



Lesson 5

The Drum

Before you read :

- * Have you read any Assamese folk tales ?
- * Which story of 'Burhi Aair Sadhu' by Lakshminath Bezbaruah do you like the most ?

(**The Drum** is a Rajasthani folk tale. A folk tale is a very old traditional story from a particular place that was originally passed on to people in a spoken form.)

Lakshmi lived with her only son in a small village in Rajasthan. She worked very hard from morning to night to earn her livelihood. She ground grains for people in the village and got money in return. With that money she ran the household expenditure. But she could not afford to buy nice clothes and toys for her only son. It pained her very much.



Lakshmi was loved by everybody in the village for her amiable nature. One day she was going to market. She asked her son, "Do you want anything, dear?" The son replied, "A drum, mother." Lakshmi patted her son and smiled lovingly and went to the market.

Lakshmi bought some necessary things like flour and salt from the market. She wished she could buy a drum for her son. But alas! She had no money left. She was very sad. On her way back home, she saw two nice pieces of wood on the road and picked them up. After reaching home she said grimly to her son, "I am very sorry son. I could not afford a drum for you." But the son said, "Never mind, mother. You can give it later. Now can I take these two pieces of wood to play?" Lakshmi nodded and said, "Yes, go and play but return before dusk."

The boy went out to play with his friends. Suddenly he noticed an old woman at a distance. The old woman was trying to light her stove with dry cow dung cake to cook for her children but there was smoke all around. The boy came forward and offered her his pieces of wood so that she could light fire and cook. The old woman was very pleased. She lit the fire and made some bread and gave one piece of it to the boy.

The boy took the piece of bread and went away. On the way he met a potter's wife. Her child was crying. The boy asked why the child was crying. The potter's wife told him that the child was hungry and she did not have anything to feed her child. The boy felt sorry for the child. He gave the piece of bread to the potter's wife. She was very grateful to the boy and gave him a pot as a token of gratitude.

The boy accepted the pot happily and moved on. After some time he saw a river. He noticed that a washerman and his wife were quarrelling near the river. The boy ran to the washerman and asked, "Why are you quarrelling?" The washerman replied angrily, "She has broken my only pot. Now I have no pot to boil my clothes in." The boy gave him the pot and said, "Take this pot and don't quarrel anymore." The washerman was very happy. He gifted a shawl to the boy.



Soon the boy came to a bridge, where he saw a man shivering with cold. The man described how some robbers had snatched away all his possessions and even his clothes. The boy felt pity for the man and gave him the shawl. The man was so happy that he gave the boy his horse. The boy had never expected that he would have a horse of his own. He mounted the horse and moved on.

After some time the boy met a wedding party. But he was surprised to see the people sitting under a tree sadly. He halted and asked the bridegroom's father, "Why are you so sad on such a special day?" The father replied, "We are ready to go to my son's wedding. But the man who was supposed to arrange the horse hasn't arrived yet. We are getting late and we fear we will miss the auspicious hour of the wedding." The boy immediately offered his horse and said, "Hurry up, you must move fast otherwise you will be in trouble." The bridegroom was so pleased

that he asked the boy what he could do for him in return. The boy replied, "Okay, if you really want to give me something, give me the drum that your musician is carrying." The bridegroom was happy to repay at least something to the boy. He gave the drum to the boy happily and went away hurriedly.

The boy returned home and showed his drum to his mother. He told her proudly how he earned the drum with the help of two mere pieces of wood. Lakshmi was very happy and satisfied. She smiled at him and said, "Remember, God helps those who help others."



Word Notes :

- livelihood : a way of earning money in order to live
 ground : (past form of the verb 'grind') to crush something into very small pieces
 expenditure : an amount of money that is spent on something
 afford : to be able to pay
 potter : a person who makes pots etc., out of clay
 gratitude : a feeling of thanks
 snatch away : to take away something quickly
 possession : having something
 auspicious : showing signs that is likely to be successful in future

Remember the words

livelihood	ground	grains	household	expenditure
afford	amiable	patted	nodded	dusk
cow dung cake	lit	potter	grateful	token
gratitude	washerman	quarrelling	possessions	snatched
bridegroom	pity	mounted	auspicious	hurriedly

For the teacher only

The students are expected to learn the use of determiners (each, every), voice change and the past perfect continuous tense in sentences.

