

## I Come, let's discuss.

Are you in the habit of worrying about small things?

What is it that worries you often ?

Do you have worries that never go away?

## II Let's read on

Here is someone who is terribly worried about something he has done .  
Read the story and find out what it is.

### THE SNEEZE

*Anton Chekhov*

1 One beautiful evening, Ivan Tcherviakov, a minor official, was sitting in the opera-house<sup>1</sup> watching a famous opera. As he sat there, he felt extremely relaxed and happy. But suddenly his face grew wrinkled, his eyes rolled, and he held his breath — he took off his glasses, bent forward, and ha-choo! he sneezed.

2 Now, sneezing is not prohibited<sup>2</sup> to anyone. Peasants sneeze, and chiefs of police sneeze, and even politicians sneeze; everyone sneezes. Naturally, Tcherviakov did not feel embarrassed<sup>3</sup> at what he had done. He wiped his nose with his handkerchief and glanced about him politely to make sure that he had not disturbed anyone by his sneezing. And then he felt deeply ashamed. He saw that an old man who was sitting in front of him was painfully wiping his bald spot

What do you do when you are worried too much about small things? Is it possible for you to stop worrying by analysing the cause of the worry? What happens if you are endlessly worried about something? Do your worries sometimes get on your nerves? What do you do to get over a chronic worry?

and the back of his neck with his glove and muttering<sup>4</sup> something. He was, Tcherviakov recognized, General Brizjaloff of the Department of Highways.

3 'I sneezed on him,' thought Tcherviakov. 'He is not my chief, but still it is awkward. I must apologize.'

Tcherviakov cleared his throat, shifted himself forward, and whispered in the general's ear, 'I beg your pardon, Your Excellency! I sneezed on you. I accidentally....'

'Never mind, never mind...'

'For Heaven's sake, excuse me. I ... I didn't mean to ...'

'Oh, sit down, please! Let me listen to what is being said.'

1 opera-house : theatre where plays are presented

2 prohibit (v) : prevent by law

3 embarrassed : uncomfortable

4 mutter (v) : speak quietly and in a low voice that is not easy to hear

4 Tcherviakoff was terribly confused. He smiled idiotically<sup>5</sup> and began watching the opera again. He looked at the stage, but no longer felt happy. Anxiety was beginning to trouble him. During the next interval, he approached General Brizjaloff and murmured, 'I sneezed on Your Excellency. Excuse me. You see, I .....did not do it to ...'

5 'Oh, enough of that! I had already forgotten about it and you keep on at the same thing!' said the general, impatiently twitching<sup>6</sup> his lower lip.

6 'He says he has forgotten it, but there is malice<sup>7</sup> in his eye,' thought Tcherviakoff, glancing at the general suspiciously. 'He won't even speak. I must explain that I didn't mean it .....that sneezing is a law of nature .....or else he might think I was spitting. If he doesn't think so now, he will later.'

7 On reaching home Tcherviakoff told his wife about the incident. She was alarmed<sup>8</sup> at first; when she learned that Brizjaloff was not her husband's chief, she felt reassured<sup>9</sup>.

'Still, you must go and apologize,' she said. 'He might think you don't know how to behave in society.'

'That's just it!' said Tcherviakoff.. 'I have apologized, but he acted so curiously. He didn't say anything

sensible. But, then, there was no time for conversation.'

8 The following day Tcherviakoff shaved, wore his new uniform and went to Brizjaloff's office to explain things to him. In the general's reception-room, there was a large crowd of petitioners. Sitting at a large table in the centre of the room was the general, who had already begun his reception. After he had interrogated<sup>10</sup> several of the petitioners, the general raised his eyes to Tcherviakoff.



'Yesterday, at the opera-house, if you remember, Your Excellency.....' the little official began, 'I sneezed and ..... accidentally spattered<sup>11</sup> you. Excuse ....'

'You are talking about the same thing again? What nonsense! What can I do for you?'

