond necklace you lent me to wear at the ministerial party?”

“Yes. Well?”

“Well, I lost it.”

“What do you mean? You brought it back.”

“I brought you back another exactly like it. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it. You can understand that it was not easy for us, for us who had nothing. At last it is ended, and I am very glad.”

Madame Forestier had stopped.

“You say that you bought a necklace of diamonds to replace mine?”

“Yes. You never noticed it, then! They were very similar.”

And she smiled with a joy that was at once proud and **ingenuous**. Madame Forestier, deeply moved, took her hands.

“Oh, my poor Mathilde! Why, my necklace was **paste**! It was worth at most only five hundred francs!”

### LET US UNDERSTAND 8.9

The hard life left Madame Loisel looking old and hardened. One Sunday, while she was out for a walk, Mathilde spotted Madame Forestier who was still young, still beautiful, still charming. Feeling emotional, she approached her and greeted her. Madame Forestier did not recognise her, and was shocked when Mathilde identified herself, Madame Forestier could not help but exclaim that she looked different. A proud Mathilde told her that the change was on her account and explained to her the long saga of losing the necklace, replacing it, and working for ten years to repay the debts. At the end of her story, Madame Forestier clasped her hands and told Mathilde the original necklace was paste, worth at most only five thousand francs.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.9

1. Does Loisel ever remembered the wonderful day of the party? Quote from the lesson to support your answer.
2. What did Mathilde observe when she saw her friend Madame Forestier walking in the Champs Elysees?
3. When Mathilde goes to talk to her friend what is her tone? Justify your choice.



### Notes

- **Ingenuous** – showing innocent or childlike simplicity and straightforwardness
- **Paste**- fake, imitation

## The Necklace



## Notes

- a) joyous
  - b) proud
  - c) envious
  - d) angry
4. What changes come over Mathilde as a result of her travails?
  5. Why did Mathilde decide to approach Madame Forestier?
  6. Why did Mathilde feel compelled to tell Madame Forestier about the necklace?

**CHARACTER SKETCHES****Mathilde**

- Mathilde is beautiful, but poor; blames destiny and is discontent; wants good things that wealth can buy; vain and proud of her looks; the only time she is happy is at the party—she is admired
- in constant rebellion against her circumstances; comfortable home and loving husband but dissatisfied; desire for wealth is a constant pain and turmoil
- envious of even her friend who is rich; overcome with jealousy when she visits her;
- greedy and grasping; wants beautiful things; raging, jealous woman; uncaring of her loving husband and his desires or wants; at the party forgets her husband who dozes in an empty room for most of the night
- develops maturity and bravely suffers the punishment towards the end of the story.

**Monsieur Loisel**

- opposite of his wife; acceptance and contentment; never fully understands his wife, but does his best to please her; manages an invitation to exclusive party; appeases her by giving up the 400 francs he's put aside for a gun for himself
- indulgent; when she dances all night at the party, he dozes in a coat room and allows her to enjoy herself.
- his eagerness and willingness to please Mathilde becomes his downfall; replaces

the necklace but gives up money left by his father and works without complaint for ten years doing three jobs when she loses the necklace

- resourceful; devises a plan for purchasing a replacement necklace and orchestrates the loans and mortgages that help them pay for it.
- makes sacrifices without protest rather than force Mathilde to be accountable for her actions, he protects her, ultimately giving up his life so that she can relish her one moment of well-dressed happiness.



### DO YOU KNOW

- Maupassant wrote some 300 short stories, six novels, three travel books, and a volume of verse.
- In the last years of his life Maupassant suffered from mental illness and was sent to a private asylum, where he finally died.
- This story ‘The Necklace’ was originally published as *Gil Blas* in 1884 in the French newspaper *Le Gaulois*.
- **Henry James**, an American-British author, has written a short story ‘Paste’ in which the twist-ending is reversed.

### LET’S LEARN



### GRAMMAR

#### Transformation of the Sentences

In Lesson 7 we have learnt simple, complex, and compound types of sentences. In this lesson we will learn how to transform sentences into another type.

#### I. Simple to Complex:

- Add dependent clauses using subordinating conjunctions (although, because, since, when, while, etc.).
- Example:
  - a) Jatin went to the store.



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## Notes

b) Jatin forgot to bring his wallet.

When we join these two Simple sentences into a Complex one, it will be:

When Jatin went to the store, he forgot to bring his wallet.

