



: UNIT STRUCTURE :

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5.0 OBJECTIVES

The aim of this unit is to help you understand different unseen passages and paragraphs in English. We shall introduce you to different techniques that help you comprehend the passages, sentences and words that go into the making of a paragraph.

We shall also practice exercise in reading comprehension and the techniques of answering small questions that appear at the end of the paragraph.

After you have completed this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand/Comprehend the meaning of the given paragraph
- Extract the information from the paragraph as needed
- Write small answers of the questions given under each passage

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Mastering the art of understanding the unseen write-ups is essential to any field of life activities. It requires certain amount of concentration and a little practice. This unit is prepared keeping in view the same.

Gradually, you will learn to understand the paragraphs in a step-by-step manner. You will also be able to skim through the text and extract some necessary material from the paragraph, as required.

In order to understand the unseen passage, first of all, let us try to understand how paragraphs are written.

A paragraph is normally written with a theme or central idea running through it. Sometimes the topic of the paragraph is in the beginning and sometimes it may appear in the middle of it. Many times, it may be written at the end of the paragraph as the summing up statement. The other relevant material is spread among different sentences. We should look for all these things very closely and attentively. If you are aware of these systems, then, it will also help you develop your own paragraphs in fluent English.

EXAMPLE 1

The vast majority of people, wherever they live and whatever their occupation, come in contact with animals in one way or another and have to deal with them. It is obvious that the hunter has to know the ways of his quarry, that the farmer must be aware of the habits of his farmyard animals and of creatures that damage his crops; that the fisherman must know when and where to find his fish and how to outwit them. Even the modern city dweller meets animals. He may want to ward off roaches in the kitchen or he may keep a dog or a bird and grow familiar with the way his pets behave. All over the world, among primitive tribes as well as in modern society, there are those who delight in the observation of animals, and there is growing awareness of the fact that sharing our world with our fellow creatures is like travelling together—we enjoy being surrounded by other beings who, like ourselves, are deeply absorbed in the adventure of living. There is a growing sense of marvel and also of affinity.

Key Words:

Contact (n): the condition of meeting or coming together

Quarry (n): an animal or bird, which is being hunted

Outwit (v): win by being cleverer

City-dweller (n): one who lives in the city

Roaches(n): informal word for ‘cockroaches’

Absorbed(v.,adj.): interested, engrossed, engaged

Marvel(n): wonder

Affinity (n): close connection

Note: n. = noun, v. = verb, adj. = adjective

UNDERSTANDING BY INFERENCE (GUESS)

Mark the sentence

...that the farmer must be aware of the habits of his farmyard animals and of creatures that damage his crops;..

The word ‘creature’ in the quote above might be new to you. How will you understand that? You can understand that word by understanding the nearby words. For instance, you can think about various references around that word.

Does it say anything about farming practices? No.

Does it say anything about the farmer’s clothes? It can’t be so.

Does it have anything to say about animals? Yes. Because, the whole paragraph discusses something about men and animals.

Therefore, the word “creature” has something related to animals. The safest inference (guess) could be, therefore:

Creature= animal

Similarly, can you guess the meanings of some other words in the paragraph?

Primary Exercise (warm up exercise):

(Try to guess the nearest meaning from the options given below)

Let us try.

- 'ward off' is equal to:

- (1) kill
- (2) control
- (3) keep away

- 'beings' is equal to:

- (1) animals
- (2) people
- (3) neighbours

Thus, you may try this technique in your practice. However, it may not always be successful. You should develop a habit of keeping a dictionary by your side. These days you can also think of having one in your smart phone as an app. Keep adding some words daily to your memory. That will help.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1

READ THE ABOVE GIVEN PARAGRAPH AGAIN AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- 1. What title would you like to give this paragraph?
- 2. Why does the hunter need to know "the ways of his quarry"?
- 3. Give two examples of how a modern city-dweller comes in contact with animals.
- 4. Are animals always a source of pleasure for men? Which words tell you that sometimes they are not?
- 5. Say, by checking, whether the following are true or false:
 - 1. People, modern or otherwise, take joy in looking at animals. **true/false**
 - 2. It is not important whether fishermen know very well the habits of their fish. **true/false**
- 6. Find equivalents of the nouns

