

13**THE TIGER IN THE TUNNEL**

The night is dark and silent. A young boy and his father are alone in a hut in the middle of the jungle. Soon the father leaves his son alone and goes out into the jungle. Where does he go and why?

**OBJECTIVES**

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

- read and understand a story in English;
- use homophones correctly;
- use the to-infinite, gerunds and participles appropriately;
- edit your writing; and
- give and take messages.

13.1 SECTION I

Tembu, the boy, opened his eyes in the dark and wondered if his father was ready to leave the hut on his nightly errand.

There was no moon that night, and the deathly stillness of the surrounding jungle was broken only occasionally by the shrill cry of a cicada. Sometimes from far off came the hollow hammering of a woodpecker, carried along on the faint breeze. Or the grunt of a wild boar could be heard as he dug up a favourite root. But these sounds were rare, and the silence of the forest always returned to swallow them up.



Notes



Notes

Baldeo, the watchman, was awake. He stretched himself slowly unwinding the heavy shawl that covered him. It was close on midnight and the chill air made him shiver. The station, a small shack backed by heavy jungle, was a station in name only; for trains only stopped there, if at all, for a few seconds before entering the deep cutting that led to the tunnel. Most trains merely slowed down before taking the sharp curve before cutting.

Baldeo was responsible for signalling whether or not the tunnel was clear of obstruction, and his manual signal stood before the entrance. At night it was his duty to see that the lamp was burning, and that the overland mail passed through safely. 'Shall I come too, Father?' asked Tembu sleepily, still lying in a huddle in a corner of the hut.

'No, it is cold tonight. Do not get up.'

Tembu, who was twelve, did not always sleep with his father at the station, for he had also to help in the home, where his mother and small sister were usually alone. They lived in a small tribal village on the outskirts of the forest, about three miles from the station. Their small rice fields did not provide them with more than a bare living and Baldeo considered himself lucky to have got the job of Khalasi at this small wayside signal stop.

Still drowsy, Baldeo, groped for his lamp in darkness then fumbled about in search of matches. When he had produced a light he left the hut, closed the door behind him and set off along the permanent way. Tembu had fallen asleep again.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.1**

- I.
 - a. What is the father's name?
 - b. What is his son's name?
 - c. How old is the son?
- II.
 - a. Where did Baldeo spend the night?
 - b. What was Baldeo responsible for?
- III.
 - a. Where did Baldeo's family live?
 - b. Why did Baldeo have to take up the job of a Khalasi?
- IV. Pick out three phrases which describe the station from the list below.

dark and cold; a small shack; surrounded by rice fields; in the middle of a thick forest; near a tunnel; in a tribal village.

13.2 SECTION II

At midnight, Baldeo goes out of his hut, into the thick forest. The jungle is full of dangerous animals, but Baldeo has a job to do and it is important.

Baldeo wondered whether the lamp on the signal- post was still alight.

Gathering his shawl closer about him, he stumbled on, sometimes along the rails, sometimes along the ballast. He longed to get back to his warm corner in the hut.

The eeriness of the place was increased by the neighbouring hills which overhung the main line threateningly. On entering the cutting with its sheer rock walls towering high above the rails, Baldeo could not help thinking about the wild animals he might encounter. He had heard many tales of the famous tunnel tiger, a man-eater, which was supposed to frequent this spot; he hardly believed these stories for since his arrival at this place a month ago, he had not seen or even heard a tiger.

There had, of course, been panthers, and only a few days ago the villagers had killed one with their spears and axes. Baldeo had occasionally heard the sawing of a panther calling to its mate, but they had not come near the tunnel or shed.

Baldeo walked confidently for being a tribal himself, he was used to the jungle and its ways. Like his fore-fathers he carried a small axe; fragile to look at but deadly when in use.

He prided himself in his skill in wielding it against wild animals. He had killed a young boar with it once and the family had feasted on the flesh for three days. The axehead of pure steel, thin but ringing true like a bell, had been made by his father over a charcoal fire. This axe was part of himself. And wherever he went, be it to the local market seven miles away, or to a tribal dance, the axe was always in his hand. Occasionally an official who had come to the station had offered him good money for the weapon, but Baldeo had no intention of parting with it.

The cutting curved sharply, and in the darkness the black entrance to the tunnel looked up menacingly. The signal-light was out. Baldeo set to work to haul the lamp down by its chain. If the oil had finished, he would have to return to the hut for more. The mail train was due in five minutes.

