UNIT 9

Pre-task

Here is a list of excuses. Read them and guess the situations in which they may be used.

Excuses	Situations
We had guests at home	When we are not willing to go out. When we have not completed our task. When we avoid the people to come at our home.
I was thinking to call you today.	
I was down with fever.	
My father took me to the market with him.	
I had a very bad headache.	
I took my neighbour's son to the hospital.	
I forgot my wallet.	
I got late because I went to my friend's home.	

Read 1

HEADACHE

-R. K. Narayan

Of all the blessings conferred on mankind by a benign providence, the most useful is the headache. But for it, there would be many great embarrassments in life. Factual explanations are not always either palatable or feasible. In such circumstances, headache acts as a sort of password. I remember at school, the very first letter-writing lesson I was taught was: "Respected sir, as I am suffering from headache, I request you to grant me leave..." I always wonder what made our teacher select headache as an excuse, even in a specimen letter. I think it was very much in everybody's thoughts, useful alike to the pupils, and their master. For us, a headache was a boon. We used to have drill after school hours (which I still think is an unfair and undesirable practice).We disliked this hour. On the drill ground almost all appeared to be afflicted with "Splitting headache, sir," and our drill instructor put an end to it by decreeing one day, "Those suffering from headache will hold up their arms." It raised our hopes, but he added, "Since I wish to detain them for some special exercises that will cure their headache." Not one lifted his arm. At which the instructor declared, "Now all of you take off your coats and get through the usual drill. I am glad to find that the class is going to exercise in full strength today."

Headache gives the sufferer a touch of importance. All other aches sound crude and physiological, and sensitive people would not mention them. No other ailment can be so openly mentioned with impunity. You could mention headache in the most elegant social gathering and no one would be shocked by it. The only expression which is superior to headache is indisposition. Whenever I see that word I wonder what it exactly means. It is one of those curious words (like 'inanity'

which has no 'anity'), which do not necessarily mean the opposite without the 'in'. You cannot say, "Owing to disposition I am not taking the medicine," whereas you can say, "Owing to indisposition I called in the doctor." What exactly is this indisposition? I have never been able to understand it,except that it sounds very well in press notes or health bulletins or in messages from eminent men to gatherings to which they have been invited. 'Indisposition' cannot generally be said by the person directly afflicted. It does not sound very well for anyone to write directly. "Owing to indisposition, I am not attending your meeting." It sounds unconvincing. It sounds better in the third person. It implies that the gentleman is an eminent one, has a secretary or a deputy who can speak for him. "Mr So and So regrets his inability to attend the meeting today owing to indisposition." People will understand and accept the statement and will not question. "What is that indisposition? Is he down with flu or malaria or cold or rheumatism? I know a doctor who can cure it." On the contrary, just accept it at its face value and pass on to the next item. Indisposition could be used only at a particular level, not by all and sundry. A schoolboy who says, "As I am indisposed, I want to be let off." will have his ear twisted for his precociousness.

I think I should shock mankind if I suddenly said "There is no such thing as headache or indisposition. It is all just an excuse, an elegant falsehood, for have I not seen dozens of headache cases walking or driving about gaily to be seen everywhere except where they ought to be at the particular hour!" The world is not yet ripe for such outspokenness. A man cannot say, "I am not attending the meeting today since I don't feel like it." A clerk who writes to his master, "I am not attending the office today because I am not inclined to look at any paper today," will lose his job, whereas as he quite at liberty to say that he is down with headache.

Headache is essential for maintaining human relationship in working order. We cannot do without it either at home or in public. In any normal household one can see a variety of headaches, curtaining off a variety of uncomfortable situations. The mother-in-law, who forswears her food on the plea of a splitting head, is clearly not on the best of terms, atleast for that day with the daughter-in-law or her son. The son, who pleads headache, may want to keep away not only his friends and officers but would like his wife not to press him too much to fulfill his promise to take her out; the little man who pleads headache has definitely skipped his homework, and would like the tutor to be sent away. As I have already said, it will not do at all to be bluntly truthful on all occasions. The sign of cultured existence is not to pry too deeply, but accept certain words at their face value, as expressed by the speaker.

Headache has become such a confirmed habit that a huge trade has developed in providing a cure for it. Some people feel lost unless they carry a tube of some headache remedy in their pockets all the time, and opticians give glasses guaranteed to relieve headache. These are instances to show that mankind easily begins to believe in its myths.

