UNIT 4

Pre-task

You have your grandparents/elderly relatives. Fill in the details in the following table.

No.	Maternal grandparents/relative				Paternal grandparents/relative			
	Grandmother/elderly female relative		Grandfather/elderly male relative		Grandmother elderly female relative		Grandfather/elderly male relative	
	likes	dislikes	likes	dislikes	likes	dislikes	likes	dislikes

Read 1 THE ADJUSTMENT

- Gulzar

It was a mistake not to take Nana, our grandfather, to the funeral of our grandmother, our Nani.

'Go, take her away ... whisper into her ears that I too am on the way, not far behind; tell her I will see her in the beyond.'

With heavy hearts,we hoisted Nani's bier over our shoulders. I turned to look, just once, and found Nana stepping away from the balcony into the room, pulling the door shut after him. He had lived with Nani for over half a century, seen her radiant face every day of those years.

He must have been what, about eighty-five, and yet he would find something to grumble at everything Nani did. He would keep quibbling with her, as if they were two people who had just married in the first flush of love and were still discovering each other. At times a petty quarrel would push them into long silence. They would stop talking to each other for days together. When we would try to intervene, all Nana would quip, 'It happens, son; it happens ... it takes time to adjust to each other.'

It was fun listening to him talk. Mother would always reprimand us, 'You people provoke him and my mother has to bear the brunt.' Her mother, means our Nani. And Nani would whoosh out a few words together from her toothless mouth, 'Be grateful that I gave you two grandsons ... now for the love of God, just shut up! '

My brother and I were at a very young, impressionable age when our father married a second time. He would often arrogantly parade into the house with his new wife. Mother was helpless. There was nothing she could do about it, but Nani fought with her, and scooped the two of us into her arms and brought us into her house, saying, 'You want to rot here, do so ... But I am not letting my grandchildren stay here to get thrashed by their stepmother.'

If anyone got her way with Nana, it was Nani. She would tell it to his face, 'You will regret it the day I die. You don't speak with the mother of these two children. They are also not going to talk to you. You will sit all by yourself in the



balcony and bathe in the sun and your own loneliness.'

Nana would say, barely audibly, 'I am older than you. You just wait and watch who's going to go first, you or I?'

She would simply say, 'Yes, you will see. Just watch!'

And Nani really did leave before him. Nana became all the more irritable now as if he had lost a wager. For a few days he took out his anger on his food. He would push away his plate and say, 'Tell her I don't want to eat!'

He imprisoned himself in the bedroom. We removed a few of Nani's belongings to make the room liveable for Nana but he did not let us cart away Nani's bed. In a dry, hollow coarse voice, he said, 'Let it be ... where else is she going to sleep?'

The day we had to take Nani's ashes away for immersion, that day too Nana stayed locked in the room. When I went in, I found him sitting on her bed. He just touched the urn and said, 'Take him away ... all my life he just kept fighting with me. '

The shift was gradual. I did not pay much heed to it that first day but later it became more evident.

Another day I caught him taking Nani's cough syrup. He was measuring it by the capful, exactly the way Nani used to. I asked him, 'What's that you are doing?'

'What am I supposed to do then ... this damn cough just doesn't let up!'

Exactly the same turn of phrase that Nani would have used.

He paused, threw me a look and said, 'When this bottle gets over, get me a new one.'

I was a little taken aback. I had never heard him coughing. But this was nothing compared to the shock he gave me a few days later.

I told him, 'Nana, let's go to a salon. You need a haircut.'

I insisted, 'If you don't want to go, then I will call a barber home.'

He did not even bother to look at me this time. He began to shake his head, 'No, no, he will kill me. He does not like my hair cut short ... he will never approve!'

His intonation was nasal, exactly like Nani's. It seemed as if it was Nani who was speaking. I moved back, a little worried.

I had a friend, Dr K. D. Kamble, a psychiatrist. I called him over.

He talked to Nana at length - for hours. Most of the time, Nana kept quiet. He did not answer most of Dr Kamble's queries. But when he did, he spoke like Nana normally did and in his own voice. Something else became evident too: to one of the numerous questions that Dr Kamble asked him, he said, 'This only she can answer. I will ask her when she comes. '

Dr Kamble shot back, 'Where has she gone?'

The ends of his lips curled up a little in a smile, 'Oh ... she doesn't really ever tell me her whereabouts.'

