

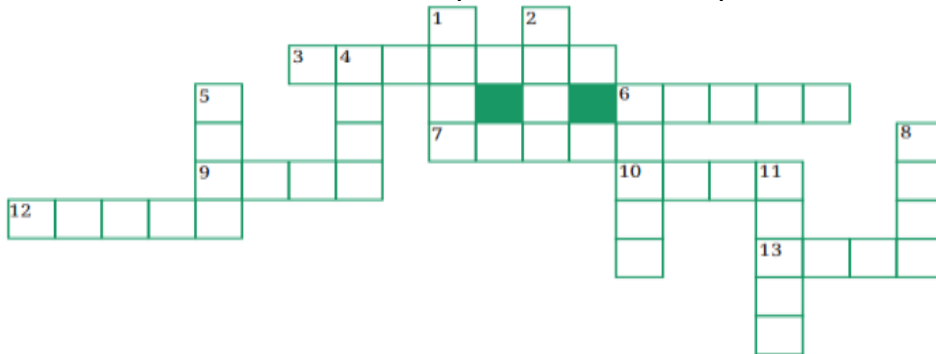
# NCERT Solutions Class 8 English (Poorvi)

## Unit 3: Chapter 7 The Case of the Fifth Word

Let us do these activities before we read. (Page 101)

**I. Work in pairs. Solve the crossword puzzle given below with the clues in the form of anagrams.**

Note: An anagram is a word or phrase that is made by rearranging the letters in a different order to make a new word or phrase. For example, 'Neat' is an anagram of 'a net'.



**Across:** 3. Declare

6. Tucks

7. Heart

9. Felt

10. Sown

12. Sword

13. Evil

**Down:** 1. Aces

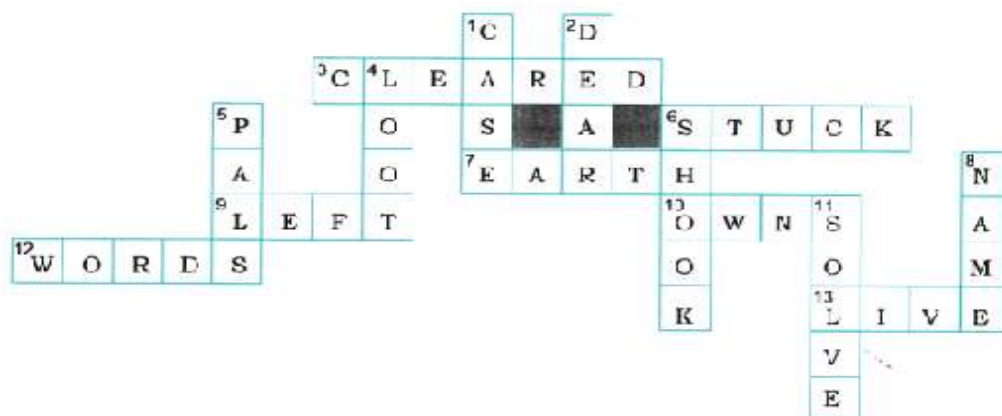
2. Read

4. Tool

5. Alps

6. Hooks

**Answer:**



**II. Work in pairs. Match the different meanings of 'case' in Column 2 with the correct usage in the sentences in Column 1. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.**

Column 1	Column 2
1. Lalit said that he could not sing but that was not the case as he sang melodiously later.	(i) writing format
2. The lawyer was waiting for the case to be taken up in court.	(ii) container
3. My pencil case is a gift from my grandmother.	(iii) situation
4. The subject of a formal letter is written in title case.	(iv) matter

**Answer:**

Column 1	Column 2
1. Lalit said that he could not sing but that was not the case as he sang melodiously later.	(iv) matter
2. The lawyer was waiting for the case to be taken up in court.	(iii) situation

3. My pencil case is a gift from my grandmother.	(ii) container
4. The subject of a formal letter is written in title case.	(i) writing format

### Let us Discuss (Page 104)

**I. Complete the following statements with suitable reasons. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.**

1. Leroy's nickname was Encyclopedia and everyone called him by that name because \_\_\_\_\_
2. At the dinner table on Tuesday night, Chief Brown stared at his cream-of-mushroom soup as \_\_\_\_\_
3. Encyclopedia sat quietly at the dinner table because \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nolan put the will on the kitchen table because \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** 1. he had read many books and never forgot a fact, making him as knowledgeable as an encyclopedia.  
 2. he was deep in thought, puzzled by the strange four-word message found in Nolan's notebook and trying to solve the mystery.  
 3. he sensed that something serious was troubling his father and was waiting to be invited into the conversation.  
 4. he wanted to ensure that Davenport received the secret message hidden in the four words, which revealed the location of the stolen jewelry.

**II. Do you think Chief Brown would need Leroy's help to solve this case? If yes, why? If no, why not?**

**Answer:** Yes, Chief Brown would need Leroy's help to solve this case because the coded message was cleverly disguised and difficult to understand using conventional reasoning. While both Chief Brown and Mrs. Brown were intelligent adults, they couldn't decode the meaning behind the four random-seeming words. Leroy, with his sharp mind and habit of thinking outside the box, was able to figure out the trick involving the fifth word on dictionary pages, which led to solving the mystery. His unique way of connecting clues made him essential to cracking the case.

**Let us discuss. (Page 107 – 108)**

**Read the difference between fact and opinion on Page 107 of NCERT Textbook**  
**Identify which of the following statements from part I and II of the story are facts or opinions. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.**

1. Encyclopedia's father was the Chief of Police. – Fact
2. Everyone thought that Chief Brown must be the smartest police chief in the country.
3. An encyclopedia is a book or set of books filled with facts from A to Z.
4. Leroy's friends said that he was like a library and computer rolled into one, and more user-friendly.
5. Two masked men held up the Diamond Mart on Sixth Avenue.
6. Nolan and Davenport had met while both were in prison in South Carolina.
7. Chief Brown's hunch was that Davenport and Nolan decided to hide the loot until things cooled down.
8. Nolan wrote a four words code to tell Davenport where he had hidden the stolen jewellery.

**Answer:** 1. Fact

2. Opinion
3. Fact
4. Opinion
5. Fact
6. Fact
7. Fact
8. Fact

**II. Complete the table by choosing the character traits of Leroy given in the box below.**  
**There is an extra word that you do not need. One example has been done for you.**

cleverness      knowledgeable      keen  
listener      gentle      humble

Textual Evidences	Traits
1. He read more books than anyone in Idaville, and he never forgot a fact.	knowledgeable



2. Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father.  He didn't want to seem different from other boys.	
3. Encyclopedia sat quietly. He knew his mother and father were discussing the case for his benefit.	
4. Usually, he needed to ask only one question to solve a case before dessert.	

**Answer:**

Textual Evidences	Traits
1. He read more books than anyone in Idaville, and he never forgot a fact.	1. Knowledgeable
2. Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father.  He didn't want to seem different from other boys.	2. Humble
3. Encyclopedia sat quietly. He knew his mother and father were discussing the case for his benefit.	3. Keen listener

4. Usually, he needed to ask only one question to solve a case before dessert.

4. Cleverness

### Let us think and reflect (Pages 108-110)

#### I. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. Chief Brown would have liked to tell everyone about his only child. But who would believe him? Who would believe that the best detective alive was an eighth grader? So, he said nothing.

Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father. He didn't want to seem different from other boys. But there was nothing he could do about his nickname. He was stuck with it.

