

16



302en16



Notes

I MUST KNOW THE TRUTH

A dance by Aradhana is the inaugural item of the annual dance show of a music school. Aradhana is a good dancer and she should be happy and excited. But she is upset. Let's find out the reason.



OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to

- read and understand a story in English;
- use relative clauses;
- use phrasal verbs;
- express your preferences in speech; and
- edit your own writing.

16.1 SECTION I

Shortly before the annual dance show of the Kamala Devi School of Dance and Music commenced, I slipped backstage once more and hugged her. “See what you’ve done,” wailed my sister. “You’ve crushed the flowers in my hair.” She patted her hair back into place and arranged the pleats of her Bharatnatyam dress.

“Oh! You look great,” I told her. “In fact you look very beautiful.” My sister did not believe me. She turned towards the mirror and stared at herself. Our eyes met.

“You are beautiful,” whispered my sister, “even without the flowers, ornaments and all this,” and she brushed down her silken dress. “You are so.....”.



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I know what she was going to say— “Fair, Fair.” I felt anger rise inside me. Fair! As if that was all that mattered, mattered most, more than a good figure, a chiselled face, more than the beauty that lies within. I knew I wasn’t as beautiful as she was, with her fine, regular features, and I wasn’t even half as talented as her. How did it matter if she was darker than me?

“Look,” I said, “You are great and beautiful; you’ll prove it today.”

Aradhana smiled and said, “You better leave now Simmi, keep fingers crossed.”

As I turned to leave I saw Dadima and Aunt Pramela making their way through the crowd of excited girls.

“Aunt Pramela”, my sister rolled up her eyes in mock horror, “If it isn’t a bad omen!” “Come on, Aradhana,” I chuckled, “Don’t be mean. Smile, smile Bharatnatyam style. That shouldn’t be difficult for you.”

My grandmother who suffered from rheumatism waddled towards my sister. My mother appeared from behind her and said in her ambassador voice, “Look who are here to wish you, Aradhana.” She gave sister one of her best smiles. My mother looks ten years younger when she smiles. She adjusted Aradhana’s blouse and patted her on the shoulders, “Grandfather has come too. He’s sitting in the front row. And so has your Father, — ah, how forgetful of me.” She held my sister at arm’s length and said gently. “We are are so proud of you Aradhana, my dear, that you have been selected to inaugurate the Annual Show of your school. Father and I have something very special for you on this important event. We wanted to give it to you on your eighteenth birthday next month, but we thought today was a more appropriate occasion. We want you to wear it today.” She turned to me and said, “Run Simmi, get it from father!”

“What mummy?” I asked, puzzled. “What have you brought for Aradhana?”

“Never mind,” my mother sighed, “I’ll get it myself. You help grandmother and aunt Pramela back to their seats.”

“Move back,” protested Grandma, “I haven’t even had time to look at Aradhana properly. I haven’t exchanged a single word with her. Let me look at you child.” She regarded my sister tenderly, “You look wonderful. And what a good figure you have. Don’t neglect it, dear, like I did.”

“No,” Aradhana smiled politely.

“You are a real young lady, that’s what you are. Soon we’ll have to start looking for a suitable match for you.”



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“Dadima please,” Aradhana threw an embarrassed glance around her.

“Time is flying,” sighed Grandma and turning to aunt Pramela she asked, “isn’t it, Pramela?” “It certainly is,” my aunt nodded. “It seems it was just yesterday when Sunita brought her home. How skinny she was, skinny and dark.”

I gasped and stared aghast at Aunt Pramela. How on earth could she say such hurting words in front of Aradhana? Didn’t she know how touchy she was about dark complexion? And why did she have to hang on it today of all days?

“Hush, Pramela,” my grandmother’s voice had an edge now. “Do keep quiet.” Then seizing aunt Pramela’s elbow she pulled her away, whispering fiercely all the time.

