

Chapter 3: The Merchant of Venice

EXERCISE [PAGES 73 - 74]

Exercise | Q 1. (a) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

The merchant ships brought spices and other treasures from India and other countries to Italy.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

The merchant ships brought spices and other treasures from India and other countries to Italy. - **True**

Exercise | Q 1. (b) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Antonio had gone on a long voyage.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Antonio had gone on a long voyage. - **False**

Exercise | Q 1. (c) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Bassanio was very rich.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Bassanio was very rich. - **False**

Exercise | Q 1. (d) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false

Portia had many brothers and sisters.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Portia had many brothers and sisters. - **False**

Exercise | Q 1. (e) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Portia's suitors chose the gold and silver caskets.



1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Portia's suitors chose the gold and silver caskets. - **True**

Exercise | Q 1. (f) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Bassanio borrowed money from Shylock in Antonio's name.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Bassanio borrowed money from Shylock in Antonio's name. - **True**

Exercise | Q 1. (g) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Shylock was not at all generous.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Shylock was not at all generous. - **True**

Exercise | Q 1. (h) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Shylock demanded a pound of Antonio's flesh.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Shylock demanded a pound of Antonio's flesh. - **True**

Exercise | Q 1. (i) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Portia saved Antonio in the court of law.

1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Portia saved Antonio in the court of law. - **True**

Exercise | Q 1. (j) | Page 73

Say whether the following statement is true or false.

Antonio's ships were lost at sea.



1. True
2. False

SOLUTION

Antonio's ships were lost at sea. - **True**

Exercise | Q 2 | Page 74

Write a few lines about each character.

SOLUTION

1. **Antonio:** He is the merchant of Venice referred to in the title of the story. He was very rich and had many ships that he sent and sold merchandise to other countries. He was a kind man, who had many friends. He lent his friend Bassanio money to travel to Belmont so that he may get a chance to marry a beautiful lady named Portia. Antonio had no money at that time. So he borrowed money from a moneylender named Shylock. Antonio even signed a bond saying that if he did not repay the money on time, Shylock could cut off a pound of his flesh.
2. **Bassanio:** Bassanio was a young handsome nobleman, who didn't have any money. He wanted to marry a beautiful lady named Portia. Bassanio and Antonio were very good friends.
3. **Shylock:** Shylock was a miserly moneylender. He was very rich but only cared for money. He hated Antonio because Antonio sometimes lent money to people without charging interest. He lent money to Antonio on the condition that if he did not pay it back on time, he (Shylock) could cut off a pound of Antonio's flesh.
4. **Portia:** Portia was a beautiful young lady from Belmont. She was very rich and very intelligent. She appeared in disguise as a male lawyer to fight Antonio's case in court. She saved Antonio very smartly.
5. **The Duke:** The Duke liked Antonio and was sorry for him but he had to go by the law. He had to make Antonio fulfill the condition of his bond to Shylock. Still, he asked Shylock to show mercy to Antonio.

Exercise | Q 3. (1) | Page 74

Write the following in short:

The story of the three caskets.

SOLUTION

Partia's father had set a test for his daughter's suitors. They had to choose between three caskets - one of gold, one of silver and one of lead. Each casket had something



written on it. On the gold casket it was written, 'Whoever chooses me shall gain what men desire'; on the silver casket, 'Whoever chooses me shall get as much as he deserves'; on the casket of lead, 'Whoever chooses me must give and hazard all he has'. Inside the gold casket was the message, "All that glitters is not gold". The lead casket was the right casket.

Exercise | Q 3. (2) | Page 73

Write the following in short:

What the young lawyer pleaded.

SOLUTION

The young lawyer requested Shylock to show mercy, though the law was on Shylock's side. The lawyer pleaded that mercy is a quality of God himself. When a person shows mercy to someone else, they are both blessed. Mercy was more valuable than a king's crown. When the lawyer saw that Shylock would not change his mind, the lawyer told Shylock to cut off a pound of Antonio's flesh. But the lawyer warned that while cutting, Shylock should not shed even a drop of Antonio's blood. Also, he should cut exactly one pound of flesh - nothing less, nothing more.

