

Chapter – 9

A bicycle in Good Repair

Comprehension Check I

1. “I got up early, for me.” It implies that

- A. he was an early riser.
- B. he was a late riser;
- C. he got up late that morning.

Mark the correct answer.

Answer:

“I got up early, for me.” It implies that he was a late riser.

2. The bicycle “goes easily enough in the morning and a little stiffy after lunch.”

The remark is

- A. humorous
- B. inaccurate
- C. sarcastic
- D. enjoyable
- E. meaningless.

Mark your choice(s).

Answer:

The remark is humorous.

3. The friend shook the bicycle violently. Find two or three sentences in the text which express the author’s disapproval of it.

Answer:

The following remarks express the author’s disapproval:

- “Don’t do that; you’ll hurt it”

- ‘I did not see why he should shake it; it had not done anything to him’.

4. “..... if not, it would make a serious difference to the machine.”
What does ‘it’ refer to?

Answer:

The ‘it’ refers to the ball bearings.

Working with the Text

1. Did the front wheel really wobble? What is your opinion? Give a reason for your answer.

Answer:

No, the front wheel did not really wobble. It wobbled only when it was shaken by the man which displeased the author.

2. In what condition did the author find the bicycle when he returned from the tool shed?

Answer:

When he returned from the tool shed, the author found that the man had taken out the front wheel of the bicycle and was sitting with it between his legs while the rest of the bicycle lay discarded on the ground.

3. “Nothing is easier than taking off the gear case.” Comment on or continue this sentence in the light of what actually happens.

Answer:

This sentence in the light of what actually happens shows that the author’s friend is overconfident about his knowledge of machine to

overlook the advice of someone who happens to have more experience than him.

4. What special treatment did the chain receive?

Answer:

The author's friend fiddled with the chain. He first tightened it till it would not move then he loosened it until it became twice its original length.

5. The friend has two qualities—he knows what he is doing and is absolutely sure it is good. Find the two phrases in the text which mean the same.

Answer:

The two phrases in the text which show the two qualities are:

1. Cheery confidence
2. Inexplicable hopefulness

6. Describe 'the fight' between the man and the machine. Find the relevant sentences in the text and write them.

Answer:

One moment the bicycle would be standing on the gravel path and he on the top of it, then vice versa. Then he would be standing flushed with victory, the bicycle firmly fixed between his legs. But his victory would be short-lived. After being dirty and dishevelled, cut and bleeding 'the fight between the man and the machine was over'.

Working with Language

1. Rewrite each of the following sentences using should/ ought to/must in place of the italicised words. Make other changes wherever necessary.

(i) You are obliged to do your duty irrespective of consequences.

(ii) You will do well to study at least for an hour every day.

(iii) The doctor says it is necessary for her to sleep eight hours every night. _____

(iv) It is right that you show respect towards elders and affection towards youngsters. _____

(v) If you want to stay healthy, exercise regularly. _____

(vi) It is good for you to take a walk every morning. _____

(vii) It is strongly advised that you don't stand on your head.

(viii) As he has a cold, it is better for him to go to bed.

_____.

Answer:

(i) You are obliged to do your duty irrespective of consequences.

You must do your duty irrespective of consequences.

(ii) You will do well to study at least for an hour every day.

You should study at least for an hour every day.

(iii) The doctor says it is necessary for her to sleep eight hours every night.

The doctor says she must sleep for eight hours every night.

(iv) It is right that you show respect towards elders and affection towards youngsters.

You ought to show respect towards elders and affection towards youngsters.

(v) If you want to stay healthy, exercise regularly.

You must exercise regularly to stay healthy.

(vi) It is good for you to take a walk every morning.

You should take a walk every morning.

(vii) It is strongly advised that you don't stand on your head.

You must not stand on your head.

(viii) As he has a cold, it is better for him to go to bed.

As he has a cold, he should go to bed.

2. Use should, must, ought to appropriately in the following sentences:

(i) People who live in glass houses _____ not throw stones.