I looked at Aradhana. The bruised look in her eyes hurt me immensely. I groped for her hand and squeezed it. “Forget her she’s mad and mean and miserable.” My sister gave a small laugh which sounded more like a cry.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.1

1. Who hugged the dancer? (Put a tick mark against the correct answer).
 - i) her mother
 - ii) her aunt
 - iii) her friend
 - iv) her younger sister
2. a) Which of these qualities is not important in a dancer?
 - i) a good figure
 - ii) fine features
 - iii) a fair complexion
 - iv) a talent for dancing
 b) Why did Aradhana think she was not beautiful? Do you agree with her?
3. a) Who were the people who came to wish Aradhana?
 - b) Who was she not particularly keen to meet? Pick out words from the text in support of your answer.
4. a) Why were Aradhana’s family members proud of her?



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- b) Why did Aradhana's mother leave the stage?
5. "She is mean, mad and miserable"?
- i) Who was Simmi referring to?
 - ii) What was the 'mean' thing she had said?
 - iii) Do you agree with Sunita?

16.2 SECTION II

Aradhana is shocked and shattered. She asks her grandmother to tell her the truth. What is it that Aradhana wants to know? Why does her grandmother not tell the truth? Who does she send for?

I tried to pull her away from the mirror, away from grandma and Aunt Pramela, whose voice rose aggressively, "Of course she needs to know."

"Come, Aradhana, ignore her."

"I've told Sunita time and again," My aunt's voice was low, but not low enough for us not to catch each and every syllable she uttered. "I told her the other day too. An adopted child must know the truth. She has to tell Aradhana sooner or later. She must know."

Adopted child! Aradhana an adopted child? I stared at her. Our eyes locked. I held out a hand that didn't quite reach Aradhana. Like Aunt Pramela's poisoned words, my arm hung suspended in mid-air. I feel a sickening wave pull me off the ground from somewhere, from a cloud of mist and fog, my grandmother's voice reached me.

"Let Sunita tell her, it doesn't have to be you. And now not another word, Pramela, I forbid you to utter another word."

"It's too late now," I wanted to scream. "Too late! Look what you've done". But I couldn't struggle out of the fog that enveloped me, imprisoned me.

"Aradhana."

She didn't hear me. She stood in frozen despair, screaming a great silent scream, full of pain.

"Aradhana, Aradhana," I shook her by the shoulders. "Dadi, Dadima" I cried helplessly. "Come quickly."

Grandmother came, wobbling on heavy feet. “What’s the matter?” She asked. “What’s the matter,” she repeated, alarmed. “Aradhana for heavens sake. Speak up. Speak up.”

But the silent scream continued although her lips were closed. My grandmother flapped around her. Aunt Pramela did too. Mrs. Kothari, the Principal and the students of the Dance School wanted to know what was wrong.

With a hopeless cry. I flung my arms around Aradhana’s neck and wept. “It’s not true, Aradhana. It is not true.” I sobbed

Aradhana freed herself from my embrace. She stared at Aunt Pramela and she asked Dadima. “Is it true, is it?”

“Is what true, child?” my grandmother faltered, her eyes full of misery. “Is what true?”

“What,” Aunt Pramela said, “I want to hear the truth.”

“I must know the truth,” she screamed, “I must.”

“All right , all right.” My grandmother trembled. “Shhh, shhh, child don’t get so upset. Don’t.”

“The truth, Grandmother.”

“All right, all right,” turning to me she whispered urgently, “Get your mother child, get her. Quickly.”

I shouldered my way through the crowd of silent onlookers. When I reached the door, I heard my sister’s voice, torn with grief, “Leave me alone. Leave me alone all of you. Oh, why don’t you leave me alone?”



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.2

1. What words of Aunt Pramela’s hurt Aradhana the most? (Put a tick mark against the correct answer)
 - i) that she as a baby was skinny and dark
 - ii) that Aradhana was an adopted child
 - iii) that Sunita, her sister, had made a mistake
 - iv) that Sunita should have told Aradhana the truth.



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2. Who according to Aradhana's grandmother should tell her truth?
3. How did Aradhana learn the truth?
4. Did it shatter her completely?
5. Why did grandmother ask Simmi to fetch her mother?

16.3 SECTION III

What makes a mother love her child? Does she love her child because she gives birth to it or because she cares for it – that is, shares the child's joys and sorrows over the years? What does Aradhana's mother believe?

Within seconds I returned with my mother to the make up room. But Aradhana was not there. "Where is she?" asked my mother. "What happened?"

