

7. A Tryst with Destiny

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

We must insist that free oratory is only the beginning of free speech; it is not the end, but a means to an end. The end is to find the truth. It is only when freedom of opinion becomes the compulsion to debate that the seed which our forefathers planted has produced its fruit. When that is understood, freedom will be cherished, not because it is a vent for our opinions, but because it is the surest method of correcting them.

This is the virtue of liberty, and the ground on which we may best justify our belief in it, that it tolerates error in order to serve the truth. When more men are brought face-to-face with their opponents, forced to listen and learn and mend their ideas, they cease to be children and savages and begin to live like civilised men. Then, only freedom is a reality, when men may voice their opinions because they must examine their opinions.

The only reason for dwelling on all this is that if we have to preserve democracy, we must understand its principles. And, the principle, which distinguishes it from all other forms of government is that in a democracy, the opposition not only is tolerated as constitutional but must be maintained because it is in fact indispensable.

The democratic system cannot be operated without effective opposition. In making the great experiment of governing people by consent rather than by coercion, it is not sufficient that the party in power should have a majority. It is just as necessary that the party in power should never outrage the minority. That means that it must listen to the minority and be moved by the criticisms of the minority.

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

1. What is the end of free speech?
2. Freedom will be cherished because:
 - (a) it is a vent for our opinions.
 - (b) it is the surest method of correcting our opinions.
3. What is the virtue of liberty?
4. When do men cease to be children and savages and begin to live like civilised men?
5. What distinguishes democracy from all other forms of government?

B. Based on the passage, fill in the blanks to complete the following sentences.

1. Freedom is a reality when men may _____ their _____.
2. To preserve _____, we must understand its _____.
3. People must be governed by _____ rather than by _____.
4. The party in power should _____ to the _____ and be moved by its _____.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Add the verbs in the correct tense form to complete the following sentences.

1. She _____ a song they had heard years ago. [sing – Past Continuous]
2. Mr James _____ the work on the fence. [complete – Present Perfect]
3. I _____ to Ambala tomorrow. [go – Simple Future]
4. Seema _____ since three o'clock. [work – Present Continuous]
5. Lalit _____ me to call you urgently. [ask – Simple Past]
6. The lions in the zoo _____ a special meal. [eat – Past Perfect]
7. We _____ a speech by a special guest today. [hear-going to form-Future Continuous]

B. Change the tense of each verb as indicated below.

1. See — Future Continuous
2. Play — Present Continuous
3. Light — Simple Past
4. Speak — Past Perfect
5. Go — Present Perfect
6. Stay — Future Continuous
7. Give — Past Perfect
8. Look — Present Continuous

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Write a letter to the Principal of your school asking for leave for one day as you have to go to see a dentist.

B. Use the phrases given in the Help Box to complete the sentences.

turn up held up worked out carried away pulled up

1. He was _____ by his temper.
2. I was _____ by the traffic.
3. Sarita was _____ by the teacher for untidy work.
4. Smita has said she would come but failed to _____.
5. Mohan _____ the answer to the problem quickly.

C. Make sentences with the following words.

1. compulsion _____
2. vent _____
3. savages _____
4. principles _____
5. outrage _____