Once more he fumbled for his matches. Then suddenly he stood still and listened. The frightened cry of a barking deer followed by a crashing sound in the undergrowth, made Baldeo hurry. There was still a little oil in the lamp, and after an instant's hesitation he lit the lamp again and hoisted it into position. Having done this, he walked quickly down the tunnel, swinging his own lamp, so that the shadows leapt up and down the soot-stained walls, and having made sure that the line was clear, he returned to the entrance and sat down to wait for the mail train.



Notes



Notes

The train was late. Sitting huddled up, almost dozing, he soon forgot his surroundings and began to nod.

Back in the hut, the trembling of the ground told of the approach of the train, and a low, distant rumble woke the boy, who sat up rubbing the sleep from his eyes.

'Father, it's time to light the lamp,' he mumbled and then, realizing that his father had been gone some time, he lay down again, but he was wide awake now, waiting for the train to pass, waiting for his father's returning footsteps.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.2**

1. Name the four wild animals which were to be found in the forest.
2. Was Baldeo afraid? Which sentence in the passage gives you the answer?
3. What weapon did he carry? Who had made it?
4. Did the barking deer call out because:
 - a) it saw Baldeo?
 - b) it saw a tiger?
 - c) it was afraid of the dark?
 - d) it was calling to its mate?
5.
 - a) How did Tembu know that the train was coming.
 - b) What is he waiting for?

13.3 SECTION III

Baldeo finds himself in a dangerous situation. How does he deal with it?

A low grunt resounded from the top of the cutting. In a second Baldeo was awake, all his senses alert. Only a tiger could emit such a sound

There was no shelter for Baldeo, but he grasped his axe firmly and tensed his body, trying to make out the direction from which the animal was approaching. For some time there was only silence. Even the usual jungle noises seemed to have ceased altogether. Then a thump and the rattle of small stones announced that the tiger had sprung into the cutting.

Baldeo, listening as he had never listened before, wondered if it was making for the tunnel or the opposite direction the direction of the hut, in which Tembu would

be lying unprotected. He did not have to wonder for long. Before a minute had passed he made out the huge body of the tiger trotting steadily towards him. Its eyes shone a brilliant green in the light from the signal lamp. Flight was useless, for in the dark the tiger would be more sure-footed than Baldeo and would soon be upon him from behind. Baldeo stood with his back to the signal –post, motionless staring at the great brute moving rapidly towards him. The tiger, used to the ways of men, for it had been preying on them for years, came on fearlessly, and with a quick run and a snarl struck out with its right paw, expecting to bowl over this puny man who dared stand in the way.

Baldeo, however, was ready. With a marvellously agile leap he avoided the paw and brought his axe down on the animal's shoulder. The tiger gave a roar and attempted to close in. Again Baldeo drove his axe which caught the tiger on the shoulder, almost severing the leg. To make matters worse, the axe remained stuck in the bone, and Baldeo was left without a weapon.

The tiger, roaring with pain, now sprang upon Baldeo, bringing him down and then tearing at his broken body. It was all over in a sharp few minutes. Baldeo was conscious only of a searing pain down his back, and then there was blackness and the night closed in on him forever.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.3

1. What made Baldeo's job as a signal man dangerous?
2. Pick out words and phrases from the text that describe the tiger.
3. What was Baldeo more worried about: his own safety or his son's?
4. Why did Baldeo decide to fight the tiger?
5. How did Baldeo die?

13.4 SECTION IV

Baldeo, the bread winner of the family was dead. Who took on his responsibilities and how did he tackle them.

The tiger drew off and sat down licking his wounded leg, roaring every now and then with agony. He did not notice the faint rumble that shook the earth, followed by the distant puffing of an engine steadily climbing. The overland mail was approaching. Through the trees beyond the cutting as the train advanced, the glow of the furnace could be seen, and showers of sparks fell like Divali lights over the forest.



Notes



Notes

As the train entered the cutting, the engine whistled once, loud and piercingly. The tiger raised his head, then slowly got to his feet. He found himself trapped like the man. Flight along the cutting was impossible. He entered the tunnel, running as fast as his wounded leg would carry him. And then, with a roar and a shower of sparks, the train entered the yawning tunnel. The noise in the confined space was deafening but, when the train came out into the open, on the other side, silence returned once more to the forest and the tunnel.