Only his parents and teachers called him by his real name, Leroy. Everyone else called him Encyclopedia.

#### (i) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.

**Chief Brown's dilemma can be called unique because \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** he knew his son was the best detective around, but no one would believe that a young boy could solve serious cases better than trained adults.

#### (ii) What can be inferred about why Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father?

- A. He is shy and lacks confidence in his abilities to share his insights.
- B. He wants to avoid the jealousy others might feel about his skills.
- C. He desires to blend with the other boys to prevent seeming different.
- D. He is embarrassed about being smarter than most adults around him.

**Answer:** C. He desires to blend with the other boys to prevent seeming different.

#### (iii) The parents choose not to call their son 'Encyclopedia'. Select the reason that is false.

- A. For them he is more than his unique abilities; he is their child, with a personal identity.
- B. Calling him by his real name reflects their affection and the desire to acknowledge him as an ordinary boy.
- C. They want him to be remembered as different from the others around.

**Answer:** C. They want him to be remembered as different from the others around.



**(iv) What does the writer mean by the fact that Leroy was 'stuck with' the name Encyclopedia?**

**Answer:** It means that although Leroy didn't choose the nickname or necessarily like it, everyone around him used it so often that he had no choice but to accept it.

**2. Chief Brown studied the four words: Nom Utes Sweden Hurts. He shook his head and passed the notebook to Mrs. Brown again. "Can you figure it out?"**

"Nom is a shortening of nominative, a grammatical term," stated Mrs. Brown, who had taught English and other subjects in high school. "Utes is an American Indian tribe. Sweden is a country in northern Europe. Hurts is hurts. "

She lifted her gaze to Encyclopedia and shook her head.

"I can't figure it out," she confessed.

"Davenport disappeared right after the hold-up, " Encyclopedia reminded her.

**(i) What does Chief Brown's reaction of shaking his head suggest about his understanding of the four words?**

- A. He is confident that the words are a clue.
- B. He is confused, unable to make sense of the words.
- C. He believes the words are random and meaningless.
- D. He thinks the words are unrelated to the case.

**Answer:** B. He is confused, unable to make sense of the words.

**(ii) Identify whether the given statement is true or false.**

**Mrs. Brown explained the actual meanings of the individual words rather than decoding the hidden message behind them.**

**Answer:** True

**(iii) What does Mrs. Brown's inability to decode the words suggest about the message?**

**Answer:** It suggests that the message is cleverly disguised and not easily interpreted using the literal meanings of the words. It requires lateral thinking or a deeper understanding of the context.

**(iv) Complete the following sentence suitably.**

**The purpose of Encyclopedia's reminder in the last line of the extract was to (refocus the discussion on the context of the crime/suggest that the coded message was meant for Davenport/imply that the message was likely a clue about the location of the stolen jewellery)**

**Answer:** imply that the message was likely a clue about the location of the stolen jewellery.

## II. Answer the following questions.

**Question 1. Nolan and Davenport were very close. Support this statement with evidence from the text.**

**Answer:** Nolan and Davenport were described as having met while in prison and becoming close during that time. After their release, they worked together on a jewelry heist. Nolan trusted Davenport enough to leave him a secret four-word coded message about the location of the hidden loot, showing a high level of trust and closeness.

**Question 2. Why did Davenport disappear right after the jewellery hold-up? What might his plans have been if Nolan had not died?**

**Answer:** Davenport disappeared to avoid being caught and to lay low while the police were actively investigating the robbery. If Nolan had not died, Davenport likely planned to meet him later, use the coded message to retrieve the stolen jewelry, and then split the loot once the search had died down.

**Question 3. What does Mrs. Brown's interest in the case tell us about her?**

**Answer:** Mrs. Brown's interest shows that she is . intelligent, curious, and enjoys intellectual challenges. Her background as a teacher of English and other subjects indicates she is analytical and observant. Although she couldn't solve the puzzle, her willingness to engage in the case shows she values logic and deductive thinking, and supports her family's interest in solving crimes.

**Question 4. Explain why Chief Brown was proud of his son.**

**Answer:** Chief Brown was proud of Encyclopedia because of his extraordinary intelligence, keen observation, and logical reasoning skills. Despite being just an eighth grader, Encyclopedia was often able to crack tough cases that stumped experienced adults. His humility and quiet support in helping his father also earned his father's deep respect and admiration.

**Question 5. Why were Chief Brown's suspicions regarding Nolan and Davenport justified, even when there was a lack of concrete proof?**

**Answer:** Chief Brown's suspicions were based on solid circumstantial evidence. Nolan and Davenport's criminal history, their sudden disappearance after the robbery, and the cryptic note found in Nolan's notebook all pointed toward their involvement. Even without direct proof, these clues made his hunch reasonable and logical.

**Question 6. Analyse the role of the four-word coded message in the story.**

**Answer:** The four-word coded message—"Nomutes Sweden Hurts"—was the central puzzle of the mystery. It appeared meaningless at first, but Encyclopedia's clever analysis revealed that the fifth word on the corresponding page in the dictionary for each word gave the hidden message: "Under steps," the clue to where the stolen jewelry was hidden. The code added a layer of complexity to the mystery and showcased Encyclopedia's deductive brilliance.





**Question 7. Write a character sketch on Leroy with the help of the character traits table given in 'Let us discuss' section.**

**You may begin it like this:**

**Encyclopedia was a knowledgeable eighth grader who never forgot a fact that he read.**

**Answer:** Encyclopedia was a knowledgeable eighth grader who never forgot a fact that he read. He was extremely observant and had a logical mind, which made him an excellent young detective. Despite his extraordinary intelligence, he was modest and didn't like to brag about the help he gave his father in solving police cases. He preferred to stay grounded and blend in with other boys his age. Known by the nickname "Encyclopedia" because of his vast knowledge, he approached problems with calm reasoning and was always able to spot clues that others overlooked. His quiet confidence, humility, and sharp mind made him not only a great detective but also a likable and dependable character.

**Let us learn (Pages 111-117)**

- 1. Match the phrasal verbs from the text given in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2.**  
**2. You may refer to a dictionary.**

Column 1	Column 2
1. put on	A. appeared, been discovered
2. cooled down	B. solve a problem
3. turned up	C. became normal or calmed
4. make of	D. wear (clothes, hat, etc.)
5. figure out	E. escaped without being punished



6. got away with	F. have an idea or under-standing of something
------------------	--

**Answer:**

Column 1	Column 2
1. put on	D. wear (clothes, hat, etc.)
2. cooled down	C. became normal or calmed
3. turned up	A. appeared, been discovered
4. make of	F. have an idea or under-standing of something
5. figure out	B. solve a problem
6. got away with	E. escaped without being punished

**Now, fill in the blanks with the phrasal verbs given in Column 1.**

- A. Finally, some important evidence about the case has \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. After I \_\_\_\_\_, I understood that I had made a big mistake.
- C. I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ why he was angry with me.
- D. He \_\_\_\_\_ his special coat and went to his friend's birthday party.
- E. Ravi forgets to do his homework but he \_\_\_\_\_ it as teacher didn't ask for it that day.
- F. I do not know what to \_\_\_\_\_ his behaviour.