5 idiotically : foolishly  
6 twitch (v) : make a sudden uncontrolled movement  
7 malice (n) : the wish to harm others  
8 alarmed (v) : worried

9 reassured (v) : less worried  
10 interrogate (v) : ask someone a lot of questions  
11 spatter (v) : scatter drops of liquid on a surface

9 Tcherviakov turned pale. ‘He won’t speak to me!’ he said to himself. ‘That means he is angry. I must explain the whole thing to him’.

10 When the general had finished his interview with the last petitioner and was leaving, Tcherviakov stepped up to him and murmured, ‘Your Excellency! If I dare to trouble you, it is only, I can assure you, from a feeling of repentance<sup>12</sup>. I did not sneeze on purpose. Your Excellency must know that .....’

The general made a tearful face and waved his hand in despair. ‘You are simply joking, sir!’ he said disappearing behind the door.

11 ‘He says I am joking!’ thought Tcherviakov. ‘But there is no joke about this at all. He is a general and he can’t understand what a common man like me is going through! I am not going to beg that man’s pardon again! I’ll write him a letter, but I’ll not come here again.’

12 Tcherviakov could not stop thinking about the incident as he walked homewards. He did not write that letter to the general. He thought and thought, but could not think of anything to write. He decided to go back to the general the following day and explain everything in person.

- 12 repentance (n) : feeling sorry for and wishing that you had not done something bad  
 13 mumble (v) : speak something unclearly so that the words are difficult to understand  
 14 quake (v) : shake with anger  
 15 horrified : shocked greatly

13 ‘I came yesterday and troubled Your Excellency,’ he mumbled<sup>13</sup>, as he faced the general, ‘but not with the idea of joking, as Your Excellency remarked. I wanted to ask for your forgiveness because when I sneezed — I did not dream of joking. How could I dare do such a thing? To joke would be to show no respect for persons.’

‘Get out!’ roared the general, suddenly quaking<sup>14</sup> and growing red in the face.

‘What?’ whispered Tcherviakov. He was horrified<sup>15</sup> to see the general so angry.

14 Something seemed to break inside Tcherviakov. He stumbled through the door and out into the street. He could not see or hear a thing, and he crawled along the pavement. He walked home mechanically and when he reached there, he lay down on a sofa without taking off his uniform, and died.

**About the author**



One of the most brilliant among Russian dramatists, Anton Chekhov (1860 - 1904), combined in him ‘a philosophic mind and a humanitarian gentleness of temper.’ He has always shown an understanding heart. His observations were keen. He rendered his themes with sympathy and pity. Some of his one-act plays are hilarious while some other plays are full length tragedies. Exiled from Moscow in his last days Chekhov died young at the age of 44.

*The Sneeze* is typical of Chekhov’s short stories.

**Words, phrases and idioms**

**hold your breath:** *breathe in and close your mouth to keep the air in your lungs*

I *held my breath* to watch the player net the winning goal.

**not to be sneezed at:** *good enough to be considered carefully*

An offer of one lakh rupees is not to be *sneezed at*.

**stumble through:** *walk in a way which does not seem controlled*

He *stumbled through* the rubble and hurt his ankle.

**III Read and answer.**

**A Choose the correct answer to each question from the alternatives and put a  in the box.**

- 1 After sneezing, Tcherviakov looked about him because
  - he wanted to see if someone had noticed him.
  - he wanted to see if he had disturbed anyone.
  - he wanted to see if the General had noticed his presence.
- 2 Tcherviakov felt deeply ashamed after sneezing, because
  - he found that he had sneezed on General Brizjaloff.
  - he saw General Brizjaloff looking at him angrily.
  - others were disturbed due to his loud sneezing.
- 3 Tcherviakov was terribly confused because
  - he found that everyone in the house was looking at him.

the General asked him to sit down and let him listen to the opera.

the General had taken the sneezing incident very seriously.

4 The General impatiently twitched his lower lip because

he had lost track of the plot of the opera as Tcherviakov kept on sneezing.

he found the opera very dull and wanted to leave early.

he was irritated when Tcherviakov brought the sneezing incident to him again and again.

5 The General thought Tcherviakov was joking, because

Tcherviakov kept on apologizing for such a small thing.

Tcherviakov had a humorous way of saying things.

the General thought that Tcherviakov was the clown of the opera-house.

