

8. A New Beginning

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and sisters had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them. Somehow when he had taken a little run forward to the brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings, he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down—miles down.... He ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night.... His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him, he could not move.

That was twenty-four hours ago. Since then nobody had come near him.... The sun was now ascending the sky, blazing warmly on his ledge that faced the south.... Now, there was not a single scrap of food left.... And between him and his parents, there was a deep, wide chasm....

.... Only his mother was looking at him. She was standing on a little high hump on the plateau.... Now and again, she tore at a piece of fish that lay at her feet, and then scraped each side of her beak on the rock. The sight of the food maddened him....

.... He waited a moment in surprise, wondering why she did not come nearer, and then, maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish. With a loud scream, he fell outwards and downwards into space. His mother had swooped upwards. As he passed beneath her, he heard the swish of her wings. Then, a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. He could here nothing. But it only lasted a moment. The next moment, he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach and against his wings. He could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then, he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards....

.... And around him, his family was screaming and praising him, and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish.

He had made his first flight.

[From: His First Flight by Liam O' Flaherty]

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

1. What made the young seagull afraid?
2. How were his parents attempting to make him fly?
3. What was left to eat after twenty-four hours?
4. How did his mother provoke him to fly?
5. What was his feeling when he first took a flight?

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words mentioned in the Help Box.

monstrous training maddened skim heart flying
dive flap brink still chasm deep ledge wide

1. He ran to the _____ of the _____ and attempted to _____ the wings.
2. His parents flew about his brothers and sisters, _____, them in the art of _____, teaching them how to _____ the waves and _____ for fish.
3. Between him and his parents, there was a _____, _____, _____.
4. The sight of food _____ him.
5. A _____ fear seized him and his _____ stood _____ with terror.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Fill in the following blanks with suitable adverbs and write their kinds.

Tomorrow partly late quickly somewhere frantically almost daily

1. There is a man signalling _____ from the car window. _____
2. The lights turned _____ from green to red. _____
3. Do you go to the yoga class _____? _____
4. The boys have done this work _____. _____
5. There's a cookery book lying _____. _____
6. _____ this train will come to platform number nine. _____
7. I'll come as I've _____ finished my work. _____
8. Please don't be _____ for the concert. _____

B. Use an adverb to replace the words underlined and place it correctly.

1. Mrs Goody tried to put out the fire in an ineffectual way.
2. The news report was about the death of a boy in an accident which was a tragedy.
3. Mr. Mehra, can we meet at an early time about the problem?
4. July is a month when it rains in a very heavy manner in the hills.
5. My sister goes for her yoga classes every single day.
6. Do you visit your grandparents once every year?

C. Write the degrees of comparison of the adverbs given below.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
1. fast	_____	_____
2. slowly	_____	_____
3. hard	_____	_____
4. easily	_____	_____

D. Add suitable prepositions to complete the following sentences.

1. He had the expression _____ an angel.
2. My cat fought _____ all the dogs _____ the neighbourhood.
3. The neighbour was stuck _____ the tool-shed _____ over two hours _____ a cold night.
4. The angry woman brought a dead bird _____ my inspection.
5. I was summoned _____ the policeman _____ the station.

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Use a dictionary to find out what the following people do.

1. Surgeon_____
2. Architect_____
3. Journalist_____
4. Lawyer_____
5. Pilot_____

B. Write a paragraph of 10 - 12 sentences about how you learnt a sport or a game (e.g., cycling, swimming, tennis, basketball, karate, etc.)

C. Match the following compound words.

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|---------|------------|
| 1. fire | (a) made |
| 2. pick | (b) throw |
| 3. hand | (c) set |
| 4. out | (d) pocket |
| 5. over | (e) escape |