

LITERARY TERMS



1. Verse

Compositions written in metre (fixed arrangement of accented and unaccented syllables) are known as verse.

2. Fiction

Fiction is any narrative which is feigned rather than factual. In most present day discussions, however, the term 'fiction' is applied primarily to the novel and the short story, and is sometimes used simply as a synonym for the novel.

3. Metaphor

A Metaphor is a phrase which describes one thing by stating another thing with which it can be compared without using the words 'as' or 'like'. Some examples of metaphors;

“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.”

–*William Shakespeare*

“Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.” –*William Wordsworth*

‘Miles to go’ is a metaphor for continuing journey of life, and ‘sleep’ is a metaphor of death.

Calling a person a “night owl” or an “early bird” or saying “life is a journey” are common conventional metaphors.

4. Simile

Simile (pronounced sim–uh–lee) is a popular literary term that uses “like” or “as” to compare two things. A simile is different from a simple comparison in that it usually compares two different things. As “She looks like you” is a comparison but not a Simile. On the other hand, “She smiles like the sun” is a Simile, as it compares a woman with the sun. Similes describe subjects in unique and thought-provoking ways by finding similarities in typically different things.

For example, consider the description of a thin woman:

1. *She’s as thin as a rail!*
2. *My love for you is as deep as the sea.*

5. Alliteration

The word alliteration comes from the Latin word *latira*, meaning “letters of the alphabet.” Alliteration is the repetition of a certain sound at the beginning of successive words or phrases. It is used to create rhythm through repetition and to evoke emotion through connotations attached to certain sounds.

Here are a few examples of alliteration: the alliteration that repeats the ‘s’ and ‘l’ sounds:

1. Sally sells seashells by the seashore.
2. Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers.
3. Bret brought bundles of bread to the bakery.

6. Onomatopoeia

Sometimes the sound of words gives great support to the sense. The phrase “cool moonlight” with its long vowels and two l-sounds certainly sounds very restful. “This tendency in words to echo meaning by the actual sound is called onomatopoeia.” (Marjorie Boulton) It is found in an almost pure form in many of the words describing sounds, such as *buzz, fizz, crash, bang, thump, miaow, quack, giggle, sizzle, hiss, sneeze, thud and snort*. In other words, it refers to sound, sense device. It is used to create artistic effect.

7. Drama

Drama is a form of literature intended to be performed before an audience in a theatre or on radio and television. It has a plot, characters, dialogues, an atmosphere and an outlook on life. Its full qualities are only revealed in presentation on the stage.

8. Lyric

The term lyric was originally derived from the Greek word ‘lyrikos’ meaning a poem to be sung to the lyre. It now includes any poem that is short, simple, and subjective, and expresses a single thought.

9. Essay

The term *essay* refers to a discussion in prose of a certain topic. An essay may be classified as formal or informal, depending on its subject and style. The formal essay is characterized by qualities of dignity, serious purpose and logical organization.

In the informal essays the author assumes a tone of intimacy, such as Bacon’s periodical essays, and the essays of Addison and Lamb. Among the qualities that mark an essay as informal are: humour, graceful style, a personal element, unconventionality or novelty of theme, and freedom from stiffness and affectation.

Reading Comprehension

Comprehension of an unseen passage means a complete and thorough understanding of the passage. The main object of comprehension is to test one's ability to grasp the meaning. Reading comprehension enables students to improve their interpretation skills and enrich their vocabulary. A variety of questions like short answer type questions, completion of incomplete sentences, filling the blanks with appropriate words and exercises based on vocabulary are set forth for the purpose.

One should keep the following points in mind while answering the questions of a given passage:

1. Read the passage quickly to have some general idea of the subject matter.
2. Read the passage again and underline the important points.
3. Read the questions and try to know what has been asked.
4. Read the passage again and underline the portions where the probable answers may be available.
5. Use, as far as possible, your own words to answer the questions in a precise way.
6. Always use complete sentences while answering a question.
7. If you are asked to give the meaning of some words or phrases, try to express your idea in your own words as clearly as possible.
8. Don't give your own opinions or comments about anything unless you are asked to do so.

Passage 1

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Ashoka was a great emperor. He thought that the duty of a great king was to protect the people and safeguard their rights. He gave protection to the public and made arrangement for justice. He instructed his officials to behave properly with the public. He engraved the message of justice and non-violence on pillars and installed them at different places. Some of the pillars still tell us about his greatness. He opened hospitals for the infirm and the old where good treatment was given to the patients. He also opened hospitals for animals. He was really great as he advocated pity and mercy for all living creatures.