**B Mark the true statements with a  and false with a  in the boxes given.**

- 1 Tcherviakov was very unhappy when he felt like sneezing.
- 2 Tcherviakov's wife thought that he should apologize to the General.
- 3 Tcherviakov did not get an opportunity to explain things to his satisfaction when he went to the General's office.
- 4 Tcherviakov was a minor official in the Department of Highways.
- 5 Tcherviakov worried too much about a minor incident and that proved to be his ruin.
- 6 The General took the sneezing incident seriously and initiated action against the offender.

**C Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each.**

- 1 Why did the General become angry when Tcherviakov went to meet him in his office the last time?
- 2 Why were Tcherviakov and his wife very particular that he should apologize to the General?
- 3 “He is a general and he can’t understand what a common man like me is going through.” What does this sentence tell us about Tcherviakov’s state of mind?
- 4 Why did the General remark that Tcherviakov was joking?
- 5 “Get out,” roared the General. Why did the General roar at Tcherviakov?
- 6 What did Tcherviakov do when the General roared at him?

**IV Read and write.**

**a A journalist who prepared the story of Tcherviakov on his computer for his newspaper finds that the different paragraphs got mixed up and he had to put them back in order. You may try and help him by putting the paragraphs in the right sequence.**

- 1 Tcherviakov waits at Brizjaloff’s office till the General ends his day’s business. When he was about to leave Tcherviakov says he has a feeling of repentance for what he had done. The General waves his hands in despair and wondered if Tcherviakov was joking.
- 2 Tcherviakov speaks in a whisper in the General’s ear begging his pardon. The General tells Tcherviakov not to mind and let him listen to the opera.
- 3 Tcherviakov goes to Brizjaloff’s office to explain things to the general. He tells

Tcherviakov it is nonsensical to talk about the same thing. Brizjaloff asks Tcherviakov if he could do anything for the man.

- 4 Not being able to write a letter to the general Tcherviakov goes back to the General the next day to explain everything in person. He mumbles that he was not joking when he spoke. The General roars at Tcherviakov and orders him to get out.
- 5 At the interval Tcherviakov goes to Brizjaloff repeatedly apologising for his unintentional act. The General says he had already forgotten it but Tcherviakov was keeping on at it.

**b**

- 1 You find bits of short exchanges between Tcherviakov and Brizjaloff. Copy them down and role-play them in your group.
- 2 Try and report the pieces of the dialogue. Remember, you have to reflect the attitude or mood of the speaker with suitable expressions that describe them. You may use some of them given in the boxes below and also add others to the list:

softly	gently	quietly
timidly	angrily	impatiently
foolishly	proudly	shamefully
anxiously	apologetically	idiotically
firmly	mildly	slyly

whisper	mumble	roar
say	speak	reply
add	enquire	ask
remark	exclaim	mutter

**a Write short paragraphs of four or five sentences on each of the following.**

- 1 Do you think General Brizjaloff was angry with Tcherviakov for having sneezed on him? Support your answer.

- 2 What clues tell you that General Brizjaloff did not expect Tcherviakoff to come to him and explain things?
  - 3 What effect did the incident at the opera house have on Tcherviakoff?
  - 4 Do you think General Brizjaloff was responsible for Tcherviakoff's death? Why?
  - 5 Suppose you meet the worried Tcherviakoff after the sneezing incident. What advice would you give him? Construct a dialogue between you and Tcherviakoff.
- b Imagine that Brizjaloff comes to know of Cherviakoff's death from newspapers. His meetings with Tcherviakoff come to his mind. Retell the story of *The Sneeze* from the General's point of view. You may begin like this:

One evening, I was sitting in the opera-house watching the performance ...

- c Answer the following in about 150 words.
- Are you familiar with the idiom *make a mountain out of a molehill*? Review the incident that led to Tcherviakoff's death in the light of the idiom.

### V Put it this way.

A "In the General's reception room, there was a large crowd of petitioners." This sentence can be rewritten without changing its meaning as: "A crowd of petitioners was there". Perhaps, you will expect a plural verb after 'petitioners'. But the word forms part of the phrase 'crowd of petitioners'. The real subject is 'a crowd'. Study the following sentences.

