



The Merchant Of Venice

Some selected students of class VI of Prudent Wisdom Academy are planning to stage a drama in their annual function. Their English teacher Mr Bora has prepared a short script on the basis of Shakespeare's 'The Merchant Of Venice' for them. Anurag, Pritam, Riha, Ashok and Mrinmoy are going to take part in the drama. The teacher has asked Ritika to be the anchor.

(On the day of the annual function, Ritika enters on the stage)

Ritika : William Shakespeare, one of the greatest dramatists of the world, had written many world famous dramas. He was born in 1564 and died in 1616. Now we are going to perform a short drama which is prepared by our respected Bora sir on the basis of Shakespeare's world famous tragicomedy 'The Merchant Of Venice'. Here are the characters.....



(As soon as Ritika announces the names, the characters enter one after another.)

Ritika : Here is Anurag as Antonio. Antonio is one of the richest merchants of Venice. He is an influential and powerful nobleman of Venice. He is kind, generous, honest and is loved by all the people who know him. Here is Pritam as Bassanio. Bassanio is a bosom friend of Antonio. He has met a beautiful and rich lady named Portia. He wants to marry her. But he doesn't have money to go to Belmont and meet her. So he asks Antonio for money. Here is Ashok as Shylock. Shylock is a Jew and a money lender. He hates Antonio and feels jealous of him for his popularity. Here is Riha as Portia. Portia is a rich heiress. She is beautiful and has wonderful personal qualities. For this, many suitors from different corners of the world want to marry her. Here is Mrinmoy as The Duke. The Duke of Venice presides as judge over the court proceedings in the drama.

(The characters exit)

Scene I

(Bassanio and Antonio meet in a street of Venice)

Bassanio : Oh, dear Antonio, my bosom friend. I need your help.

Antonio : Oh, my friend, tell me what I can do for you.

Bassanio : I love Portia, a rich and beautiful lady. I want to marry her. So I need money from you to go to Belmont.

Antonio : Don't worry. I will help you. I don't have ready money now. So I will borrow money from Shylock.

Scene II

Shylock : Oh! Antonio. Oh! Bassanio. What do you want?

Antonio : I need money. 3000 ducats.

Shylock : I give money for interest. But in your case, I will not take any interest. If you fail to return the money within three months, I will cut off and take away a pound of flesh from any part of your body. You will have to sign such a bond.

Bassanio : Don't worry. My ships will return soon. Then I can return the money.

Scene III

(The Duke's Court)

Plaintiff : Shylock

Defendant : Antonio

The Duke : Tell me Shylock, what is your case?

Shylock : Now three months are over since I gave the money to Antonio. As the time is are expired, he should give me a pound of flesh, as per the bond, signed by Antonio.

The Duke : Antonio, what do you say?

Antonio : My lawyer will speak for me.

Lawyer : (Bows and starts speaking) My Lord, Shylock is keen about a pound of flesh. Let him have it. Have you brought the knife, Shylock?

Shylock : Yes, yes, I have.

Lawyer : You can cut the flesh from any part of Antonio's body. But in cutting it there should be no bloodshed, because it is not mentioned in the bond. My Lord, I don't want my client to lose even a single drop of blood. Shylock has conspired to murder Antonio.

(Shylock is shocked. Now he realises his folly. Everybody praises the young and intelligent lawyer. When the lawyer puts off his coat and removes the moustache all the people present in the court exclaim in surprise because the lawyer is actually Portia in disguise.)

The Duke : Now it is the judgement time. The conspiracy is obvious that Shylock has planned to murder Antonio. Shylock, I order you to apologise. Moreover, you must give half of your property to the government and the other half to Antonio as a punishment.



(Shylock walks off in shame. Antonio, Bassanio and Portia are in joyful mood.)

Word note :

tragicomedy : a play containing elements of both comedy and tragedy

Venice : a city in northeastern Italy

merchant : a buyer or seller of commodities for profit

heiress : a woman who is an heir especially to great wealth

ducat : a gold coin used in many European countries in the past

plaintiff : a person who makes a formal complaint against somebody in court

defendant : the person in a trial who is accused of committing a crime

Remember the Words

dramatist	conspiracy	merchant	bosom	Jew	opportunity
obvious	apologise	borrow	ducats	pound	flesh plaintiff
defendant	bloodshed	bond	client	conspired	folly disguise

For the teacher only

The students are expected to learn the kinds of sentences according to their meanings. They are also expected to learn one of the parts of speech and that is 'interjection'.