I. Tick the correct alternative:

1. Ashoka engraved pillars for:
 - (a) becoming great and famous
 - (b) establishing his supremacy
 - (c) spreading the message of justice and non-violence
 - (d) getting praise from public

2. Find words from the passage which mean the same as:
 - (i) Advised
 - (ii) Weak
3. What did Ashoka think about the duty of a king?
4. What message did he engrave on pillars?
5. What did he do for the old and the infirm?
6. Where did he install the engraved pillars?
7. 'He was really great.....' How?

Passage 2

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Discipline teaches us self-control, self-restrain and respect for laws. It produces a sense of duty. There is discipline in heavenly bodies, stars and planets. The ordered growth and decay (death) show that there is discipline everywhere in nature. The school and colleges cannot run without discipline. Discipline makes us civilized. We learn to respect the views and rights of others. Games and sports make the players disciplined. Discipline stands for law and order. A well-disciplined person always does his work (duty) honestly. If there is no discipline in society, people shall do as they please and that may be harmful for the society. Where there is no discipline, there is disorder. Without order and discipline there can be no peace in the society. Discipline keeps us within limits.

I. Tick the correct alternative:

1. Discipline teaches us -
 - (a) self-control
 - (b) self-restrain
 - (b) respect for laws
 - (d) All of the above
2. Discipline stands for -
 - (a) law and order
 - (c) order and power
 - (b) law and power
 - (d) power
3. What shows that there is discipline everywhere in nature?
4. What does a well-disciplined person always do?
5. What will happen if there is no discipline in the society?
6. How can there be peace in the society?

Passage 3

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

There is a story of a man who thought he had a right to do what he liked. One day, this gentleman was walking along a busy road, spinning his walking-stick round and round in his hand, and was trying to look important. A man walking behind him objected.

“You ought not to spin your walking-stick round and round like that!” he said.

“I am free to do what I like with my walking-stick,” argued the gentleman.

‘Of course you are,’ said the other man, “but you ought to know that your freedom ends where my nose begins.”

The story tells us that we can enjoy our rights and our freedom only if they do not interfere with other people’s rights and freedom.

I. Tick the correct alternative:

1. The gentleman was walking along a-

- (a) lonely road (b) busy road
(c) narrow road (d) dusty road

2. The man who protested was a-

- (a) teacher (b) passer-by
(c) policeman (d) farmer

3. Why was the gentleman on the road moving his walking stick round and round?

4. Who objected him?

5. What argument did the gentleman give?

6. What did he say in reply?

7. What does the story tell us?

Writing Skills

1. Letter – Formal and Informal Reading

- A. Read the different types of letters given below and answer the following questions –

Jain Book Distributors 6, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur		Tel: 0141-28375290 Fax: 0141-28375291
Telefax Transmission		
To: Oxford Books Ltd.		Date: 10 Nov, 2015
Re: Order for Rajasthan and Haryana		Pages: 3 inclg
FAO: Mr Ranjit Sahney		
Dear Mr Sahney		
Thank you very much for sending us all the titles in our order No. RJP12531. I am faxing the completed form for commerce and Management titles that should reach us by month end latest. I am going to post the order this afternoon so you should receive it later this week. I look forward to hearing from you soon.		
Yours sincerely Ramesh Gupta		

- B.

Fri, 05:30 PM
Mohit called. Staying at Mount Point, room 342, Tel: 0141-2274034. Call her back.
Bhuvnesh

C.

Date: Thurs, 11 Jan, 2016 17:19:19 +05:30
From: Mohit Agrawal (mohitag11994@gmail.com)
Subject: Hope to see you soon.

X – Originating – IP: [203.122.14.133]
X – Sender: arunasharma99@rediffmail.com
To: Aruna Sharma (arunasharma99@rediffmail.com)

Aruna

I am in town till Sunday morning. I rang and left a message but wasn't sure you would get it. I'm staying at Hotel point, room 342, Tel: 0141-2274034. Can we have dinner Fri or Sat night? Have meetings and conferences through the day. My new cell no. is 09834251734. We could eat at the hotel but would not mind getting out for a while. Get in touch asap so that I may plan ahead.

Let's Meet!

Mohit

D.

Tarun Prakash
21/2, Vivek Vihar
Ajmer
12 Nov, 2015

The Principal
Maharaja Agrasen College
University of Delhi
Mayur Vihar, Delhi – 110006
Dear Sir/Madam,

This is in response to the advertisement in the Times of India dt. 5 Nov, 2015 for a teacher's position in History.