- Answer:** A. turned up  
B. cooled down  
C. figure out  
D. put on  
E. got away with  
F. make of

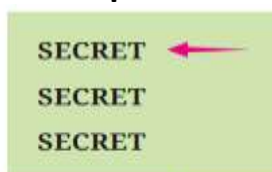
**II. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences by choosing the correct word pairs from the box given below.**

week/weak      dying/dyeing      fore/four  
peace/piece      break/brake

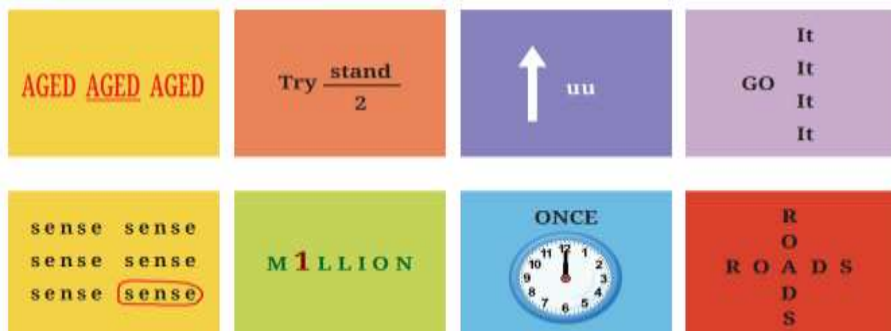
1. After running for 50 kilometres last \_\_\_\_\_, I felt \_\_\_\_\_ for two days.
2. When the committee met yesterday, they brought \_\_\_\_\_ local cases to the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. While learning to drive, Rina used too much force on the \_\_\_\_\_, causing the car to \_\_\_\_\_ down.
4. He has composed a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ of music in order to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to thousands of people.
5. She was busy \_\_\_\_\_ her hair not caring about the \_\_\_\_\_ flowers in her garden.

- Answer:** A. turned up  
B. cooled down  
C. figure out  
D. put on  
E. got away with  
F. make of

**III. Leroy solved the mystery of the missing fifth word with his critical thinking abilities. Work in pairs to solve the puzzles given in the illustrations below and infer what they say. One example has been done for you.**



Answer: Top secret



**Answer:** Middle-aged, Try to understand, Up to you, Go for it, Sixth sense, One in a million, Once upon a time, Crossroads

**IV. Spoonerism is a mistake made when speaking, where the first sounds of the words in a phrase or a sentence are exchanged with each other.**

This usually gives a funny meaning.

Some examples of spoonerism are saying 'wrong load' instead of 'long road', 'round of mice' instead of 'mound of rice'.



**Find the correct order for the following spoonerisms.**

1. knowing sits
2. it's roaring with pain.
3. plaster man
4. blarm wanket
5. tars and crucks
6. shake a tower
7. bead a rook
8. mardon me padam

**Answer:** 1, Snowing kits

2. It's pouring with rain
3. Master plan
4. Warm blanket
5. Cars and trucks
6. Take a shower
7. Read a book
8. Pardon me, madam

**V. Read the following sentences from the text and study the highlighted words.**

1. Everyone thought that he must be the smartest police chief in the country.
2. She read what he had copied.
3. They tell where the jewellery is hidden.
4. "Nom is a shortening of nominative, a grammatical term," stated Mrs. Brown, who had taught English and other subjects in high school.

5. "Nolan and Davenport had met," Chief Brown said, "while both were in prison in South Carolina."
6. When he came up against a case he couldn't solve, he acted at once.
7. The code is simple, especially as it's written on a sheet from a calendar.
8. They became friendly because of shared interests.
9. Encyclopedia solved the case for him before dinner was over.

**Now, fill in the blanks with the words in the box given below to complete the following sentences. There are two extra words that you do not need.**

where	why	who	though	which
when	because	whose	if	how

**Fill in the blanks with the words in the box given below to complete the following sentences. There are two extra words that you do not need.**

Detective stories are exciting, keeping readers guessing (i) \_\_\_\_\_ the real culprit is. They take place in settings (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ clues are hidden carefully. (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ the mystery seems tricky, a clever detective always finds answers. Readers often wonder (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ criminals leave small but important clues. The challenge is to decide (v) \_\_\_\_\_ suspect is guilty. (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ the truth is revealed, everything makes sense. But one may wonder (vii) \_\_\_\_\_ they could have solved it themselves. These stories are fun (viii) \_\_\_\_\_ they make readers think till the very end.

**Answer:** (i) who

(ii) where

(iii) Though

(iv) why

(v) which

(vi) When

(vii) if

(viii) because

**VI. Combine the following pairs of sentences using the word given in brackets. One example has been done for you.**

**1. We gave him the signal. He was waiting for the signal, (that)**

**Answer:** We gave him the signal that he was waiting for.

**2. We went to a place. The incident occurred there, (where)**

**Answer:** We went to a place where the incident occurred.

**3. Teacher said she would retire soon. She is now nearly sixty, (who)**

**Answer:** Teacher, who is nearly sixty, said she would retire soon.



**4. It was the day. Half the class was absent, (when)**

**Answer:** It was the day when half the class was absent.

**VIII. Rewrite the following sentences in Reported Speech.**

**1. “Why did you stop talking to me?” asked Rohan.**

**Rohan questioned \_\_\_\_\_**

**Answer:** Rohan questioned why I had stopped talking to him.

**2. “Did you enjoy the family gathering yesterday?” asked my aunt.**

**My aunt asked \_\_\_\_\_**

**Answer:** My aunt asked if I had enjoyed the family gathering the previous day.

**3. “When will you visit us again?” asked my grandmother.**

**My grandmother inquired \_\_\_\_\_**

**Answer:** My grandmother inquired when I would visit them again.

**4. Madavi said to Ravi, “Will you come with me to meet our old teacher tomorrow?” asked Madavi.**

**Madavi asked Ravi \_\_\_\_\_**

**Answer:** Madavi asked Ravi if he would go with her to meet their old teacher the next day.

**5. My friend said, “What gift are you planning to give your brother?”**

**My friend inquired \_\_\_\_\_**

**Answer:** My friend inquired what gift I was planning to give my brother.

**6. “Shall I carry these notebooks to the staffroom, Ma’am?” asked Veenu. Veenu asked her teacher**

**Answer:** Veenu asked her teacher if she would carry those notebooks to the staffroom.

**IX. Read the conversation between Aditi | and Rahul.**

Aditi : Did you see anyone leave a package near the lift?

Rahul: I noticed a man wearing a bluejacket drop it off.

Aditi : What time did you see this happen?

Rahul: It was around 6:45 p.m.

Aditi : Were you able to see his face?

Rahul: He wore a hood and so I couldn’t see his face.



**Complete the following paragraph by transforming the dialogue in indirect speech.**

Aditi asked Rahul 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Rahul replied that he had noticed a man wearing a blue jacket drop it off.

Aditi asked Rahul 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Rahul replied that it had been around 6.45 p.m.

Aditi further inquired 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Rahul said that he had worn a hood, so he couldn't see his face.

**Answer:** 1. if he had seen anyone leave a package near the lift.

2. at what time he had seen that happen.

3. if he had been able to see his face.

