

USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN

LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills		Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Reading	Writing			
26	Ustad Bismillah Khan	Prose (Biography)	Report writing for a newspaper. Biographical sketch	Affirmative and Negative statements in Simple Perfect tense; Prepositions; Phrasal verbs	Collecting pictures of Indian musical instruments	Empathy. Appreciation of art

SUMMARY

It is a biographical sketch of Ustad Bismillah Khan, the famous Shehnai Maestro. He was the one who brought Shehnai to limelight and made it a part of Indian Classical music. It was for his contribution to music that he was conferred the top four civilian National awards and many international awards.

Ramaruddin Bismillah Khan was born in Dumraon, Bihar on 21st March 1916 in a family of musicians. His father was a musician in the court of Maharaja of Dumraon.

At the age of six, he moved to Varanasi. His maternal uncle, Ali Baksh was the official Shehnai player at the famous Vishwanath temple. He noticed Bismillah Khan's interest in playing Shehnai. He became his tutor. Bismillah Khan was a devoted learner. He worked hard and practised playing Shehnai at Balaji Ghat for hours together. Inspired by the flowing water of the river Ganga, he invented many ragas which were so far considered beyond the range of Shehnai.

He considered music beyond caste and creed. He was an exponent of universal brotherhood and Hindu Muslim unity. He loved his city and motherland. He rejected the offer of permanently settling down in U.S.A.

He performed not only in India but also in many other countries and learned international acclaim. He was a true artist and never went after wealth, name and fame.

He died at the age of ninety due to cardiac arrest. He was buried in Varanasi along with his beloved Shehnai.

PRINCIPAL POINTS

A true artist is devoted to his art. He never goes after wealth, name and fame.

Music is universal. It has no caste, creed or limits of boundaries. One can achieve success through dedication and hard work.

LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

Bismillah Khan religiously practised the Shehnai: It means he practised playing Shehnai regularly without fail.

Brought Shehnai into the limelight: It means that Bismillah Khan made Shehnai well known and prominent.

He monopolised Shehnai recital: It means that he was the only artist who played Shehnai.

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Report writing for a Newspaper

Steps of writing a Report are as follows.

1. A catchy headline : tells the central theme. It is never written in a complete sentence
2. Name of the person writing the report
3. Place and date of the occurrence of the event being reported
4. The opening paragraph is the expansion of the headline. It mentions what happened, where it happened and its details.
5. Concluding remarks mentioning consequences or impact of what happened.

GRAMMAR

Affirmative and Negative Statements in the Simple Present Tense

Affirmative statement are positive in nature and states that something is true, e.g.

Ali paints the wall.

The verb 'paints' follows the subject 'Ali'.

Affirmative: They play football on this ground.

Negative: They do not play football on this ground.

Affirmative: He drinks milk everyday

Negative : He does not drink milk every day.

Exceptions

With the verb 'be' (is/are in case of simple Present Tense) and also when there is a modal in the statement we do not use 'do' or 'does' with not in Negative statements, e.g.:

(i) He is not well today.

(ii) I cannot speak French.

Remember

- In an Affirmative statement the verb follows the subject.
- In a Negative Statement we use 'do not' or 'does not' except when the verb is 'be' and when there is a modal in it.

Prepositions

A Preposition is a word that comes before a Noun or a Pronoun. It shows the relationship of a Noun or Pronoun with another word in a sentence. It tells us about time, place, position and directions.

Examples:

1. I live in Delhi.
2. The dog ran across the road.

Some preposition are very close to each other but have distinct use; study the following examples:

(i) 'in' and 'into'

- a) The ball is in the hole.
- b) The boy jumped into the river
 - We use 'in' when the position is static and 'into' when the movement is involved

(ii) 'On' and 'upon'

- a) The keys are on the desk.
- b) The cat jumped upon the chair.
 - We use 'on' when the position is static and 'upon' when movement is involved

(iii) 'over' and 'above'

- a) The sky is over our head.
- b) The Ganga is flowing above the danger mark:
 - 'Above' is used when we want to say that a thing is higher than another thing. When the thing is much high we use 'over'

(iv) 'along' and 'across'

- a) We walked along the bank of the river.

b) The ball went across the road.

- We use 'along' when we talk of one end to another and 'across' when we talk of one side to another.

(v) 'by' and 'with'

a) We write with a pen.

b) I went to Agra by bus.

- 'With' is used to denote instrument (what one is using) to do something and 'by' is used to express means or the agency of an action.

(vi) 'between' and 'among'

a) There is a stool between the two chairs.

b) Distribute the sweets among the children.

- 'between' is used when only two persons or things are involved and 'among' when more than two things or persons are involved.

(vii) 'of' and 'off'

a) Sudha is the monitor of the class.

b) The apple fell off the tree.

'of' shows relationship and 'off' shows separation.

- Phrasal Verbs have a verb and another word or phrase (usually a preposition). They act as one word and have a meaning different from the original verb.

Examples

- (i) Look after: Parents look after their children.
 (ii) Look about: (be on the watch) Look about for a suitable job in the wanted column of a newspaper
 (iii) Look through: (examine/revise) Look through your notes before the exams.
 (iv) Look well: (pleasing) Does the dress look well on me?

TEST TYPES

1. MCQ/ objective type question

Which instrument did Bismillah Khan play? Choose the correct option from the ones given below

- (A) Sarod
 (B) Sitar
 (C) Shehnai
 (D) Flute

2. VSA

Which new dimensions did Bismillah Khan give to Shehnai?

3. SA

What was the theme and motivating force of Bismillah Khan's music?

4. LA

Bismillah Khan was a true artist. Comment.