Aunt Pramela's eyes were hard. "She left through this door, Sunita. And it's your fault. You should have told that child earlier..." "Pramela," said my mother in a voice that made my flesh creep, "What don't you mind your own business? For heaven's sake, how could you tell her now!"

Pulling me along she shot past Aunt Pramela through the door and down into the backyard. And there we stood on the pebbled ground, scanning the empty yard helplessly.

"Aradhana," called my mother softly.

There was no answer.

"Aradhana," she cried beseechingly, "do you hear me?" "Aradhana darling, answer me," this time more desperately.

The soft wind carried her voice away but brought no response.

"Search for her at the back," my mother turned, "I'll check the car park."

I turned and started walking in a daze, when suddenly I heard a muffled cry followed by another cry, fierce, full of hate. I knew then that my mother had found her.

They stood under a peepal tree, facing each other My sister, tall, broad shouldered, was looking down at my mother. Aradhana pulled out the flowers from her hair. She cried, "You deceived me, you and Papa. All of you. I hate you. I hate all of you, everybody, everything."

I ran towards her. "No Aradhana," I pleaded, "Don't say that, please don't say that."

She didn't see me nor did she hear me. Her shoulders trembled as she turned away from both Mother and me.

"Aradhana," my mother said quietly, "we love you, my child, and believe me we will always love you. You are our child. For almost eighteen years I have cared for you. I have laughed with you and I have cried for you. I have given you eighteen years of my life. Don't you think that counts more than being carried nine months inside my womb? Tell me, dear."

There was no answer.

"Aradhana," entreated my mother softly, "answer me. I don't know, I don't know," sobbed my sister. She buried her face in her hands and all I could hear was the smothered echo or her baffled cry, "I don't know."

"But I know," said my mother quietly, "and Papa and Simmi know." I nodded vigorously.

"Look, darling, look at this necklace. Papa and I bought it for you. We want you to wear it today. This is just one way of telling you how much we love you, how much we care."

My sister turned and fixed her gaze on the small box in my mother's extended hand. She didn't move. My mother took out the delicate necklace from the box and pressed it into sister's hand. "Don't you feel my love for you, Aradhana? Can't you feel it?"

My sister whimpered pitifully.

"Ask yourself," said my mother, "and if you are the daughter I know, the daughter I love, you will come back into the hall and get on to that stage and dance. "Because," she asserted firmly, "nothing has changed today, nothing at all." Mother held her for a minute and then turned and left.

"Mummy," I cried, "you can't leave her alone. Help her please."

Mother didn't look at me as she answered in a dead voice, "I can't help her more than I have Simmi. Nobody can. She has to herself see the truth. And the sooner she does it, the better it is." She fell silent. But from the way she held up her head, I knew she was crying!



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.3

1. a) For how many years had Aradhana been with her adopted parents?
- b) Had they shared her joys and sorrows?
- c) How does Aradhana's mother express this? Pick out the words from the text.



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2. What gift had Aradhana's parents got for her? Why did Aradhana's mother give it to her on the day of the school's Annual function?
3. Why was Aradhana heart-broken?
4. "Nothing has changed today, nothing at all,"
 - a) Who says this?
 - b) What had not changed?
5. What does Aradhana's mother ask her to do to prove her love for her parents?

16.4 SECTION IV

The audience is waiting for Aradhana to dance — but there is no Aradhana on the stage. Where is she? Is she hiding? Is she sad, hurt or angry? Does she dance?

"Did she like the necklace?" asked my father as we slipped back into our seats. My mother nodded. The light dimmed and the announcer asked Shrimati Kamla Devi to address the audience. And then, it was time for Aradhana. My father pressed my hand and smiled at me. I did not look up. "What's wrong?" he suddenly asked me. "Is something the matter?"

"Nothing," I managed to say, "nothing."

I stared at the empty stage. To the left a tabla player idly tapped his instrument.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said the voice over the loud-speaker. "Our first dance is the Pushpanjali by Aradhana Narain. Aradhana Narain, please."

The "please" didn't sound very pleasant.

The stage remained empty.

A restless murmur ran through the audience. "Sunita, what is the matter?" My father tried to catch my mother's eye.