When Nana left, Dr Kamble said, 'He does not perceive your Nani as dead. He has begun to live a double life. In fact there's more of her and less of him. He has begun to think of himself as Nani. Whatever happens, it happens to her. She is the one who needs to be fed. She is the one who feels thirsty. She is the one who feels the pain. And it is she who takes

the medicines. He only swallows the pills on her behalf. '

I drove the good doctor back to his home. He said that Nana was suffering from a sort of dissociative personality disorder. The condition was little understood, he said, and there was no sure cure for it. He said, 'We will keep at it, do our best. But at your Nana's age, that kind of recovery is nearly impossible. '

As I was about to leave, he asked me, 'Tell me one thing, how does it make any difference to you whether he is Nana or thinks himself to be Nani? How does it change anything whether he eats raita by staying your Nana or refuses to eat raita by morphing into your Nani? Let him live his life any way he wants to.'

I was late coming back home, but I did feel quite unburdened and a lot less worried by what Dr Kamble had said. I thought the way Nana had made his adjustments with Nani, we too should make adjustments with him.

I reached home. When I walked into Nana's room to wake him up, I found him sleeping in Nani's bed. I lifted the blanket to wake him up. I was stunned. He was sleeping in Nani's *dhoti* and blouse.

Glossary

funeral ceremony held immediately before burial or cremation **whisper** speak softly **see her in the beyond** meet her after death **bier** a wooden frame on which the corpse is kept **radiant** glowing, bright **quibbling** arguing or raising objections about an insignificant matter **flush** a reddening of the face caused by intense emotion, turn red **petty** insignificant, trivial **intervene** mediate, get involved to resolve conflict **quip** make a witty remark **reprimand** scold **bear the brunt** tolerate **whoosh out** making a soft sound like wind **impressionable** easily influenced **provoke** cause anger **parade** walk proudly **scoop** embrace someone to protect and express warmth **thrash** beat **to get one's way with** make others do as one wishes, વાત મનાવવી **barely audible** too soft a voice to be heard **wager** bet **belongings** possessions, things **cart away** take away **immersion** releasing of something into water **pay heed to** pay attention to **damn** bad (used for cursing) **taken aback** shocked, surprised **intonation** rise and fall in pitch **curled up** rounded **dissociative personality** a mental irregularity in a person's thoughts, memories, feelings, actions or sense of identity **morphing** transforming from one image to another **unburdened** relieved **stunned** shocked **dhoti** saree (in Punjabi)

Comprehension

C.1.1 Answer the questions.

1. Do you think Nana had gone really mad/insane?
2. Who do you like more, Nana or Nani? Why?
3. Find and read out three sentences which have touched your feelings most?
4. Who tells this story to us?

C.1.2 State true or false. Correct the false statements.

1. Nani brought the grandchildren home. ☐
2. When Nani passed away, Nana was around 85 and their married life was around 60 years. ☐
3. One of the grand children took Nana to the doctor. ☐

C.1.3 Arrange these events in chronological order. Write the number in the box.

1. Nana's son-in-law got remarried. ☐
2. Nani brought the grand children to her home. ☐
3. Nana started developing mental disorder. ☐
4. Nani died. ☐
5. Nana behaved as if he were Nani. ☐
6. They consulted a doctor. ☐

C.1.4 Write the letter of suitable theme in the box.

Themes:

A. The narrator's social life
B. Nana and Nani had small fights.
C. Nana is trying to adjust himself in Nani's absence.
D. Other.

☐ They would stop talking to each other for days together.
☐ He has even begun to sleep in her bed.
☐ He must have been not more than twenty-five when they got married.
☐ He would keep quibbling with her.
☐ Our father married a second time.
☐ He had now spent nearly sixty years with her.
☐ He imprisoned himself in the bedroom.
☐ His entire constitution had begun to morph.
☐ Nani would whoosh out a few words together from her toothless mouth.
☐ He only swallows the pills on her behalf.
☐ Nani fought with her.

C.1.5 Complete the table.

What is said	Who	Whom	When/Situation
I am not letting my grandchildren stay here to get thrashed by their stepmother.			
Tell her I don't want to eat!			
You will sit all by yourself in the balcony and bathe in the sun and your own loneliness.			
He does not perceive your Nani as dead.			
Even Nana has gone off to sleep without eating anything.			

C.1.6 Here are some adjustments. Number them according to intensity of your feelings.

☐ Nana tried to adjust with Nani.
☐ Nana tried to adjust himself in the absence of Nani.
☐ Nani tried to adjust the social life of the grand children by bringing them to her.
☐ Dr Kamble said to the family members to adjust with Nana.

