

A MAN'S TRUE SON

There was a great **feast** being held in the house of a certain gentleman. It was his birthday, and many of his relations had come from far and near to **greet** him and bring him gifts. He **entertained** his guests. It was his duty to look - after them well. In the evening he gave a great feast, and the gifts which the guests brought were placed in the centre of the hall so that all might see them.

When the feast was over and the guests had gone away, the man went towards the place where the gifts were, and began to put them away carefully. As he did so, he suddenly **caught sight** of the shadow of a man's head on the floor of the hall. He knew that there must be someone hiding in the roof, and realized that there was a thief up there. He called his servant and said, "All the guests have not yet been fed. Bring back the dishes."

The servant did as he was told. He brought back several dishes, and waited for his master to tell him to serve them. But the man told him to leave them and go, as he wished to be alone. Then he looked up at the man who was hiding in the roof and said, "It is good of you to come to my house on my birthday, I thought that all the guests had left. But you have not been yet served. Please come and share this humble meal with me. The thief was very much afraid as he climbed down from his hiding place, but he was surprised to find himself treated as all the other guests. His host served him with great courtesy and when he rose to leave, the old man gave him a gift and a bag of coins, and himself took him to the gate of the courtyard.

Several years later, the old gentleman's birthday feast was again being held. Many guests came and brought him gifts, and as he was greatly loved, some of the gifts were beautiful. Towards the end of the evening a stranger came bringing a small box for the old man. He refused to tell his name but asked if he could see the old man himself.

When the old man opened the box, he found inside it a precious pearl, worth a **great-deal** of money. He told his servant to bring the stranger immediately.

The stranger entered. As he approached the old gentleman, he bowed low. He knew that his host was unable to recognise him because his sight was dim. So he went nearer and said **quietly**. "I am the one whom you helped greatly many years ago. It was very kind of you to feed me when I came to your house uninvited." The old man replied, "It is a great joy to hear that I was able to do some good to you. It is my duty to look after you. I want you to have dinner with me but in order to invite you I must first know your name."

The man who had brought the **priceless** gift replied, "Sir, once before, on another occasion like this, you invited a guest without knowing his name. That guest was hiding in your roof and wishing you ill, yet you treated him with honour and courtesy. Could you not invite him today as you did then?"

The old gentleman remembered how he had found the thief hiding in his roof, and the stranger explained how the kindness shown to him on that occasion had changed his life. Since that day he had given up his evil ways and tried to earn his living by honest work. As years went by, he became very rich. But that did not make him arrogant. It was his duty, he felt, to show to others the same kindness that had been shown to him by the gentleman.

The old gentleman was deeply touched by the story, and when all the other guests had left, he turned to the stranger and said to him, "You see, I have many sons and grandsons. But none of them seems so dear to me this night as you. Through a little kindness which I did to you so many years ago, other acts of kindness have been born, and now there is no limit to the number of sons and grandsons and great grandsons of that one small deed of mine. I am **grateful** to you because you have been the means of passing on that kindness. You are indeed a true son to me. And it was very good of you to come to me and tell me your story."

H.M. Lambert
(Adapted)

About the Text:

A MAN'S TRUE SON is a touching story about an old gentleman who treated

a thief generously instead of giving him any punishment. The gentleman's kindness touched the heart and mind of the thief who became a reformed person and gave a surprise gift to the gentleman.

GLOSSARY

feast (n)	:	a grand treat, banquet
greet (n)	:	welcome
entertained (n)	:	served, took care of
caught sight of (idiom)	:	saw
a great deal of (idiom)	:	a big quantity
quietly (adv)	:	in a low voice
priceless (adj)	:	very costly
grateful (adj)	:	thankful

ACTIVITY - 1 : COMPREHENSION

A. Tick the correct alternatives :

- The gentleman gave a great feast in
(a) morning (b) noon
(c) evening (d) night
- The thief was hiding in
(a) the hall (b) the roof
(c) the room (d) the toilet
- The gentleman found inside the box
(a) a diamond (b) a pearl
(c) a gold ring (d) a neckless
- The thief was treated with
(a) rudeness (b) kindness
(c) cruelty (d) abuses

B. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Write T for true and F for false :

- The gentleman was quite young.

