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Who is Stronger Than You

Sentence Connectors-as, since, while, than just then, just because, until

In a dense forest there lived a lion. He thought he had more strength than all the other animals in the forest. As he often boasted about his strength, the other animals stayed away from him. Even the other lions did not mix with him since they thought he was proud.

As the lion was wandering through the jungle one day, he saw a tiger and stopped him.

“Who is stronger than you?” The lion demanded.

“You, O Lion”, replied the tiger.

Satisfied, the lion walked on, until he met a huge fierce leopard.

“Who is more fierce than a leopard?” asked the lion.

Since the leopard had heard about this lion, he wanted to ignore him. As he could not, he murmured, “You, Sir”, and walked off.

The lion felt even happier than he had felt with the tiger’s reply and decided to return to his den. Just then he spotted a huge elephant. He marched up to him and asked the same question.

While the lion was waiting for an answer, the elephant looked him up and down. Without answering, he picked-up the lion in his trunk, swung him in the air and put him down with a thud.

“Look”, and the lion, “there is no need to get mad just because you don’t know the answer.”

[Note : The sentence connectors are italicized.]

2

CHAPTER

A Letter to God

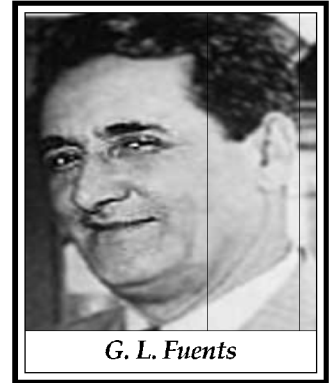
– G. L. Fuentis (1928-2012)

◆ **About the Author**

G. L. Fuentis, one of the famous modern writers, has written for the young as well as the old. He is a simple, short story writer and humourist. He is a general writer who has written on simple themes. 'A Letter to God' is his simple story which is full of humour.

◆ **About the Lesson**

Lencho, a hard working farmer, lived in a valley on the top of a low hill. One morning he faced ruin due to a severe snowfall resulting a total damage of his crops. He turned to God in distress and wrote a letter asking him to send money. A postman saw the letter to God and took it to the post-master who first laughed and then was surprised at the faith of the writer. He collected some money from his employees and sent it to Lencho along with a letter. When Lencho got the letter with money and counted it less, he felt furious. So he wrote another letter to God asking him to send rest of the money not by the post as the post-office employees were a bunch of crooks.



G. L. Fuentis

[1]

The House—the only one in the entire valley—sat on the crest of a low hill. From his height, one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest.

The only thing, the earth needed, was a downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho—who knew his fields intimately—had done nothing else but seen the sky towards the North-East.

[2]

“Now we’re really going to get some water, woman.”

The woman, who was preparing supper, replied : “Yes, God’s willing.”

The older boys were working in the field, while the smaller ones were playing near the house, until the woman called to them all : “Come for dinner.....”

It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall. In the North-East huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching. The air was fresh and sweet.

The man went out for no other reason than to have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body and when he returned he exclaimed.

[3]

"These aren't raindrops falling from the sky, they are new coins. The big drops are ten-cent pieces and the little ones are fives."

[4]

With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.

"It's really getting bad now", exclaimed the man. "I hope it passes quickly."

It did not pass quickly. For an hour, the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons.

[5]

"A plague of locusts would have left more than this..." The hail has left nothing; this year we will have no corn.....

That night was a sorrowful one.

"All our work, for nothing."

"There's no one who can help us."

"We'll all go hungry this year....."

But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope; help from God.

"Don't be so upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger."

"That's what they say : no one dies of hunger....."

All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope : the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.

Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. The following Sunday, at daybreak, he began to write letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail.

It was nothing less than a letter to God.

"God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred *pesos* in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because the hailstorm....."

He wrote "To God" on the envelope, put the letter inside and still troubled, went to town. At the post-office, he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped in into the mailbox.