At the next station the driver slowed down and stopped his train to water the engine. He got down to stretch his legs and decided to examine the head-lamps. He received the surprise of his life; for, just above the cow-catcher lay the major portion of the tiger, cut in half by the engine.

There was considerable excitement and conjecture at the station, but back at the cutting there was no sound except for the sobs of the boy as he sat beside the body of his father. He sat there a long time, unafraid of the darkness, guarding the body from jackals and hyenas, until the first faint light of dawn brought with it the arrival of the relief-watchman.

Tembu and his sister and mother were plunged in grief for two whole days; but life had to go on, and a living had to be made, and all the responsibility now fell on Tembu. Three nights later, he was at the cutting, lighting the signal-lamp for the overland mail.

He sat down in the darkness to wait for the train, and sang softly to himself. There was nothing to be afraid of – his father had killed the tiger, the forest gods were pleased; and besides, he had the axe with him, his father's axe, and he now knew to use it.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 13.4**

1. Why did the tiger enter the tunnel?
2. What happened to the tiger?
3. Why was there excitement at the station?
4. What was happening at the cutting?
5. Why did Tembu sit by his father's body?
6. Why did Tembu take up his father's job soon after his death?



OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. Write two incidents to show the quality of responsibility in Baldeo and Tembu.
2. Most wild animals avoid human beings. Why did this tiger come straight to Baldeo.
3. Give three reasons why Tembu was not afraid of anything.



Notes

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

1. 'Wood' and 'would' are two words which sound the same, but have different meanings, and are spelt differently. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below, with the correct words from the pairs of words given.

e.g. wood, would

This table is made of wood of poor quality.

It is so cold tonight that I would not like to go out.

1. Bore: boar
 - a) The film that we went to last night was badly made. It was quite a _____.
 - b) A wild _____ is a very dangerous animal
2. herd: heard
 - a) A large _____ of spotted deer came out of the forest onto the road last night.
 - b) I _____ that the examinations are to be postponed again this year.
3. root: route
 - a) Some _____ (s) like that of the tapioca are good to eat.
 - b) The _____ to Jaisalmer is long and complicated.
4. weather: whether
 - a) The _____ has been cold and damp all month.
 - b) Baldeo was responsible for signaling _____ the tunnel was free of obstruction or not.
5. male: mail
 - a) The _____ has been delayed due to the strike by postmen.
 - b) The _____ birds are always more decorative than the females.



Notes

6. threw: through
 - a) Amar _____ away all the fish curry thinking it had gone bad.
 - b) The train to Mumbai goes _____ many tunnels.
7. bare : bear
 - a) The black Himalayan _____ is very dangerous.
 - b) People have been cutting trees so carelessly that many beautiful forests have become _____ of vegetation.
8. steel : steal
 - a) _____ utensils are easy to keep clean.
 - b) Ravi knew that there was Rs. 10 in his father's almirah, and he needed some money. But he did not take it because it is wrong to _____.
9. their : there
 - a) _____ is no time to go shopping before we leave for the station.
 - b) Ravi and Neha are friends. I have forgotten _____ phone numbers.

2. Pick out the odd words from each set of words below:-

Example :

watchman, engine, driver, fireman, boy, cook (boy)

1. tiger, deer, panther, hyena, jackal _____
2. father, brother, neighbour, son, aunt _____
3. bullock cart, train, car, aeroplane, scooter.
4. axe, gun, spear, knife, blade
5. grunt, roar, cry, shout, men
6. hut, house, cave, station, garage
7. see, hear, read, taste, feel
8. leap, run, jump, walk, sleep
9. cow, dog, hen, crow, pig

GRAMMAR: Non- Finites

I. To-Infinitives

Look at the following sentences. Study the underlined words.

- a. Tembu wondered if his father was ready to leave the hut
- b. At night it was his duty to see the lamp was burning.

The underlined words are called Infinitives. They are formed by writing to + verb –

- e.g. 1. He had also to help at home.
2. It's time to light the lamp
i.e. to + help, to + light

Note: 'to' is followed by the first form of the verb i.e. the original form of a verb without any change.

Exercise I

Underline the Infinitives in the following sentences.

1. He agreed to postpone the meeting.
2. It is dangerous to play with a gun.
3. We tried to open the door, but it had jammed.
4. We have to learn more about Infinitives.
5. Bank is a place to deposit money.
6. Children go to play in a park.