2. The feast was arranged on the gentleman's birthday.
3. The thief was abused and insulted.
4. The thief was treated as a guest.
5. A gold ring was found inside the box.
6. The gentleman immediately recognised the stranger.
7. The servant did not obey the gentleman.
8. The gentleman's eye sight was weak.

C. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each :

1. What was the occasion of feast in the house of the gentleman ?
2. Who were the guests in the feast ?
3. Why were the gifts placed in the centre of the hall ?
4. What strange thing did the gentleman notice after the feast was over ?
5. Why did the gentleman order his servant to bring back the dishes ?
6. What was in the box brought by the stranger on the gentleman's birthday?
7. Why was the gentleman unable to recognise the stranger ?
8. Who was the stranger ?
9. What did the gentleman give to the thief?

D. Answer the following questions in about 60 words each :

1. How did the gentleman recognise the stranger ?
2. How did the kindness of the gentleman influence the life of the thief?
3. What did the gentleman say to the stranger at the end of the story ?
4. "Through a little kindness which I did to you so many years ago, other acts of kindness have been born" Explain with reference to the story A Man's True Son.
5. Explain the title of the story 'A Man's True Son'.

ACTIVITY 2 : VOCABULARY

A. Match the words in column A with the words of their meanings in column

B and also use them in your own sentences :

Example : humble = simple

Please come and share this humble meal with me.

1. greet : in a slow voice
2. arrogant : costly
3. quietly : bow in respect
4. touched : generous behaviour
5. precious : full of pride
6. courtesy : emotionally influenced

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate choice from the words given below :

catch sight of , a great deal of , pass on , put away , look up , look after , give up

1. It is our duty to _____ our parents in their old age.
2. Courtesy is great attribute that should _____ to posterity.
3. People often _____ a rainbow during rainy season.
4. It is good to _____ smoking.
5. The demonetisation of currency will reveal _____ black money.
6. We had to _____ at the sky to view the lunar eclipse
7. The gentleman began to _____ the gifts carefully

ACTIVITY -3 : GRAMMAR

NOUN CLAUSES

Noun clauses are groups of words, having subjects and predicates of their own, serving the same functions as nouns. They are introduced by adding the introductory words 'that', 'whether', 'what' etc.

Noun clauses with 'that':

1. The match will start at 4 p.m. (independent sentence)
That the match will start at 4 p.m. _____ (The use of 'that' has made the sentence dependent. It will be complete when a finite verb is added.)
2. *That the match will start at 4 p.m.* is sure. (The part of the sentence 'that the match will start' is a noun clause doing the work of a noun, functioning as a subject to the verb 'is'.)

Types of Noun Clauses

Noun clauses as parts of **statements** are introduced by the conjunction ‘that’. They may appear at different parts of sentences, functioning as different grammatical units, as specified below :

A. 1. Subject of verb :

Noun clauses formulated with the introductory ‘that’ are used as subjects in the sentences having finite verbs like ‘establish’, ‘prove’, ‘show’ and the linking verb ‘be’ :

- (i) *That the sun rises in the east* is a well known fact.
- (ii) *That smoking causes health disorders* has been established by science.
- (iii) *That the man is guilty* has been proved in the court.
- (iv) *That the train will be late* has been shown in the display chart.
- (v) *That the monsoon will be late* is sure

It is notable that the use of ‘that’ clauses as subjects, as shown above, is more suitable in writing than in speech.

2. Direct object of verb :

- (i) We believe *that the train will arrive on time*.
- (ii) We know *that the sun rises in the East*.
- (iii) We must accept the fact *that the pole star appears in the North*.
- (iv) We cannot disagree with the *fact that terrorism is a global issue*.
- (v) I admit *that the Indian economy is improving fast*.

It is to be observed that in above sentences the noun clauses introduced by ‘that’ are objects to the verbs whose subjects denote human being (I/We). But when verbs like ‘prove’, ‘reveal’, ‘indicate’, ‘show’ occur, ‘that’ clauses function as objects even when the subjects of these verbs are non-humans.

