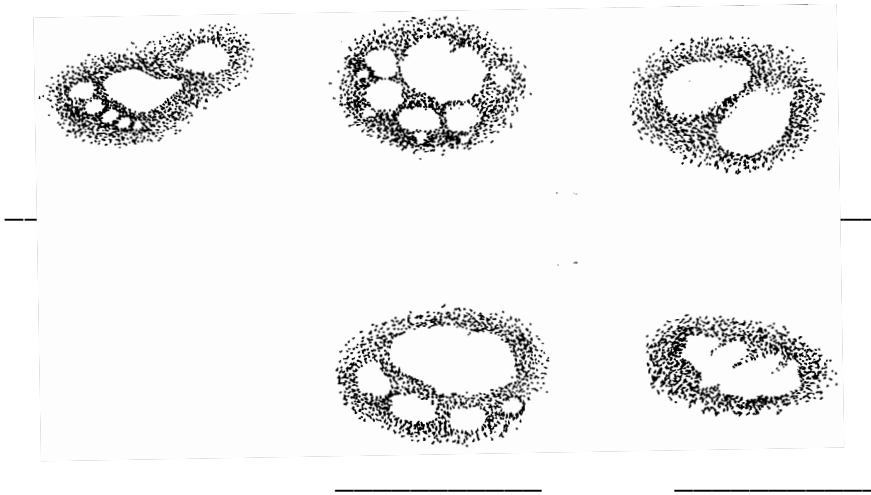


Lesson - 7

The Lost Camel

1. Can you recognize the footprints of an animal?
2. See the sketches of these footprints and find out who they belong to?
3. Choose from the given words and write them in the blank spaces.

camel, duck, elephant, man, lion



Two merchants were searching for their lost camel in a desert. They met an old man on the way. They asked him whether he had seen a camel.

The old man in turn asked more questions. "Is it an old animal?," he asked. The owners said it was. "Is it lame in one leg?," asked the old man. The merchants said it was. "Is it blind in the left eye?," the old man asked again. The owners were a little surprised; they said the animal was indeed blind in the left eye. "Have you seen the animal?," they asked the old man.

Without answering, the old man said to them, "Is the camel carrying wheat on one side of its back?," The owners said that it was true. Now they were sure that the old man had seen the animal and perhaps taken the goods. The old man continued, "Isn't the camel carrying honey on the other side?"

The owners caught hold of the old man and asked him angrily, "Have you stolen the goods and killed the animal?"

" I have not even seen the animal," said the old man calmly.

The merchants asked him, "Do you think we are fools to believe your story?"
And they dragged him to the Khalifa's court.



The Khalifa listened to the merchants' *story. Then he turned to the old man and asked him whether he had seen the camel. The old man said he had never seen it in his life. "How do you know the camel is lame in one leg?", the Khalifa asked.

"I looked at the footprints on the sand," said the old man. "And one of them could hardly be seen."

The Khalifa smiled and asked why the old man thought the camel was blind in one eye.

"The animal had eaten the leaves of the bushes only on one side of the road," said the old man.

* Note the use of apostrophe ('). The apostrophe mark is placed after the (s') in case of a plural noun and before ('s) in case of a singular noun.

"Why did you think the camel was carrying wheat and honey?," asked the Khalifa.

"I saw ants carrying fallen grains of wheat from one side of the road," said the old man.

"And there were bees flying around on the other side, I suppose," said the Khalifa.

"Yes, Your Honour,*" said the old man.

The Khalifa then turned to the merchants and said, "This man has made use of his eyes to look at things. You have eyes too. Use them. You'll find your animal."

And he sent them away.

1. Read and Learn:

the ship of the desert

a lame excuse,

foolproof

to work hard

to turn a blind eye

to leave one's footprints

merchant

surprise

desert

perhaps

angrily

dragged

calmly

footprints

2. Comprehension:

A) Answer the following questions :

1. Why were the two merchants surprised at the old man's questions?
2. Why did the merchants think that the old man had seen the camel ?
3. Why did they take the old man to the Khalifa?
4. How did the old man know that the camel was blind?
5. Why were the bees flying only on one side of the road ?
6. Why did the Khalifa not punish the old man?

* **Your Honour: an address of respect to a judge.**

B) Complete the following sentences using the correct option:

1. The two merchants were looking
 - a) for their friend
 - b) for their lost camel
 - c) for their family members

2. The old man's answers were in the form of
 - a) silence
 - b) statements
 - c) questions

3. The old man asked whether....
 - a) the camel could not walk fast
 - b) the camel carried a heavy load
 - c) the camel was lame

4. The merchants were angry because....
 - a) they thought that the old man had stolen the goods and killed the camel.
 - b) they thought that the old man was making fun of them.
 - c) they thought that they would never get their camel back.