Glossary

conferred on – granted to **benign** – kind **providence** – fate, destiny **embarrassment** – uncomfortableness, awkward feeling **palatable** – pleasing, acceptable **feasible** –practicable, વ્યવહારુ **a sort of** – a type of **specimen** – sample **excuse** – false reason,બહાનું **a boon** – blessing,વરદાન **alike** – similar **to be afflicted with** – to distress with mental or bodily pain **splitting** – intensely painful **to detain** – to hold up in custody **in full strength** – in full numbers **crude** – rude, vulgar **ailment** – a mild illness **elegant** – stylish **to be shocked by** – to be upset by **impunity** freedom from punishment **indisposition** – minor illness **to call in** – to ask help from somebody **eminent** – well-known, famous **afflicted** – to affect somebody in an unpleasant way **rheumatism** – stiffness in joints or muscles

sundry – diverse, heterogeneous **precocious** – disapproving act **gaily** – without caring about your action on other people **inclined** – motivated **plea of** – excuse of **plead** – claim, declare **forswears** to deny something under oath, બાધા **pry** – interfere, be inquisitive **optician** – maker and seller of lenses **myth** a widely held but false belief or idea

Comprehension

C.1.1 Write true or false. Find out sentences in the Read with similar meaning if the sentence is true.

1. Headache is a generous gift of God.
2. Many a times actual reasons are not practically accepted but headache is easily accepted .
3. Headache is a curse for human beings.
4. Students complain of severe headache when they are asked to do physical exercises.
5. Headache is more a physical issue than a psychological one.
6. Headache helps medical industries to earn a lot.

C.1.2 Answer the questions.

1. How did the P.T. teacher of the author convert headache from a boon to curse?
2. What can be the reason for the teacher to label the headache as an excuse?
3. Why are people not shocked in public gathering if you say "I have a headache"?
4. Why is headache called "an elegant falsehood"?
5. How does the headache give the sufferer a touch of importance?
6. Find out the sentences from the text which express humour.
7. Write about 'benefits of having a headache'.

C.1.3 Find out the sentences from the Read with the nearest meaning.

1. Headache is a common excuse.
2. The other word similar to headache is indisposition.
3. Indisposition is a word used by eminent persons.
4. The word headache is a blessing for us.
5. Headache helps us to maintain social relations.
6. Industry is earning a lot due to this common excuse.
7. We have to use the word like headache or indisposition because outspokenness is not welcome.

C.1.4 Some problems and excuses are given below. Write the missing part in the table.

No	Problem	Excuse
1	I am not attending the meeting today since I do not feel like it.	
2		I am suffering from headache
3		Splitting headache, Sir
4	I am not attending the office today because I am not inclined to look at any paper today	
5		Owing to indisposition, I am not attending the meeting

C.1.5 Find out some humorous sentences from the read. Talk to a friend and decide which ones are more/less humorous. Write them in the table

More humorous sentences	Less humorous sentences

Vocabulary

V.1 In each set, there are three words which are synonymous while one is an antonym. Tick mark the antonym.

1)	puzzle	bewilder	please	distract
2)	renowned	august	obscure	famed
3)	ailment	wellness	malady	ill health
4)	indecent	savage	coarse	sophisticated
5)	approve	forsake	deny	disclaim
6)	gaily	solemnly	gleefully	spiritedly
7)	graceful	exquisite	plain	classic
8)	appetizing	savoury	repulsive	relishing

V. 2 In the two columns given below, column B contains the meanings of certain words taken from the read. Fill the blanks in column A with the help of column B. The jumbled words are given in column A.

	A	B
1.	**TLITSPING Ex: (SPLITTING)**	(a) superior in fame, position and achievement
2.	SWFORAR (F_____)	(b) be inquisitive
3.	RAREMBMENTASS (E_____)	(c) shame
4.	REPCOCOUSI (P_____)	(d) give up
5.	TEDINA (D_____)	(e) sophisticated
6.	LEGTANE (E_____)	(f) unrefined
7.	DURCE (C_____)	(g) hold back
8.	MENTENI (E_____)	**(h) severe pain**

V.3 Fill in the blanks using proper forms of the words given in the brackets.