Exercise II

Fill in the blanks using the infinitive form of the verb in the box.

post help go sleep accompany report park live sit waste

1. I forgot _____ you letter.
2. He wants _____ to the station.
3. She pretended _____.
4. Would you like _____ us?
5. He asked her _____ the progress of the project.
6. Is it safe _____ the car here?
7. _____ without air is impossible.
8. _____ in the sun in winter is pleasant.
9. _____ water is foolish.
10. I shall be glad _____ you.



Notes



Notes

II. Gerunds

Observe the following sentences and see how the underlined words function.

- a) Swimming is good for health
- b) Sita loves dancing.

Swimming and dancing are used as Nouns although they are derived from verbs. A word which was a verb does the work of a Noun by adding 'ing'. It is used in the same way as a noun. Hence we say – He likes driving.

Writing poems is his hobby.

Exercise I

Underline the gerunds in the following sentences.

1. Anju likes reading novels by Thomas Hardy.
2. Boys like playing cricket.
3. Riding is an interesting hobby.
4. Giving is better than receiving.
5. Singing gives us joy.

Exercise II

Use the gerundial form of the verb in the brackets and fill in the blanks:

1. _____ (bath) is necessary for good health.
2. _____ (see) is _____ (believe).
3. We go to school for _____ (study).
4. He dislikes _____ (wear) a green shirt.
5. Baldeo was responsible for _____ (signal).
6. He heard the _____ (hammer) of a woodpecker.
7. He stopped _____ (tremble) when he was that the tiger was dead.
8. The leopard waited at the _____ (cut).
9. _____ (shop) had made her tired.
10. _____ (study) grammar is fun.

III. The Present Participle

You saw/that by adding 'ing,' we can use the verbs as Nouns also. Now look at

the underlined words in the following sentences. The 'ing' words function like adjectives or adverbs. They are present participles.

- a) He heard a barking deer.
- b) The toy was a dancing girl in a glass case.

Exercise I

Pick out the present participles in the following sentences.

1. The boy sitting in the corner is my friend.
2. He jumped into a moving bus.
3. The frightening cry was followed by a crashing sound in the under growth.
4. They disapproved of playing cards.

Exercise II

Fill in the blanks with the present participle of the words in the box

speaking menacing exciting learning yawning writing

1. We got some _____ news last evening.
2. We had a _____ activity in class today.
3. The black entrance to the tunnel looked _____.
4. The train entered the _____ tunnel.
5. She was busy _____ letters.
6. It was a _____ experience for us.

V. The Past Participle

Observe the following sentences

- a) They found hidden treasure under the stone.
- b) They ate cooked food.
- c) They cut a fallen tree.
- d) These are burnt sticks.

The past participle (hidden, cooked, fallen) use – ed, en or – t (hide+en, cook+ed, fall+en, burn+t) to express a completed action as an adjective to qualify- treasure, food, tree, sticks.



Notes



Notes

- A. Pick out the past participles in the following sentences and underline them.
- A frightened child ran to his mother.
 - He is a changed man now.
 - Don't use a broken scale.
- B. Fill in the blanks with the past participle form of the verbs in the box.
- write, complete, paint steal break
- Submit a _____ report.
 - The police found the _____ goods.
 - Please submit your _____ assignment.
 - Don't play with _____ toys.
 - It is a _____ picture not a photograph.

LET'S WRITE

Editing

Spelling

Compare the sentences given in the boxes below:

I.

The cuting curved sharpli, and in the darknes the black entrence to the tunel looked up menacingly

II

The cutting curved sharply, and in the darkness the black entrance to the tunnel looked up menacingly.

Do you notice that the sentence in box I had a lot of spelling mistakes. But in box II the same sentence has been corrected and all the spelling are corrected. That is, the sentence have been edited.

- a) Now edit the following sentences by correcting the spelling.

It swa about 10 o'clock on Hali day and the gaty had began. The grounds of the twonshipe were filing up with people splashing colours at each other. Forteen year old Minal Pawar, who lives in one of the ground-floor flats was hanging out the whashed cloths in the courtyard. She planed to join the fun as soon as she finished.

Now you have edited the spelling mistakes. You can also edit the punctuation marks like capital letters, commas, full stops, question marks, use of 'I', like the one give below.

e.g. Box I

'shall i come too father asked tembu sleeply still lying huddled in a corner of the hut.