Exercise | Q 3. (3) | Page 74

Write the following in short:

The events at the court.

SOLUTION

First, the Duke asked Shylock to show mercy towards Antonio. Shylock was not ready to do so. Then a young lawyer entered the court to fight Antonio's case. The lawyer appealed to Shylock's sense of mercy. Shylock refused to give in. Then the lawyer told Shylock to go ahead and cut off a pound of Antonio's flesh, but without shedding a drop of blood. Also, he should cut exactly one pound of flesh - nothing less, nothing more. Shylock realized that he could not do what the young lawyer asked him to do and accepted defeat. Thus Antonio was saved.

Exercise | Q 4 | Page 74

Write the conditions that Portia put down to warn Shylock.

SOLUTION

The conditions that Portia put down to warn Shylock were:

- i. When cutting off Antonio's flesh, Shylock should not shed even one drop of Antonio's blood.
- ii. Shylock should cut exactly one pound of Antonio's flesh - nothing less, nothing more



Exercise | Q 5 | Page 74

Find four words ending with ‘-ous’ from the story.

Can you add three more words ending with ‘-ous’ to this list?

SOLUTION

Words from the passage	More words
prosperous, adventurous, dangerous, generous	famous, industrious, curious. (lustrous, furious, ambiguous)

Exercise | Q 6 | Page 74

Read the following words. Write the words that are combined to make these words.

- faraway
- nobleman
- whoever
- moneylender
- sometimes

SOLUTION

- faraway - far + away
- nobleman - noble + man
- whoever - who + ever
- moneylender - money + lender
- sometimes - some + times

Exercise | Q 7 | Page 74

Read the following chains of words :

- fortune - fortunate - fortunately - unfortunately
- know - knowing - knowingly - unknowingly
- amaze - amazing - amazingly
- possible - impossible – impossibly

SOLUTION

Students can do it by themselves.

Exercise | Q 8 | Page 74

Add proper prefixes to the following words to make new words.

- kind
- intelligent

- advantage
- happy
- allow
- safe

SOLUTION

- kind x unkind
- intelligent x unintelligent
- advantage x disadvantage
- happy x unhappy
- allow x disallow
- safe x unsafe.

Exercise | Q 9 | Page 74

Find at least three sentences in the story which have modal verbs.

SOLUTION

- Shylock should not shed even one drop of Antonio's blood.
- But what could he do?
- He should cut exactly one pound of flesh.
- Shylock realised that he could not do what the young man asked him.

Exercise | Q 10 | Page 74

Visit a library:

Read other tales from Shakespeare, for example, Julius Caesar, As You Like It, Macbeth, and The Tempest.

SOLUTION

Students do it by yourself.

Exercise | Q 11. (a) | Page 74

Hold a mock trial for the following offences. There should be a complainant, a defendant, and lawyers to argue the case on behalf of them.

The whole class can vote to pass the judgment. On what occasions will you plead for justice? What punishment will you suggest? When will you plead for mercy?

A very poor and honest servant has broken a vase while cleaning it. The vase was valuable and the employer liked it very much.

SOLUTION

Complainant - employer; Defendant - servant; Judgement (suggestion) - mercy.

Exercise | Q 11. (b) | Page 74



Hold a mock trial for any one of the following offences.

There should be a complainant, a defendant, and lawyers to argue the case on behalf of them.

The whole class can vote to pass the judgment. On what occasions will you plead for justice? What punishment will you suggest?

When will you plead for mercy?

A poor man stole some ornaments from a rich girl.

SOLUTION

Complainant - rich girl; Defendant - poor man; Judgement (suggestion) - mercy/justice

Exercise | Q 11. (c) | Page 74

Hold a mock trial for any one of the following offences.

There should be a complainant, a defendant, and lawyers to argue the case on behalf of them.

The whole class can vote to pass the judgment. On what occasions will you plead for justice? What punishment will you suggest? When will you plead for mercy?

A young man was injured in a road accident due to another man's careless driving.

SOLUTION

Complainant - the injured man; Defendant - careless driver; Judgement (suggestion) - justice - punishment - loss of licence, pay compensation, etc.