1) The rings around the planet Saturn are both _____ and mysterious. (elegance)
2) John realized that his son has a great _____ for mathematical studies compared to Biological research. (incline)
3) Rabindranath was _____ Knighthood on 3rd June 1915 in recognition of his genius as a poet. (confer)
4) A person who _____ his promises is not to be believed. (forswear)

5) Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was an _____Indian scientist and innovator, widely regarded as the Father of India's Space Programme. (eminence)
6) The police _____ several suspects for questioning. (detain)
7) He was _____ with asthma from a very young age. (afflict)
8) She wiped her eyes quickly as she was _____ to feel the tears on her cheeks. (embarrass)

V.4 Frame sentences using the words given in the group: Change the sequence and form of words if necessary.

Example:

Mother – suffer – rheumatism – long time

Answer: Mother has been suffering from rheumatism for a long time OR Mother's rheumatism has caused suffering to her for a long time OR Rheumatism has made mother suffer for a long time.

1) many people – complain – headache – modern times
2) diarrhea – stomach ailment – cause – vomiting – restlessness
3) she – curtail – household expenses – save money
4) Albert Einstein – eminent – scientist – introduce – theory of relativity – Physics
5) defendant – plead – not guilty – charge of murder.
6) person – forswear – promises – not – believe
7) scandal – major – embarrassment – family

V.5 In each of the following sentences, there is one word which does not fit in. Underline the word and tick mark the more appropriate word from the bracket to make the sentence meaningful.

Example: The honour of Knighthood was presented on Rabindranath Tagore by King George V in 1915. (conferred, awarded)

1) She was disposed to decline his offer. (inclined, favourable)
2) When the President signed the rule on equal rights, everyone in the audience cheered. (announcement, decree)
3) When his father began to shorten his freedom, he left the village and settled in a city. (clip, curtail)
4) After being limited by the police for questioning, he was released without charge. (detained, restricted)
5) The state has been severely inflicted with floods. (afflicted, affected)
6) Even though a lot of people think Margaret is sensible, she is really extremely intelligent. (inane, rational)

Function (Summarizing)

F.1 Read the poem and study the paragraph which summarizes the poem.

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

-Robert Browning

The poem describes beautiful Nature. It presents a scene of morning time in the season of spring. The hillside is decorated with pearls of dew. The lark is flying in the sky and the snail is on the thorn. God is in His heaven. All is right with the world.

F.2 Here are some examples of writing a summary. Study them closely. And note down the omission of details while summarizing.

1. August 1998. Nandan Sharma, a famous industrialist, enters into a world class restaurant. He sits down and with an ease of a businessman, selects and orders something from the menu. (30 words)

   - Nandan Sharma, an industrialist, goes to a restaurant and orders meal.(11 words)

2. In 2000, 20% of workers in cities were people who migrated from the rural area to earn livelihood, but by 2016 the digit reached up to 55%. (28)

   - By 2016 there was an increase of migratory workers in cities. (11)

3. Many scientists believed that music soothes the plant. It also helps it to grow. This is now a scientific fact. Les Harsten, a sound engineer from New York, carried out some exciting experiments. Here is one of them.

   Harsten's theory was that plants definitely react to music. In his experiment, he used two banana plants. He gave both plants same light, heat, and water. But for about an hour a day, one of the plants 'listened' to some music. This music was in fact a high-pitched humming sound. He found that this plant grew faster. It also grew 70 percent taller than the other plant! (106)

   - Science tells us that music soothes a plant and helps it grow. In one of his experiments, Les Harsten, a sound engineer, used two banana plants. He found that the one which listened to music grew faster and nearly twice as tall as the other plant. (47)

F.3 Study the score card of an IPL Twenty20 match and try to fill in the blanks in its summary.

Indian Premier League - 1st match

Twenty20 match | 2016 season
Played at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
09 April 2016 - night match (20-over match)

Mumbai Indians innings (20 overs maximum)		**R**	**M**	**B**	**4s**	**6s**	**SR**
LMP Simmons	b Sharma	**8**	19	8	0	1	100.00
RG Sharma*	lbw b Sharma	**7**	6	5	1	0	140.00
HH Pandya	c †Dhoni b Marsh	**9**	15	11	2	0	81.81
JC Buttler†	c R Ashwin b Marsh	**0**	6	2	0	0	0.00
AT Rayudu	c du Plessis b R Ashwin	**22**	50	27	2	0	81.48
KA Pollard	lbw b Bhatia	**1**	12	8	0	0	12.50
S Gopal	c Rahane b M Ashwin	**2**	16	16	0	0	12.50
Harbhajan Singh	not out	**45**	42	30	7	1	150.00
R Vinay Kumar	c Smith b Singh	**12**	18	11	0	1	109.09
MJ McClenaghan	not out	**2**	6	2	0	0	100.00
Extras	(lb 1, w 12)	**13**					
Total	(8 wickets; 20 overs)	**121**	(6.05 runs per over)				

