

The Highwayman

An extract from the poem by Alfred Noyes

The wind was a **torrent** of darkness among the **gusty trees**.
The moon was a ghostly **galleon** tossed upon cloudy seas.
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple **moor**,
And the **highwayman** came riding—

Riding—riding—

The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn door.

He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,
A coat of the claret velvet, and breeches of brown doeskin.
They fitted with never a wrinkle. His boots were up to the thigh.
And he rode with a jewelled twinkle,

His pistol butts a-twinkle,
His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.

Over the **cobbles** he clattered and clashed in the dark inn yard.
He tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred.
He whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there
But the landlord's black-eyed daughter,

Bess, the landlord's daughter,
Plaiting a dark red love knot into her long black hair.



torrent strong and fast-moving stream

gusty trees trees through which strong winds (gusts) are blowing

galleon ship

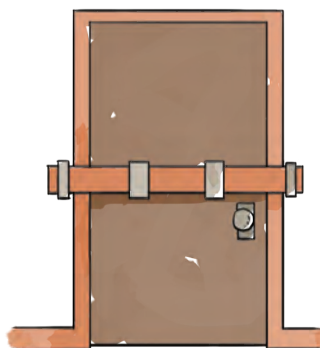
moor an open area of hills covered with rough grass

highwayman a robber, usually riding a horse, who looted travellers on the road, by holding them up with his pistol or sword

cobbles cobblestones, small round stones used to cover road surfaces in olden days



French cocked-hat



locked and barred door



rapier



breeches of brown doeskin

Read this sentence.

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees.

This sentence paints a picture in the reader's mind of a windy night with trees swaying in the strong wind. This is a metaphor. A **metaphor** is an imaginative way of describing something by referring to something else which is the same in a particular way. This is done in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful. Here are some more examples.

The wind was a howling wolf.

The snow is a white blanket.

Hope shines—a firefly in the gloom.

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.

B. Write two metaphors from the poem 'The Highwayman'.

C. Underline the metaphors in the following stanzas.

1. Hope is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –
(from 'Hope is the Thing with Feathers',
by Emily Dickinson)

2. Life is a stream
On which we strew
Petal by petal the flower of our heart.
(from 'Petals', by Amy Lowell)

Read this sentence.

Over the **cobbles** he **clattered** and **clashed** in the dark inn yard.

The words in colour help to create rhythm and musicality. They begin with the same consonant sound. The repetition of the same sounds, usually initial consonants of words, near each other to create a rhythm is known as **alliteration**. Here are some examples from the poem 'The Raven', by Edgar Allan Poe.

Once upon a midnight dreary, **while** I pondered, **weak** and **weary**,
Over many a **quaint** and **curious** volume of forgotten lore—
While I **nodded**, **nearly napping**, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.

D. Underline the alliterative words in the following stanzas.

1. Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?
(from 'The Tyger', by William Blake)

2. Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
(from 'Nothing Gold Can Stay',
by Robert Frost)

E. Write the rhyme scheme of the stanzas in questions C1, D1 and D2.

Renowned filmmaker Satyajit Ray was also a prolific author who created two of the most popular fictional characters in Bengali children's literature—detective Feluda and the scientist Professor Shonku. The highly enjoyable stories of Professor Shonku are presented in the form of a diary discovered after the scientist had mysteriously disappeared.

It was from Tarak Chatterjee that I got Professor Trilokeshwar Shonku's diary.

One afternoon, as I was sitting in my office, correcting the **proof** of an article scheduled for a Puja magazine, Tarak Babu turned up and dropped a red notebook on my desk. "Read it," he said, "it's a **goldmine**."

He had brought short stories for me earlier. They were not all that good, but Tarak Babu was once known to my father, and judging by the state of his clothes, he wasn't exactly well off. So, I always gave him a little money when he brought me a story to read. This time, when he produced a diary instead of a story, I was naturally surprised.