Wonder _____

Relationship _____

5.3 LEARNING TO COMPREHEND

(More Examples)

EXAMPLE 2

We live on the planet Earth, a ball of rock 12,750 km in diameter. Like all the planets, the Earth rotates on its axis and orbits the sun. But the earth is not alone. It has a companion on its travels—the moon—which orbits the Earth once a month. But the two worlds are very different. The Moon is a dead planet. It has no volcanoes or geological activity; it is airless, waterless and

lifeless. The Earth on the other hand, is lush and fertile. It supports millions of living things—plants, insects, birds, animals and human beings. It has fascinating erupting volcanoes. Since the moon has no atmosphere to protect it, its surface is heated to 105⁰C during its day, and cools to -155⁰C at night. In contrast, the Earth is covered by an atmosphere, which we can breathe, and which also keeps the temperature quite constant.

Key Words:

Rotates: turns around a fixed point

Axis: an imaginary line around which a spinning body moves.

Orbits: goes around

Volcanoes: mountains with large openings at the top through which melting rock, steam, gases, etc. escape from time to time with great force from inside the earth

Geological activity: activity, which relates to the physical changes in the structure of the earth, especially relating rock, soil etc.

Lush: thickly and healthily growing (especially plants)

Erupting: exploding and pouring out fire

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2

1. Which two elements are compared in this paragraph?
2. What is the topic sentence?
3. Fill in the gaps in the following table to show the contrast between the moon and the earth.

The Moon	The Earth
1.....	1. lush and fertile
2.....	2. has volcanoes
3. airless, waterless and lifeless	3.....
4.....	4. has atmosphere
5. very hot during the day and very cold during the night	5.....

4. Choose the correct meanings for the following from those given in the brackets.

(reptile, friend, enemy, productive)

companion: _____

fertile: _____

EXAMPLE 3

Now read the following paragraph and answer simple questions on your own:

Sleep

Experts say that people (adults) need at least 6 hours of sleep every night. If they do not get enough sleep they will feel sleepy the whole day. Younger kids need at least 9 hours of sleep every night. After-school activities can take away from sleep time for kids. Also, parents with busy life styles stay up late and their kids do the same. Kids with little sleep have hard time sleeping at night and this will affect their daily routine and make them less active and productive through the day in school. Most parents are not aware of what goes on when their kids go to sleep and how the brain works when we are asleep. Many people think that the brain shuts down when we go to sleep but it is the opposite. Experts say that the brain is very active when we are asleep and could be even more active than when we are awake. Experts recommended at least 6 hours of sleep for adults and 9 hours of sleep for young children. They say that sleep is an essential not a comfort and it can increase your life expectancy.

(Adapted from <https://www.eslpages.com/skills/reading/>)

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 3

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. How many hours of sleep should an adult sleep at night?
2. How many hours of sleep should little children sleep at night?
3. Can sleep affect life expectancy?
4. Is sleep an essential or a comfort?
5. According to experts is the brain active when we are asleep?
6. What does after – school activities do to our sleep?

EXAMPLE 4

As you have read, scientific knowledge was in a highly advanced stage in ancient India. In keeping with the times, Medical Science was also highly developed. Ayurveda is the indigenous system of medicine that was developed in Ancient India. The word Ayurveda literally means the science of good health and longevity of life. This ancient Indian system of medicine not only helps in treatment of diseases but also in finding the causes and symptoms of diseases. It is a guide for the healthy as well as the sick. It defines health as an equilibrium in three doshas, and diseases as disturbance in these three doshas. While treating a disease with the help of herbal medicines, it aims at removing the cause of disease by striking at the roots. The main aim of ayurveda has been health and longevity. It is the oldest medical system of our planet. A treatise on Ayurveda, AtreyaSamhita, is the oldest medical book of the world. Charakis called the father of ayurvedic medicine and Susruta the father of surgery. Susruta, Charak, Madhava, Vagbhatta and Jeevak were noted ayurvedic practitioners. Do you know that Ayurveda has lately become very popular in the western world? This is because of its many advantages over the modern system of medicine called Allopathy, which is of western origin.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 4