My mother shook her head. Her shoulders drooped. The seat seemed to swallow her. For the third time the announcer's voice rang out, impatient and almost threatening. "Aradhana Narain. Aradhana Narain."

Silence.

A silence that weighed down on me with suffocating force.

Just then, the distant sound of ghungrus, the sound of a rhythmical tap, tap, tap.

A weak applause rose from the audience. The sound of ghungrus grew louder.

Tap, tap, tap. A tall, slim figure appeared, in a turquoise dress falling in neat folds. My sister! Aradhana! Her hair drawn back in a neat plait. The kajal around her large almond-shaped eyes formed a neat line. She folded her hands over her breast, almost touching the small gold pendant of her delicate necklace. Her face was tense and pale but slowly she relaxed as she fell into a fast combination of different mudras, her slender fingers forming beautiful patterns and designs.

She danced, not for her teacher, not for the audience. She danced for one person only, who followed every single movement of hers with bright, burning eyes; our mother.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.4

1. Why do you think, Aradhana was late in coming to the stage?
2. Did she wear the necklace her parents had given her? If so, why do you think she did so?
3. 'She danced for one person only.' Who was this person? Why did she dance only for her?



OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. Who is the 'I' in the title?
2. What is the truth Aradhana wanted to find out?
3. What did she actually discover?
4. How would you have reacted if you had been in Aradhana's place? Write briefly.
5. Pick out the words from the box which best describe the people mentioned in Column A

A

Aradhana
Her sister
Their mother
Their grandmother
Aunt Pramela

B

a caring person
wise and loving
mean and cruel
devoted parent
an excellent dancer



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VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

1. There are many words in English which convey the same meaning. Given below are some phrasal verbs. Use them in place of the underlined words.

Phrasal verbs: looked through, looked into, looked after, looked at, looked for

- i) The dancer glanced at her Grandmother and smiled
- ii) Sunita searched for her daughter in the car park but could not find her.
- iii) The grandmother took care of the children while their mother was away.
- iv) Last month a committee examined the problem of pollution in our city and made some recommendations.
- v) She read through her notes before the examination.

A suggestion: Use more phrasal verbs in your speech and writing.

2. Fill in the blanks by using the opposite (antonym) of the words underlined in each sentence.

Example: The hall was _____ but the stage was empty.

The hall was full but the stage was empty.

- i) The dancer was tall and slim but her grandmother was short and _____.
- ii) Words can _____ but words can also soothe.
- iii) The candidates forgot to bring their pens but they _____ to bring their identity cards.
- iv) The cricketers came to the field early but their umpire was _____.
- v) There was nothing in the house: _____ had been taken away by the thieves.

GRAMMAR**Relative Clauses**

Let us study the patterns and function of Relative Clauses. Read these sentences:

- (i) She danced for one person only who followed every single movement of hers. My Grandmother, who suffered from rheumatism, waddled towards us.
- (ii) My sister gave a small laugh, which sounded more like a sob. I couldn't struggle out of the fog that enveloped me.



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The pattern of relative clauses

In the sentences given above parts which begin with linkers like who, which/that are called relative clauses as they are related to their antecedent in the main clauses. In the first two sentences who refers back to 'person' and 'grandmother'. (These two words are the antecedents). In the second set which and that refer back to 'laugh' and 'fog' respectively.

The function of relative clauses

They provide information which makes the meaning clear and precise. In the first sentence, for example '*She danced for one person only who followed every single movement of hers*', the relative clause 'who.....movement' provides a wealth of information about the 'person'. Similarly in the third sentence, *my sister gave a small laugh which sounded more like a sob* the relative clause '*which sob*' further clarifies the meaning of 'laugh' vividly.

The linker who is used for people while that/which is used for things.

They introduce economy and clarity in speech and writing. For example.

'I couldn't struggle out of the fog. The fog enveloped me' — these two sentences are grammatically correct but sound clumsy. Relative clauses join sentences together and the result is a neat, concise statement.

I couldn't struggle out of the fog that enveloped me.

Sometimes the use of who/which/that as linkers becomes optional, e.g. when the linkers are the object of the clause.

'This is dress that/which Aradhana wore at the concert'. Or 'This is the dress Aradhana wore at the concert.'

ACTIVITIES

Now we know a lot about relative clauses. Let's use them in sentences.