- (vi) The survey shows *that too much use of mobile phones is harmful*.
- (viii) Everything indicates *that prices of land property will come down*.

3. Subject complement :

Noun clauses may be used as complements to subjects :

- (i) The fact is *that the sun rises in the East*.

- (ii) The factory workers say *that their lives are in danger*.

4. Complement of Adjective :

‘That’ clauses after adjectives are labelled as complements of adjectives; but the use of such adjectives is limited. The popular adjectives in such sentence structures are ‘sure’, ‘certain’, ‘confident’, ‘hopeful’ etc.

- (i) I am hopeful *that he will give up bad habits*.
(ii) We are confident *that India will win the match*.
(iii) I am sure *that demonetisation will curb black money*.

B. Noun clauses are introduced by ‘whether’ in the sentences indirectly containing Yes/No type of questions:

- (i) It does not trouble me (statement)
(ii) Will she sing or not ? (Yes/No type question)
(iii) *Whether she will sing or not* does not trouble me (i and ii are combined by the noun clause introduced by ‘whether’)

Such clauses are used as pointed out below :

1. Subject of verb :

- (i) *Whether he accepts the invitation or not* is uncertain.
(ii) *Whether she says yes or no for marriage* depends on herself.
(iii) *Whether we shall succeed or not* is unpredictable.

2. Object of verb :

- (i) I don’t know *whether / if the offices are open on Saturday*.
(ii) We don’t know *whether / if she is ill*.
(iii) I don’t know *if she is ill or not*.

Note - ‘If’ is frequently used in place of ‘whether’ in noun clauses functioning as objects in the subject position of this noun clause, the use of ‘if’ is avoided.

Before an infinitive only ‘whether’ is used; the use of ‘if’ is avoided :

- (iv) They have yet to decide whether to travel by air or train.

C. Noun clauses may be constructed by using question words as ‘who’,

‘why’,

‘what’, ‘where’, ‘whose’ or ‘how’:

- (i) *Where he lives* is not known to me. (subject of verb)
- (ii) I don’t know *where he lives*. (object of verb)
- (iii) *How they do it* is not known to me. (subject of verb)
- (iv) I don’t know *how they do it*. (object of verb)
- (v) I am ignorant of *what you say*. (object of preposition after adjective)

D. Noun Clauses with imperatives :

Most commonly used verbs to construct imperatives are : request, order, advise, demand, suggest, propose, recommend, urge, etc. Noun clauses in this category of constructions are introduced by ‘that’. They function as objects in the sentences:

- (i) People demanded *that the terrorist should be punished*.
- (ii) The economists suggested *that GST bill should be passed in Parliament*.
- (iii) The court ordered *that the traitor should be executed*.

EXERCISE

Frame noun clauses by joining the following sentences :

Example : The sun rises in the East. It is a well known fact.

 That the sun rises in the East is a well known fact.

- 1. Mr. Donald Trump will visit India. It has been reported in newspapers.
- 2. Prices of gold will come down. It has been declared by economists.
- 3. Tobacco causes cancer. It is a proved fact.
- 4. The use of carrots improves eyesight. It has been approved by doctors.
- 5. The wheat production will go up. It is doubtful.
- 6. A huge amount of black money has been detected. It is a claim of Income Tax Department.
- 7. The Government plans to open more schools in rural areas. It has been announced by the education department.

8. More funds will be allocated for civil aviation. It has been declared in Parliament.
9. India was a prosperous nation. It is a historical fact.
10. The Ramayana is a holy book. This fact is known to every Indian.

ACTIVITY-4: SPEECH ACTIVITY

Group discussion : Divide the class into two groups, the group A and the group B. The group A represents hosts and B represents guests in a feast. Now call one student from the group A and one from the group B and ask them to hold a dialogue between the host and guest.

The Host : You are welcome, sir.

The Guest : Thank you dear.

Complete the dialogue.

ACTIVITY-5: COMPOSITION

1. Write a paragraph in 150 words on how you saved a drowning person.
2. Write a paragraph in about 75 words on how you tackled a thief in the street of your colony.