C.1.7 Answer these questions.

1. 'The shift was gradual.' Which shift is mentioned here?
2. 'No, no, he will kill me. He does not like my hair cut short…he will never approve!' Who is referred to as 'he' here?
3. List the sentences where Nana thinks of himself as Nani.
4. When was the mother shocked?
5. Why did the narrator feel a little relieved after coming from Dr Kamble's?

C.1.8 Tick mark the sentence with the nearest meaning.

1. Tell her I will see her in the beyond.
   a) Nana will meet Nani after death.
   b) Nani will meet Nana in the next birth.
   c) Nani should know that she was not departing forever.
   d) Nani will return first and then Nana will.
2. The shift was gradual.
   a) Step by step Nana moved away from himself.
   b) Very slowly Nana got transformed as Nani.
   c) Nana started making adjustment in the family.
   d) Gradually Nana learned to imitate Nani.
3. In fact there is more of her and less of him.
   a) Nana was mostly overpowered by the personality of Nani.
   b) Nana liked Nani more than he liked himself.
   c) Actually the family remembers Nani more than Nana does.
   d) In this story Nani's role is more than Nana's role.
4. Let him live his life any way he wants to.
   a) Nana's likings should be fulfilled by the family members.
   b) Let us allow Nana to live rest of life.
   c) Nana should be free to live or die.
   d) The family should not worry if Nana wants to behave as Nani.

Read 2

BLIND, DEAF FISH

- Ananda Acharya

In
a dark cave
flows
a dark river,
And on
Its stony bank
there sits
a man,
Old
as the sun—
or
older,

Weaving
a yarn
of
rainbow
and
humming
a song.
But
the blind,
deaf
fish
that swim

in
the stream
See
neither
yarn
nor man,
Nor hear
his
everlasting
song.

Glossary

stony rocky **bank** shore **weaving** knitting **humming** buzzing **yarn** thread, fibre **everlasting** eternal, unending

Comprehension

C.2. 1 Fill in the blanks.

A dark _____ flows from _____.Its banks are _____. An _____ is sitting on its bank. He is _____ing _____. He is _____ ing a _____. But the fish does not _____ yarn or _____. It does not hear old men's _____ song. _____ she is _____ and _____.

C.2.2 Write a detailed description and its importance.

cave	
river	
bank	
man	
fish	
song	

C.2.3 There are three word-pictures in the poem.

1. The river 2. The man 3. The fish

Describe these pictures in detail.

Ex. The river: There is a deep cave where the sunlight does not reach. The cave is dark and seems mysterious. That cave is the source of a river. The water is streaming from it and falls on the rocks.

The man: _____

_____

_____

The fish: _____

_____

_____

C.2.4 The fish is alive but unable to enjoy the world around. Can there be persons like this fish? They are insensitive to beauty, colours, life etc. They are just busy in routine and food.

- Are you a fish? Do you absorb your world with all your senses and sensibilities? How do you enjoy life? Write in detail considering these questions:

-What is your routine? -What do you miss? - What would you like to see/enjoy?

C.2.5 Join A with B so as to find the deeper meaning in the poem.

A	B
• cave	• the creator
• rainbow	• man
• fish	• insensitive, routine
• old man	• beauty
• river	• dark
• blind-deaf	• mystery

Vocabulary

V.1 Replace the underlined word/phrase in List A with a word/phrase in List B indicating suggestive meaning. Write the number of the sentence in the brackets.

List A	List B
1. We hired the trucks <u>to shift</u> our household belongings.	[ ] intervene
2. The basketball player was removed from the game when he did not <u>give attention to</u> the referee's warning.	[ ] curled up
3. The manager was injured when he tried <u>to get into</u> a fight between two customers.	**[1] cart away**
4. She <u>rolled on</u> the couch and fell asleep.	[ ] pay heed to
5. Doyle smiled at him and <u>made a witty</u> remark.	[ ] taken aback
6. I was <u>shocked</u> at his rudeness.	[ ] whoosh out
7. The train sped to the station with a <u>sudden fast movement</u>.	[ ] quipped

V.2 Tick mark the most logical response from the brackets to complete each of these sentences.