### **Let us listen (Page 117)**

**I. You will listen to a podcast about ways of improving observation skills. As you listen, mark the statements 1-4 as true or false. (Refer to the NCERT Textbook Page 151 for transcript.)**

**1. Observation skills help improve your common sense.**

**Answer:** True

**2. Rushing through tasks helps you focus better and observe more.**

**Answer:** False

**3. Taking notes or making sketches helps with what you observe.**

**Answer:** True

**4. Incorporating tips on observation skills will soon lead to success.**

**Answer:** True

**II. You will once again listen to the podcast. As you listen, complete the given sentences by filling in the blanks with one to three exact words you hear.**

1. It is important to slow down and \_\_\_\_\_ to notice several aspects around you more clearly.
2. The more senses like hearing and smelling you use, the more \_\_\_\_\_ you absorb.
3. People who are \_\_\_\_\_ tend to be better observers because they seek to understand what they notice.
4. When you make a note of things, it helps reinforce the \_\_\_\_\_ in your memory.
5. Practising mindfulness helps a person stay \_\_\_\_\_ with their surroundings.

**Answer:** 1. take your time  
2. information  
3. curious  
4. details  
5. engaged

### Let us Speak (Pages 118-119)

**I. Read the following words from the text loudly with the help of pronunciation guide given in brackets.**

jewellery (jool-ree)      clerk (claak)      dessert (dih-zuht)—a sweet dish

**Now, practise reading the following words.**

January (ja-nyoo-uh-ree)      sour (sau-uh)      pizza (peet-zaa)  
Wednesday (wenz-day)      bowl (bol)      buffet (buh-fay)  
pronunciation (pruh-nuhn-see-ay-shn)

**Answer:** Do it yourself.

**II. Work in groups of five or six. Conduct a group discussion on the topic, 'The Interesting Aspects of a Mystery Story'.**

#### Guidelines

- The moderator initiates the discussion inviting the speakers to share their views on the subject.
- The speakers take turns to put forth their view point using polite expressions to agree or disagree.
- The speakers may interrupt by raising their hands to add or clarify a point.
- The moderator ensures equal participation of all the members in the group, consolidates views, and calls upon other speakers to respond.
- The moderator sums up the points of discussion, suggests guidelines for future action and thanks the members of the group.





Note: Choose a moderator. Decide upon the duration of the discussion.

#### Phrases for Turn-taking

- If I may say something...
- May I draw the attention of this group...
- If I may interrupt...
- Sorry for this interruption...
- I would like to add to what (speaker) mentioned a few minutes ago...

#### Phrases for Expressing Agreement

- I'm totally in agreement with that...
- That's absolutely true.
- There's no question about that...
- I fully agree...
- I am with (speaker) on this...

#### Phrases for Expressing Disagreement

- I'm afraid I don't agree...
- Not quite so...
- I'm sorry, but I don't quite agree...
- Maybe I'm wrong...
- If you look at it this way, then...

**Answer:** Do it yourself

### Let us write (Pages 119-121)

A report is written for an event that has already occurred. The purpose of a report is to provide first-hand details of an incident or event. It presents the information in a proper sequence.

Read the sample report written about the 'Inter-school Football Tournament organised by your Vidyalaya.



### Note the format, content, and language used.

Inter-school Football Tournament by _____	Title—Byline (Reporter's Name and Class)
An Inter-school Football Tournament was organised by our Vidyalaya from 21 April 20XX to 24 April 20XX at Motinagar Football Ground. Ten teams participated in the tournament.	Paragraph 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What</li><li>• Who</li><li>• When</li><li>• Where</li></ul> <b>Note:</b> use of past tense, for example, organised, participated, etc.
The tournament was declared open by the Chief Guest, Dr. Singh, Honorary Sports Secretary of the State, on Wednesday, 21 April 20XX in the presence of all the teams and spectators from the participating schools. The matches were held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on all the days of the tournament. Following a tough competition, the teams from ABC Senior Secondary School and XYZ Senior Secondary School emerged as the finalists.  For the final match, players from both these teams were cheered by students from their respective schools. After an exciting match, the score was tied at 3–3. Subsequently, a penalty shootout was used as tie breaker by the referee to decide the winner. Finally, the team from ABC Senior Secondary School won the penalty shootout and was declared the winner.	Paragraphs 2 and 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Description of the event in detail</li></ul> <b>Note:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) use sequence markers: following, after, subsequently, finally</li><li>(ii) use of passive form: was declared, were held, were cheered, etc.</li></ul>
The winning team was awarded with a trophy, medals, and certificates by the Chief Guest. Addressing the students, he said, "All of you must take up a sport to keep yourself healthy." The inter-school football tournament was a great success, showcasing exceptional talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the participating teams.	Paragraph 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prize giving ceremony</li><li>• Remarks by the Chief Guest</li></ul>

As a member of the Art and Craft Club, write a report on an 'Inter-school Art Exhibition' organised by your school. Include the necessary details.

**Answer:**

#### Inter-school Art Exhibition By Ananya Sharma

Our school, Greenwood High, hosted a vibrant Inter-school Art Exhibition on 15th October 2024 in the school auditorium. The event was organised by the Art and Craft Club in collaboration with the Department of Fine Arts, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 15 reputed schools across the city.



The exhibition was inaugurated by the renowned artist Ms. Meera Kulkarni, who lit the ceremonial lamp and encouraged students to continue exploring their creative potential. The theme for the exhibition was “Colours of Culture”, and the artworks beautifully captured India’s diverse traditions, festivals, and heritage.

Each school displayed their best artwork, including paintings, sketches, sculptures, and eco-friendly crafts. The use of recycled materials and natural dyes was especially appreciated. Our school’s installation titled “Nature’s Harmony”, a 3D wall mural made from clay and paper, drew a lot of attention and praise.

A panel of expert judges evaluated the entries based on creativity, originality, technique, and relevance to the theme. Springdale Public School won the first prize, followed by Oakridge International and Greenwood High. The exhibition concluded with a short cultural performance and the prize distribution ceremony.

Overall, the event was a grand success, fostering creativity, collaboration, and appreciation for art among young students. We look forward to hosting more such enriching experiences in the future.

### Let us explore (Page 121)

**I. Work in pairs. Read the words and observe the images given below. Check if your answers match. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.**



These are optical illusions which may trick the eye and make you think that you can see two different things.

**Answer:** Do it yourself.

### II. Read the steps to play a language game—Name the mystery object.

1. Divide the class into teams.
2. Each team chooses an object and prepares three hints to enable the other teams to name the object.
3. Each team takes turns to name the object given by the other team.
4. If a team names the object with the first hint, they get 20 points, with the second hint 10 points, and with the third hint 5 points.

**One example with three hints:**

- (i) I display information for all to share, with a swipe I'm clean and bare.
- (ii) I am rectangular or a square, whom neither teacher nor student can spare.
- (in) I am mostly black, sometimes green, now in white too I am seen.

**Answer:** Do it yourself.

**III. Visit the library and look for an encyclopedia. What is it? Check how it is different from a dictionary. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.**

**Answer:** An encyclopedia is a reference book (or a set of books) that provides detailed information on a wide range of subjects. The articles are usually arranged alphabetically and contain facts, explanations, and background knowledge written by experts. Encyclopedias can be general (like Encyclopedia Britannica) or subject-specific (like an Encyclopedia of Animals or Science).

**IV. A thesaurus is a reference book or digital tool that provides a collection of words with similar meanings, allowing users to find alternative words or phrases to express the same idea. Choose any five words and find out their alternative words from the thesaurus.**

**Answer: 1. Happy**

**Synonyms:** joyful, cheerful, delighted, content, elated

**2. Fast**

**Synonyms:** quick, speedy, rapid, swift, brisk

**3. Beautiful**

**Synonyms:** attractive, lovely, stunning, charming, elegant

**4. Smart**

**Synonyms:** intelligent, clever, bright, sharp, brainy

**5. Angry**

**Synonyms:** mad, furious, annoyed, upset, irritated



# NCERT Solutions Class 8 English (Poorvi)

## Unit 3: Chapter 8 The Magic Brush of Dream

Let us do these activities before we read (Page 122)

I. Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. Mention a magical object that you would like to have. Give a reason for your choice.