I. Complete these sentences using who, which/that wherever necessary.

1. English is a language _____ is spoken all over the world.
2. Aradhana's parents gave her the gold chain _____ she wore at the dance performance.
3. Rice is a cereal _____ is grown in tropical countries.
4. I like young people _____ read a lot.



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5. Have you tasted the sweets _____ I made yesterday?
6. The bridge _____ was built last year has developed cracks.

II. Join the following sentences using relative clause. Make changes where necessary.

Example: I bought a scooter last week. Have you seen it?

Have you seen the scooter which I bought last week?

1. I know a man. He can speak fourteen languages.
2. You lent me a transistor. I have cleaned it.
3. Those are the engineers. They repaired the bridge near Varanasi.
4. I was waiting for an electrician. He did not turn up.
5. Was it your mother? She started a dispensary in this village.

III. Complete this passage by selecting suitable clauses given in the box below:

Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose was a great scientist _____. The other scientists _____ laughed at him. Then he designed and built an instrument _____. This instrument also showed _____. "Your instrument is a wonderful thing," said the scientists _____.

"What is it called?" they asked. "A crescograph," replied Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose.

With this invention Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose made a name for himself and his country in the scientific world.

- who attended the Paris Congress of Science in 1900.
- that plants have hearts and are capable of feeling.
- who believed that plants could become tired, depressed or happy.
- which recorded the growth of plants.
- who heard him.

REFERENCE TASK

Consult the dictionary and find out

- (i) the meaning of the following phrasal verbs.
- (ii) Use them in the sentences given below.

fall back on, make out, to keep up with, look after, put off

1. I could not _____ what he was trying to say.
2. The couple is always trying _____ their neighbour's status.

3. He was _____ by his boss's rudeness.
4. If one has some savings, one can _____ them in times of need.
5. Children are expected to _____ their parents in their old age.

LET'S WRITE

The earlier unit on editing your own writing familiarized you with what it means to edit your own writing. You have also learnt why editing is important. Now you will learn how to edit your own writing. Let us look at some examples which clarify what needs to be done during the editing process.

In the exercise given below only one type of error can be noticed, that is mistakes of subject-verb agreement. See if you can find the slips and correct them. There are four of them.

Example 1

My father giving me some money yesterday. He always gave some money whenever he is in a happy mood; but the trouble are, his happy mood does not last very long. I is waiting for his next happy mood now.

The words you should use should be gave, gives, is, am, in that order instead of giving, gave, are and is.

Example 2

A common problem of writing, especially of narrative writing, relates to the sequence of sentences. One aspect of editing is to put the sentences in their proper order. The example given below concerns the error of sequencing.

Once a magician came to a small city to perform his magic show. The magician offered to turn a copper coin into a gold one. Because he was a master of his art, people came from far and wide to see him perform. The farmer examined the coin and put it in his pocket. He bought himself a front-row ticket to be able to see everything the magician did from as close as possible. The farmer sitting in the front row eagerly gave him a copper coin. Taken aback the magician asked the farmer to return the coin so that he could show some more tricks with it. The magician turned the coin into a gold one and gave it to the farmer to look at. A farmer, who had heard a lot about the magician, also came from a neighbouring village. The farmer refused saying he could not risk it being turned back to copper and coolly walked out of the hall.

The above narration does not make much sense because of the wrong order of sentences much sense. Now let us see what the narrative would look like with the sentences in their proper sequence.



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One day a magician came to a small city to perform his magic show. Because he was a master of his art people came from far and wide to see him perform. A farmer, who had heard a lot about the magician, also came from a neighbouring village. He bought himself a front-row ticket to see everything the magician did from as close as possible. The magician offered to turn a copper coin into a gold one. The farmer, sitting in the front row, eagerly gave him a copper coin. The magician turned the coin into a gold one and gave it to the farmer to look at. The farmer examined the coin and put it in his pocket. Taken aback, the magician asked the farmer to return the coin so that he could show some more tricks with it. The farmer refused saying he could not risk it being turned back to copper and coolly walked out of the hall.

Let us look at another example.