Comprehension :

1. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.
 - a) Who is William Shakespeare?
 - b) What type of drama is 'The Merchant of Venice'?
 - c) Whom does Bassanio want to marry?
 - d) How much money does Antonio borrow from Shylock?
2. What is the bond?
3. How does Portia save Antonio?
4. Fill in the blanks.
 - a) ----- is a rich heiress.
 - b) Shakespeare had written many world famous -----.
 - c) Shylock is a ----- and a money lender.
 - d) ----- has conspired to murder Antonio.
 - e) The lawyer is actually Portia in -----.

Grammar and Usage :

A.

Kinds of Sentences

What is a sentence?

A sentence is a **group of words** put together so that it makes complete sense.

It begins with a **capital letter** and ends with a **full stop** Ⓒ ,
a note of interrogation Ⓓ or **a note of exclamation** Ⓔ

There are five kinds of sentences according to meaning

1. Declarative or Assertive Sentence :

Example : Ritu's father is a businessman.

This sentence states what Ritu's father is .

A Declarative or Assertive sentence states something. This kind of sentences ends with a full stop ○ .

2. Interrogative Sentence or Question Sentence :

Example : Do you like sweets?

This sentence asks for a piece of information.

An Interrogative sentence asks for an information. This kind of sentences ends with a Note of Interrogation (?).

3. Imperative Sentence :

Example : Open the window.

We use this kind of sentences when we ask someone to do something.

An Imperative sentence expresses an order, an advice, a request or a proposal. In an Imperative sentence the subject (always second person 'You') is always unexpressed. This kind of sentences always has the verb in its base form and ends with a full stop ○.

4. Exclamatory Sentence :

Examples : Hurrah! We have won the match. (Joy)

What a beautiful scenery it is! (Wonder)

Alas! We have not succeeded. (Sorrow)

An Exclamatory sentence expresses a sudden and strong feeling of joy, sorrow, wonder etc. This kind of sentences ends with a Note of Exclamation (!).

5. Optative Sentence :

Examples : May God bless you. (Blessing)

May you live long. (Wish or prayer)

An Optative sentence expresses a wish or prayer or a blessing. This kind of sentences usually starts with "May" and ends with a full stop ○.

Again the above mentioned five kinds of sentences can be divided into two groups : **Affirmative and Negative**

A sentence which affirms something is called an **Affirmative Sentence**.

A sentence which denies something is called a **Negative Sentence**.

Generally Negative Sentences are formed by using words like 'not',

'no', 'never', 'nothing', 'nobody', 'none' etc.

Examples :

Assertive Sentences

Affirmative

1. Ram plays cricket.
2. Everybody loves him.
3. I always go there.

Negative

1. Ram does not play cricket.
2. Nobody loves him.
3. I never go there.

Interrogative Sentences

Affirmative

1. Is Mitu happy?
2. Do they play chess?

* Negative Questions

1. Is not Mitu happy?
or
Isn't Mitu happy?
2. Do they not play chess?

* "Not" is always placed after a **Pronoun** and usually before a **Noun**. This kind of negative interrogative sentences are called **Negative Questions**.

Imperative Sentences

Affirmative

1. Shut the door.
2. Go back.

Negative

1. Don't shut the door.
2. Don't go back.

Activity 1

Read the following sentences carefully and write the kind they belong to.

Example : Amal is a good boy.

: Assertive Sentence

- i) Go there.
- ii) Is she a teacher?
- iii) Robin is not a singer.
- iv) May you live long.

- v) She is an intelligent girl.
- iv) What a nice doll it is!
- vii) Come at once.
- viii) Don't run in the field.
- ix) May god bless you.
- x) Does she speak Hindi?

B.

Interjection

An interjection is a word which expresses some sudden feeling or emotion

Interjections may express :

- a) Joy : Hurrah!
- b) Grief : Alas!
- c) Surprise : Oh!
- d) Encouragement : Bravo!