**Answer:** I would like to have a magical notebook that writes answers on its own. It would help me complete my homework quickly and learn better through smart suggestions.

2. What would you draw for yourself, if you had a magic paint brush? Why?

**Answer:** I would draw a big library full of books because I love reading and learning new things.

3. Would you use the magic paint brush to draw for someone else? If yes, why? If no, why not?

**Answer:** Yes, I would use it to help poor people by drawing food, clothes, and houses for them. Everyone deserves to live happily.

II. Work in pairs. Discuss instances of acts of kindness that you have heard, read, or experienced. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

paintbrush	joy	fortress	feast	fear
winding	twig	bows	drawing	cold

**Answer:** I once read about a boy who started a small food bank in his community to help hungry people. Another time, my friend gave his new shoes to a child in need. I also remember helping an injured bird and taking it to a vet. These acts of kindness make the world a better place.

Now, arrange these words into different categories as given below.

Things: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Actions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emotions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Answer: Meaning of the words

1. **Paintbrush** – A tool with bristles used to apply paint to a surface, often used in art or painting walls.
2. **Joy** – A strong feeling of happiness and pleasure.
3. **Fortress** – A large, strong building or place that is built to protect against attacks; like a castle.
4. **Feast** – A large and special meal, often made for celebrations.
5. **Fear** – A feeling of being scared or afraid of something.
6. **Winding** – Something that goes in curves or twists, like a winding road or path.
7. **Twig** – A small, thin branch from a tree or bush.
8. **Bows** – Ribbons tied into loops (like hair bows), or a curved weapon for shooting arrows, depending on context.
9. **Drawing** – A picture made with a pen, pencil, or crayon, usually on paper.
10. **Cold** – A low temperature that makes you feel chilly, or the opposite of warm.

Arranged into categories:

Things: Paintbrush, Fortress, Twig,

Actions: Bows, Winding, Drawing

Emotions: Joy, Fear, Cold

Events: Feast

### Let us discuss (Pages 127-128)

Arrange the events in order of occurrence in the poem. The last one has been marked for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. Gopi paints a bowl of khichdi, which becomes real and amazes the villagers.	
2. The Zamindar orders Gopi to paint treasures for him.	
3. Gopi is told to gather food but instead sits drawing pictures in the sand.	
4. Gopi returns to the village with the Zamindar and his men chasing her.	



5. The Zamindar throws Gopi into prison.	
6. Gopi paints a road and a horse to escape.	
7. Gopi uses the magic brush to paint useful items for the villagers.	
8. Gopi paints a wide river, stopping the Zamindar and his men.	
9. A man gives a magic brush to Gopi to paint only for the poor.	
10. Gopi scares the Zamindar away, and celebrates with the villagers.	10

**Answer:**

1. Gopi paints a bowl of khichdi, which becomes real and amazes the villagers.	9
2. The Zamindar orders Gopi to paint treasures for him.	3
3. Gopi is told to gather food but instead sits drawing pictures in the sand.	1
4. Gopi returns to the village with the Zamindar and his men chasing her.	7
5. The Zamindar throws Gopi into prison.	2

6. Gopi paints a road and a horse to escape.	5
7. Gopi uses the magic brush to paint useful items for the villagers.	6
8. Gopi paints a wide river, stopping the Zamindar and his men.	4
9. A man gives a magic brush to Gopi to paint only for the poor.	8
10. Gopi scares the Zamindar away, and celebrates with the villagers.	10

## II. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct answer from the box given below.

triumphant and celebratory      tension and suspense  
playful and innocent

The tone of the poem shifts throughout, reflecting the different moods of the story. Initially, the tone is 1. \_\_\_\_\_ as Gopi uses her imagination to draw in the sand, and later when the Zamindar enters the story, the tone shifts to one of 2. \_\_\_\_\_. In the final part of the poem, the tone becomes 3. \_\_\_\_\_ as Gopi escapes, the Zamindar is defeated, and the villagers rejoice.

**Answer:** 1. playful and innocent  
2. tension and suspense  
3. triumphant and celebratory

## III. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option from within the brackets.

1. The poem mostly follows a simple rhyme scheme, \_\_\_\_\_, which adds a rhythmic flow. (ABCB, ABBA, ABAB)  
2. This poem belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ poetry genre, which tells a story through verse. (descriptive, narrative or ballad, free style)

**Answer:** 1. ABCB  
2. narrative or ballad



#### IV. Give examples from the poem for the following explanations.

1. The poem is rich in imagery, creating clear pictures in the reader's mind. For example, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What is the effect of repetition in the line—'On you, and you and you!\*

**Answer:** 1. "Gopi paints a mighty river wide, Its currents fast and deep."  
This line creates a vivid picture of a wide and fast-flowing river.

2. It emphasizes the threat and creates suspense and fear, showing the seriousness of Gopi's warning to the Zamindar and his men.

#### V. Match the phrases from the poem in Column 1 with what they symbolise in Column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1. The magic paintbrush	(i) greed and the desire for wealth
2. The grand fortress	(ii) barriers to protect Gopi from the Zamindar's anger
3. The river and the beast	(iii) the power of art and imagination to change the world

**Answer:**

Column 1	Column 2
1. The magic paintbrush	(iii) the power of art and imagination to change the world
2. The grand fortress	(i) greed and the desire for wealth



3. The river and the beast	(ii) barriers to protect Gopi from the Zamindar's anger
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**VI. Identify whether the following statement is true or false.**

While Gopi uses the magic brush to help others, the Zamindar wants to use it for personal gain. This contrast drives the moral of the story.

**Answer:** True

**Let us think and reflect (Pages 128-130)**

**Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.**

1. But on a stone there sits a man,  
A brush is in his hand.  
He looks around. He calls to Gopi.  
"Come here!" he whispers. "Hush!  
We mustn't let the village know  
About this magic brush. "  
He slips the brush into her hand  
And tells her to be sure,  
"Paint not for the wealthy ones,  
But only for the poor."



**(i) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.**

The man is whispering and telling

Gopi to keep the brush a secret reflects his \_\_\_\_\_

(careful and secretive/magical and delightful) nature.

**Answer:** careful and secretive.

**(ii) What is the significance of the man slipping the brush into Gopi's hand?**

**Answer:** It shows that he trusts Gopi and believes she will use the magic brush wisely and with kindness.

**(iii) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.**

The most likely reason the man instructs Gopi to 'Paint not for wealthy ones but only for the poor' is because he \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** wants the brush to be used for helping those in need, not for greed or selfish gain.

**(iv) Select the most appropriate title for the extract from the two given below.**

A. The Magic Brush's Secret

B. Gopi's Special Gift

**Answer:** A. The Magic Brush's Secret

2. And soon the news spreads far and wide,  
Through forests, fields, and plains,  
Until the Zamindar himself  
Hears of these magic gains.  
"I order you to paint for me,  
A fortress tall and grand.  
Paint treasures, jewels, and riches rare,  
Enough to rule this land."



**(i) Complete the following sentence with the correct reason.**

The news of Gopi's magic 1 msh spreads 'through forests, field , and plains' because of its \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** miraculous ability to turn drawings into real things that help people.