(ii) You _____ wipe your feet before coming into the house, especially during rains.

(iii) You _____ do what the teacher tells you.

(iv) The pupils were told that they _____ write more neatly.

(v) Sign in front of a park: You _____ not walk on the grass.

(vi) You _____ be ashamed of yourself having made such a remark.

(vii) He left home at 9 o'clock. He _____ be here any minute.

(viii) "Whatever happened to the chocolate cake?" How _____ I know? I have just arrived."

Answer:

(i) People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

(ii) You must wipe your feet before coming into the house, especially during rains.

(iii) You must do what the teacher tells you.

(iv) The pupils were told that they ought to write more neatly.

- (v) Sign in front of a park: You must not walk on the grass.
- (vi) You ought to be ashamed of yourself having made such a remark.
- (vii) He left home at 9 o'clock. He should be here any minute.
- (viii) "Whatever happened to the chocolate cake?" How should I know? I have just arrived."

3. Divide each of the following sentences into its parts. Write meaningful parts. If necessary, supply a word or two to make each part meaningful.

- (i) I went to the tool shed to see what I could find. (3 parts)
- (ii) When I came back he was sitting on the ground. (2 parts)
- (iii) We may as well see what's the matter with it, now it is out. (3 parts)
- (iv) He said he hoped we had got them all. (3 parts)
- (v) I had to confess he was right. (2 parts)

Answer:

- (i) I went to the tool shed to see what I could find. (3 parts)

I went to the tool shed. I went to see. What could I find?

- (ii) When I came back he was sitting on the ground. (2 parts)

I came back. He was sitting on the ground.

- (iii) We may as well see what's the matter with it, now it is out. (3 parts)

We may as well see. What's the matter with it? Now, it is out.

- (iv) He said he hoped we had got them all. (3 parts)

He said. He hoped. We had got them all.

- (v) I had to confess he was right. (2 parts)

I had to confess. He was right.

4. (i) Now arrange the words given in the box under three headings.
 Encourage dampen listen barren endanger soften fasten enclose
 weaken even enable enclave

(ii) Find new words in your textbook and put them under the same headings.

Answer:

(i)

Prefix	Suffix	Part of word
Encourage	Dampen	Listen
Endanger	Soften	Barren
Enable	Fasten	Even
Enclose	Weaken	Enclave

(ii)

Prefix	Suffix	Part of World
Enact	Deepen	Energy

Enjoy	Forgotten	End
Ensure	Quicken	Enquiry
Entrap	Tighten	Happen
Encircle	Strengthen	Sudden
Entact	Forgotten	Happen

Garden Snake – Working with the Poem

1. Answer the following questions.

- (i) Pick out the line that suggests that the child is afraid of snakes.
- (ii) Which line shows a complete change of the child's attitude towards snakes? Read it aloud.
- (iii) "But mother says that kind is good" What is mother referring to?

Answer:

- (i) The line "I saw a snake and ran away..." suggests that the child is afraid of snakes.
- (ii) The line "So when he wiggles in the grass I'll stand aside and watch him pass," shows a complete change of the child's attitude towards snakes.
- (iii) The mother is referring to the garden snake which is a non-venomous snake and eats insects for his food.

2. Find the word that refers to the snake's movements in the grass.

Answer:

The word 'wiggles' refers to the snake's movements in the grass. The word is used to describe rapid up and down or side to side movements.

3. There are four pairs of rhyming words in the poem. Say them aloud.

Answer:

The four pairs of rhyming words in the poem are:

1. away-say
2. good-food
3. grass-pass
4. mistake- snake.

4. A snake has no legs or feet, but it moves very fast. Can you guess how? Discuss in the group.

Answer:

The snake has no legs or feet but it moves very fast because it wiggles on its stomach in zigzag manner on the ground.

5. Can you recall the word used for a cobra's long sharp teeth? Where did you come across this word first?

Answer:

The word used for a cobra's long sharp teeth is 'Fangs'. I first came across it while watching an English thriller film about deadly snakes.