

4. A Dialogue with Bill Gates

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

The Sardhana Church was built at the expense of the Begum Samru by an Italian architect. Upon her husband's death, she had become a devout Catholic... Her life, until she reached old age, was a succession of love affairs, intrigue and petty warfare. It was never a dull life. She had certain admirable qualities. As a young girl, she was beautiful; in her middle age, rather plump. She was a courageous woman, and rode into battle at the head of her troops, something which few women have done before or since. But we must begin at the beginning, and in the beginning was Sombre, alias Samru, alias, Walter Reinhardt.

Sombre's real name was Walter Reinhardt, but due to a dusky complexion, he acquired the nickname Sombre, which in Hindustani was soon corrupted to Samru. He was perhaps the most notorious of foreign adventurers, and this notoriety was acquired when he was in the service of the Nawab of Bengal, Kassim Ali, who, warring with the English, had attacked and captured a large number of English residents at Patna, and ordered them to be executed.... Sombre, wishing to ingratiate himself with his new employer, agreed to carry out the execution.....

Sombre left Kassim Ali's service before an avenging British army could catch up with him, and by the end of his subsequent career, he had served twelve to fourteen masters. He finally tendered his services to Shah Alam, the Emperor of Delhi, who agreed to pay him ₹65,000 for his services and those of his two battalions. He remained in the service of the Delhi Court and was assigned a rich jaghir, or estate, at Sardhana, a district forty miles north of the capital, where he built and fortified his headquarters and settled down. He had adopted native dress. At Sardhana, he fell in love with a beautiful woman, who became Sombre's Begum. He died at Agra on the 4th of May 1778, aged fifty-eight years; infamous, unloved even by his own followers, but successful to the end... Begum Samru later became very rich and philanthropic.

– 'The Lady of Sardhana' by Ruskin Bond

A Answer the following questions.

1. What was the real name of Begum Samru's husband?

2. Why was he called Sombre?

3. Why did Sombre leave Kassim Ali's service?

4. Where did Sombre settle down?

5. Where and when did Sombre die?

B Fill in the blanks with words from the passage.

1. Upon her husband's death, Begum Samru became a _____ Catholic.
2. He was perhaps the most _____ of foreign adventurers.
3. Sombre wished to _____ himself with Kassim Ali.
4. Sombre left Kassim Ali's service before an _____ British army could catch up with him.
5. Begum Samru later became very rich and _____.

GRAMMAR

A State the type of pronouns underlined in the following sentences.

1. Which is the office of the Director? _____
2. I have asked Mr Pandit for the book. _____
3. He himself spoke to me. _____
4. All the pencils are hers. _____
5. That is Hari's car. _____
6. They helped themselves to the cakes. _____
7. Is she the lady to whom the purse belongs? _____
8. I found the gloves that I had misplaced. _____

B Fill in the blanks with the correct pronouns from the brackets.

1. Mr Bale had carried the bag _____. [yours/himself/which]
2. _____ has been crying in the neighbourhood. [someone/myself/his]
3. Please find the pen _____ belongs to Papa. [who/whom/that]
4. The basket is kept in _____ kitchen. [mine/herself/her]
5. Is this _____ dog? [I/ourselves/your]
6. Give _____ child some sweets. [he/mine/each]

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Match the words in Column A with their work description in Column B.

Column A

1. Lawyer
2. Doctor
3. Baker
4. Ophthalmologist
5. Pilot
6. Anchor
7. Journalist
8. Plumber
9. Soldier
10. Biographer

Column B

- (a) A person who bakes bread, etc.
- (b) A person who conducts a programme
- (c) A person who writes reports for newspapers, etc.
- (d) A person who works on water supply fittings
- (e) A person who has studied law
- (f) A person who writes about someone's life
- (g) A person who is a member of an army
- (h) A person who flies an aircraft
- (i) A person who treats patients' eyes
- (j) A person who treats people for ill-health

B Make two sentences with the following words to show two different meanings for each word.

1. Blow: _____

2. Stroke: _____

3. Trunk: _____

4. Train: _____

C Give the antonyms of the following words.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. Famous | _____ | 2. Fame | _____ |
| 3. Remember | _____ | 4. Silence | _____ |
| 5. Wisdom | _____ | 6. Clean | _____ |