**(ii) Why does the poet refer to things painted by Gopi's paintbrush as 'magic gains'?**

**Answer:** Because everything Gopi paints with the brush becomes real and brings joy or relief to others, especially the poor, making it seem magical and valuable.

**(iii) Which of the following statements given below is false? Rectify the false statement.**

A. Gopi's magic brush draws the attention of the powerful Zamindar.

B. The Zamindar requests Gopi to paint a grand fortress and jewels.

**Answer:** False Statement B: The Zamindar requests Gopi to paint a grand fortress and jewels.

**Rectification:** The Zamindar orders, not requests, Gopi to paint a grand fortress and jewels.

**(iv) What does the Zamindar's demand for a grand fortress and jewels reveal about his character?**

**Answer:** It reveals that the Zamindar is greedy, selfish, and power-hungry. He only wants to use the magic brush for personal wealth and control.

## **II. Answer the following Questions.**

**Question 1. Explain why Gopi made the right decision by refusing to paint for the Zamindar.**

**Answer:** Gopi made the right decision because the Zamindar was greedy and wanted to misuse the brush for personal gain. Gopi remained loyal to her promise to use the brush only for the poor and needy.

**Question 2. Gopi threatens to draw a beast to scare away the Zamindar. Justify her action. How would you have dealt with the situation differently?**

**Answer:** Gopi's action was justified because she was protecting herself and stopping the Zamindar from misusing the brush. She used her cleverness to scare him away without hurting anyone.

If I were in her place, I might have done the same or tried to convince the villagers to stand up against the Zamindar together.

**Question 3. What is the significance of Gopi celebrating with the villagers at the end of the poem?**

**Answer:** It shows that goodness and kindness win in the end. It also highlights Gopi's love for her village and her selfless use of the brush to bring happiness to others.

**Question 4. Compare Gopi's use of the magic brush to how the Zamindar would have used it.**

**Answer:** Gopi used the brush to help the poor and bring joy, while the Zamindar wanted to use it to get wealth and power for himself. Gopi's use was generous and kind, but the Zamindar's use would have been greedy and harmful.

**Question 5. What can be inferred about Gopi's character based on her refusal to follow the Zamindar's orders?**

**Answer:** Gopi is brave, honest, kind, and determined. She values helping others over fear or pressure, and she stays true to her morals even when threatened.

**Question 6. Justify the appropriateness of the title of the poem.**

**Answer:** The title "The Magic Brush of Dreams" is appropriate because the brush fulfills the dreams of poor people by turning helpful drawings into real things. It brings hope and change through kindness and imagination.



**Question 7. If you had the magic brush, how would you use it in today's world?**

**Answer:** I would use the brush to paint food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, medicines for the sick, and books for children without access to education. I would try to make the world a better place for those in need.

**Let us learn (Pages 130-132)**

**I. The verb 'draw' has different meanings in different contexts. Match the sentences in Column 1 with their appropriate meanings in Column 2.**

Column 1	Column 2
1. His speech drew loud applause from the audience.	(i) opened
2. The event will draw huge crowds from all neighbouring places.	(ii) pulled out
3. Plants draw water from the soil.	(iii) got a reaction
4. I reached the station when the train was drawing into the station.	(iv) attract
5. The room was dark, so she drew the curtains to let the sunlight in.	(v) moving
6. He drew a piece of paper from the folder.	(vi) absorb

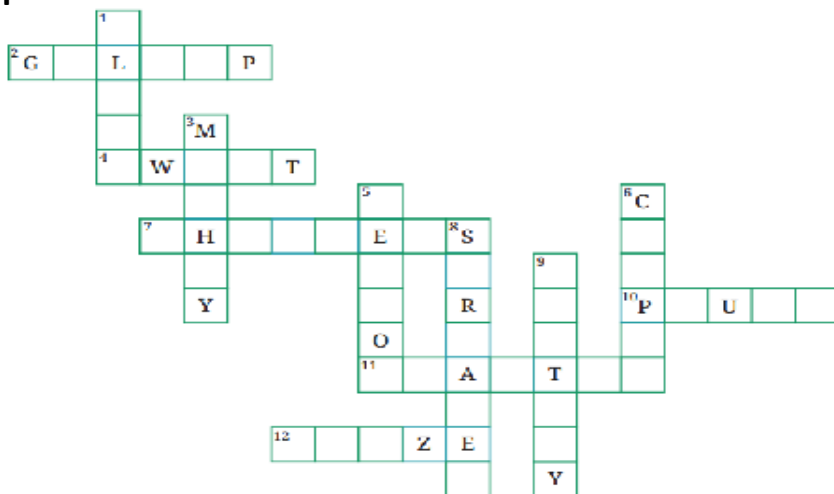
**Answer:**

Column 1	Column 2



1. His speech drew loud applause from the audience.	(iii) got a reaction
2. The event will draw huge crowds from all neighbouring places.	(iv) attract
3. Plants draw water from the soil.	(vi) absorb
4. I reached the station when the train was drawing into the station.	(v) moving
5. The room was dark, so she drew the curtains to let the sunlight in.	(i) opened
6. He drew a piece of paper from the folder.	(ii) pulled out

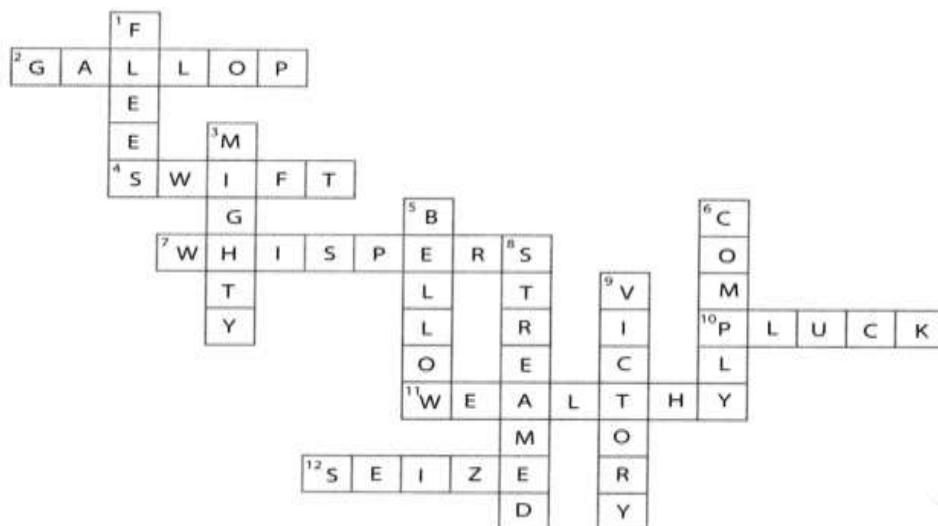
**II. Fill in the crossword. Clues have been given below. You will find the words in the poem.**



Across	Down

2. the fastest pace of a horse	1. runs away from a place
4. happen fast	3. possessing a great deal of strength or power
7. speaks very softly	5. a deep loud shout in pain or anger
10. take hold of (something) and quickly remove it from its place	6. to act according to rules
11. having a lot of money; rich	8. moved in a continuous flow in a specified direction
12. take hold of something suddenly and forcibly	9. a win after overcoming an enemy

**Answer:**



**III. There are certain expressions that convey a sudden feeling or reaction. They can be used to express a variety of emotions and thoughts.**

**Example:** ... he whispers. "Hush!"

(‘Hush’ denotes the act of silencing someone)

Now, match the expressions in Column 1 with what emotions or reactions they convey, in Column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1. Phew!	(i) surprise
2. Eek!	(ii) pain
3. Ouch!	(iii) mistake
4. Yippee!	(iv) attract attention
5. Whoa!	(v) relief
6. Oops!	(vi) delight
7. Hey!	(vii) alarm

**Answer:**





Column 1	Column 2
1. Phew!	(v) relief
2. Eek!	(vii) alarm
3. Ouch!	(ii) pain
4. Yippee!	(vi) delight
5. Whoa!	(i) surprise
6. Oops!	(iii) mistake
7. Hey!	(iv) attract attention

**Now, create sentences using any five expressions:**

1. Phew! I finished the exam just in time.
2. Eek! There's a mouse under the table!
3. Ouch! I accidentally bit my tongue while eating.
4. Yippee! We're going on a school picnic tomorrow!
5. Oops! I dropped the glass while washing dishes.