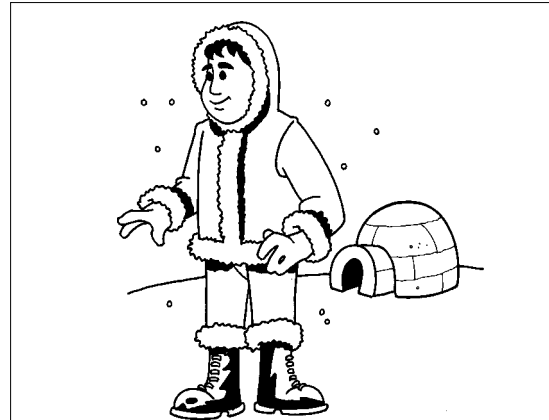
*Three thousand rupees is not a big amount.*

*Two litres of paint is not enough to paint this room.*

You will have noticed that expressions used to refer to quantities, amounts or a group of people usually take singular verbs even if the noun is plural.

Now read the following passage.

Eskimos are a race of people living in the cold northern areas of North America. Many Eskimos no longer live as they used to. Most of them live in



houses and they work in factories and for American oil companies. A great many Eskimos have become Americanised. They wear Western clothes and they go to school. A few of them speak English. Both men and women visit markets and buy food. Some of them even buy frozen meat and vegetables.

The verb of a sentence agrees with the subject. If the subject is singular, the verb is also singular. This agreement between the subject and the verb in a sentence is called CONCORD.

- i Now complete the following sentences using one of the alternatives given in brackets.

- 1 Rs.6000 to spare \_\_\_\_\_ nothing for Ramu. (is, are)
- 2 Much water \_\_\_\_\_ flowed under the bridge. (have, has)
- 3 Raghu, as well as his friends, \_\_\_\_\_ arriving by the evening train. (is, are)
- 4 There are 7 boys watching T.V. One of them \_\_\_\_\_ my cousin. (is, are)

NO SMOKING

- 5 The Government \_\_\_\_\_ prohibited smoking in public places. (have, has)

**B Giving information about 'time' or 'reasons' and 'results'.**

Let's study the following sentence.

Seeing that Rakesh was upset,

(= *Grandfather saw that Rakesh was upset*)

Grandfather consoled him.

(= *So he consoled Rakesh*)

Grandfather consoled Rakesh because he was upset. (*reason*)

Consider the following sentences.

1 Hearing a loud noise, the baby began to cry. (*The baby heard a loud noise. So it began to cry.*)

= When the baby heard a loud noise it began to cry. (*time, reason and result*)

2 Feeling tired, Anju went to bed. (*Anju felt tired. So she went to bed*)

= Anju went to bed because she felt tired. (*reason*)

3 Having finished his lessons, Akash went out to play. (*Akash finished his lessons. Then he went to play.*) (*Akash had finished his lessons before he went out to play.*)

= When Akash finished his lessons he went out to play. (*time*)

Sentences 1,2 and 3 are of the same pattern. It is called *participial construction*.

Rewrite the following sentences as shown below.

1 Anand wanted to rest because he had been driving his car for five hours.

Having driven his car for five hours, Anand wanted to rest.

2 Kavitha took off her shoes before she walked into the house.

3 We saw Siraj when we arrived at the party.

4 Sneha did not spend much time shopping because she knew exactly what she wanted.

5 Vinod runs very fast because he is slim.

6 When Hridya had spoken to the manager she telephoned me.

Consider the following sentences.

'Grandfather's eyesight being rather weak, Rakesh would read to him from the newspaper.' (*reason*)

This sentence means,

*Grandfather's eyesight* was rather weak (*Here we are talking about grandfather's poor eyesight*) So, Rakesh would read to him from the newspaper. (*Here we are talking about why Rakesh would read to him*)

Now study the following sentences.

1 It being a holiday, we went out for a walk. (*reason*)

= *It was a holiday.* So we went for a walk.

(*We are talking about the day.*) (*We are talking about what we did.*)

2 Biju's father being a doctor, he knows something about medicines. (*reason*)

= *Biju's father is a doctor.* Biju knows something about medicines.