Example 3

Dear madam,

This is with referent out son Dinesh. He is in class 10 and is having some difficulty in studying Phystics or even follow practical. We had to go to our home town he missed some classes and we could not even attend the parent teacher meeting. Can you help him to get the notes and find a tutor to give him extra help/Please consider this as urgent.

Yours sincerely

M M Mathus

Here is the corrected version of the letter. Notice how changes have been made in the organization and flow of ideas and in specific details like spelling and punctuation.

To
The Principal,
A.V.J. School,
M.G. Road,
Bhopal.

12.02.2006

Dear Madam,

This is with reference to my son Dinesh, a student of Class X-B in your school. He has some difficulty in studying Physics and in doing the Practicals. We had to go to our home town for a fortnight and he missed his classes during that period. My wife and I were also not able to attend the parent-teacher meeting and therefore

could not meet the Physics teacher. Could you please request the Physics teacher to give Dinesh some extra guidance? Looking forward to a favourable consideration of my request.

With regards

Yours sincerely

M.M. Mathur

M.M. Mathur
4-16-90, Vivek Nagar (South)
Bhopal



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INTEXT QUESTIONS 16.5

The following passage on bees and their ways of identifying their location contains some errors. Find those errors and edit this passage.

What guide the wasp or the bee when it flies home? When young bees fly out for first time, it makes short flights. The bees fly a yard or two, circle around, and then fly one. At last they know all the landmarks around the hive. Each flight is longer than the one before. These flights are not to test their wings but to get to know the country. They find their way home because they have flew over the country and seen it. They know their geography.



LET'S TALK

Worksheet

Listen to a conversation on expressing preferences on tape and then fill in the blanks below:

1. _____ is talking to _____.
2. _____ and _____ were shopping.
3. Mrs Rao said she wanted to eat _____ and _____.
4. Mrs Singh wanted to have _____, _____ and _____ and _____.
5. Mrs Singh also said that she preferred _____ instead of _____.



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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS****Intext Question 16.1**

1. (iv)
2. (a) (iii)
(b) She was not fair
3. (a) Grandfather, father
(b) Aunt Pramela. "My sister rolled up her eyes in mock horror."
4. (a) She had been selected to inaugurate the annual show of her school.
(b) To fetch Aradhana's gift.
5. (i) Aunt Pramela
(ii) Aradhana was 'skinny and dark.'

Intext Question 16.2

1. (iv)
2. Mother
3. Aunt Pramela let out the secret
4. Yes
5. So that Aradhana might be told the truth.

Intext Question 16.3

- 1 (a) 18 years
(b) Yes
(c) "For almost 18 years I have cared for you. I have laughed with you and I have cried for you. I have given you 18 years of my life. Don't you think that counts more than being carried 9 months inside my womb."
2. A necklace. As a token of how much they cared and loved her.
3. She was told that she was an adopted child.
4. (a) Aradhana's mother
(b) Her relationship with Aradhana
5. To go on to stage and dance.



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Intext Question 16.4

1. She took time in deciding the 'truth' for herself.
2. Yes. She finally knew what the truth was.
3. Her mother, because she loved her.

OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. Aradhana
2. She wanted to know whether she was an adopted child.
3. She discovered that inspite of being an adopted child she was loved and cared for.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

- (I) 1. looked at. 2. looked for
 3. looked after 4. looked into
 5. looked through
- (II) 1. fat 2. hurt
 3. remembered 4. late
 5. everything

GRAMMAR

Activities

I. 1. which 2. which 3. which 4. who 5. that 6. which

II. Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose was the great scientist who believed that plants could become tired, depressed or happy. The other scientists who heard him laughed at him. Then he designed and built an instrument which recorded the growth of plants. This instrument also showed that plants have hearts and are capable of feeling.

'Your instrument is a wonderful thing,' said the scientists who attended the Paris Congress of Science in 1900.

REFERENCE TASK

1. make out



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2. to keep up with
3. put off
4. fall back on
5. look after

LET'S WRITE

What guides the wasp or the bee when it flies home? When young bees fly out for the first time, they make short flights. These flights are not to test their wings but to get to know the country. The bees fly a yard or two, circle around and then fly on. Each flight is longer than the one before. At last they know all the landmarks around the hive. They find their way home because they have flown over the country and seen it. They know its geography.