Bowling	**O**	**M**	**R**	**W**	**Econ**	**0s**	**4s**	**6s**	
RP Singh	3	0	30	1	10.00	7	4	1	(1w)
I Sharma	4	0	36	2	9.00	15	4	1	(4w)
MR Marsh	4	0	21	2	5.25	13	1	1	(1w)
R Bhatia	4	1	10	1	2.50	17	1	0	
M Ashwin	4	0	16	1	4.00	13	1	0	
R Ashwin	1	0	7	1	7.00	2	1	0	

Rising Pune Supergiants innings (target: 122 runs from 20 overs)		R	M	B	4s	6s	S
AM Rahane	not out	**66**	65	42	7	3	157.14
F du Plessis	b Harbhajan Singh	**34**	46	33	1	3	103.03
KP Pietersen	not out	**21**	18	14	0	2	150.00
Extras	(lb 1, w 3, nb 1)	**5**					
Total	(1 wicket; 14.4 overs)	**126**	(8.59 runs per over)				

Match details

Player of the match AM Rahane (Rising Pune Supergiants)

Match Summary

The first match of IPL season 2016 was held between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Rising Pune Supergiants (RPS) at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. RPS won the match by 9 wickets.

After_____, MI chose to bat and could score 121 runs at the cost of 8 wickets in 20 overs. It was _____MI that only three batsmen could score up to _____including Harbhajan Singh's 45*. From RPS, M R Marsh and Ishant Sharma got 2 wickets each.

With the target of 122 in 20 overs, RPS played _____. They could chase the score in 14.4 overs by _____one wicket only. The player of the match AM Rahane scored 66* in 42 balls (7X4s, 3X6s). With the win RPS opens its point tally too.

F.4 Here is a summary of the last passage from the read Ants. Fill in the blanks with a phrase or a word to complete the summary.

The most ferocious kind _____cleared away! (161)

The 'driver' ants of Africa never stay at home _____continue marching in long lines ____ they are blind. They are so violent _____they eat not only small but also _____animals that come across_____. When the mightiest among them enters a house of an African villager, _____run away into the forest. They return back only _____the ants have passed. They find then the house- cleaned in such a way that there _____no insect at all!

F.5 Here are seven steps for writing a summary. In the next table some points are summarized. Mention the point number whose summary is given. Write summary of the remaining points.

1) **Divide...and conquer.** First off, skim the text you are going to summarize and divide it into sections. Focus on any headings and subheadings. Also look at any bold-faced terms and make sure you understand them before you read.
2) **Read.** Now that you've prepared, go ahead and read the selection. Read straight through. At this point, you don't need to stop to look up anything that gives you trouble—just get a feel for the author's tone, style, and main idea.
3) **Reread.** Rereading should be active reading. Underline topic sentences and key facts. Label areas that you want to refer to as you write your summary. Also label areas that should be avoided because the details—though they may be interesting—are too specific. Identify areas that you do not understand and try to clarify those points.
4) **One sentence at a time.** You should now have a firm grasp on the text you will be summarizing. In steps 1–3, you divided the piece into sections and located the author's main ideas and points. Now write down the main idea of each section in one well-developed

sentence. Make sure that what you include in your sentences are key points, not minor details.

5) **Write a thesis statement.** This is the key to any well-written summary. Review the sentences you wrote in step 4. From them, you should be able to create a thesis statement that clearly communicates what the entire text was trying to achieve. If you find that you are not able to do this step, then you should go back and make sure your sentences actually addressed key points.

6) **Ready to write.** At this point, your first draft is virtually done. You can use the thesis statement as the introductory sentence of your summary, and your other sentences can make up the body. Make sure that they are in order. Add some transition words (then, however, also, moreover) that help with the overall structure and flow of the summary. And once you are actually putting pen to paper (or fingers to keys!), remember these tips:
   - Write in the present tense.
   - Be concise: a summary should not be equal in length to the original text.
   - If you use the words of the author, cite them.
   - Don't put your own opinions, ideas, or interpretations into the summary. The purpose of writing a summary is to accurately represent what the author wanted to say, not to provide a critique.