(*We are talking about Biju's father.*) (*We are talking about Biju.*)

3 The leader having been arrested, the followers left the place.

The *leader* had been arrested. Then the *followers* left the place.

● These sentences (1,2 and 3) form a special pattern. It is called *Absolute Construction*.

Study the following situations and describe them using absolute constructions:

1 The weather was fine. There were plenty of visitors to the park.

- 2 Petrol is very expensive these days. So Hari has decided to sell his car.
- 3 Vinod’s family had a hard time because expenses went up as never before.

**C Reporting**

Your school is in need of a new computer room. But there are no funds for building it. The school parliament and the PTA discuss the matter. Your class leader takes notes on the discussion. Read some of the opinions given below and report them to your class.

<i>member</i>	<i>opinion</i>
Headmaster :	Well, then, gentlemen, there aren’t many ways open to us to raise money at the moment except, of course, asking for contributions.
Teacher :	Teachers’re willing and ready to donate five thousand rupees, from their side.
PTA President:	We’ll collect some money from the people.
Class leaders:	
Vinod :	Why not organise a magic show to raise money?
Suman :	We’ll try and collect about one thousand rupees from our class.
Fousiya :	My father has agreed to donate one thousand rupees to the funds.
Anitha :	My uncle’s an engineer in the PWD. I can seek his help.

**Say the answers aloud before you write them down.**

- 1 The Headmaster said that ..... money.
- 2 The teacher said that .....

- 3 The PTA President promised to ..... the people.
- 4 Vinod suggested that ..... to raise money.
- 5 Suman said that ..... from their class.
- 6 Fousiya said that ..... to see them.
- 7 Anitha said that .....

Here are a few sentences taken from the story *The Cherry Tree*. Report them.

- 1 Rakesh : Then I’ll keep it.
- 2 Grandfather : I have sown mustard in that bed.
- 3 Rakesh : The cherry tree has come up.
- 4 Grandfather : It is a cherry tree. You should water it now and then.
- 5 Grandfather : They will be better next year.

**D Reporting exclamatory sentences**

“You’re talking about the same thing again? What nonsense!.....” Brizjaloff said.

*This can be reported as:*

Brizjaloff expressed his surprise that Tcherviakov was talking about the same thing again. He exclaimed that it was dreadful nonsense.

Look at the sentences above.

When exclamatory sentences are reported, the word order changes. The sentences themselves become statements. The verb used is *exclaim/ wonder*.

**Now study the following situations and complete the sentences. The first one has been done for you.**

- 1  
Vinu : Ramu has won the first prize in the elocution competition.

Ravi : Wonderful!

Ravi exclaimed that it was wonderful that Ramu had won the first prize in the elocution competition.

2 Don visits Ootty and explains things to Binu.

Don : The Botanical Garden is marvellous.

Binu : What about the lake?

Don : It's really beautiful!

Don ..... that the lake is really beautiful.

3 The tourists took a look at the paintings at the Exhibition Hall.

“What lovely paintings!” the tourists said.

The tourists exclaimed that .....

4 Deepa : Anju Bobby George won a medal in Long Jump.

Leela : Fantastic!

Leela exclaimed that .....

## VI Say it this way.

Here are two dialogues. Practise them with your partners in the class.

**A** Lalu is talking to his friend Rahim over phone. Rahim is in Dubai. Lalu's wife Sita is with Lalu.

Lalu (over phone): Hello, Rahim! A happy news. Sita has got a job in SANDERS.

Rahim : Great!

Lalu (to Sita): Rahim exclaims it's great that you've got the job.

Rahim (over the phone): What shall I bring for you?

Lalu : A mobile phone.

Rahim : Of all things!

Lalu (to Sita): Rahim wonders why I chose a mobile phone of all things.

## B

Akhil : Hi, Did you watch the cricket match on TV yesterday?

Nikhil : Yes, I did. All the members of my family were quite excited.

Akhil : But, unfortunately, India lost the match.

Nikhil : That's right. But, one of the umpires was not just, I'm afraid.

Akhil : But, do you think the spinners were effective?

Nikhil : Yes, I think so. Mostly they were.