5. The old man knew the camel was lame because
 - a) one of its footprints could hardly be seen
 - b) the ants carried fallen grains from one side of the road
 - c) he had seen the camel before

6. The Khalifa said that the old man knew so much about the camel because...
 - a) he was an expert
 - b) he had killed the camel
 - c) he used his eyes to look at things carefully

7. The merchants went to....

- a) the camel
 - b) the khalifa
 - c) the king
8. The camel was....
- a) lame in one leg
 - b) blind in one eye
 - c) both lame in one leg and blind in one eye
9. The Khalifa said to the merchants....
- a) use your ears
 - b) use your eyes
 - c) use your mouth
10. The old man had....
- a) stolen the camel
 - b) killed the camel
 - c) never seen the camel

3. Word Power:

A) Match the words with their meanings:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. without excitement | calmly |
| 2. a tiny insect | merchant |
| 3. a person who buys and sells goods | lame |
| 4. disabled in the leg or foot | footprint |
| 5. the mark left by a foot or shoe | bee |

B) Fill in the blank spaces in the sentences, using the given words or phrases:

(carrying, understand, were searching, the ship of the desert, a lame excuse, foolproof, to work hard, to turn a blind eye, leave footprints, angry)

1. Bhola was _____ for his ball.
2. The truck was _____ bags of onions.
3. The teacher was _____ because Suraj did not do his work.
4. No one could _____ the story told by Ramesh.
5. The police _____ when they saw the thief was running away.
6. The camel is known as _____.
7. Ramesh had not done his homework so he made _____ of falling sick.
8. Some products in the market claim to be a _____ remedy for illness.
9. Shyama has _____ to secure good marks.
10. If you _____ on the sand at a beach, the sea is sure to wash them away.

4. Grammar in Use:

A) Fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the verbs:

Two boys _____ (play) in the ground with a ball. A few boys _____ (watch) them. All of them _____ (enjoy) their free time. Suddenly it started _____ (rain). Now all of them _____ (run) back to their rooms. One of them _____ (pick) up the ball.

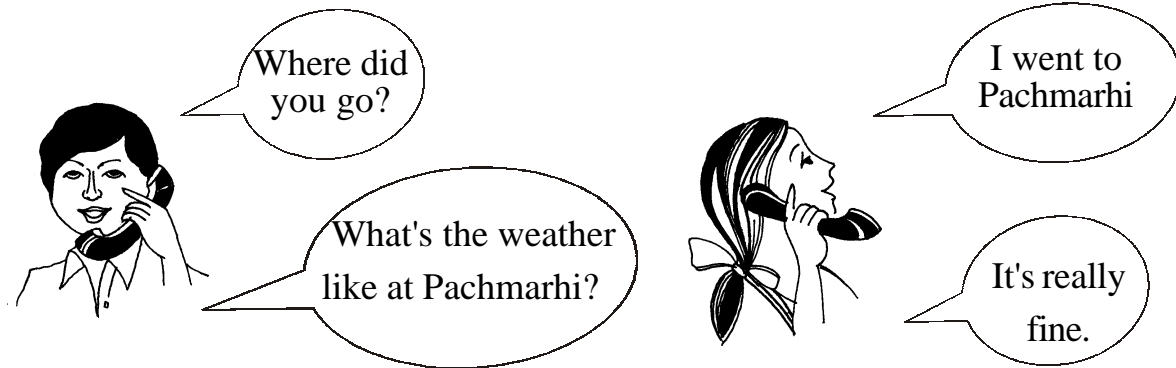
B) Frame questions to get the following answers. Start with the 'wh' word given in front of each sentence.

Example : Suman has her lunch at office. (where)
Where does Suman have her lunch?

1. She has her lunch at 10 o' clock. (when)
2. She has chappaties and vegetables for lunch. (what)
3. She had dinner at her friend's home last night. (where)

5. Let's Talk:

You are talking to a friend on telephone who has returned from a journey during vacation. Ask five questions about his/her journey.

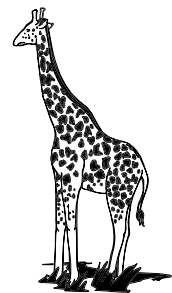
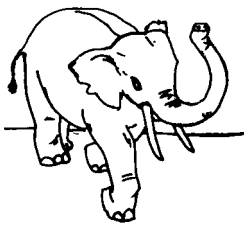


6. Let's Write:

- A) 1. Imagine that you are the camel in the story. Write the story using the following words :
lake, tracks, footprints, went back, happy, leaves, lost, sand
2. Give a title to your story.

7. Let's Do It:

A) Write the names of the animals / birds given below:



the largest land
animal long trunk
eats leaves and fruits

a wild animal
black and white
stripes
eats leaves

a flightless bird
white and black
eats fish

a tall animal
long neck
eats leaves

Write at least four sentences about each of the four pictures shown above. Use the clues given in the boxes.

B) Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions given below it.

The camel is one of the oldest of the domestic animals. It has been used for thousands of years by the desert people of Africa and Asia to fulfil several of their needs.

On the fertile edges of the desert, camels pull ploughs, turn wheels to irrigate fields and carry goods to the market. In the desert itself, they are still almost the only means of transport. They supply food, milk and clothing in the form of wool and leather.

This useful animal is well adapted to life in harsh, dry lands. The Arabian camel has one hump which is used as a source of energy when food and water are scarce. When it does drink, the camel can take upto 100 litres of water in ten minutes.



The camel has broad, soft feet for a steady grip in the sand. A thick skin protects it from the hot daytime sun and bitterly cold nights. The camel's eyes have three eyelids to help keep out sand; its ears and nose are also adapted to keep out sand storms.

Camels stand about two metres high at the shoulder and weigh 500-800 kilos. Often called "the ship of the desert" while travelling long distances, they can carry loads of 200 kilos and more.

Camels eat grass, dates and grain when available. Deep in the desert they survive on dry leaves and seeds.

- 1. In what ways can the camel help us in agriculture?**
- 2. What's the use of the camel's hump?**
- 3. How is the camel's body suited to the desert's hard conditions?**
- 4. What does the camel eat ?**
- 5. Give a suitable title to the passage.**