I completed my B.Ed from regional College, Ajmer, MDS University in 2014. I have also worked as a part-time teacher in Shivaji School for around six months.

I shall be grateful if you could consider my application for the post of teacher in history in your school.

Yours faithfully
Tarun Prakash

- (i) Which of the four letters given above is
- a note?
 - an email?
 - a covering letter for an application?
 - a covering letter for a fax?

(ii) Which of these are formal and which are informal?

Now, here are the rules about writing letters:

- There are three parts to every letter – the superscription, the body and the subscription.
- The superscription comprises the name and address of the place from where it is written, and the complimentary address of the person to whom it is written.
- The body contains the main information to be conveyed.
- The subscription is devoted to the closing address, the name of the writer, etc.

When we begin a letter with Dear Sir or Dear Madam or Dear Sir/Madam we end it with Yours faithfully or Yours truly. When we begin a letter with Dear Mr/Ms+Surname/Family name we end it with Yours sincerely. When writing on business to a person you know well, you can begin with Dear + First name and end with Best Wishes or Warm Regards and Yours sincerely.

- iii. The letters you have just read use a number of abbreviations. Find the abbreviations that mean the following:
- Regarding
 - For the attention of
 - As soon as possible
 - Enclosure
 - Dated
 - Telephone

Now write short letters on the following –

- Congratulate a Cousin who has found himself a job.
- Thank a friend for a birthday present.
- Write a letter of condolence to the mother of a school friend who died in an accident.
- Thank a teacher who specially helped you prepare for an examination.
- Write a letter to the editor of a prestigious national daily, stating the problem of noise pollution.

- vi. Write an application to your class teacher requesting him to grant you three days leave.

2. Writing Dialogues

Read the following two Dialogues. The first dialogue occurs in a formal situation while the second one is an informal one.

- 1) Dr. Preetam Singh and Dr. Salil Mohammed meet for the first time at the workplace of a common friend, Mr Vinod Bhandari.

Mr. Bhandari: Dr. Singh I would like to introduce you to Dr. Sahil Mohammed. Mr. Mohammed is our company Secretary. Mr. Mohammed, please meet Mr. Vinod Bhandari. Mr. Bhandari is an educational advisor with the UNICEF.
Dr. Singh: How'd you do, Mr. Mohammed? I'm happy to (shaking hands) meet you.
Mr. Mohammed: Thank You, Dr. Singh. This is indeed a pleasure.

- 2) Aishwarya introduces her sister Alka to to her classmate Rohit.

Aishwarya: Rohit, this is my sister, Alka. She's an editor with the Indian Express. Alka, meet Rohit. He's my classmate and captain of the school basketball team.

Rohit: Hi, Alka! Nice meeting you.

Alka: Hello, Rohit. It's nice meeting you too.

Note that the language depends on the relationship-formal or informal-among the speakers.

3) Writing Speech

- i) Prepare a speech on 'Work is worship'.

The most honoured Principal Sir, Respected Teachers and Dear Friends

No one can dispute that work is worship; only those who work attain the highest stairs of success in life. Every one of us knows that one could become great because he or she worked hard. Our Scriptures across religions advocate the saying. In the Gita "Lord Krishna says to Arjun" Karmanayavadhikarste ma faleshu kadachan." The persons who believe simply in rituals and prefer to abstain from their work, God does not forgive them and they fail to attain success in their life.

ii) Prepare a Debate on ‘Success leads to Arrogance’

Hon’ble Judges, Respected Teachers and my Dear Friends, the debate’s topic is ‘Success leads to arrogance’ and I would like to speak in favour of the motion. Dear friends, you must have read the biography of several people such as Napoleon, Hitler, Mussoline etc. What made them arrogant and brought about their untimely downfall?

My opponents would agree with me that mild success keeps a person humble and polite whereas a succession of success leads one to haughtiness. Aren’t we aware of the fact that one amongst us on his brilliant success in examination refuses to recognize and accord us respect? I would like to conclude by saying that great success snatches from a person the bare essentials of a human being and turns him into a devil.

Now prepare a debate draft-against the motions.

4) Story Writing

Prepare a story on the basis of the hints given below –

He is my Brother

Once a mason asked a girl The girl replied and she went After a few seconds she the mason stared at the little girl and asked how could..... and the girl said that he was her brother.

Note the following points –

- Usually past form of tense is used in writing a story.
- A story must have a convincing beginning.
- A story must avoid an abrupt ending.
- A story is usually based in our cultural ethos.
- The title of the story is a sufficient guide to develop the details

Ask your teacher to give you more outlines for practical exercise.