Professor Shonku had disappeared about fifteen years ago. Some believed that something had gone terribly wrong while he was doing an experiment, and that had killed him. But others were **wont** to say that he was still alive. He was just hiding in some remote corner of the country to continue his work in secret. He would come out when the time was right. I had no idea if any of these **speculations** was correct, but I did know that Professor Shonku was a scientist. That he should have kept a diary seemed natural enough. The question was, how did Tarak Chatterjee get hold of it?

When I asked him, Tarak Babu smiled. Then he reached out, helped himself to a clove and cardamom from my little box of spices, and said, "Do you remember that case in the Sunderbans?"

Oh God, was he going to tell me another story about a tiger? Tarak Babu had this most annoying habit of dragging a tiger into whatever **anecdote** he happened to relate. Irritated, I asked, "Which case do you mean?"

The **proofs** of a book, magazine or article are a printed copy of it, used for making corrections before final printing.

If you describe something as a **goldmine**, it means it is a source of wealth or valuable information.

wont in the habit of doing something

speculation ideas or discussion about why something has happened or what might happen

anecdote a short amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

► Negative and interrogative of verbs

As you already know, sentences may be **affirmative**, **negative** or **interrogative**. The most commonly used negative word is 'not'. It is added to verbs to form the negative of verbs. In interrogative sentences, the 'to be' or auxiliary (helping) verb is placed before the subject.

G. Read these examples. Underline the negative of the 'to be' and auxiliary verbs.

	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
Present tense	I am a student.	I am not a student.	Am I a student?
Present simple	She writes novels.	She does not write novels.	Does she write novels?
Present continuous	He is talking.	He is not/isn't talking.	Is he talking?
Past simple	She went home.	She did not/didn't go home.	Did she go home?
Past simple continuous	They were walking.	They were not/weren't walking.	Were they walking?
Present perfect	We have written this.	We have not/haven't written this.	Have we written this?
Present perfect continuous	He has been travelling.	He has not/hasn't been travelling.	Has he been travelling?
Past perfect	She had cried.	She had not/hadn't cried.	Had she cried?
Past perfect continuous	He had been waiting.	He had not/hadn't been waiting.	Had he been waiting?
Future simple	We will come.	We will not/won't come.	Will we come?
Future continuous	They will be singing.	They won't be singing.	Will they be singing?
Future perfect	We will have done it.	We won't have done it.	Will we have done it?
Future perfect continuous	They will have been studying.	They won't have been studying.	Will they have been studying?

H. Complete the negative sentences using a suitable verb and 'not'.

- The little child _____ in a mood to study. He wants to play carrom.
- The players _____ happy with the umpire's decision. They wanted to protest.
- I _____ fond of pastries, and I _____ like cookies and cakes either.
- You _____ a fast writer; you _____ finish your exam in time if you _____ speed up.
- I am still disturbed because my teachers _____ forgiven me yet.

L Language Matters

We generally use the active voice when we speak. However, the passive voice is preferred in cases such as those shown below.

The doer is unknown, unimportant or obvious.	Tickets for the concert were sold out within a day. A lot of the energy in light bulbs is wasted in the form of heat.
The doer is less important than the action.	The solution was heated to 90°C for about 30 minutes and then allowed to cool. Chickpeas are soaked in water overnight before being cooked.
The recipient (of the action) is the main topic of the sentence.	Carbohydrates are produced by green plants in the presence of light and chlorophyll. Iron is extracted from iron ore in a huge container called a blast furnace.

In earlier times, when monarchs commonly ruled over countries, imperative sentences were often expressed in what was called the 'royal passive'. Here are a few examples.

Shut the door. (*active*)

Let the door be shut. (*passive*)

Serve the food now.

Let the food be served now.

Allow the messenger to enter the court.

Let the messenger be allowed to enter the court.

Let there
be light!

