

## 4

**FATHER, DEAR FATHER**

*A young boy writes a letter in reply to the one he has received from his father. Let us see what he has to say.*

**OBJECTIVES**

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

- read and understand a newspaper article;
- use prefixes to form words;
- frame questions; and
- make suggestions in speech.

**4.1 SECTION I**

Dear Papa.

This is in answer to your letter about my transgression. Yes, my first rank slipped to the second. You advise that I should think before answering the papers. Yes, the operating word 'think' did make me reflect and these are the results of those reflections.



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Father, we've never really been close and I can't rightly say you've been my friend, philosopher, guide, etc. Yet I would like you to be aware of my thoughts. They are very important to me. You are highly educated and you provide very well for the family. But in your departmental store, do you apply Pythagoras' Theorem or Newton's Law of Gravity? For that matter, does your doctor friend? Or your lawyer brother?

Papa, my grandfather speaks of a carefree and beautiful childhood. Of days spent in plucking mangoes and guavas from their orchards, of picnics on the banks of the river where the men cooked mouth-watering food, of playing marbles and gilli danda. From his talk, it seems, studies were an ancillary subject: and living and experiencing, the major subject. Father, is he fibbing? Or is it possible that the world has turned topsy turvy in just about 70 years?

Papa, my grandmother is semi-literate. Yet she is at peace with her pots, pans, her flowers and garden, her Bhagvad Gita and scriptures. My mother, highly qualified, is highly strung, tense and nervous. Do you think literacy makes us, restless, afraid and frustrated?

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.1**

1. (a) Who has written the letter?  
(b) Who is it written to?  
(c) Why has it been written?  
(d) What had his father written?
2. Is the writer a good student? Which words give you the answer?
3. Are Pythagoras' Theorem, and Newton's Law of Gravity important to all of us in our daily lives? Why do you think we all learn about them?
4. What kind of life did the writer's grandfather lead when he was a small boy? What was considered important in those days?
5. a. What difference does the writer see in his mother's nature, and his grandmother's?  
b. What does he think is the reason for this?

**4.2 SECTION II**

*Which is more important—wisdom or knowledge? What should our education do for us? Let us read on and find out what the writer thinks.*

Oh Papa, last week, my rose plant almost died. Some pests. I asked my Biology teacher what I should do to save it. And she was cross. She said go ask the guy who keeps gardening things. He'll tell you. We learn about pesticides but we do not know how to use them. Oh father, it matters not to me why the apple does not fall upwards, nor do I care what Archimedes did. What matters to me is that my rose plants remain healthy; when there is a fuse in my house, I should know how to do something about it: I should know how to make a desk for myself from my carpenter's tools. Instead I learn about hypotenuse, relational square roots.....

Papa, once I asked my grandmother how she got to be so wise. Do you know what she said? By living and experiencing. And she laughed as though I had asked something which was so obvious. Are we living Papa? Or is life by-passing us? What I fear is that if I were to meet Newton face to face, I would fail to recognise him, so busy am I learning about him! You know, just like that boy, Vinu, in that award winning film, he prattles on- "the Hibiscus is red"- a hundred times, but in his book, he colours it yellow. Are we missing out on the essence of life?

Anyway Papa, do you know where I lost that quarter mark that brought about my fall? It was a fill-in-the-blanks. I held that I was invited to tea and my teacher was adamant that he was invited for tea. A matter of grammar. And Papa, if he says George Bush is the president of India, it will have to be so. If he says the sun rises in the west, so be it: and if he says the earth is flat, it will be, it will be, my Papa. At least on my answer papers. My first rank is at stake, you see. Still, my dearest Papa, I shall keep your advice in mind and try not to lose any quarter marks.

as always,

Yours ever obedient son,

Rahul

P.S. Your eyes will not see this anguished plea, my father. This was only to lighten my over-burdened heart. It is not all arteries and muscle: it feels too.

*-a newspaper article from The Hindu*



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.2

1. What does the writer think is wrong with his education? What would he really like to learn about?
2. Wisdom comes as a result of (a) studying hard, (b) living a full life (c) both. What does the writer think?
3.
  - a. By how many marks did he lose his first position?
  - b. Why did he lose the mark?
  - c. Who was right, the teacher or the student?