Examples :

- i) Hurrah! Today is a holiday.
- ii) Alas! His grandfather is no more.
- iii) Oh! What a beautiful gift.
- iv) Bravo! You have done well.

Activity 2

Correct the following sentences.

- i) Hurrah! The old man is no more.
- ii) Bravo! What a nice scenery it is.
- iii) Alas! We have won the match.
- iv) Oh! They have done well.

Writing Activity :

Informal Letter

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The format of an informal letter

Sender's Address
Date
Salutation (Greeting)
Body of the letter
Sender's Signature

Address

To	Stamp
Receiver's name : -----	
C/o : -----	
Vill/Town : -----	
P.O. : -----	
Dist : -----	
PIN : -----	
State : -----	

A. Invitation Letter

Write a letter to your friend inviting him to your birthday party.

Chandmari

Guwahati

25.05.2017

Dear Mridu,

We have arranged a party on the occasion of my birthday on 2.6.17. I have invited some of my friends for dinner. I would be very glad if you come to the party. We hope to have a nice time together. Please come and join us. See you on 2.6.17 at 6 p.m. at my residence.

Your loving friend

Abhijit

A reply to the above letter accepting invitation :

Rupnagar

Guwahati

26.5.2017

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Dear Abhijit,

I am glad to receive your invitation on the occasion of your birthday celebration. Thank you for your invitation. I shall go to our village tomorrow to attend my cousin's marriage ceremony. But I shall definitely return on 30.5.2017. I don't want to miss your company on that special day.

With best wishes to you

Mridu

B.

Here is a letter that Biplab wrote to his mother while he was spending a holiday with his uncle's family in the village.

Betkuchi

Nalbari

15 July 2017

Dear Ma,

Hope you all are well. You will be glad to know that I am enjoying my holidays here. I get up at dawn here and go for a walk with my uncle and Ruman on the bank of the river. The air is so fresh! I have also learnt how to swim. I practise it in the pond which is at the back of our uncle's house. Yesterday uncle took Ruman and me to the paddy field. I saw the farmers ploughing there. The whole environment is very quiet.

I shall go home next Sunday with uncle. Give my love to Rini.

With regards

Yours lovingly

Biplab

Address

(As shown in the format of an informal letter)

a) You are Nibir. Write a letter to your friend inviting him to the marriage ceremony of your sister.

b) Fill in the blanks and complete the following letter. Take help from the help box.

examination fine have the preparation for a long time difficult
mathematics practise regards love Ritu Monali

Dear _____,

I haven't received any letter from you _____. Hope you are _____. I am very busy these days as my _____ is starting next week. I _____ almost finished _____ for all the subjects but I still have to revise _____. I find this subject very _____. But I am sure if I _____ I will be able to do well.

Please write to me soon. Convey my _____ to your parents and my _____ to your younger brother.

Yours lovingly

To	Stamp
.....	
.....	
.....	



Build Up Your Vocabulary

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1. One who writes books ---- **Author**
2. One who bakes bread, cake etc. ---- **Baker**
3. One who mends shoes ---- **Cobbler**
4. One who makes furniture ---- **Carpenter**
5. One who sells rice, lentil etc. ---- **Grocer**
6. One who carves on stones ---- **Sculptor**
7. One who builds houses with bricks ---- **Mason**
8. One who writes novels ---- **Novelist**
9. One who makes earthen pots ---- **Potter**
10. One who carries burden for hire ---- **Porter**
11. One who foretells things by the stars, planets etc. ---- **Astrologer**
12. A person in charge of a library --- **Librarian**
13. One who flies an aeroplane --- **Pilot**
14. One who breaks into a house to steal --- **Burglar**
15. One who writes poetry ---- **Poet**
16. One who learns a subject as a hobby --- **Amateur**
17. One who scientifically studies humans
and their customs, beliefs and relationships --- **Anthropologist**
18. One who makes a scientific study of human antiquities --- **Archaeologist**
19. One who studies the science of animals and plants --- **Biologist**
20. One who treats skin diseases --- **Dermatologist**
21. One who studies the internal structure of the earth --- **Geologist**
