

Working with the Text

Answer the following questions.

Question 1: What was the author's opinion about Mr. Gessler as a bootmaker?

Answer: The author was very impressed with Mr Gessler. He liked the boots made only on order and those boots perfectly fitted the customers. Their boots had the best materials and lasted long. He found the work mysterious and wonderful.

Question 2: Why did the author visit the shop so infrequently?

Answer: The boots made by Mr. Gessler lasted terribly lasts longer than the usual like having something beyond temporary. Therefore, the author visits the shop so infrequently.

Question 3: What was the effect on Mr Gessler of the author's remark about a certain pair of boots?

Answer: When the author remarked that a certain pair of boots he had got earlier creaked, Mr Gessler looked at him for a time without replying, as if expecting him to withdraw or qualify the statement. Then, he said that the shoes should not have creaked. He then asked the author to send the boots back, and if he could do nothing of them, he would take them off his bill.

Question 4: What was Mr Gessler's complaint against "big firms"?

Answer: Mr. Gessler's complaint against "big firms" that they didn't have self-respect. They got their business by advertisement not by work. Every year, the sale of Mr. Gessler is getting less because of them and soon he will have left with no job.

Question 5: Why did the author order so many pairs of boots? Did he really need them?

Answer: The author got shocked and Filled with sorrow when he knew about the death of Mr. Gessler's elder brother. In order to help him, he ordered so many pairs of boots. No, he didn't really need them.

Working with Language

I. Study the following phrases and their meanings. Use them appropriately to complete the sentences that follow.

look into: investigate look out: be careful look up: improve look up to: admire
(i) After a very long spell of heat, the weather is at last.
(ii) We have no right to people who do small jobs.
(iii) Nitin has always his uncle, who is a self-made man.
(iv) The police are the matter thoroughly.
(v) If you want to go out, I will the children for you.
(vi) I promise to on your brother when I visit Lucknow next.
(vi) when you are crossing the main road.
Answer: (i) After a very long spell of heat, the weather is looking up at last.

(ii) We have no right to **look down** people who do small jobs.

look after: take care of

look down on: disapprove or regard as inferior

- (iii) Nitin has always **looked up** his uncle, who is a self-made man.
- (iv) The police are **looking into** the matter thoroughly.
- (v) If you want to go out, I will **look after** the children for you.
- (vi) I promise to **look in** on your brother when I visit Lucknow next.
- (vi) **Look out** when you are crossing the main road.

Question 3: Each of the following words contains the sound 'sh' (as in *sh*ine) in the beginning or in the middle or at the end. First speak out all the words clearly. Then arrange the words in three groups in the table

sheep	trash		marsh	fashion
anxious	shriek		shore	fish
portion	ashes		sure	nation
shoe	pushin	g	polish	moustache
Initial		Medial		Final

Answer:

Initial	Medial	Final
Sheep	Fashion	Trash
Shriek	Anxious	Marsh
Shore	Ashes	Fish
Sure	Nation	Polish

Shoe	Pushing	
	Moustache	

Question 4: In each of the following words 'ch' represents the same consonant sound as in 'chair'. The words on the left have this sound initially. Those on the right have it finally. Speak each word clearly.

choose	bench
child	march
cheese	peach
chair	wretch
charming	research

Underline the letters representing this sound in each of the following words.

- (i) feature (iv) reaching (vii) riches
- (ii) archery (v) nature (viii) batch
- (iii) picture (vi) matches (ix) church

Answer:

- (i) feature (iv) reaching (vii) riches
- (ii) archery (v) nature (viii) batch
- (iii) picture (vi) matches (ix) church

Speaking

Question 1: Do you think Mr Gessler was a failure as a bootmaker or as a competitive businessman?

Answer: Mr Gessler was successful as a bootmaker because his customers were immensely satisfied with the boot he made. This perfectly fit them and lasted long. Yes, he was a failure as a competitive businessman. He didn't have money like the big firms so couldn't invest on advertisements. He lost his business to them. He took time in delivering the boots because he made them alone. He lost his customers because of the delay in delivery. He worked hard, striving for long hours. Whatever, he earned went on paying the rent for his shop and for buying leathers. He spent days of great penury.