Listen and Learn

H. Listen to the audio and write true (T) or false (F).

1. Professor Shonku is a physician.
2. His full name is Trilokeshwar Shonku.
3. Professor Shonku lives in the Sunderbans in West Bengal.
4. He lives with his younger brother, Prahlad.
5. He has a pet cat named Einstein.
6. A polyglot can speak several languages.
7. Professor Shonku can speak nine languages.
8. The sphere that Professor Shonku had got was a fossil.
9. Professor Shonku invented a cure for all ailments.
10. Professor Shonku succeeded in building a time machine.



Let's Talk

- I. Tell the class about your favourite fictional character.
You could start like this.

My favourite character, Tintin, is a reporter who travels around the world with his dog Snowy.

My favourite character is Wonder Woman, who fights for truth and justice for everyone.

My favourite is Saitama, also called One Punch Man. He is a Japanese superhero who can defeat any opponent with a single punch.



Warm Up



Where do you come from? Where were your parents and grandparents born? Discuss what kind of places these were. How are these places different from where you live?

My grandmother was born in Ludhiana, Punjab. She lived in ...

My grandfather was a farmer. His hometown was ...

Last week I wrote a story, and all the time I was writing it, I thought it was a good story; but when it was finished and I had read it through, I found that there was something missing, that it didn't ring true. So I tore it up. I wrote a poem, about an old man sleeping in the sun, and this was true, but it was finished quickly, and once again I was left with the problem of what to write next. And I remembered my father, who taught me to write; and I thought, why not write about my father, and about the trees we planted, and about the people I knew while growing up and about what happened on the way to growing up ...

And so, like Alice, I must begin at the beginning, and in the beginning there was this red insect, just like a velvet button, which I found on the front lawn of the bungalow. The grass was still wet with overnight rain.

I placed the insect on the palm of my hand and took it into the house to show my father.

"Look, Dad," I said, "I haven't seen an insect like this before. Where has it come from?"

"Where did you find it?" he asked.

"On the grass."

"It must have come down from the sky," he said. "It must have come down with the rain."

Later he told me how the insect really happened but I preferred his first explanation. It was more fun to have it dropping from the sky.

I was seven at the time, and my father was thirty-seven, but, right from the beginning, he made me feel that I was old enough to talk to him about everything—insects, people, trees, steam engines, King George, comics, crocodiles, the Mahatma, the Viceroy, America, Mozambique and Timbuctoo. We took long walks together, explored old ruins, chased butterflies and waved to passing trains.

My mother had gone away when I was four, and I had very dim memories of her.



Let's Write

A letter sent through the Internet is called an email (or e-mail). The body of an email is similar to that of a letter, though emails are usually shorter and more precise. Read this informal email from Payal, in which she tells her friend Ananya about her trip to the Jim Corbett National Park. Also, read Ananya's reply.

From payal_s@gmail.com

sender's address

To ananya123@gmail.com

receiver's address

Subject An exciting trip to Jim Corbett

subject of the email

Dear Ananya,

I am just returning from an exciting trip to Jim Corbett. In fact, I'm still on the road, but I couldn't wait to tell you about it.

We stayed in a beautiful resort, and from the verandah of our lodge, we could look across the Dhela river and see the core zone of the national park. The river was dry, so anything could cross over to our lodge! The day we reached, a guide took us down to the river bed. We saw massive plate-like footprints where a herd of elephants had crossed over to our side. I was really scared when he said that they had seen a tigress with cubs last week, just where we were standing. He also showed us the skin that a python had shed.

We went on a jeep safari too. We didn't see a tiger but we heard a deep growl and saw rustling bushes, but I guess the king of the jungle was in the mood for privacy and didn't come out. Later, we saw herds of barking deer and even some elephants. They too turned away and disappeared into the tall grass.

body of the email

On one of our walks we saw a family of mongooses playing in the sun—with a porcupine! They were darting and tumbling among the bushes and looked so cute! I wished I could take one home but they were so happy in the forest with their family that I knew it would be wrong.

One morning we woke up to find a group of langur monkeys bouncing around on the tin roof of our lodge. They were making the most earth-shattering racket.