1. Scan/Skim through the paragraph and find out how many Ayurveda Medical Scientists are mentioned here. Write their names here below:

2. Now, try to explain the meanings of the following words. We have provided some clues for your help.

Ancient:(Clue- as against modern)

Indigenous:(Clue- as against foreign, not our own)

Equilibrium:.....(clue- as against imbalance)

3. What is Ayurveda?
4. How is health defined in Ayurveda?
5. What is the main goal of Ayurveda?

EXAMPLE 5

Through exploration of the humanities, we learn how to think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions. Because these skills allow us to gain new insights into everything from poetry and paintings to business models and politics, humanistic subjects have been at the heart of a liberal arts education since the ancient Greeks first used them to educate their citizens. Research into the human experience adds to our knowledge about our world. Through the work of humanities scholars, we learn about the values of different cultures, about what goes into making a work of art, about how history is made. Their efforts preserve the great accomplishments of the past, help us understand the world we live in, and give us tools to imagine the future. Today, humanistic knowledge continues to provide the ideal foundation for exploring and understanding the human experience. Investigating a branch of philosophy might get you thinking about ethical questions. Learning another language might help you gain an appreciation for the similarities in different cultures. Contemplating a sculpture might make you think about how an artist's life affected her creative decisions. Reading a book from another region of the world might help you think about the meaning of democracy. Listening to a history course might help you better understand the past, while at the same time offer you a clearer picture of the future.

(Adapted from: <http://shc.stanford.edu/why-do-humanities-matter>)

Key Words:

Exploration: examination, study, research

Humanities; (study of) civilizations, human race

COMPULSORY
ENGLISH

Creatively: imaginatively, inventively

Critically: judiciously, analytically

Reason(v.): argue, debate, discuss

Culture: a bunch of philosophies, languages, principles, beliefs being followed by peoples' groups

Contemplating: thinking deeply

Sculpture: statue, carving

Ethical: moral, upright, fair

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 5

1. Why is the study of humanities important?
2. Who began first the teachings of humanities?
3. Which are the fields of study under the umbrella of humanities?
4. Give two examples how humanities change our thinking.
5. What do we learn about cultures?

Now study this longer passage and select your answers for the questions with the multiple-choice. Notice also, how much time you take to complete this exercise. The more you practice, the shorter time span should be required for such exercises.

EXAMPLE 6

Vegetables are important protective food and highly beneficial for the maintenance of health and prevention of disease. They contain valuable food ingredients, which can be successfully utilized to build-up and repair the body. Vegetables are valuable in maintaining alkaline reserve in the body. They are valued mainly for their high vitamin and mineral contents. Vitamins A, B and C are contained in vegetables in fair amounts. Faulty cooking and prolonged careless storage can, however, destroy these valuable elements. There are different kinds of vegetables. They may be edible roots, stems, leaves, fruits and seeds. Each group contributes to diet in its own way. Roots are high in energy value and good sources of vitamin B group. Seeds are relatively high in carbohydrates and proteins. Leaves, stems and fruits are excellent sources of minerals, vitamins, water and roughage. It is not the green vegetables only that are useful. Farinaceous vegetables consisting of starchy roots such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, the tubers and legumes are also valuable. They are excellent sources of carbohydrates and provide energy to the body. To derive maximum benefits of their nutrients, vegetables should be consumed fresh as far as possible. Most vegetables are best consumed in their natural raw state in the form of salads. An important consideration in making salads is that the vegetables should be fresh, crisp and completely dry. If vegetables have to be cooked, it should be ensured that their nutritive value is preserved to the maximum extent possible. The following hints will be useful in achieving this:

- (i) The vegetables, after thorough wash, should be cut into as large pieces as for as possible.
- (ii) The cut pieces should be added to water, which has been brought to boiling point and to which salt has been added. This is necessary to avoid loss of B-complex vitamins and vitamin C.
- (iii) Only bare minimum water necessary to cover vegetables should be used. Spinach and other tender greens need no water.
- (iv) Vegetables should not be exposed to atmospheric air. They should be covered tightly while cooking
- (v) They should be cooked for as short a time as possible. They should be cooked till they-are just soft to the touch for easy digestion.
- (vi) They should be served hot.