7) **Check for accuracy.** Reread your summary and make certain that you have accurately represented the author's ideas and key points. Also check to make sure that your text does not contain your own commentary on the piece. (455)

Summary

Summary of the points	Point Number
Now start writing well-developed sentences that convey the main idea of each section. Include only the key points and ignore minor details.	
Now try to read directly without worrying about any trouble in understanding. Get the exact feeling, tone, style and main idea of the author.	
Lastly, during rereading the summary, make sure that it contains author's ideas, not of your own reflections.	
Initially, after a quick reading you need to divide the text in to sections and understand important terms.	
For a well-written summary, a thesis statement expressing the central idea is created after reviewing all statements. If needed, you may go back to modify earlier sentences addressing key points.	
Your thesis statement functions as the introductory sentence and other sentences with proper order and transition words form the structure of the body. Writing in present tense, conciseness, citation from the author are tips for better summary.	
Through active reading, you should select and underline the key points by identifying unnecessary or avoidable details. Also clear those points which you don't understand.	
TOTAL WORDS : 173	

F.6 Here is a news item. Complete the summary in about 90 words.

PRESIDENT THROWS PARTY FOR DEPARTING KING

Delhi, 29th April, 2015 **By our senior correspondent**

Last night the President gave a farewell party for the King, who is about to leave for his country today. The King and his family were on the visit of our country for last two weeks. The trip was a pleasure trip, not for any political reason.

The farewell dinner hosted at Rastrapati Bhavan by the President included the King's favourite food as well as some traditional dishes from our country. After dinner, folk artists from Rajasthan entertained the King and his family. Following the performance, the President and the King exchanged gifts. While talking with our senior reporter, Devansh Mukherjee, the King said; " I am indeed happy to be in this country and to travel far off historical sites with my family. I found the citizens so friendly that we have felt at home everywhere. My wife and my children feel sad to leave. We promise to visit again and to invite your President to visit us very soon." (157)

Summary

The news describes the farewell party offered by the King who delighted with the visit, talked to our senior reporter that he and his family have enjoyed the trip thoroughly, visiting and meeting friendly people...

F.7 Summarize this news item (under teacher's guidance).

Giant dinosaur footprint discovered in Mongolia desert

The Times of India, Sep 30, 2016, Tokyo: One of the biggest dinosaur footprints ever recorded has been unearthed in the Gobi Desert, researchers said on Friday, offering a fresh clue about the giant creatures that roamed the earth millions of years ago.

A joint Mongolian-Japanese expedition found the giant print, which measures 106 centimetres (42 inches) long and 77 centimetres wide.

One of the several footprints discovered in the vast Mongolian desert, the huge fossil was discovered last month in a geologic layer formed between 70 million and 90 million years ago, researchers said.

It was naturally cast, as sand flowed into dents that had been left by the creature stomping on the once muddy ground.

The footprint is believed to have belonged to Titanosaur, a long-necked dinosaur, and could have been more than 30 metres long and 20 metres tall, according to researchers.

"This is a very rare discovery as it's a well-preserved fossil footprint that is more than a metre long with imprints of its claws," said a statement issued by Okayama University of Science.

The Japanese university has been involved in the study with the Mongolian Academy of Science.

F.8 Summarize any one poem and a read from the list given below.

Heaven of Freedom — Green Charter (First two passages)

Blind, Deaf Fish — Sunrise on the Kangchenjunga

Unforgettable Walt Disney (First two passages)

F.9 Write your experience of studying in class 12 in about 150 words.

Writing

W. 1 Write a leave application to your class teacher to let you go home on account of severe headache.

Your name- class-roll no. -date -to the Principal -name of the school -subject -reason for leave - number of days leave required for -your physical/mental condition

W. 2 Dr Raman Patel, MD delivered a speech on headache in your school. He talked about the reasons for headache like physical, mental, emotional and environmental. Prepare a report comprising various reasons of headache emphasized by him.

W. 3 You read how headache is used as an excuse to skip some gatherings or unwanted places. You might have given a lot of excuses to your teachers or your parents to avoid certain places or events. Remember all the excuses given by you. Write them down and then write a paragraph on it.

Activity

A.1 Meet the head of any institution and ask them the reasons why most of their employees remain absent.

A.2 Meet any five friends and ask them the excuses they give for their incomplete homework. Write them and discuss them in the class.

Project

Meet a doctor and find out causes for headache. Note their remedies too.

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