I wish you could have seen them!

I should reach home in a few hours. Please do come over to my house as soon as possible. I have lots of pictures to show you. I also have some gifts and souvenirs for you!

Bye! Lots of love,

closing

Payal

sender's name



The Adventure of the Empty House

Adapted from the story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

In 'The Final Problem', published in December 1893, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle made his famous detective Sherlock Holmes disappear into the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland while wrestling with his arch-enemy Professor Moriarty. Conan Doyle brought Holmes back to life in 'The Adventure of the Empty House' in October 1903. Let us read the play based on the story.

Characters Narrator, Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, Colonel Sebastian Moran, Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, Judge, Lady Maynooth

Scene 1

(Courtroom. The set is dark. Spotlight on the narrator.)

Narrator Ronald Adair, the second son of the Earl of Maynooth, was found murdered at his home one night. Let us watch the courtroom proceedings of the case.

(Narrator exits. The entire stage is lit up.)

Judge Lady Maynooth, I understand it is a difficult time for you, but I would request you to tell us what happened after you returned home on the night of March 30, 1894.

Lady Maynooth We are staying at 427, Park Lane. On the night you mention, my daughter and I returned home at 11.30 p.m. Desiring to say goodnight to Ronald, I attempted to enter his room. The door was locked on the inside, and no answer could be got to our cries and knocking. The door was forced. Inside, my son was lying dead. (starts sobbing)

Judge Thank you, Lady Maynooth. I now request Colonel Moran to give evidence.

Colonel Moran Young Adair was a member of the Cavendish and the Bagatelle card clubs. While he was fond of cards, he never played for such stakes as would hurt him. Together, we had won as much as four hundred and twenty pounds in a sitting. Mr Murray, Sir John Hardy, and I played a game of cards with him that very afternoon.

Judge Thank you, Colonel. Now, I request Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard to share with us the findings of his investigation.

Lestrade Honourable Ronald Adair was killed between the hours of 10 and 11.20 on the night of March 30, 1894. On the evening of the crime, he had returned from the Bagatelle exactly at 10. Later that evening, the unfortunate young man was found lying in a pool of blood near the table. A revolver bullet had passed through his head. On the table, lay some money and a sheet of paper with some figures and the names of some club friends. He was



You fiend! You clever,
clever fiend! You clever,
clever fiend!



Spotlight 1

A. Complete the passage by choosing from the options that follow.

Climate change refers ^(a) ____ changes in the earth's climate, especially the gradual rise ^(b) ____ temperature caused by high levels of carbon dioxide and other gases. The changes have been apparent ^(c) ____ the early 20th century, and are ^(d) ____ mainly to the increased use of fossil fuels in human activities.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. i. towards | ii. to | iii. for | iv. from |
| b. i. to | ii. over | iii. on | iv. in |
| c. i. from | ii. since | iii. in | iv. on |
| d. i. attribute | ii. attributes | iii. attributed | iv. attributing |

B. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write each error, along with its correction, as shown.

An epic is a long poem, usually derive from ancient legends.

a. ~~derive~~ ^x derived [✓]

The epic 'gilgamesh' from the Mesopotamian civilisation is

b. _____

one of the oldest written stories. It is wrote on clay tablets,

c. _____

which was recovered from an ancient library in Nineveh.

d. _____

C. Rearrange the following groups of words and phrases correctly to form meaningful sentences.

1. children/are/fantastic/stories/fairy tales/for
2. they/not/fairies/do/always/involve
3. been/through/generations/have/passed down/they
4. tales/many/have/fairy/into/made/been/films

D. Fill in the blanks by combining the word given in the brackets with one of these: under, through, out, over.

1. The prince was plotting to _____ the king, but the plan was foiled. (throw)
2. The discovery of antibiotics was a major _____ in modern medicine. (break)
3. Many of us _____ our own abilities. (estimate)
4. After listening to his inspiring speeches, my _____ on life has changed. (look)