To prevent loss of nutrients in vegetables, it would be advisable to steam or boil vegetables in their own juices on a slow fire and the water or cooking liquid should not be drained off. If the vegetables are boiled hard and for a long time in a large quantity of water, they would lose their nutritive and medicinal values. No vegetable should be peeled unless it is so old that the peeling is tough and unpalatable. In most root vegetables the largest amount of minerals is directly under the skin and these are lost if vegetables are peeled. Soaking of vegetables should also be avoided if taste and nutritive value are to be preserved. Finally, vegetables should not be cooked in aluminium utensils. Aluminium is a soft metal and is acted upon by both food acids and alkalis. There is scientific evidence to show that tiny particles of aluminium from foods cooked in such utensils enter the stomach and that the powerful astringent properties of aluminium injure the sensitive lining of the stomach, leading to gastric irritation, digestive and intestinal ailments. An intake of about 280 grams of vegetables per person is considered essential for maintenance of good health. Of this, leafy vegetables should constitute 40 per cent, roots and tubers 30 per cent and the other vegetables like brinjals, ladies-finger the remaining 30 per cent.

(Adapted from: http://www.kvwarangal.org/admin/downloads/1565821188xi_engl_support_material-_kvs_guwahati_regn.pdf)

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 6

CHOOSE APPROPRIATE OPTIONS FROM GIVEN BELOW.

- Q.1. How is vegetables important for us?
- a. They build up and repair the body
 - b. Give us energy
 - c. They are tasty
 - d. Highly beneficial when we fall ill
- Q.2. What do farinaceous vegetables consist of?
- a. Proteins
 - b. Starchy roots
 - c. Vitamins
 - d. Energy

COMPULSORY
ENGLISH

- Q.3. How does cooking in aluminium utensils affect the body of consumers?
- a. Causes day blindness
 - b. Causes heart attack
 - c. Causes kidney failure
 - d. Injures the sensitive lining of the stomach.
- Q.4. How does salt work to sustain the value of vegetables while boiling?
- a. By retaining B complex vitamin & Vitamin C
 - b. By adding the energy level
 - c. By enhancing the nutrient value
 - d. By adding taste
- Q.5. Find the word which means: 'to remove the skin from vegetable or fruit.'
- a. to soak
 - b. to peel
 - c. scratch
 - d. to expose
- Q.6. How much vegetables do a person need for good health?
- a. 280 grams
 - b. 40% leafy & 30% tubers & roots
 - c. As much as they can eat
 - d. Maximum brinjals&ladies' fingers

EXAMPLE 7

Now, study the following newspaper report closely and again select your answer for the questions given here below.

New Delhi: AtithiDevoBhavah. To make visitors to the city feel welcome during the Commonwealth Games, India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is set to train taxi and auto drivers, CISF personnel posted at monuments, dhaba owners, hotel staff etc. Participants will be taught English as well as courtesy and ways to communicate with tourists. At present, there is a shortage of trained guides in the city and with Commonwealth Games drawing close; the issue has to be addressed promptly.

With hundreds of historical sites to visit and each monument boasting its own unique history, foreign nationals are often left to fend for themselves and depend on tourist books and brochures for information. Language is another problem. Quite a contrast to facilities offered in tourist sites in western countries, where trained guides-proficient in several languages-are easily available to aid visitors apart from group-guided trips at regular intervals. Although the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) plans to introduce audio guide services in five languages at some world heritage sites our experts point that not a single monument or tourist place in the city has an interpretation centre where tourists can come and get all information pertaining to a particular site. ASI is also in the process of bringing out more brochures and guides for foreign visitors in the city. Experts say such facilities are crucial if the government wants to promote Delhi as a 'heritage city'. Various agencies like INTACH are also involved in the plans.

Under ITDC's plans, etiquette training for the Games will also be provided to residents who offer rooms to foreigners under Delhi government's bed and breakfast scheme. "House-owners will be given hospitality related training and a brief of Indian tourism scenario. Most visitors generally question their hosts on information about the city so they will be provided information on the golden triangle- Delhi, Agra and Jaipur as well as where tourists should go visiting in Delhi," said an official.