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**OVERALL QUESTIONS**

1.
  - a. What does the writer think is wrong with the method of evaluation of papers?
  - b. Is he right?
  - c. Should he try to get more marks, or should he make sure his knowledge is accurate? What do you think?
2.
  - a. Will the boy's father ever get this letter?
  - b. Which words give you the answer?
  - c. Why did Rahul write the letter?
3. What kind of letter did the father write to his son? Do you think he did the right thing? Give reasons for your answer.
4. What kind of education does the writer think is most useful? Do you agree?
5.
  - (i) Imagine that Rahul ultimately sends the letter to his father. When his father receives the letter he is deeply touched by it. What changes do you think occur in his attitude towards education.
  - (ii) Rahul writes this letter to his father to express his hurt and anguish. The letter was never meant to be posted to his father but was his method to deal with his hurt feeling. How do you deal with your feelings when you are hurt and in pain?

Do you.....

- go out for a walk
- fight with your younger brothers and sisters
- take out your anger on your pet
- listen to music
- read a book
- do something with your hands e.g. wash clothes
- throw things
- talk to the person you are angry with and settle the matter
- stop talking to that person altogether

Which of the above are positive ways to handling your feelings?

**VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT**

Words of opposite meaning can be made with several words by adding prefixes like 'un' and 'im'. Add the prefixes 'un' and 'im' to the following words.

invited, important, healthy, qualified, perfect, used, possible, answered, partial, proper

e.g. He was \_\_\_\_\_ that his bicycle tyre was punctured. (aware-unaware).

1. Harish got poor marks in English because he thought it was an \_\_\_\_\_ subject and did not study.
2. I do not like to go to dinner to anyone's house, \_\_\_\_\_
3. Many medical centres are run by \_\_\_\_\_ doctors.
4. Sensible students always start studying well before the exams. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to finish the course the day before the paper.
5. Rohit wrote to Ashok and invited him for a visit, but the letter remained \_\_\_\_\_
6. Would you like to wear this sweater? I bought it last year but it has remained \_\_\_\_\_ so far.
7. I saw a beautiful statue in the shop, but it had a small crack on the base. I decided not to buy an \_\_\_\_\_ piece.
8. Eating too much fat and sugar is \_\_\_\_\_
9. To call an elderly person by his first name is \_\_\_\_\_
10. It is the duty of a good teacher to be \_\_\_\_\_

## GRAMMAR

1. Read these questions from the piece, Father, Dear father.
  - (i) But in your Departmental store, do you apply Pythagoras' Theorem, or Newton's law of Gravity?
  - (ii) Is it possible, the world has turned topsy turvy in just 70 Years? What answer does the writer expect to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (iii) Make a list of the other questions in the lesson, and try to decide how they should be answered.
    - a) Notice that all the questions begin with Is/Are or Do.
    - b) Also that they are to be answered with Yes or No.
2. Make sentences using the given Phrases, and Is/Are or Do/Does according to what given in the brackets.
 

e.g. Manohar ill? (Is/Are)                      -                      Is Manohar ill?



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- (i) \_\_\_ You going to the market? (Is/Are)
- (ii) \_\_\_ The teacher in the class? (Is/Are)
- (iii) \_\_\_ You like mangoes? (Do/Does)
- (iv) \_\_\_ Your mother cooking? (Is/ Are)
- (v) \_\_\_ Your brother eat eggs? (Do/ Does)
- (vi) \_\_\_ You know Sanskrit? (Do/Does)

## 3. There are other ways of asking questions also.

Your questions can begin with Who/ Whose/ What and Which.

- Who and whose are used when you ask questions dealing with people e.g. Who took my pen?/Whose books are these?
- What is used to begin questions which deal with persons as well as things.- What time is it?/ What did you say?
- Which is used to begin questions about persons or things, where the choice is limited- Which school did he go to? Which of these two boys is a better swimmer?

The answers to these questions are framed differently from those in the earlier group of questions that you read about in the previous exercise.

Questions that begin with Wh. Words, need a different kind of answer. e.g.

Q. Who wrote the letter in the lesson, 'Father, Dear Father'?

A. Rahul wrote this letter.

Q. What did he write about?

A. He wrote about his performance in the examination.

Q. Which person's attitude to life did he like better-his mother's or his grandmother's?

A. His grandmother's

## 4. Now, fill in the blanks in the following sentences with Who, What and Which.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ is that man?

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ book do you want, The Tale of Two Cities, or David Copperfield?

- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ is your name?
- (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ time is it?
- (v) \_\_\_\_\_ met him?
- (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ one of them won the tennis match, Becker or Sampras?