Comprehension :

1. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.
 - a) Where did Lakshmi live ?
 - b) What did Lakshmi do to earn her living ?
 - c) What did her son ask her to bring from the market ?
 - d) What did Lakshmi buy in the market ?
 - e) What did she bring for her son instead of a drum ?
 - f) Why was the potter's child crying ?
 - g) To whom did the boy give the shawl ?
2. Who were quarrelling and why ?
3. Why did the people of the wedding party look sad ?
4. Choose the correct options from the brackets and rewrite the sentences.
 - a) Her parents seemed very *amiable*. (pleasant / rude / serious)
 - b) This book is *necessary* for science students. (unimportant / essential / meaningless)
 - c) Several people *came forward* with information. (to offer one's help / refuse to help)
 - d) He smiled at them with *gratitude*. (showing disrespect / feeling of being grateful)
 - e) Don't sit outside *shivering* in such a weather. (to shake slightly because of cold / remain still)

Grammar and Usage :

A.

Determiners

A determiner is a word that comes before a noun.

Classification of determiners :

1. **Articles** : a, an, the
2. **Demonstratives** : this, these, that, those

3. **Possessives** : your, my, our, his, their, its, her
4. **Quantifiers** : each, every, any, another, little, some, enough, few, much, many
5. **Numbers / Cardinals** : one, two, three, four, five etc.
6. **Ordinals** : first, second, third, fourth etc.

The uses of the Determiners **Each** and **Every**

Each and **Every** are similar in meaning. Both of them are used to denote 'each' and all in the group. But 'every' says about the total group of an indefinite number of persons or things. But 'each' is used only when the number in the group is definite and limited.

Examples :

- i) **Every** girl was present in the meeting.
- ii) **Each** of the boys got a prize.
- iii) **Every** room of the hotel was occupied.
- iv) **Each** of the girls wore a white-coloured frock.
- v) **Every** child should obey their parents.
- vi) **Every** student must wear uniform.

Activity 1

- i) — of the boys has done his work.
- ii) — of the women was rewarded.
- iii) — of the competitors will get a certificate.
- iv) Leap year falls in — fourth year.
- v) — of the students will be given a copy of the book.
- vi) — boy of the area is literate.
- vii) — building of the city is nicely painted.

B.

Voice Change

Voice is the form of the verb which indicates whether the subject does the work or something has been done to it.

For example : 1. Monika writes short stories.

Here, the subject 'Monika' is the doer of the action 'write'. So it is in the 'Active Voice'.

2. Short stories are written by Monika.

Here, the subject and the doer are different. The action 'write' is not done by the subject. In this case the verb is said to be in the 'Passive Voice'.

In the following examples we will find how the voice of **Assertive Sentences** are changed from Active Voice to Passive Voice.

[Out of the 7 basic sentence patterns, the patterns S+V+O, S+V+O+O etc., can be turned into a passive construction.

Example : Active Voice :	I	like	mangoes.	
	S	V	O	
Passive Voice :	Mangoes	are liked	by	me.
	S	V	preposition	O]

Examples :

- i) **Active** : The students are buying some novels.
Passive : Some novels are being bought by the students.
- ii) **Active** : A doctor is examining the patient.
Passive : The patient is being examined by a doctor.
- iii) **Active** : The cricketers are playing cricket in the playground.
Passive : Cricket is being played by the cricketers in the playground.
- iv) **Active** : My uncle was driving a new car.
Passive : A new car was being driven by my uncle.
- v) **Active** : The ladies were singing a sweet song.
Passive : A sweet song was being sung by the ladies.
- vi) **Active** : I am reading the Mahabharata.
Passive : The Mahabharata is being read by me.
- vii) **Active** : Mother is cooking dinner.
Passive : Dinner is being cooked by mother.

- viii) **Active** : The women are weaving *gamosas* for the coming Rongali Bihu.
Passive : *Gamosas* are being woven by the women for the coming Rongali Bihu.
- ix) **Active** : My grandfather is watering the leafy vegetables in the kitchen garden.
Passive : The leafy vegetables in the kitchen garden are being watered by my grandfather.
- x) **Active** : My grandmother has read the Ramayana.
Passive : The Ramayana has been read by my grandmother.
- xi) **Active** : I have eaten the apples just now.
Passive : The apples have been eaten by me just now.
- xii) **Active** : The girl has not written the notice yet.
Passive : The notice has not been written by the girl yet.
- xiii) **Active** : The cat has drunk the glass of milk.
Passive : The glass of milk has been drunk by the cat.
- xiv) **Active** : The workers have dug the well.
Passive : The well has been dug by the workers.
- xv) **Active** : I had not beaten the dog.
Passive : The dog had not been beaten by me.
- xvi) **Active** : My brother knows the answer.
Passive : The answer is known **to** my brother.
- xvii) **Active** : His conduct shocked me.
Passive : I was shocked **at** his conduct.
- xviii) **Active** : His behaviour has not satisfied them.
Passive : They have not been satisfied **with** his behaviour.
- xix) **Active** : His conduct surprised us.
Passive : We were surprised **at** his conduct.
- xx) **Active** : Mrs. Mridusmita Choudhury teaches us English.
Passive : We are taught English by Mrs. Mridusmita Choudhury.
English is taught (to) us by Mrs. Mridusmita Choudhury.

