

MY ELDER BROTHER

LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/ speaking	Reading	Writing			
11	My Elder Brother	Dialogues using expressions of apology	Reading a story-with understanding	Diary writing (Recording of feelings – happy or sad)	Noun clauses	Role Play	Coping with stress, problem solving

SUMMARY

'My Elder Brother' is a story about two brothers, their relationship with each other characterised by feelings of love, jealousy, etc. and a change that comes in their behaviour towards the end.

Vadolya and Nicky grew up together in a happy environment. They grew up like friends studying and playing together despite their age difference. But after a few years Nicky started developing a complex. He compared himself with his brother and felt he was nowhere compared to Vadolya in terms of age, interests, ability and even studies. He felt Vadolya was proud because he believed he was better. Nicky was even more hurt when he realised that Vadolya knew what disturbed him mentally but did not understand him. Nicky resented Vadolya's ability to have different hobbies and was jealous of his large-heartedness. Although Nicky somewhere felt that he may be wrong in assessing his brother's love for him, his own vanity made him feel even more inferior. One day Nicky broke a bottle of scent which Valodya treasured greatly. He knew how important that bottle was for his brother, but he pretended to smile to show him that he was not bothered. Instead of feeling sorry, he behaved casually. Later, both brothers had a fight and declared they had quarrelled for good. After the incident, Vadolya was composed and behaved normally but Nicky remained disturbed and uncomfortable. Vadolya being elder and more responsible, took the initiative of asking Nicky for forgiveness. Nicky realised then that his brother understood him and was touched. Both the brothers shook hands and embraced each other.

PRINCIPAL POINTS

- The two brothers grew up together sharing a happy relationship. The age difference never came in their way.
- The elder brother was always loving and helpful towards his younger brother.

- Jealousy or a sense of comparison which gives rise to a complex in one's mind can mar the best of relationships.
- To sustain a happy relationship, one must rise above any narrow considerations

- The protective attitude of elders should not be misunderstood by the younger siblings as being robbed of their freedom.
- Many times, mistakes are made unknowingly. One should not hesitate to apologise as soon as one realises the mistake.

LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

Given below are some expressions used in the text. Study the underlined expressions and their meanings:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) 'Once when his <u>passion of ornaments</u> was at its height': | Ornaments here are bright coloured bottles of scent |
| (ii) I did not feel <u>in the least</u> like smiling: | not at all |
| (iii) I was <u>beside myself</u> by now: | out of one's own control because of anger |
| (iv) I got hold of <u>the leg of the table</u> : | caught |

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Writing a diary

- Diary writing is a personal and confidential document which is not shared with anyone.
- It is written in the form of an informal letter to one's own self.
- It generally records some important event, happening, feeling or an emotion which has left an impact.
- Diary is treated more like a confidential friend in whom you can pour all your feelings honestly and sincerely because diary does not betray its friend.

- Diary writing can act like a chronicle or record which sometimes reveals important information about a person later on.
- Diary being a personal and informal document allows total flexibility to the writer. However, it should have the following features:

Format: date and name of place, form of address, e.g. 'dear diary' or any other name and closing

Content: description of event/happening/episode/anecdote, etc. and the author's honest emotions and feelings.

GRAMMAR

(You have already studied Clauses in this lesson. Refer to the text book for details of rules)

Clauses are a distinct part of a sentence including a Subject and a Predicate.

Study the sentences given below:

- He **told** me about the location of his sister's house.
 - He **told** me where his sister lives.
- I **know** the District Magistrate of Agra.
 - I **know** the man who is the District Magistrate of Agra.

Sentence (a) in each case is a simple sentence as it has only one finite verb. (told, know)

Sentence (b) in each case has two finite verbs. (told, lives; know, is)

A simple sentence consists of a subject and a predicate.

The predicate includes the finite verb and helps make a sentence meaningful.

Main clauses ('he told' and 'I know') can stand independently but the Subordinate clauses ('where his sister lives' and 'who is the District Magistrate of Agra?') cannot stand independently.

TEST TYPES

1. MCQ/Objective type question (inference)

Complete the following statement by choosing the best option from the ones given below:

The elder brother Vadolya asked Nicky's forgiveness because he :

- A. felt may be Nicky was right.
- B. wanted to show his superiority.
- C. thought that to err is human and forgive divine.
- D. feared that his parents might scold him.

2. VSA (understanding)

The statement 'Vadolya's happy large-heartedness which showed itself most strikingly when we quarrelled` shows that Nicky was

3. SA (inference)

Why did the narrator think that it was all over between them?

4. LA (extrapolatory)

"Understanding and apology were the two important tools with which Vadolya could restore his brother, Nicky's love." Explain.