## II. Complex to Simple:

- Remove the dependent clause and retain the independent clause.
- Example: The necklace was so costly that she could not buy it.

This is a Complex sentence. It could be converted into a Simple one like:

The necklace was too costly for her to buy. a simple sentence.

## III. Simple to Compound:

- Combine two simple sentences with coordinating conjunctions or semicolons.
- Example:

a) Molly watched a movie.

b) Partha went out for a walk.

These two Simple sentences could be joined as:

Molly watched a movie and Partha went out for a walk.

## IV. Compound to Simple:

- Identify the main actions or ideas expressed in the independent clauses.
- reducing one or more main clauses into a word or phrase.
- Example: They went to the park and they played basketball.

To convert this into a Simple one, an infinitive is to be used like that:

They went to the park to play basketball.

## V. Complex to Compound:

- Convert the dependent clause into an independent clause and join both clauses with a coordinating conjunction.
- Example: Sarah played the piano while her brother sang.

This Complex sentence becomes Compound sentence like:

Sarah played the piano and her brother sang along.

VI. Compound to Complex:

- Convert one coordinating clause into an dependent clause and join both using subordinating conjunctions (although, because, since, when, while, etc.).
- Example: The clown entered the circus ring and the children started clapping.

To convert this into a Complex one, a subordinating conjunction is to be used like that:

When the clown entered the circus ring, the children started clapping.



*Notes*



**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.10**

Transform the following sentences as instructed:

1. Mary likes to read. She also enjoys painting. (Compound Sentence)
2. Although it was raining, they decided to have a picnic. (Simple Sentence)
3. Tom played basketball, and he won the game. (Complex Sentence)
4. She studied hard. She wanted to pass the exam. (Complex Sentence)
5. The cat slept on the mat, and the dog barked loudly. (Simple Sentence)
6. When the sun sets, the sky turns orange. (Compound Sentence)
7. He cooks dinner. She sets the table. (Compound Sentence)
8. Because she forgot her keys, she couldn't enter the house. (Simple Sentence)
9. Maria walked to the park, and she met her friends there. (Complex Sentence)
10. The flowers bloomed beautifully. The sun was shining brightly. (Complex Sentence)
11. They went to the beach, and they built sandcastles. (Simple Sentence)
12. Although it was late, they decided to watch a movie. (Compound Sentence)

## The Necklace



## Notes

## LITERARY DEVICES

## Foreshadowing

As we have seen in Lesson 7, this story as well includes the a wonderful example of foreshadowing when Madame and Monsieur Loisel go to the jeweler's shop, hoping to find an exact replacement for the lost necklace. The jeweler recognizes the empty case, but checking his records finds that he hasn't sold such a necklace recently. This gives a hint that Madame Forestier did not even buy a real diamond necklace.

## Irony

We have already learnt about Irony in Lesson 3. In this lesson we will discuss it further.

Irony refers to a discrepancy, or disagreement, of some sort:

- **Situational irony:** The discrepancy can be between a situation that one would logically anticipate or that would seem appropriate and the situation that actually develops
  - Ex. a) The fire station burns down.
  - b) A police station gets robbed.
- **Verbal irony:** The discrepancy can be between what someone says and what he or she really means
  - Ex. a) Looking at her son's messy room, Mother says, "Wow, you could win an award for cleanliness!"
  - b) A bus gets a flat tire and the bus driver says, "Excellent! This day couldn't start off any better!"
- **Dramatic irony:** The discrepancy can even be between the facts known to a character and the facts known to the readers or audience
  - Ex. a) In *Toy Story*, Buzz thinks he is a real space ranger, but we know he is a child's toy.
  - b) In *Macbeth*, King Duncan says that he trusts Macbeth, not knowing that Macbeth is planning to kill him.

## Symbol

As you see in Lesson 6, there are instances of symbolism in the story "The Necklace" as well. For ex,



- The diamond necklace is a symbol of wealth. It represents all the things Mathilde did not have in her life.
- The fake necklace serves as a symbol for Madame Loisel's pretentiousness, reflecting her belief that she was superior to her humble circumstances, desiring riches and societal esteem.



**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.11**

Identify the type of irony of the following statements:

1. Mathilde was of the view that expensive items and luxurious lifestyle would bring her true happiness. Then she spent ten years making themselves even poorer to pay off debt for a necklace that turned out to be fake.
2. When her husband comes home with an invitation to the ball, she calmly refuses to attend. As the reason for refusal says that she has no dress and so she can't go to this party.
3. Mathilde thought the necklace was expensive and special, but it was actually very cheap.

**VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT EXERCISES**

**Homonyms**

'Wood' and 'would' are two words which sound the same, but have different meanings, and are spelt differently. They are called homonyms.

e.g. wood, would

This table is made of wood of poor quality.

It is so cold tonight that I would not like to go out.



**INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.12**

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below, with the correct words from the pairs of words given.

1. Bore: boar



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## The Necklace



## Notes

- a) The film that we went to last night was badly made. It was quite a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) A wild \_\_\_\_\_ is a very dangerous animal
2. herd: heard
- a) A large \_\_\_\_\_ of spotted deer came out of the forest onto the road last night.
- b) I \_\_\_\_\_ that the examinations are to be postponed again this year.
3. root: route
- a) Some \_\_\_\_\_ (s) like that of the tapioca are good to eat.
- b) The \_\_\_\_\_ to Jaisalmer is long and complicated.
4. weather: whether
- a) The \_\_\_\_\_ has been cold and damp all month.
- b) Baldeo was responsible for signaling \_\_\_\_\_ the tunnel was free of obstruction or not.
5. male: mail
- a) The \_\_\_\_\_ has been delayed due to the strike by postmen.
- b) The \_\_\_\_\_ birds are always more decorative than the females.
6. threw: through
- a) Amar \_\_\_\_\_ away all the fish curry thinking it had gone bad.
- b) The train to Mumbai goes \_\_\_\_\_ many tunnels.
7. bare : bear
- a) The black Himalayan \_\_\_\_\_ is very dangerous.
- b) People have been cutting trees so carelessly that many beautiful forests have become \_\_\_\_\_ of vegetation.
8. steel : steal
- a) \_\_\_\_\_ utensils are easy to keep clean.
- b) Ravi knew that there was Rs. 10 in his father's almirah, and he needed

some money. But he did not take it because it is wrong to \_\_\_\_\_.

9. their : there

a \_\_\_\_\_ is no time to go shopping before we leave for the station.

b) Ravi and Neha are friends. I have forgotten \_\_\_\_\_ phone numbers.

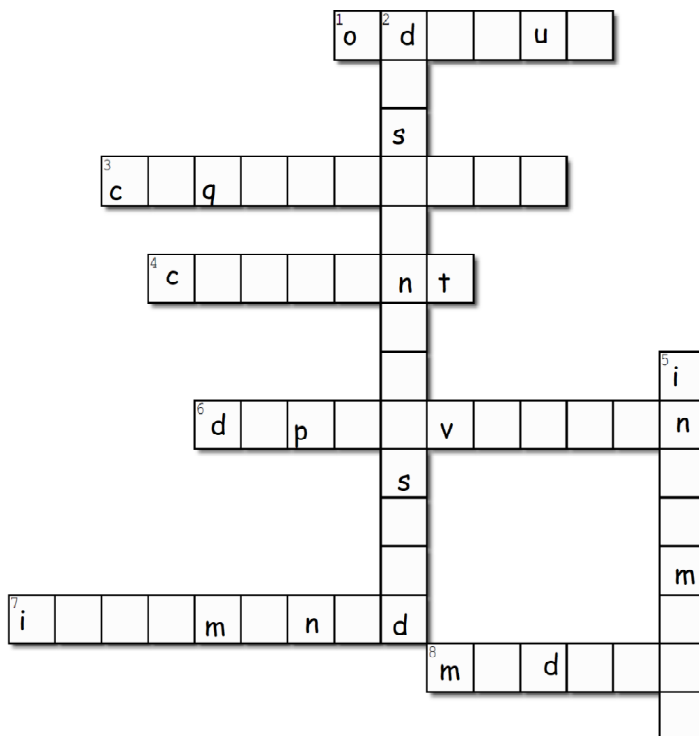
**LET'S DO**

1. Complete the given crossword of words from the story using the given clues.

Across	Down
1. extremely repulsive or unpleasant	2. standing above others in character or attainment
3. flirtatious behaviour	5. marked by close acquaintance, association, or familiarity
4. a religious residence especially for nuns	
6. the disadvantage that results from tosing something	
7. lit up; supplied with light	
8. not very costly	



*Notes*



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Notes

- Complete the paragraph given below by using suitable words/phrases from the options given in the box.