1) Did the policeman _____ the old man? (reprimand/ yelled)

2) Tom was _____ by his master for telling a lie. (thrashed /hit)

3) Her grandfather's ashes were _____ into the Ganga. (drowned/ immersed)

4) They are only concerned with their own _____ interests. (minor/ petty)

5) The little princess _____ to her maid that her bed was badly made.(grumbled/complained)

6) Helen got up this morning like a _____ fairy. (bright/ radiant)

7) Jackson's expression _____ from irritated to amused. (morphed / altered)

V.3 Join words with phrases. Write the numbers in the brackets.

	Words	Phrases
1	quibbling	( ) a sudden rush of intense emotion.
2	intervene	( ) come between so as to prevent or alter a result or course of events
3	quip	( ) a movable frame on which a corpse is placed before burial or cremation
4	flush	( ) a sudden movement accompanied by a rushing sound.
5	provoke	( ) argue or complain about small, unimportant things
6	bier	( ) to give careful attention
7	cart away	( ) a clever remark
8	pay heed to	( ) deliberately make (someone) annoyed or angry.
9	whoosh out	( ) take away by means of a vehicle

V.4 While reading the passage, you have come across the synonyms of these words. Find out the actual words from the read.

unimportant	rebuke	inflame	astonished	dispute	baggage	submersion	gamble	redden

V.5 Read the sentence and tick mark the option that best conveys its meaning more appropriately.

Example: You people provoke and my mother has to bear the brunt.

a) My mother has to suffer the pain when she is pushed by people.(√)

b) My mother has to surrender when she is instigated by people.

c) My mother has to tolerate when she is annoyed by people.

d) My mother has to give up when she is irritated by people.

1) He would arrogantly parade into the house with his new wife.

a) When moving in with his newly wed wife into the house, he looked humble.

b) When entering with his newly wed wife into the house, he looked haughty.

c) When walking with his newly wed wife into the house, he looked shameless.

d) When marching with his newly wed wife into the house, he looked proud.

2) He would keep quibbling with her all the time.

a) He kept on opposing her all the time.

b) He kept on fighting with her all the time.

c) He kept on objecting over petty issues all the time.

d) He kept on worrying about her all the time.

3) Nani would whoosh out a few words together from her toothless mouth.

a) Nani would blurt out a few words quickly from her toothless mouth.

b) Nani would speak out a few words softly from her toothless mouth.

c) Nani would utter a few words with a hissing sound from her toothless mouth.
d) Nani would articulate a few words with a loud sound from her toothless mouth.

4) I do not want my grandchildren to be thrashed by their stepmother.
a) I do not want my grandchildren to be pampered by their stepmother.
b) I do not desire my grandchildren to be advised by their stepmother.
c) I do not wish my grandchildren to be beaten by their stepmother.
d) I do not expect my grandchildren to be whipped by their stepmother.

5) At times a petty quarrel would push them into long silence.
a) It is bad that small fights harm communication.
b) It is bad that a trifling quarrel results from serious provocation.
c) It is bad that an insignificant fight would result in long arguments.
d) It is bad that a small quarrel ends up in long discussions.

V.6 Underline the proper word from the bracket and mark its proper place by the sign .

Example: I went to Haridwar for the ^ of the ashes of my grandfather. (immersion/ impression)

1) I was by her assumption that I knew all about her domestic misfortune. (taken aback/ scooped)
2) She received a strong when she lost her mother's diamond necklace. (flush/reprimand)
3) Her frustrated despair into mockery.(quipped/morphed)
4) For a moment, Lisa was too to say anything. (stunned/ curled up)
5) Nicholas looked into the eyes that were gazing at him, and continued to turn over the pages and read. (flush/radiant)
6) Your constant quarrels are making things unpleasant for the others in the office. (petty/unburdened)

V.7 Frame sentences using all the words. You may change the forms of the words if needed.

Example: Gulliver – ship – hit – stony – sink

Gulliver's ship hit the stony seashore and sank down.

1) she – sit – garden – quiet – humming – song
2) my friend – not speak – deaf
3) fishing – bank – river
4) grandmother – weave – sweater

V.8 Tick mark the words nearest in meaning.

1. **stony**	☐ critical	☐ rocky	☐ stunning	☐ musical
2. **bank**	☐ shore	☐ account	☐ money	☐ river
3. **humming**	☐ rushing	☐ hurling	☐ hammering	☐ buzzing
4. **yarn**	☐ yawn	☐ wool	☐ sheet	☐ cover

Function [Expressing the manner of action and making supposition about it]

F.1 Here is a description of Khushvant Singh's grandmother by the writer himself. Read the following passage and observe the underlined words.