One of the employees, who was a postman and also helped at the post-office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. The post-master—a fat, amiable fellow—also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented :

“What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter, starting up a correspondence with God!”

[6]

So, in order to shake the writer's, faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea : answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution : “he asked for money from his employees, he himself gave part of his salary and several friends of his were obliged to give something for an act of charity”.

It was impossible for him to gather together the hundred *pesos*, so he was able to send the farmer only a little more than half. He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with them a letter containing only a single word as a signature : God.

[7]

The following Sunday, Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him. It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed good deed, looked on from the doorway of his office.

Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence—but he became angry when he counted the money..... God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.

Immediately, Lencho went up to the window to ask for paper and ink. On the public writing table, he started to write, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort he had to make to express his ideas. When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist.

The moment that the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said:

[8]

“God : of the money that I asked for, only seventy *pesos* reached me, send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail, because the post-office employees are a bunch of crooks, Lencho.”

|| Glossary ||

Entire	पूर्णतः	total, whole
Crest	पहाड़ी की चोटी	peak
Downpour	मूसलाधार वर्षा	heavy (torrential) rain
Shower	बौछार	a light/mild rain
Intimately	घनिष्ठ	closely
Predicted	भविष्यवाणी की	foretold
Approaching	पहुँचना	arriving
Satisfied	सन्तुष्ट	contented
Regarded	ध्यान से देखा	looked attentively
Draped	ढका हुआ	covered, wrapped
Hailstones	ओले	frozen mass of ice
Truly	सचमुच	really
Resemble	मिलता-जुलता, मिलना	look like, similar to

Exposing	खुला छोड़ना	bathing in, showing naked body
Frozen Pearls	जमे हुए मोती	hailstones
Destroyed	नष्ट कर दिया	ruined
Locusts	टिड्डी दल	a kind of insects
Solitary	अकेला	lonely
Instructed	बताया, निर्देश दिया	informed, told
Conscience	अन्तःकरण	inner soul
Envelope	लिफाफा	wrapper
Employees	कर्मचारी	workers
Amiable	मैत्रीपूर्ण	friendly
Tapping	थपथपाते हुए	stroking
Evident	स्पष्ट	clear
Correspondence	पत्राचार	letter writing, exchange of letters
Resolution	निश्चय, प्रस्ताव	firm decision
Charity	उदारता, पुण्य	generosity
Contentment	सन्तुष्टि	satisfaction
Confidence	विश्वास	firm belief
Licked	चाटा	moistened with spittle
Affixed	चिपकाया	stuck to, glued
Bunch	समूह	group
Crooks	बेईमान व्यक्ति	dishonest people

|| Exercise ||

↳ COMPREHENSION

(A) *Read the following passages and answer the questions given below :*

(a) **The house—the only.....come for dinner.**

1. Write the name of the lesson from which the passage has been selected. Who is its author?
2. Which house is referred to in these lines?
3. Where was the house situated?
4. What could you see from the house ?
5. What do the words entire and crest mean ?

(b) **These aren't raindrops.....said to his sons.**

Or **The man went.....frozen pearls.**

Or **But suddenly a strongwas filled with sadness.**

1. Write the title of the lesson from which the above noted passage has been taken. Who is the writer of the lesson?
2. Identify the person who said the following :
 "It's really getting bad now".....
 "I hope it passes quickly."
 "What is he talking about?"

3. Why did he look satisfied?
4. Out of the following five statements only two are true. Point out these two statements.
 - (i) The hailstorm stopped soon.
 - (ii) The boys came out of the house and began to pick up the hailstones.
 - (iii) The cornfield was covered with a thick layer of salt.
 - (iv) The rain was most welcome to the owner of the cornfield.
 - (v) The hailstones were small in the size of new silver coins.
5. Point out the words with the following meanings. They are located in first paragraph of the passage :
 - (a) Wrapped
 - (b) Be like.
6. Why did Lencho went out in the rain?
7. What have the hailstones been compared to?
8. Why was Lencho's soul filled with sadness ?