- xxi) **Active** : They made him secretary.
Passive : He was made secretary by them.
- xxii) **Active** : My father sent me a beautiful gift.
Passive : I was sent a beautiful gift by my father.
A beautiful gift was sent (to) me by my father.
- xxiii) **Active** : His behaviour displeased me.
Passive : I was **displeased at** his behaviour.
- xxiv) **Active** : Her behaviour pleased us.
Passive : We were **pleased at** his behaviour.
- xxv) **Active** : The news of his arrival alarmed the students.
Passive : The students were **alarmed at** the news of his arrival.
- xxvi) **Active** : Science interests us.
Passive : We are **interested in** science.

Activity 2

Use the verb 'play', 'write', 'read', 'eat', and 'break' in Active and Passive Voices in different forms of past tense and complete the following table. One has been done for you.

Example :

Play

Tenses	Voice	Indefinite	Continuous	Perfect
Present	Active	I play football.	I am playing football.	I have played football.
	Passive	Football is played by me.	Football is being played by me.	Football has been played by me.
Past	Active	?	?	?
	Passive	?	?	?

Activity 3

Fill in the gaps, using the passive form of the verbs given in the brackets.

Recipe of a cake

Firstly, one cup of powdered sugar and one and a half cup of butter — (mix) in a bowl using an electric whisk. Then two eggs — (beat) thoroughly in a separate bowl and — (add and blend) to the fluffy mixture of sugar and butter. Now one cup of flour, one teaspoonful of baking soda and a pinch of salt — (sift) together. Now this item — (combine) with the previous one gradually along with one and a half cup of milk and — (fold into) with a spatula. For a nice flavour, vanilla essence — (use). A cake tin — (take) and — (grease) with butter. The prepared mixture — (pour) into the tin and — (place) in the oven to bake for twenty minutes. The delicious cake is ready now.

We can write a newspaper report using the passive construction :

Example :

Cleanliness drive in Tihu area

Tihu, 24 April : Tihu Jatiya Bidyalay initiated a cleanliness drive yesterday. The garbage dumps near the school campus were removed by a group of 30 students. Later leaflets were also distributed among people to create awareness. These leaflets were prepared by the social service wing of the school. The teacher in charge was interviewed by the media persons. He said that nowadays dustbins are not used by everybody properly. The garbage is thrown in drains and on the road by some uncivilized persons. Thus the environment is polluted very badly by those.

The local people were benefitted from this programme. The students were helped by the local people and a few local NGOs in this drive. The students of Tihu Jatiya Bidyalay have also promised before the media persons that they would be undertaking such a cleanliness drive on the occasion of the World Environment Day.

Activity 4

Rewrite the following report on a quiz competition in passive construction wherever applicable.

Quiz competition in Gurukul Jatiya Bidyalay

Dhemaji, 15 November : Gurukul Jatiya Bidyalay organized a quiz competition yesterday on the occasion of Children's Day Celebration. A total number of 10 groups from various Jatiya Bidyalayas of Assam took part in the quiz competition. Mr Dinesh Choudhury, a famous quiz master, conducted the quiz programme. He also provided a lot of information to the students. In the preliminary round he selected 6 groups for the final round. Arunodaya Jatiya Bidyalay bagged the first prize, Adarsha Niketan and Vivekananda Vidyapith bagged the second and the third prize respectively.

The Principal of the school Mr Dilip Hazarika gave away the prizes to the winners. At the end of the programme the quiz master Mr Dinesh Choudhury delivered an inspirational speech. He also provided some valuable hints regarding how to prepare for a quiz competition.

C. The Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The past perfect continuous tense is used to report an action or event that had occurred before a certain point in the past, the effects of which are still visible when we refer to past.

Sentence Structure of The Past Perfect Continuous Tense				
Subject	+	had been	+	verb+ing
They		had been		playing
He		had been		working

Now look at the following table :

Person	Singular	Plural
First person	: I had been working	We had been working
Second person	: You had been working	You had been working
Third person	: He/She had been working	They had been working

Examples :

- i) He **had been reading** in a village school before he came to the town.
- ii) The boy **had been doing** nothing before he got this job.

- iii) The children **had been playing** before the sun set.
- iv) The old man **had been suffering** from illness for almost ten years before he died.

Activity 5

Rewrite the following sentences using the past perfect continuous tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

- i) We (wait) for him for two hours and then we left.
- ii) The boys (play) football before it rained heavily.
- iii) Anand (try) to get a job for almost two years before he got one in a company.
- iv) Rini (teach) in a private college before she settled in Delhi with her husband.
- v) Before Sunita left for home, she (work) here for almost 5 hours.