Smile, embrace, soothing sound of raindrops, beauty, simple joys, blooming, chaos and complexities, gentle

In life it is often the i)..... that hold the most profound significance. Amidst the ii)..... of our daily routines, it is the little moments that bring us pure delight and contentment. It could be the warmth of a cup of tea on a chilly morning, the iii)..... breeze brushing against our skin, or the iv)..... tapping on the windowpane. It might be the laughter shared with loved ones, the v)..... of a comforting hug, or the sight of a vi)..... flower in a bustling city. These simple joys remind us to slow down, appreciate the present, and find vii)..... in the ordinary. They hold the power to uplift our spirits, rejuvenate our souls, and bring a genuine smile to our faces.

**LET’S WRITE**

Rewrite the story *The Necklace* from the point of view of Monsieur Loisel. The following hints may assist you.

Hint: desire to please beautiful wife; makes sacrifices for her happiness; scared and apprehensive at loss of necklace; takes charge of situation; ten years of struggle



**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT**

- Excessive vanity and pursuit of superficial appearances could be dangerous
- Wealth and social status can be illusory
- Seemingly small decisions can have significant and long-lasting consequences
- One should appreciate the simple joys and treasures in life and should not be led by unrealistic desires



**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

- What is the turning point of the story?

2. What is the ultimate lesson conveyed in the story?
3. Madame Loisel's sacrifice had all been in vain. Comment.
4. Mathilde's joy at the party was so acute—and her satisfaction so complete—that even the ten arduous years and her compromised beauty do not dull the party's memory. Comment.



### ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

#### 8.1

1. The protagonist in the story 'The Necklace' is Mathilde. She is a beautiful woman who belongs to the working class.
2. Mathilde's main desire at the beginning of the story is to live a life of luxury and wealth. She desires to be surrounded by pretty and elegant things like good clothes, elegant furniture, delicacies to eat.
3. No, she was not happy with her marriage, the example that shows this is the extract from the lesson- 'she had let herself be married to a little clerk of the Ministry of Public Instruction.' And that 'she was as unhappy as if she had fallen from a higher station.'
4. Mathilde's husband worked for the Ministry of Public Instruction.
5. a) compromise
6. Mathilde was constantly dissatisfied because she did not like living in the modest house of her husband. She felt that, being beautiful, she deserved a more luxurious and higher social status.

#### 8.2

1. Mathilde felt angry and tortured when she saw the poverty of her home with its bare walls, shabby furniture and ugly curtains. She wanted to enjoy all delicacies and all luxuries that her beauty entitled her to.
2. d) She becomes self-conscious and withdrawn.
3. b) Mathilde is dissatisfied.

She is tortured by the modesty of her home. She does not like his being



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## The Necklace



## Notes

content with the simplicity of their life as he does when he appreciates a simple food like the soup.

4. Unlike Mathilde, her husband was happy and content with his humble life. He enjoyed the simple things like soup.
5. Individual answer.
6. Mathilde's friend was a former schoolmate from the convent where they had studied together.

Her friend was rich, and Mathilde did not like to go to see any more because she felt so sad when she came home. Her visit made the contrast between her modest surroundings and her friend's riches more stark.

## 8.3

1. An invitation card to an exclusive party being hosted by the Minister for Public Instruction.
2. She threw the card away and looked extremely upset to receive it because she did not have the right kind of clothes or jewellery to wear to the ball.
3. Mathilde's husband gave her four hundred francs to buy a new ball gown. It was the money that he had set aside to buy a gun and treat himself to a little shooting next summer on the plain of Nanterre, with his friends.
4. Monsieur Loisel gave Mathilde the money he had saved for himself because he wanted her to be happy. He loved her greatly and was happy to do things that pleased her.
5. This shows him to be a kind and generous person and one who is quite selfless.
6. Mathilde is only concerned about money and the luxuries it can buy for her. She does not care for her husband's feelings or for the efforts and sacrifices he makes to keep her happy.

## 8.4

1. After she got her dress, Mathilde said she did not wish to go for the party as she did not have any jewellery to wear with her gown.
2. Madame Forestier took out her jewel box and set it in front of her asking her to choose whatever she wanted from it.