5. Other question words (Words with which you start questions) are Why? When? Where? and How?

- Why means, 'for what reason' and is usually answered with "because" e.g. Why are you late? Because I missed the bus.
- Where means 'at what time'. e.g. When do you get up? At 7 a.m.
- Where means 'at what place' Where do you live? In Delhi.
- How can be used to ask about a method?
  - \_ followed by a noun- How tall are you? I am 5ft. 3 inches tall.
  - \_ with 'much' and 'many' -How many of you are coming tomorrow? Three of us.
  - \_ with an adverb-How fast does he drive? Not very fast.

Now fill in the blanks, using Why, Where, When and How?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ were you absent yesterday?
  - (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ will you come to my house?
  - (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ are you going?
  - (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ are you so tired today?
  - (v) \_\_\_\_\_ shall I meet you?
  - (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ can we go shopping?
6. Now make questions, using Which, Where, What and Who, which will fit the underlined words in the following answers.
- i. I have been to the zoo
  - ii. Amit and Amar are sitting under the Peepal tree
  - iii. My name is Mohinder.
  - iv. I like this book better than that one.



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- v. Sulekha ate the cake.
- vi. I will give you the brown shirt.

7. Fill in the question words in this dialogue.

Ravi : This shirt is very smart. \_\_\_\_\_ did you buy it?

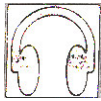
Alok : In a shop on Mall Road.

Ravi : \_\_\_\_\_ shop was it-Modern Store, or Jagannaths?

Alok : Modern Store. But there is another shop on M.G. Road which is just as good.

Ravi : \_\_\_\_\_ is its name? M.G. is very long \_\_\_\_\_ exactly is it?

Alok : \_\_\_\_\_ you know Tourist Hotel? It is next door, and it is called Uttam Singh Duggal and Sons.



**LET'S TALK**

**Worksheet**

Listen to the communication on making suggestions. Then fill in the blanks below:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are shopping.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ sister is getting married on Monday next.
- 3) Reshma suggested that Neha should buy the \_\_\_\_\_ dress.
- 4) The \_\_\_\_\_ dress Reshma said would be \_\_\_\_\_ to the eye.
- 5) Reshma also suggested that Neha should buy some \_\_\_\_\_ jewellery.



**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS**

**Intext Questions 4.1**

1. (a) Rahul  
 (b) To his father  
 (c) In reply to his father's letter-because he lost his first rank.  
 (d) To pay more attention to his studies.





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2. Yes, his first rank slipped to 2 nd.
3. No. General knowledge. General education.
4. Of happiness and enjoyment. Living and experiencing.
5. His grandmother is peaceful and relaxed. His mother is highly strung, tense and nervous.
6. His grandmother is busy with her cooking, gardening, and religious books. His mother is highly educated.

### Intext Questions 4.2

1. The writer feels it is not practical. He would like to be able to use it in his daily life.
2. Living a full life.
3. (a) A quarter mark  
(b) He said he was invited to tea. His teacher said it should be 'for tea'.  
(c) The student.

### OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. (a) The teacher decides what is correct. (b) Yes/No  
(c) His knowledge should be accurate.
2. (a) No (b) "Your eyes will not see this anguished plea."  
(c) To lighten his unhappiness.
3. An angry letter. Yes/No.
4. A practical education. Yes/No.

### VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

1. unimportant, 2. uninvited, 3. unqualified, 4. impossible, 5. unanswered, 6. unused, 7. imperfect, 8. unhealthy, 9. improper, 10. impartial.

### GRAMMAR

1. (i) No (ii) Yes. (iii) a) Father, is he fibbing?  
Do you know what she said?  
Are we living, Papa?



## Notes

Or is life by passing us?

Are we missing out on the essence of life?

Papa, do you know where I lost that quarter mark that brought about my fall?

(b) No; No; Yes; Yes; Yes; No.

2. i) Are, ii) Is, iii) Do iv) Is, v) Does; vi) Do
4. (i) Who; (ii) Which; (iii) Which; (iv) What (v) Who (vi) Which.
5. (i) why  
 (ii) when/how/why  
 (iii) where/how/why/when  
 (iv) why  
 (v) when/how/where/why  
 (vi) when/how/where
6. (i) Where have you been?  
 (ii) Where are Amit and Amar sitting?  
 (iii) What is your name?  
 (iv) Which book do you like better?  
 (v) Who ate the cake?  
 (vi) Which shirt will you give me?
7. where; which; What; where; Do.