

5. A Dialogue with Bill Gates

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

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 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 name so 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 fourth 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.

(From: *The Lady of Sardhana*, by Ruskin Bond)

A. Read the above passage and 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 taking from the passage.

1. Upon her husband's death, she became a _____ Catholic.
2. He was perhaps the most _____ of foreign adventures.
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 _____.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Circle the right verb that agrees with the subject.

1. The man and his brother (fights/fought) in the war.
2. English (are/is) one of her optional subjects.
3. We (understands/understand) Miss Grace's reasons very well.
4. Ramlal's shop (am/is) at the corner of the street.
5. The crows (makes/make) a terrible amount of noise.

B. State if the verbs underlined below are transitive or intransitive. If they are transitive, circle the direct object.

1. Animals sense the approach of an earthquake much more quickly than humans.
2. The chickens flapped around in circles.
3. Grandmother heard a noise, like the approach of a train.
4. I put my hand on the railing.
5. Reema wrote a poem for the morning assembly.

C. Underline the non-finites in the sentences below and state if they are infinitives, gerunds or participles.

1. Megan has learnt to swim now.
2. Giving is greater than receiving.
3. The puppy sneezed sniffing at the flowers.
4. He fell asleep, having eaten a large meal.

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

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

| Column A | Column B |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Lawyer | (a) A person who bakes bread, etc. |
| 2. Doctor | (b) A person who conducts a programme. |
| 3. Baker | (c) A person who writes reports for newspapers, etc. |
| 4. Ophthalmologist | (d) A person who works on water supply fittings. |
| 5. Pilot | (e) A person who has studied laws. |
| 6. Anchor | (f) A person who writes about someone's life. |
| 7. Journalist | (g) A person who is a member of an army. |
| 8. Plumber | (h) A person who flies an aircraft. |
| 9. Soldier | (i) A doctor who treats the patients' eyes. |
| 10. Biographer | (j) A person who treats people for ill-health. |

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

- blow _____

- stroke _____

- trunk _____

- train _____

C. Give the antonyms of the following words.

- famous _____
- fame _____
- remember _____
- silence _____
- wisdom _____