

# THE SHOESHINE

## LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Life Skills
		Listening/speaking	Reading	Writing		
7	The Shoeshine	Dialogues	Prose (story)	Letter: Informal, Formal	Clauses: Kinds and Function	Cooperation and empathy, solving crisis

### SUMMARY

The writer of the story, Sasthi Brata, a graduate from Calcutta, was looking for a job. He had very little money which was not sufficient even to buy food or a cup of tea and snacks. In front of a coffee house in Connaught Place, he happened to meet a shoeshine boy named Shovan. Since he needed a job badly, he decided to take up a shoeshine's job. Shovan Lal tried to dissuade him, as only an office job was a suitable job for an educated man like him. But the young man (Sasthi) was determined. Shovan Lal understood his compulsions. He convened a meeting of his fellow Shoeshine boys and allowed the newcomer to join the band of Shoeshine on the condition that he would help their union to correspond in English with the Licensing authorities. They even contributed some money to raise funds to buy the kit for Sasthi and thus paved the way for a needy person to get an employment.

### PRINCIPAL POINTS

- No work, however small, is undignified.
- Challenging tasks can be accomplished by cooperation and team work
- Ego should not come in our way to success.
- Success and happiness can be ensured by taking initiative.

### LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

Try to understand contextual meaning of certain expressions and read between the lines, e.g.

**Idly watching:** Looking casually, not intentionally

**Stopping dead:** Highly shocked state of mind which almost paralyses one's thinking for some time

**Drawn back to reality:** Withdrawn from the world of imagination and becoming aware of reality

**Mouth fell open** :Surprised

**Eyes shot up**: In an unbelievable state of mind

**Pulling a face**: In a dismal mood

**The thought seized me**: The thought that he should start polishing shoes and work as a shoeshine continues haunting him

### ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

**Letter Writing**: the two most common forms of letters are: 1. Formal, 2: informal

Refer to lesson 6 (ATiger Comes to Town –part II) for tips on formal letter writing.

**Informal letters** are written to friends, relatives and other people with whom we are very friendly

Like a formal letter, an informal letter too has two parts viz: The format and the content

**Format** consists of date, salutation which begins with words like Dear, My Dear, and any other informal way of addressing the person.

Polite signing off at the end of the letter such as: ‘Yours lovingly’, ‘Your friend’, ‘Affectionately yours’, etc.

**Content**:

- Ensure that the subject matter has been covered adequately.
- Avoid digressions – remain focussed
- Avoid mistakes of spellings, punctuation and grammar
- You may use informal styles of writing

### GRAMMAR

**Clause**: A clause is a string of words which has a subject and a finite verb.

**Kinds of Clauses**:

- (i) Principal Clause/Independent clause

(ii) Subordinate Clauses – depend on the Principal clause to complete the meaning.

- (a) Noun clauses function as subject or object, responds to question – Who and What
- (b) Adjective Clause qualifies or tells about the subject or object, responds to the question Who and Which
- (c) Adverb clause – Tells about time, place, reason, cause, manner Where, When, Why, How, Because

**Remember**

1. Each clause is a meaningful part of a sentence.
2. Each subordinate clauses starts with a connector/Linker.
3. Each clause is named after its function.

### TEST TYPES

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

Which quality of Shovan Lal is displayed through the story? Choose the most appropriate one from the ones given below:

- A. persuasion
- B. cooperation
- C. leadership
- D. initiative

#### 2. VSA (understanding)

The Shoeshine Union allowed Sasthi to join their group because they felt that he would be able to help them .....

#### 3. SA (understanding)

How do you know that the author was seized with the idea of starting his earning by polishing shoes and working as a shoeshine?

#### 4. LA (extrapolatory)

As Sasthi, write a letter on behalf of the Shoeshine Boys’ Union asking the Licensing Officer to issue proper work licences to them and to regularise their jobs.