

## A TIGER COMES TO TOWN – II

### LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/ speaking	Reading	Writing			
6	A Tiger Comes to Town – II	Dialogue	Prose (narrative story– cont.)	Formal letter	Prefixes, Indirect speech (questions and statements), contractions	Pondering upon some common myths related to animals, Skit and drama	Understanding human nature, Ethical treatment to animals

### SUMMARY (CONT. FROM PART I)

When the tiger woke up, he heard teachers and other officials talking outside the room. His Master was pleading with them to allow him to enter the room in order to take the tiger out but they refused. They felt that by going unarmed, he would be risking his life. All his efforts to convince them that nothing would happen to him, failed. Finally, after a lot of persuasion the Magistrate who was also the Chairman of the Tiger Committee said that he would allow him on a condition that he would give an affidavit stating that he was doing so at his own risk and that no one was to blame if anything went wrong. Irritated by all this fuss, the Master agreed to do so.

The Master deliberately wrote the affidavit in Sanskrit. He knew that neither the Magistrate nor the teachers knew Sanskrit. This was his way of making them realise how limited their learning and understanding was. Since Sanskrit is an officially recognized language, the Magistrate had no choice but to accept it.

### PRINCIPAL POINTS

- The Magistrate and the teachers considered themselves more educated and well informed than the Master. They looked down on him as a petty skilled animal trainer.
- We must not be proud of our learning and should also avoid judging others by their looks.
- A person's profession is no yardstick to measure his knowledge, learning or wisdom.

- A position of authority or social status gives some powers to a person but it does not determine his superiority or make him a better person.

### LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

- **An affidavit** is a written official/ legal document in which a person gives an undertaking.

- Sanskrit is the language of the scriptures and is also considered the mother of all languages .The fact that the Master wrote the affidavit in Sanskrit shows that he was a highly learned man. Moreover, he also understood animal behaviour which most people cannot. He also knew that Sanskrit is an officially recognised language in the Constitution .In this way without boasting he proved to the teachers and the Magistrate that he was far superior to them in knowledge and understanding.
- Something is **profound** when there is a deeper and philosophical meaning attached to it.

**ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE**

**1. Body language:** Whilst we communicate our thoughts, feelings and moods through language, our bodies and gestures also convey many things to an observer. For e.g. a shrug of the shoulder would mean ‘I don’t know’, ‘Can’t say’, etc.

In a face to face communication, body language and gestures are as important as words.

A nod would mean agreement, a shake of head would mean ‘no’; a wave of hand could be a form of informal greeting; yawning when someone is talking indicates that the listener is bored.

**2. Use of Dictionary:** Looking up a dictionary is a reference skill. A dictionary helps us in many ways, e.g. to locate the meaning of a word, synonyms, correct pronunciation, part of speech, phrasal forms , transformations or word origins etc. Use your dictionary to find out the following information about the underlined word in the sentence below:

The Tiger was **astonished** to see the people behaving in such an unusual manner.

- **Meaning:** .....
- **Part of speech:** .....
- **Tense:** .....

**3. Writing a formal letter:** Formal letters can be of different types such as applications for job, letters of complaint, letters of enquiry, letters to Editors, letters placing orders etc. Formal letters have two parts—the format and the content.

The format includes the following:

- Writer’s name, address, date
- Designation of the person you are writing to, his/her address, subject, salutation , e.g. Dear Sir/Sirs/ Madam
- Content (the body of the letter) state the facts directly in simple, clear and correct English.
- Style and tone: Use formal style (use of slangs and contractions should be avoided), use polite and courteous expressions
- Signing off: Use expressions like, ‘thanking you’, yours truly/sincerely, your name and signature, etc. If you are holding some post then mention that too.

**GRAMMAR**

**1. Prefixes:** These are letters added before a word to change the meaning of the word, e.g.

- Un + able= unable ( makes it opposite of able)
- Semi+ circle= half circle

**2. Contractions:** Very often words are contracted for convenience of use. Contracted forms are used mainly in informal writing , direct speech, dialogue writing and very often while talking

**A WORD OF CAUTION:** Contractions should **NOT** be used in formal writing eg. in articles, essays, paragraphs and formal letters.

- While contracting we put an apostrophe where a letter is missed.e.g.  
Cannot = can’t; they are= they’re

**3. Indirect speech/ reported speech.**( refer to lesson 5 for rules)

- For changing questions into statements we use reported verbs like asked, wanted to know, enquired, questioned, etc.
- For changing a question to statement we use words like, said, told, informed, stated, announced, ordered, etc. The choice of reporting verbs also depends on the tone, mood and function of the speaker's language

### TEST TYPES

#### 1. MCQ/Objective type question (extrapolatory)

The master did not disclose the fact that he was a circus man. How do you think the story would have been different had he disclosed his profession? Choose the answer that is **NOT** appropriate.

- A. There would have been no fuss in letting him into the room.
- B. He could have been punished for his carelessness.

- C. The teachers would have filed a report with the police.
- D. He would have been praised for training the tiger so well.

#### 2. VSA ( understanding)

When the Master asked the reason for not letting him in, the Magistrate replied, "it's unlawful to commit suicide". He said so because .....

#### 3. SA (extrapolatory)

The Affidavit was an important piece of document for the Magistrate. Explain how?

#### 4. LA (extrapolatory)

Imagine you are the Magistrate. On returning home, you sit down to reflect upon the day's experience. You wonder why the Master wrote the affidavit in Sanskrit and also reflect upon your own initial reaction. The experience gives you some valuable insights and you begin to admire the Master. Write your feelings and thoughts in the form of your personal diary.

**(Remember: a personal diary is always written in the first person).**