(c) **All through the night.....hailstorm.**

Or **All though the night.....Place in the mail.**

1. Write the title of the lesson from which the above noted passage has been taken. Who is the author of this lesson?
2. What was Lencho's problem? What was his only hope ?
3. Why would Lencho's family go hungry? What help did Lencho want from God and why?
4. What had Lencho's learnt about God?
5. Point out those two words used in the passage which have the following meanings :
 - (a) Inner soul
 - (b) Early in the morning.

(d) **It was impossible for him.....counted the money.**

1. Write the title of the lesson from which the above noted passage has been taken. Who is the author of this lesson?
2. Who was collecting one hundred *pesos* and why?
3. How much money was put in the envelope? Whom was the envelope addressed to ?
4. Why did Lencho go to the post-office the next day? What happened there? Why was he angry?
5. Find out the words from the passage which have the following meanings :
 - (a) Faith
 - (b) Delivered.

(e) **Lencho showed not the.....bunch of crooks, Lencho."**

1. Write the name of the lesson from which the passage has been selected. Who is its author?
2. Why did Lencho not show any surprise when he found the money in the letter?

3. Why did Lencho become angry?
 4. Why did Lencho write to God again? Why did he not want the money to be sent by mail?
 5. Locate the two words in the given passage which have the following meanings:
 - (a) Faith
 - (b) Dishonest people.
 6. Why did Lencho ask for paper and ink? How did he affix stamp to the envelope?
- (f) **So, in order to shake word as a signature : God.**
- (1) Write the name of the lesson, from which the above passage has been taken. Who is the author of this lesson?
 - (2) What did the postmaster do, in order to shake the writer's faith in God?

(B) Long Answer Type Questions:

Answer the following questions in not more than 60 words each :

1. Why was Lencho sad? What was his only hope?
2. Why did Lencho write a letter to God? Who received this letter and what did he do?

Or What made Lencho write to God? What was its result?

Or Who was Lencho? What circumstances forced him to seek help from God?
3. Who received the letter and how did he help Lencho?
4. How did the post-office employees help Lencho?
5. How do you like the character of the post-master in the story 'A Letter to God'? Give reasons for your answer.

Or Sketch the character of the Postmaster in the lesson. 'A Letter to God'.
6. Give a character-sketch of Lencho.

(C) Short Answer Type Questions:

Answer the following questions in not more than 25 words :

1. Where was the house situated?
2. Who was the owner of the house and the fields?
3. How did Lencho feel when it began to rain?
4. Why does the person call the rain drops new coins?
5. How long did the hail rain?
6. What damage did the hailstorm do?
7. What did Lencho write to God?
8. Why did the post-master laugh at Lencho's letter?
9. Lencho had only 'one hope.' What was it?
10. How much money did Lencho need? How much did he get?
11. Why did Lencho call the postal employees a bunch of crooks? Was he right in doing so?
12. Why was Lencho annoyed with the postal employees?

13. When did Lencho receive the letter? Why did he become angry?
14. Who was Lencho? What were his main problems?
15. Why did Lencho need help from God?
Or Why did lencho ask God for money?
16. Why did the postman go to his boss laughing heartily?
17. Why did Lencho not want rest of the money to be sent through the mail?
18. Why was Lencho displeased when he received only seventy pesos?
19. Why did lencho write a letter to God?

(D) 1. *Select the most suitable alternative to complete each of the following statements :*

- (i)helped Lencho.
 - (a) God
 - (b) his children
 - (c) his wife
 - (d) the post-master
- (ii) Lencho was a.....
 - (a) farmer
 - (b) labourer
 - (c) worker
 - (d) teacher
- (iii) The post-master answered the letter to :
 - (a) help the writer
 - (b) shake the writer's faith in God
 - (c) scold the writer
 - (d) praise the writer

2. *Say whether each of the following statements is 'true' or 'false':*

- (i) Lencho was not a farmer.
- (ii) He was very sad to see the hailstones.
- (iii) He did not believe in God.
- (iv) The post-master was a kind man.
- (v) Lencho wrote two letters to God.