Phrasal Verbs

Come across : I **came across** Rupak on the way to school.

Come of : He **came of** a respectable family.

Come off : Their wedding **came off** last month.

Come round : The patient will **come round** soon.

Idioms

An ivory tower : He is a day dreamer and always lives **in an ivory tower**.

Apple of discord : The property became an **apple of discord** between the two brothers.

Apple of one's eye : Children are the **apples of their mother's eye**.

Writing Activity

Report Writing

Reports may be of a newspaper or a magazine. It should always be provided with a **Heading**. It should be brief, clear, logical and should be written in simple, lucid and graceful language so that common readers can follow it.

Examples :

i) **29 killed as bus skids off Yamuna Expressway in UP**

Agra (UP), 12 November : A two-tiered ‘sleeper bus’ on its way from Lucknow to Delhi skidded off the Yamuna Expressway and plunged about 20 feet into a drain in the early hours of Monday, killing 29 people and injuring 18, officials said.

The accident took place at 4.30 am in Etmadpur, about 200 km from Delhi, when the Uttar Pradesh Roadways bus dashed against the safety railing at high speed and hurtled down into the overflowing drain, they said.

Screams of passengers trapped inside the bus could be heard from the neighbouring areas. As the news of the tragedy spread, people from villages nearby rushed to rescue the survivors, many who were deep in sleep when the accident occurred, eyewitnesses said.

The injured were rushed to different hospitals, including a private health facility, in the district, the officials said.

The operation to pull out the mangled remains of the bus – the roof of which was ripped off when it fell from the bridge – took several hours, with two excavators and a crane being deployed. “One sleeper coach passenger bus travelling from Lucknow to Delhi met with an accident on Yamuna Expressway”, the Uttar Pradesh police said on Twitter.

Word Notes :

- skid off : if a vehicle skids, it slides sideways or forwards while moving, for example when one is trying to stop it suddenly on a wet road
- plunge about : to move or fall suddenly and often a long way forward, down, or into something
- dash against : to hit something in a violent and forceful way
- hurtle down : to move very fast, especially in a way that seems dangerous
- trapped inside : a dangerous or unpleasant situation which you have got into and from which it is difficult or impossible to escape
- survivors : persons who survive, especially persons remaining alive after an event in which others have died
- eyewitness : a person who has seen something happen and can give a first-hand description of it

mangled	: destroyed or severely damaged by tearing or crushing
rip off	: to tear violently or roughly
deploy	: to put something into use

ii) **Guwahati under water after a 12-hour-spell of rain**

Guwahati, 10 August : Incessant rain over the past 12 hours triggered artificial floods in the city on Monday morning, bringing it to a grinding halt. With continuing rain, the flood situation worsened across the state, affecting more than 12,000 people across five districts.

The city's low-lying areas were the first to be hit by the artificial floods. Several roads in the city remained submerged over the course of the entire day, the worst hit were RG Baruah Road, Zoo Road Tiniali, Rajgarh, Bhangagarh, Nabin Nagar, Tarun Nagar, and Chandmari Colony. The power department disconnected the supply of electricity as a precautionary measure.

Every monsoon, the Bharalu river — which flows through the city — breaches its banks and inundates the city. Clogged drains, then, add to the water level.

Word Notes :

incessant	: never stopping, especially in an annoying or unpleasant way
trigger	: to cause something to start
a grinding halt	: a situation in which something gradually stops operating completely
submerged	: something to be under water
precautionary	: carried out as a precaution; preventive
breaches	: make a gap in and break through
inundate	: to flood an area with water
clogged	: blocked with an accumulation of thick, wet matter

Activity

- Write a newspaper report on a bus accident.
- You are the editor of your school magazine. Write a report on the celebration of the 'Children's Day' at your school for the magazine.



Build Up Your Vocabulary

Collocation

Daily Assam.Com

1. This is a **big decision** to make.
2. I have a **big surprise** for you.
3. It is a **big mistake** that I took you for your brother.
4. It is **great fun** for the children to play in the park.
5. Dancing has been a source of **great enjoyment** to her.
6. Her eyes shone with **great happiness**.
7. He takes **great joy** in making kites.
8. The **large** majority of the **population** of the city is Assamese.
9. He has read a **large number** of stories by Ruskin Bond.
10. He lay down and fell into a **deep sleep**.
11. After a **deep thought**, he finally answered.
12. She could not go out because of **heavy rain**.
13. We were late because there was **heavy traffic**.
14. When we visited Tawang we saw **heavy snow**.
15. The **strong wind** indicates that a storm is coming.
16. I have **strong feelings** for my brother.
