

# 1. The Gift of the Magi

## Worksheet 1

### COMPREHENSION

Difficulty is experienced at Christmas and New Year and at other times in bestowing gifts; since it is always so pleasant to be generous, though very vexatious to pay debts. But the impediment lies in the choosing. If, at any time, it comes into my head that a present is due from me to somebody, I am puzzled what to give, until the opportunity is gone. Flowers and fruits are always fit presents...

For common gifts, necessity makes pertinences and beauty every day, and one is glad when an imperative leaves him no option, since if the man at the door has no shoes you have not to consider whether you could procure him a paint box. And it is always pleasing to see a man eat bread, or drink water, in the house or out of doors, so it is a great satisfaction to supply these first wants. ...Next to things of necessity, the rule for a gift is that we might convey to some person that which properly belonged to his character, and was easily associated with him in thought... Rings and other jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Therefore, the poet brings his poem; the shepherd, his lamb; the farmer, corn; the miner, a gem; the sailor, coral and shells; the painter, his picture; the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing. This is right and pleasing.... But it is a cold, lifeless business when you go to the shops to buy me something, which does not represent your life and talent, but a goldsmith's.

[From 'Gifts' by R.W. Emerson]

#### **A. Read the above passage and answer the following questions.**

1. What is the impediment in giving gifts?
2. What are always fit presents?
3. Why does the author say that you do not have to give a paint box to the man at the door?
4. Which are the 'first wants' that the author speaks of?
5. What is the rule for a gift, according to the author?
6. What is the best and only gift?

#### **B. Fill in the blanks using words from the passage.**

1. It is always so \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_, though very \_\_\_\_\_ to pay \_\_\_\_\_.
2. For common gifts, necessity makes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
3. It is a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ business when you go to the shops to buy me a \_\_\_\_\_.

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# Worksheet 2

## GRAMMAR

### A. Change the sentences as mentioned in the brackets.

1. This is your book. (Change into interrogative)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Shut the door. (Change into request)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Has Mr Sharma gone out? (Change into statement)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. They have won the match. (Change into exclamatory)

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Add suitable questions to the following sentences.

1. You gave the book to Meeta, \_\_\_\_\_?

2. This pen costs ₹25, \_\_\_\_\_?

3. Nalini has gone to the doctor, \_\_\_\_\_?

4. The train will be an hour late, \_\_\_\_\_?

5. They have decided to put up a play, \_\_\_\_\_?

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# Worksheet 3

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

### A. Add prefixes from the Help Box to complete the following words.

under pre auto semi mis post

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. (a) _____ script | (b) _____ pone      |
| 2. (a) _____ fix    | (b) _____ dict      |
| 3. (a) _____ colon  | (b) _____ circle    |
| 4. (a) _____ graph  | (b) _____ biography |
| 5. (a) _____ take   | (b) _____ lead      |
| 6. (a) _____ go     | (b) _____ ground    |

### B. Make sentences using the following words.

1. anticipate : \_\_\_\_\_
2. contradict : \_\_\_\_\_
3. nimble : \_\_\_\_\_
4. prevent : \_\_\_\_\_
5. fountain : \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Write five sentences on giving a gift to your best friend.

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