Akhil : But some of the players were not in good form.

Nikhil : Quite so. Yet, the Selection Committee has decided to retain the same team for the one-dayer.

## VII Listen and do.



You will now listen to a passage. Listen carefully.

### The Mumbai Police\*

You have now listened to a talk on The Mumbai Police.

Now try and answer the following questions:

**a** Now answer the questions that follow:

- 1 What is the strength of the Mumbai police?
- 2 What are the non-policing duties to which the Mumbai police are diverted?
- 3 How many policemen are said to have died of stress?
- 4 What does the Mumbai Police Act guarantee its forces?

- 5 What do you know about the housing problems of the Mumbai police?
  - 6 Why are the future housing problems not bright?
  - 7 What are some of the basic facilities which Mumbai police stations lack?
- b Complete the following with a suitable option from a, b or c.
- 1 Some of the duties to which the Mumbai police are diverted can be done by
    - a non-governmental organizations.
    - b casual labour.
    - c private security agencies.
  - 2 The police-population ratio of the Mumbai police
    - a is as good as that of London's.
    - b not as good as that of London.
    - c compares favourably with that of London.
  - 3 Free housing and water are guaranteed by law to
    - a policemen up to the rank of the inspector.
    - b all police personnel regardless of their rank.
    - c only certain unknown categories of police officers.
  - 4 The conditions under which the Bombay police work are
    - a rather poor.
    - b not too bad.
    - c as good as can be.
  - 5 The speaker says that some of the facts he has about the Bombay police are
    - a interesting and encouraging.
    - b neither interesting nor encouraging .
    - c totally disturbing.

**VIII Try and use these words.**

A Here is a passage for you to read. Replace the missing words in the blanks choosing them from the list.

The doctor was \_\_\_\_\_ when they caught him for smoking in public. He \_\_\_\_\_ to himself it was foolish of him to have smoked in the open, for, he knew smoking in public is \_\_\_\_\_. The police \_\_\_\_\_ him. They let him off with a fine when he said he \_\_\_\_\_ for what he had done.

- prohibited      ● repented
- interrogated    ● embarrassed
- muttered

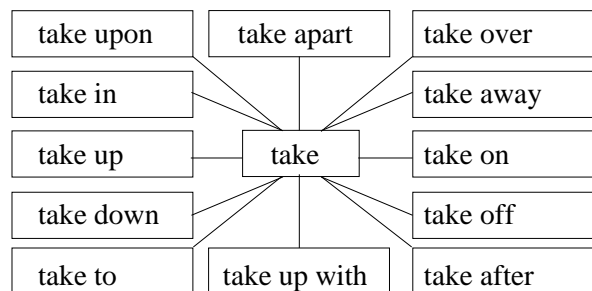
B Fill in the blanks with one of the alternatives given in brackets.

- 1 The moving car \_\_\_\_\_ mud on the travellers. (spattered, spat)
- 2 I was suffering from cold. I happened to \_\_\_\_\_ Arjun. (sneezed at, sneezed on)

C Can you guess the meaning of the sentences given below? If not, refer to a dictionary and find out their meanings.

- 1 I *took to* Paul as soon as I met him. This means: *I began liking Paul.*
- 2 Glenn has *taken up* pottery as a hobby.  
means: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Mohan *took it upon* himself to sell the car while I was away.  
means: \_\_\_\_\_

D Write down the meaning of the phrasal verbs given below. Use them in sentences of your own.



**IX Do these activities.**

Who is a worrier? Do you think worrying about little things in life is of any use? Form groups and discuss how worrying too much about petty things is harmful. Here are some points for you. Add a few more of your own.

- 1 Worrying takes away your concentration.
- 2 It puts you in a bad frame of mind.
- 3 It dampens your cheerfulness.
- 4 You get irritable.
- 5 You become inactive.