My grandmother, <u>like</u> everybody's grandmother, was an old woman. She often told us the games she used to play <u>as</u> a child. They seem quite absurd and undignified on her part and we treated it <u>like</u> the fables of the prophets she used to tell us. My grandfather's portrait hung above the masterpiece in the drawing room. He did not look the sort of person who would have a wife or children. He looked <u>as if</u> he could only have lots and lots of grandchildren.

F.2 Observing the underlined words in F1, say whether these sentences are True or False.

1. Writer's grandmother was a young one unlike everybody's grandmother.
2. The grandfather of the writer looked like an ordinary social man.
3. The grandmother in her childhood used to play games of children.
4. The writer considered those games as they were real ones.

F.3 Read aloud these sentences and try to understand the expression. Write down A for an advice and S for a supposition (a condition which is unreal, imagined or supposed).

1. If I were you, I would study more. ( ) 2. I wouldn't do that if I were you. ( )
3. If he were taller, he could be selected in team. ( )
4. If I were not in debt, I would quit my job. ( ) 5. If I were sick, I wouldn't be here. ( )

F.4 Here are some chits. Find out the role assigned to you in it. Perform it before the classmates. Tell one of the classmates to describe the performance using 'as if', 'as', 'like'.

walk- soldier	**eat- Bhim**	**enter - Shivaji**	**dance - Michael Jackson**
act - Amitabh Bachchan		**speak - political leader**	

Example: walk- soldier

Description: 1. Paresh is walking like a soldier.
2. Paresh walks as if he were a soldier.
3. Paresh is walking as a soldier does.

F.5 Join these sentences using expression 'as if' and 'like'.

***Example*:** He walks in style of a king. Virsinh is not a king.
Virsinh is walking as if he were a king.

1. The rabbit sat still. It is not a toy. _____
2. Her eyes are blazing. They are tongues of fire. _____
3. They met after a long time. They were strangers. _____
4. He looked very stubborn. He didn't care at all. _____
5. The shadow was approaching. It was a tiny dark cloud. _____
6. Nana would keep quibbling with Nani. They were two people who had just married in the first flush of love. _____
7. Nana became all the more irritable now. He had lost a wager. _____

F.6 Match A with B and make meaningful sentences.

A	B
If I were a millionaire	I would reduce the tax
I would have travelled all the seas	If I were very handsome
I would have become a Bollywood hero	If I were a kite
I would fly across the Himalaya	I would give a lot to charity
If I were the president	If I were a dolphin
I would catch the clouds	If I were an eagle

F.7 Match the A, B and C with relevant expressions and frame sentences using 'as' and 'like'.

A	B	C
Rucha	twinkled	lion
Tarzen	climbed	stars
They	singing	lightening
Eyes	runs	Sunidhi Chauhan
Usain Bolt	roared	mountaineers

Example: **Rucha is singing as Sunidhi Chauhan does.**

Writing

W. 1 Write a paragraph on 'My Grandparents'.

Names of grand parents - age - health - how much time you pass together - do you eat together? breakfast, lunch, dinner - visit places like temple, river, garden etc. with them - what you learn from them - how you express your love - what care you take of them - how they express their love to you - what care they take of you.

W. 2 You visited an old-age home in your city last week. Prepare a short report on it.

Name-place-date-how many old persons living-what is their daily life-their problems-how you pass your day with them-what you learnt.

W. 3 Write a story of a movie which shows family bonding especially with grandparents (eg. Bagban) in your own words.

Activity

A.1 Divide the students into groups of four. Each group will write ten peculiar things about parents/grandparents. Then each group reads its observations aloud in the class. Prepare a list of observations that are common in almost all the student groups.

A.2 Sit with your parents and discuss your plans for the future. Talk about your apprehensions and mental blocks that hinder you from fulfilling your dreams.

A.3 You may have to make a lot of adjustments in your daily life with your parents regarding choice of food, clothes, movies, internet usage, career choice, selection of friends, social gatherings, choice of music, family customs & traditions etc. Prepare a list of social, psychological, familial and cultural adjustments you have been making in your day to day life. Then share your experiences with your classmates.

Project

Prepare a questionnaire consisting of varied aspects of life including choice of food, garments, music, friends, habits, sports, vehicle, places etc and visit five families in your area. Ask all the family members – young and old of the house to fill the questionnaire. Then prepare a list of choices of members of both the groups – young and old, compare them and find out the similarities and differences between the two sets of members.

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