3. Mathilde chose a diamond necklace.
4. She agreed without hesitating and offered it to her.
5. Mathilde was a great success at the ball as she was not only beautiful and elegantly dressed, but she also danced with rapture and with passion.
6. Mathilde was overwhelmed with the admiration she received at the ball. She was filled with happiness and self-satisfaction and danced till 4 am.

### 8.5

1. Monsieur Loisel slept in a deserted little antechamber.
2. This tells us that Monsieur Loisel was extremely patient because he did not mind waiting for his wife while she danced all night till 4 am.
3. a) One of care and concern.
4. Mathilde was in a hurry to leave the party as she found her inexpensive and old wrap shabby as compared to the elegance of the party dress. She felt the wrap betrayed her poverty. Therefore, she wanted to leave before the rich ladies, wrapped in their costly furs, noticed her shabby wrap and remarked upon it.
5. On the quay by the Seine.
6. As they reached home Monsieur Loisel and Mathilde were both tired. But while Monsieur Loisel remembered that he would have to be at the office by ten o'clock, Mathilde thought of the party and was saddened that the night had ended.

### 8.6

1. Mathilde uttered a cry as she looked at herself in the mirror because she noticed the necklace was gone as soon as she removed her wrap.
2. The Loisels first looked for the necklace in the folds of the dress, in the folds of the cloak, in the pockets, everywhere but they could not find it.
3. They did not note the cab's number.
4. He went out to look for the necklace belonging to Madame Forestier which had been lost by his wife.



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## The Necklace



## Notes

5. Individual answers.
6. He is practical and resourceful.

**8.7**

1. Loisel looked for the necklace in all the places they had been to the previous evening. He also went to the police station, the cab companies and newspaper offices looking for the necklace but was unsuccessful.
2. The Loisels think they would wait for a week for the necklace to be found.
3. Mathilde wrote a letter to Madame Forestier saying that they would return the necklace within a few days as the clasp of the necklace had been broken and they were going to get it mended.
4. This would give them time to find the necklace or to get a replacement.
5. Monsieur Loisel had eighteen thousand francs which his father had left him, the rest he borrowed from moneylenders at very high rates of interest subjecting himself to a future of misery and extreme hardships.
6. Mathilde was relieved when Madame Forestier did not open the case to inspect the necklace as there was every likelihood of her noticing that it wasn't the same necklace.

**8.8**

1. The Loisels had to pay thirty-six thousand francs for the necklace.
2. Monsieur Loisel had eighteen thousand francs which his father had left him, the rest he borrowed from moneylenders at very high rates of interest subjecting himself to a future of misery and extreme hardships.
3. They started living in a dingy little garret under the roof. The servant was dismissed and Madame Loisel started doing all the housework herself. Monsieur Loisel took an extra job. It took them ten years to repay their loan.
4. Losing the necklace forced Mathilde to face poverty and hard work. She went from dreaming of luxury to struggling for survival.
5. a) Frugality b) Heroism
6. a) Hardworking b) Accepting



## 8.9

1. Yes she did think of the day sometimes. The line that says this is ‘But sometimes, when her husband was at the office, she sat down near the window and she thought of that gay evening of long ago, of that party where she had been so beautiful and so admired.’
2. She finds her friend has barely changed. She wonders whether she should go and talk to her or not.
3. b) proud: she took responsibility for her mistake and made good the loss.
4. She became strong, rough and looked old.
5. She wanted to confess about the necklace.
6. She had finally paid off the debt and felt relieved.

## 8.10

1. Mary likes to read, and she also enjoys painting.
2. They decided to have a picnic despite the rain.
3. When Tom played basketball, he won the game.
4. She studied hard because she wanted to pass the exam.
5. The cat slept on the mat while the dog barked loudly.
6. The sun sets, and the sky turns orange.
7. He cooks dinner, and she sets the table.
8. She couldn’t enter the house because she forgot her keys.
9. When Maria walked to the park, she met her friends there.
10. The flowers bloomed beautifully while the sun was shining brightly.
11. They went to the beach and built sandcastles.
12. Although it was late, they decided to watch a movie.

## 8.11

1. Situational irony



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*Notes*

## The Necklace



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*Notes*

2. Verbal irony
3. Dramatic irony

**8.12**

1. (a) bore, (b) boar
2. (a) herd, (b) heard
3. (a) root, (b) route
4. (a) weather (b) whether
5. (a) mail (b) male
6. (a) threw (b) through
7. (a) beer (b) bare
8. (a) steel (b) steal
9. (a) there (b) their