Question 2: What is the significance of the title? To who or to what does it refer?

Answer: The title "Quality" refers to the great quality of boots made by Mr Gessler. He was proficient at it. He would not let others even touch the boots until it gets ready. He was a true perfectionist who believed in quality. He was losing business but still never compromised on the quality of the boots he made.

Quality is not much a concern for the big firms. They rely on their advertisements for lurking customers.

Question 3:

- Notice the way Mr Gessler speaks English. His English is influenced by his mother tongue. He speaks English with an accent.
- When Mr Gessler speaks, p, t, k, sound like b,d,g. Can you say these words as Mr Gessler would say them? It comes and never stops. Does it bother me? Not at all. Ask my brother, please.

Answer: Mr Gessler used to speak English with a German accent. His English sounded funny and a bit difficult to understand.

Mr Gessler would have spoken these lines as. Id comes and never sdobs. Does Id bodder me? Nod ad all. Ask my brodher blease.

Question 4: Speak to five adults in your neighbourhood. Ask them the following questions (in any language they are comfortable in). Then come back and share your findings with the class.

(i) Do they buy their provisions packed in plastic packets at a big store, or loose, from a smaller store near their house?

- (ii) Where do they buy their footwear? Do they buy branded footwear, or footwear made locally? What reasons do they have for their preference?
- (iii) Do they buy ready-made clothes, or buy cloth and get their clothes stitched by a tailor? Which do they think is better?

Answer: (i) They buy their provisions packed loose from a smaller store near their house.

- (ii) They buy footwear made locally. They prefer the local ones because the branded ones are too expensive and they don't like to spend too much on regular footwear.
- (iii) They buy both- the ready-made as well as the ones that are stitched by a tailor. If they want any customized stitch, then they prefer the one that is stitched by tailor.

Question 5: Look at the picture below.

Let pairs of students talk to each other about leaving the country. One student repeats Ajit's statements. The other gives a reason for not agreeing with Ajit. The sentence openings given below should be used.

- If I leave this country, I'll miss
- There are some things which you can get only here, for example
- There are some special days I'll miss, particularly
- Most of all I'll miss because
- I think it's impossible for me to leave my country because
- How can you leave your own country except when?
- Depends on one's intention. I can't leave for good because
- Maybe for a couple of years

Answer:

Ajit: I have decided to go abroad for higher studies. Anisa: Have you? I don't think I'll ever do that. I love my country. If I leave this country, I'll miss my friends and family. I will also miss the food. There are some things which you can get only here, for example the food, snacks and the care and concern of people around. There are some special days I'll miss, particularly the festivals, birthdays and my parents anniversary. Most of all I'll miss my sister because we have been very close to each other and I share all my secrets with her. 'I think it's impossible for me to

leave my country because I love my country and family too much and can't go too far from them. How can you leave your own country except when there is an emergency? Depends on one's intention. I can't leave for good because I want to celebrate all my special moments with my close ones. May be for a couple of years I think it should be fine.

Writing

Question I: Based on the following points write a story.

- Your aunt has gone to her mother's house.
- Your uncle does his cooking.
- He is absent-minded.
- He puts vegetables on stove.
 He begins to clean his bicycle outside.
- The neighbour calls out saying something is burning.
- Your uncle rushes to the kitchen.
- To save vegetables, he puts some oil in them.
- Unfortunately, it's machine oil, not cooking oil.
- What do you think happens to the vegetables?

Answer: Last month my aunt decided to visit her parents. They live in some other city. In absence of my aunt my uncle had to do all the cooking. He is very forgetful and absent-minded. One day he puts vegetable on stove for cooking and at the same time he goes out to clean his bicycle.

My uncle got involved in cleaning his bicycle so much that he completely forgot about the vegetables he had kept on the stove. One of his neighbour came to his place hurriedly telling about some burning smell coming from his kitchen. My uncle remembered about the vegetables he had kept on stove for cooking.

He rushed to the kitchen and to save them from getting burnt he poured some oil over them immediately. Only at the time of eating he realised it was not cooking oil but machine oil. The vegetables were completely spoiled, my uncle had to throw them away.

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