Box II

'Shall I come too, Father?' asked Tembu sleepily, still lying huddled in a corner of the hut.

The sentences in Box I have been edited by putting the punctuation marks. They have been underlined in Box II.

Now edit the following passage by correcting the punctuation.

Exercise I

are you going far asked the doctor i'm going all the way to Detroit said the man a rather thin man with small black eyes filled with tears from the wind.



LET'S TALK

Worksheet

Listen to conversation number on giving and taking messages on tape. Then fill in the blanks below

Ravi wanted to speak to _____. _____ offered to pass on Ravi's message to _____. Ravi said that Ajit should contact _____ regarding a trip to _____. Ravi also said that Suresh will give Abhay all details including how much _____ will be needed for the trip.



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Intext Questions 13.1

- I. a) Baldeo b) Tembu c) Twelve
- II. a) In a railway station/small station/ signal stop



Notes



Notes

- b) Signalling whether or not the tunnel was clear of obstruction (to see the signal lamp was burning)
- III. a) In a small village three miles from the station.
b) Their rice fields did not provide the family with a living.
- IV. A small shack; in the middle of a thick forest; near a tunnel

Intext Questions 13.2

1. tiger, panther, bear, barking deer.
2. No; Baldeo walked confidently, for being a tribal himself he was used to the jungle and its ways.
3. A small axe; his father
4. (b)
5. a) by the trembling of the ground
b) for the train to pass and his father's returning foot steps/his father to return.

Intext Question 13.3

1. He had to face the tiger any time.
2. It was a man eater.
3. Tembu's/his son's
4. He had an axe to kill it; he didn't think the tiger was dangerous.
5. The axe got stuck in the tiger's shoulder so he couldn't fight it.

Intext Question 13.4

1. He was trapped when the train came, flight along the cutting was impossible.
2. It got caught in the cow-catcher of the engine.
3. The driver found a tiger cut in half just above the cow-catcher of the engine
4. There was no sound, the boy sat beside the body of his father.
5. To guard the body from jackals and hyenas.
6. All the responsibility fell on Tembu.

OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. Baldeo – 1) took up his job inspite of the dangers. 2) tried to kill the tiger.
Tembu – 1) took up his father's job 2) looked after the family in place of his father.

2. It was used to the ways of men and expected to bowl over Baldeo who stood in the way.
3.
 1. his father had killed the tiger.
 2. the forest gods were pleased.
 3. he had his father's axe.



Notes

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

1. (a) bore, (b) boar
2. (a) herd, (b) heard
3. (a) root, (b) route
4. (a) weather, (b) whether
5. (a) mail, (b) male
6. (a) threw, (b) through
7. (a) beer, (b) bare
8. (a) steel, (b) steal
9. (a) there, (b) their
2. (1) deer, (2) neighbour, (3) bullock cart, (4) gun,
(5) men, (6) cave, (7) read, (8) sleep (9) crow

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Grammar

To-Infinitives

Exercise I

1. to postpone
2. to play
3. to open
4. to tearn
5. to deposit
6. to play

Exercise II

1. to post
2. to go
3. to sleep
4. to accompany
5. to report
6. to park
7. to live
8. to sit
9. to waste
10. to help

Gerunds

Exercise I

1. reading
2. playing
3. riding
4. giving, receiving
5. singing



Notes

Exercise II

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bating | 2. seeing | 3. believing | 4. studying, |
| 5. wearing | 6. signaling | 7. hammering | 8. trembling |
| 9. cutting | 10. shopping | 11. studying | |

The present Participle

Exercise I

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. sitting | 2. moving | 3. frightening, crashing |
| 4. playing. | | |

Exercise II

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. exciting | 2. speaking | 3. menacing |
| 4. yawning | 5. writing | 6. learning |

The Past Participle

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| A. (a) frightened | (b) changed | (c) broken |
| B. a) written | b) stolen | c) completed |
| d) broken | e) painted. | |

CHECK YOUR ANSWER**Let's write**

- a) It was about 10 o'clock on Holi day and the gaiety had begun. The grounds of the township were filling up with people splashing colours at each other. Fourteen year old Minal Pawar, who lives in one of the ground-floor flats was hanging out the washed clothes in the courtyard. She planned to join the fun as soon as she finished.

Exercise I

“Are you going far?” asked the doctor.

“I'm going all the way to Detroit,” said the man, a rather thin man with small black eyes filled with tears from the wind.