(E) *Vocabulary*

1. *Give opposite words of the following :*

True, Satisfied, Conscious, Loss, Inside.

2. (i) *Match the following words of List 'A' with their meanings in List 'B' :*

List 'A'	List 'B'
Entire	Peak
Crest	Really
Truly	Clear
Bunch	Lonely
Evident	Group
Solitary	Total

(ii) *Match the following words of List 'A' with their meanings in List 'B' :*

List 'A'	List 'B'
edge	emphasize
insist	lonely
uttered	end
solitary	said

(iii) *Match the words of List 'A' with their meanings in List 'B' :*

List 'A'	List 'B'
appreciate	being the only one of its kind
resemble	lonely
solitary	admire
unique	to look like

(iv) *Match the following words of List 'A' with their meanings in List 'B' :*

List 'A'	List 'B'
Correspondence	at last
indicate	special
at length	show
Particular	exchange of letters

3. *Fill in the blanks with suitable words selected from the list given below:*
middle, totally, slightest, counted

- (i) The corn was.....destroyed.
- (ii) When the storm had stopped, he stood in the.....of the field.
- (iii) Lencho showed not the.....surprise on seeing the money.
- (iv) He became angry when he.....the money.

4. *Find an other word which can be used instead of the words in brackets without changing the meaning of the sentence.*

- (i) There is only one (**lonely**) candidate left in the examination hall.
- (ii) There was a slight (**rain**) in the evening.
- (iii) The soldiers (**looked**) at the sky for enemy planes.
- (iv) He was (**happy**) to see the hailstones.

↳ Project Work

- (a) Make a model of a Post Office showing of working of its employees as instructed below :
 - (i) The table on which the Postmaster works.
 - (ii) The windows where stamps, envelopes, Post Card and Inland are sold.
 - (iii) The place where letters and parcels are shorted.

- (iv) The place where money is deposited and withdrawn.
- (v) The place where letter box is kept.
- (b) Make an Inland and write a letter to your younger sister telling her the firm faith of Lencho in God and his innocence.

|| Worksheet–2 ||

Usage

Look at the following sentences :

Paul was shaving. He cut himself.

These sentences can be combined into one sentence :

While shaving, Paul cut himself.

Did you notice that the two sentences above have been joined together using while? The word while is called a Sentence Connector. Some other Sentence Connectors are : as, since, before, than, until, when, just then, after, though and just because.

Now, study the following sentences in which the Sentence Connectors listed above have been used :

- (i) (a) As she left the house, she remembered the key.
- (b) She sang as she worked.
- (c) As the lion stood there, he saw the tiger entering his den.
- (ii) (a) When we lived in the village, we often went cycling.
- (b) When he put milk into the baby's mouth, it choked.
- (iii) (a) Since you say so, I must believe it.
- (b) Yehudi Menuhin has been playing the violin since he was five years old.
- (iv) Though/Although he is educated, he is unemployed.
- (v) She speaks English better than I do.
- (vi) You needn't get mad just because you don't know the answer.
- (vii) We stayed till/until the concert finished.
- (viii) After finding a place to stay, we went to look at the monuments in the town.
- (ix) They finished eating their dinner before their guests arrived.

|| Exercise ||

1. *Complete the following sentences. The Sentence Connectors given in brackets :*

- (a) You are weak (because)
- (b) Good students study(while)
- (c) He came running (when)
- (d) He came to the office (although)
- (e) He kept on working (until)

2. *Rewrite each of the following pairs of sentences as one sentence, using the Sentence Connector given in brackets :*

Example : It was raining. I decided to go to the Super Bazar. (Although)
Although it was raining, I decided to go to the Super Bazar.

- (a) He sold his bicycle. It had become very old. (because)
- (b) He would watch T.V. The English news was over. (until)
- (c) You will not get the telephone number. You put a coin in the slot first.
(unless)
- (d) I did not have enough money. I could not buy the car. (as)
- (e) There was pin-drop silence. He began speaking. (as)