(Adapted from: <https://cbseportal.com/english/english-communicative-class-ix-reading-comprehension>)

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 7

READ THE QUESTIONS GIVEN BELOW AND WRITE THE OPTION YOU CONSIDER THE MOST APPROPRIATE IN YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

- (a) What are the initiatives to be taken up by the India Tourism Development Corporation to make the visitors feel welcome during the Commonwealth Games?
- (i) training of drivers, CISF personals, dhaba owners and hotel staff.
 - (ii) promoting the sale of tourist books and brochures.
 - (iii) arranging audio cassettes and tapes on tourism.
 - (iv) constructing more bed and breakfast homes.
- (b) How have the western countries managed to offer aid and better facilities to their tourists?
- (i) by providing good tourist books and brochures.
 - (ii) by providing well-behaved and courteous guides.
 - (iii) by training guides in several languages and group-guided trips at regular intervals.
 - (iv) by allowing foreign nationals to fend for themselves.
- (c) Apart from the guides and the guided tours, Archaeological Survey of India has expressed the need for establishing _____ at historical sites to help tourists.
- (i) interpretation centres.
 - (ii) rehabilitation centres.
 - (iii) cessation centres.
 - (iv) training centres.
- (d) What steps have been taken by ASI to promote Delhi as a heritage site?
- (i) making brochures very informative and training the residents.
 - (ii) bringing out more brochures and involving other agencies in planning and visitor management.
 - (iii) offering tourists all sources of comfort for their stay and visits to historical sites.
 - (iv) providing owners of bed and breakfast homes information about Delhi, Agra and Jaipur.

- (e) _____ are to be provided to residents who offer rooms to foreigners under ITDC's plan.
- (i) comfortable stay, friendly and hospitable treatment
 - (ii) etiquette training, hospitality treatment
 - (iii) better tourist guides and interpretation centres
 - (iv) visits to the golden triangle cities.

5.4 LET US SUM UP

The above given examples and exercises can help you understand, comprehend and write small answers for the questions that arise. However, that is not enough. You need to study as many passages as per your requirement. Concentration in reading anything new is the key to success. At the same time, keenness to keep adding new words to our own mental dictionary is also essential. Listening and reading more such things can enhance your ability in any language.

In the above passages, we have discussed:

- The meaning of comprehension and their exercises
- Different examples for study
- Different techniques of handling the unseen paragraphs
- Various types of questions to answer

Now, compare your answers with the following and rectify wherever necessary:

Answers

Primary Exercise

1. ward off = keep away
2. beings = animals (here)

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1

1. Man's Contact with Animals (You may think of other titles)
2. So that he is better able to catch or kill the animal he is hunting.
3. 1. He wants to keep cockroaches away from the kitchen. 2. And, he may like to keep a dog or a bird as a pet.
4. No, 'He may ward off the roaches in his kitchen.'
5. 1. True....2. False
6. marvel; affinity

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2

1. The Moon, and the Earth.
2. 'But the two worlds are very different.'
3. The Moonthe Earth

1 dead planet	3 air supports life
2 no volcanoes	5 temperature fairly constant
4 no atmosphere	4. friend; productive

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 3

1. 6 hours
2. 9 hours
3. Yes, it can increase life expectancy.
4. Essential
5. Very active
6. It can take away from sleep time for kids.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 4

1. Charak; Susruta; Madhava; Vagbhatta; Jeevak.
2. Of old times; home grown, local, native
3. The word Ayurveda literally means the science of good health and longevity of life.
4. It defines health as equilibrium in three doshas, and diseases as disturbance in these three doshas.
5. The main aim of ayurveda has been health and longevity.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 5

1. It gives us the ability to think creatively and critically, to reason and to ask questions.
2. The ancient Greek first used them to educate their citizens.
3. All arts, languages, business theories, politics, poetry, philosophy, history etc..
4. Investigating a branch of philosophy might get you thinking about ethical questions. Learning another language might help you gain an appreciation for the similarities in different cultures.
5. It helps us understand various similarities of different cultures.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 6

1. a
2. b
3. d.
4. a
5. b
6. a

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 7

- (a) i
- (b) iii
- (c) i
- (d) ii
- (e) ii