*Now begin:*

◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ◆ \_\_\_\_\_

**b Crossword puzzle**

Discover the hiding words. Use the hints given:

Y	X	E	R	O	N	S
R	A	R	K	W	P	N
C	B	T	A	U	L	E
L	M	Y	C	Q	U	E
D	B	C	W	V	G	Z
F	I	L	O	Q	V	E
H	Z	B	E	L	C	H

- downward – sudden uncontrolled burst of air out of the nose
- upward – a to eat or drink quickly by swallowing in large amounts  
 b to weep
- diagonally – a a short repeated sound you make in your throat without intending to, usually because you have been eating or drinking too quickly

b to open mouth widely and breathe deeply in and out when you are bored or sleepy

across - right to left - to make loud noises as you breathe while you are sleeping

across - left to right - to force air out of your lungs through your throat with a loud sound

**c Project**

Imagine you visit the following places.

- a hospital where your friend is admitted for treatment
- a neatly-maintained park
- a modern zoo
- a busy street with heavy traffic
- a tourist spot

You may see a lot of sign boards / instructions / directions there. List as many as you can and arrange them under convenient titles. You may also explain what the signs mean in one or two sentences.

e.g. KEEP LEFT You are directed to drive / walk along the left side of the road.

NO PHOTOGRAPH You are warned against taking photographs.

Prepare a project.

**X Read aloud.**

a The teacher will read this passage aloud with the right pauses and intonation. You repeat it after your teacher.

'Somewhere in Si'beria | '40 'million 'years a'go| the 'Sabre-'toothed 'tiger 'flourished. It be'came ex'tinct | 'only a'bout '10,000 'years a'go. Its de'scendants are| the 'true 'tigers. The 'true 'tigers be'gan to ex'tend their 'range | 'moving 'southward| in 'search of 'more 'suitable 'habitats | as suc'cessive 'phases of 'Ice 'Age | 'made 'Northern 'Asia unin'habitable.

To'day | 'deep in the 'snows of the 'Soviet 'Far 'East | 'two 'hundred 'tigers 'still 'roam. A 'few 'thousands of their 'relatives | pa'trol sur'viving 'pockets of 'forest | from 'India to Indo'nesia. Where'ever the 'tiger 'lived | it 'exercised a 'deep and 'lasting 'effect on the indige'nous 'people | who con'sidered it as 'god and pro'tector of the 'forest.

**b** Here is a passage for you to practise. Say it aloud with proper stress, pauses and intonation.

**Your breakfast**

Suma: Good morning Indu. How are you?

Indu : Good morning, Suma. I'm fine and how are you?

Suma: Fine. How's everything? Had a scrumptious breakfast?

Indu : Yes indeed! Thanks to my granny. How did you guess?

Suma: The aroma still lingers about you, doesn't it?

Indu : You have a good nose, really. See, I can't always take spicy foods. They don't agree with me.

Suma: Why, I never thought you are on a diet, I mean, a restricted one.

Indu : Don't you frighten me. I only meant I chose what I ate...

**XI Develop your study skills.**

**A** 'Sneeze' means to have a 'sudden uncontrolled burst of air out of the nose.' Now, match the words in 'A' denoting some physiological function with their meanings in 'B'.

A	B
belch	1 to force air out of your lungs through your throat with a loud sound
cough	2 to allow air from the stomach to come out noisily through the mouth

gasp	3	to take a short breath through the mouth
gulp	4	to open the mouth wide and deeply breathe in and out without conscious effort especially when one is bored or sleepy
snore	5	to make loud noises, as you breathe while you're sleeping
yawn	6	to eat or drink quickly by swallowing in large amounts

**B** The word *mutter* is used in the passage to mean *to speak quietly and in a low voice that others cannot hear*. The following are some words related to speaking. Find out their meanings and write them down against them. See how they differ in meaning from one another.

- blabber \_\_\_\_\_
- blurt \_\_\_\_\_
- gibber \_\_\_\_\_
- mumble \_\_\_\_\_
- murmur \_\_\_\_\_
- mutter \_\_\_\_\_
- utter \_\_\_\_\_
- whisper \_\_\_\_\_

**C** A five-letter word in English beginning with the letter *b* means *to constantly worry*. It ends in *d*. Can you find it out?

b \_ \_ \_ d

**XII Let's now complete the tasks in the Practice Book.**

A few tasks based on this unit have been given in the **Practice Book**. They form an integral part of this unit. Don't forget to do them. Your teacher will help you.