**Let us listen (Page 132)**

**I. You will listen to five speakers speak about a magical power they wish for. As you listen, match statements 1-7 with speakers (i)-(v). There are two statements you do not need. (Refer to the NCERT Textbook Page 152 for transcript.)**

Statements	Speaker No.
1. Power of healing ailments	
2. Ability to end poverty in the world	
3. Power to control the weather as per need	
4. Ability to make wise business decisions	
5. Power to predict one's own future clearly	
6. Ability to remember information quickly	
7. Power to move around without using vehicles	

**Speaker (i) :** If I could have any magical power, I'd choose the ability to predict the future. Imagine being able to see profits and losses before time. I could make better savings and secure my business. Plus, I'd use it to help others make wise financial decisions as well.

**Speaker (ii) :** I think having the power to learn instantly would be amazing! Exams would be easy, and I'd have more time for activities I enjoy, like playing cricket. If I could remember everything, it would make life so much easier!

**Speaker (iii) :** I would want the power of flight. Imagine being able to see the world from up above clearly. I would be able to go from one place to another quickly without using any means of transport. It would be a dream come true.

**Speaker (iv) :** At my age, I'd love to have the power of healing. There are so many aches and pains that come with growing old, but it's not just for me. If I could heal others too, I'd help my family stay healthy and happy.

**Speaker (v) :** If I had a magical power, I'd want control over the weather. We depend so much on the rains. With this power, I could ensure that crops always get the right amount of rain and sunshine.

**Answer:**

Statements	Speaker No.
1. Power of healing ailments	(iv)
2. Ability to end poverty in the world	(i)
3. Power to control the weather as per need	(v)
4. Ability to make wise business decisions	(i)
5. Power to predict one's own future clearly	(i)
6. Ability to remember information quickly	(ii)
7. Power to move around without using vehicles	(iii)

## Let us speak (Page 133)

### I. Intonation is the rise and fall of the pitch of tone while speaking.

The 'falling' tone is the fall in the pitch of the voice from a high level to a low level. It is marked [ ]. The falling tone is generally used in imperative sentences. Such sentences are used in speech for different communicative purposes— to express a command or an instruction, to ask for a favour or to give a warning.

Read the following sentences from the text with the falling tone.

- Come here!
- Seize this magic brush...
- Paint my fortress tall!
- Go and fetch some rice.

### II. Work in pairs. Take turns to make requests for the following formal and informal situations.

#### Formal Requests

Situation 1	Situation 2	Situation 3
You request your teacher to organise a class picnic.	You request your class teacher for an extra sports period, since you missed it last week.	You request your Activity incharge teacher to include you in the upcoming inter-school event.

#### Formal Requests – Sample Answers:

**Situation 1:** Would it be possible to organise a class picnic next month, Ma'am?

**Situation 2:** Would you mind giving us an extra sports period since we missed one last week?

**Situation 3:** I would like to request you to consider me for the upcoming inter-school event, if there is a spot available.



## Informal Requests

Situation 1	Situation 2	Situation 3
You request your sibling to help you with the completion of your project	You request your mother to enroll you in a dance class	You request your cousin to come over to spend the weekend with you.

### Informal Requests – Sample Answers:

**Situation 1:** Hey, can you help me finish my project today? I'm running late.

**Situation 2:** Mom, can you please enroll me in that new dance class? I really want to join.

**Situation 3:** Hey! Can you come over this weekend? It'll be so much fun together!

You may use the following phrases when you make the request.

Formal	Informal
<p>Would you mind if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you think you could...</li><li>• I would like to...</li><li>• Would it be possible...</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can/Will you...</li><li>• Do you mind if...</li><li>• By any chance do you know...</li><li>• I was wondering if...</li></ul>

**Let us write (Pages 134 & 135)**

**I. Imaginative essay is a type of creative writing where the writers use their imagination. An imaginative essay can be based on real-life events, observation, or experiences. It is usually a descriptive piece or a personal reflection.**



**Read the sample of an imaginative essay.**



### **My Life as EcoFlash**

Imagine an ordinary 13-year-old student who is also a secret superhero protecting the environment. That's my life as EcoFlash! By day, I'm Meenu, an ordinary Grade 8 student. By evening, I use my powers to keep my neighbourhood green and clean.

As EcoFlash, I have the ability to grow plants, purify water, and clean polluted air with a wave of my hand. I wear a green suit with a glowing leaf symbol and carry a small seed pouch that holds magic seeds to restore damaged areas. My mission is to fight pollution, save trees, and educate people about taking care of our planet. My friends wonder why I'm always carrying a plant in my bag or why my shoes are muddy, but I can never tell them the truth.

Once, my little brother saw me turning a garbage dump into a beautiful garden and almost spilled my secret to our parents. I had to convince him it was a magic trick!

Being EcoFlash is not just about powers but also responsibility. Every time I see clean streets, blooming flowers, and children playing in green parks, I feel proud. I know that even small changes can make a big difference, and that's what keeps me going.

**II. Complete the given checklist based on your observations and understanding of what an imaginative essay includes. Share the answers with your classmates and teacher.**

#### **1. Title — A relevant title**

#### **2. Introduction**

- Captivating opening sentence to catch the reader's attention
- Clear statement of the setting, situation, or main idea
- Establishes the tone (e.g., playful, serious, and adventurous)
- Introduces the narrator briefly (if applicable)



### 3. Setting and Context

- Description of the setting to create a mental picture
- Clear time frame (past, present, or future)
- Brief explanation of any unique or imaginative elements (e.g., powers, fantasy world)

### 4. Characters

- Main character introduced with unique traits
- Supporting characters briefly described (if relevant)

### 5. Central Idea

Clear focus on a single powerful- idea or narrative

### 6. Language and Style

- Use of sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste) to enhance the narrative
- Creative metaphors or similes to enrich descriptions

### 7. Resolution

- Key turning point or moment of realisation
- Resolution of the main idea
- Clear takeaway message

### 8. Conclusion

- Ends on a reflective or thought-provoking note
- Summarises the main message or leaves the reader with a strong final impression

**Answer:** The sample essay on “My Life as EcoFlash” demonstrates how to write an imaginative essay. Below is a checklist based on the given essay:

Element	Checklist
1. Title	“My Life as EcoFlash”



2. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Captivating opening sentence (introduces EcoFlash's dual life)</li> <li>• Clear main idea and setting</li> <li>• Establishes playful and adventurous tone</li> <li>• Introduces narrator (Meenu / EcoFlash)</li> </ul>
3. Setting and Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes neighbourhood, nature, and secret powers</li> <li>• Time frame is the present</li> <li>• Includes imaginative elements like "magic seeds"</li> </ul>
4. Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main character (EcoFlash) introduced with special traits</li> <li>• Supporting character: little brother</li> </ul>
5. Central Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear focus on protecting the environment</li> <li>• Logical flow of events (garden rescue, secret-keeping)</li> </ul>
6. Language and Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses sensory details (sight, smell, sound)</li> <li>• Includes metaphors/ similes like "wave of hand" and "green suit"</li> </ul>
7. Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a turning point (nearly exposed secret)</li> <li>• Shows sense of responsibility</li> <li>• Message: Small actions can make big changes</li> </ul>
8. Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflective ending – feels proud of her contribution</li> <li>• Leaves strong final impression</li> </ul>





### III. Write an imaginative essay on any one of the following.

**Question 1. Imagine you were a scarf that flew away from a clothesline. Describe the places you travelled to and how you came back. Also write about what you thought was the most valuable experience.**

**Answer:**

#### The Flying Scarfs Journey

One windy afternoon, I — a bright red scarf — was drying peacefully on a clothesline when a sudden gust of wind blew me into the sky! I soared above rooftops, trees, and roads like a bird with no wings.

My first stop was a quiet village where a little girl picked me up and wrapped- me around her doll. But before long, I slipped out and flew on. Next, I landed in a crowded market and was used as a shade for an old vendor. I felt proud, helping someone stay cool.

Then came my favourite moment — landing on a hilltop during a sunrise. The view was magical! Birds chirped around me, and for once, I felt like a part of the sky.

Finally, a gentle boy found me, tied me to his bicycle, and rode back to the house I had flown from. I was home!

My most valuable learning was that even a simple scarf can bring joy, comfort, and colour to many lives.

**Question 2. Imagine you stumbled upon a magical book in the library. The book transported you to a different time period. Describe your experience and an important learning.**

**Answer:**

#### The Book of Time

While browsing in the library one evening, I noticed a dusty, golden- covered book glowing faintly. Curious, I opened it—and everything spun around me! I found myself in the middle of an ancient forest, where people rode horses and carried scrolls.

I had travelled to the 15th century!

The clothes were strange, but the people were kind. I watched a village scribe teach children by drawing letters on sand. There were no laptops or pens— only chalk, leaves, and patience.

I learned that knowledge was shared through stories and songs. Books were rare treasures. One old teacher told me, “The more you write, the more you remember.”

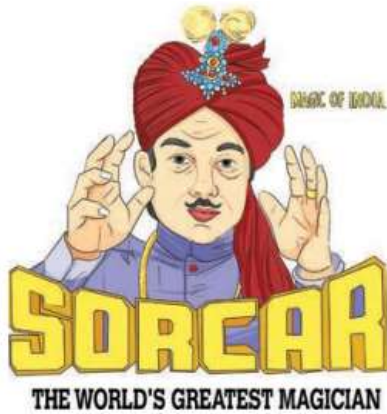


Before I could ask more, I felt the pages turn again, and I landed back in the library. My most important learning was that never take books for granted. They are windows to the past, bridges to the future, and doors to discovery.

### Let us explore (Pages 136)

I. Have you heard of India's famous magician, P. C. Sorcar Sr.? He is known as one of the 'World's Greatest Magician' and performed live magic shows in front of audiences and on television, internationally.

He was awarded Padma Shri on 26 January 1964 for his contribution to the world of magic.



II. Words can also play tricks. Read the riddles about things that seem to be unreal and And what they refer to.



1. I can fill a room, but I take up no space. I'm often heard, but never seen. What am I?

Answer: Sound

2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

Answer: Footsteps

3. I have cities but no houses,  
I have forests but no trees.

What am I?

Answer: A map

**4. I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old, in a dark room, my story is told.**

**Answer:** A candle

**III. You are asked to create a magical object. What object would you create? Make a drawing with all its details and mention its special quality on the same sheet. Put up the sheet on the display board.**

**Answer: Object Name:** Glow Sphere

**Drawing Suggestion:** A glowing crystal ball with stars and swirling mist inside.

**Special Quality:** It grants one wish a day—but only if the wish is kind and helps someone else. The GlowSphere glows brighter every time a good deed is done.

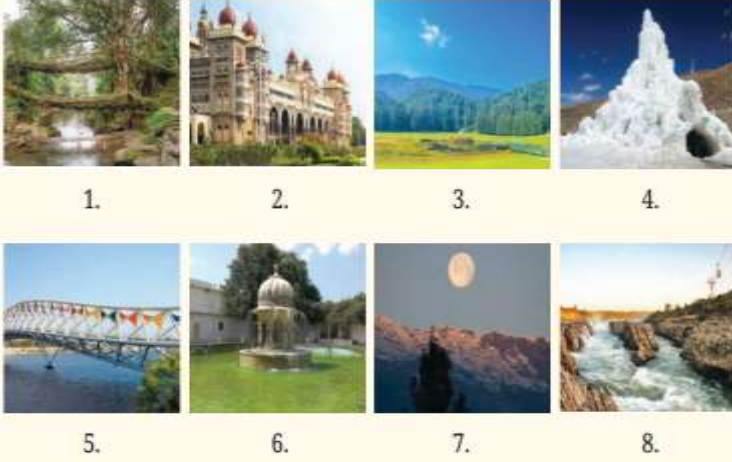


# NCERT Solutions Class 8 English (Poorvi)

## Unit 3: Chapter 9 Spectacular Wonders

Let us do these activities before we read.

I. Look at the pictures given below and sort them into natural and man-made wonders.



Natural: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

Man-made: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** Natural Wonders: 3, 4, 7, 8

Man-made Wonders: 1, 2, 5, 6

II. Which of these wonders—man-made or natural—are more appealing and why? Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

**Answer:** Natural wonders are more appealing because they showcase the beauty, mystery, and power of nature. They are not man-made and have evolved over time, making them more fascinating and unique.

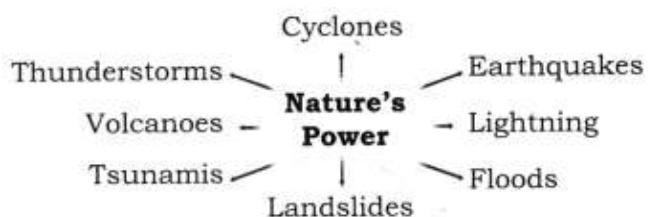
III. Work in pairs. Write down two wonders of nature that have amazed you. Discuss what makes them impressive. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

**Answer:** 1. Niagara Falls – The thunderous sound and massive water flow are mesmerizing.  
2. Aurora Borealis – The dancing lights in the sky are magical and show nature's artistic side.

IV. Work in groups of four. Complete the web chart given below with words that you associate with the phrase, 'Nature's Power'. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.



**Answer:**



**Let us discuss (Page 142)**

**I. Complete the information in the table given below. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.**

Amazing Natural Phenomena	Location	One Unique Feature
1. The Valley of Flowers	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand	Around 600 species of exotic flowers
2. The Living Root Bridges		
3.	Buldhana district, Maharashtra	
4. Magnetic Hills		

5. Glowing Waters		
6.	West Bengal	
7.	Balasore district, Odisha	

**Answer:**

<b>Amazing Natural Phenomena</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>One Unique Feature</b>
1. The Valley of Flowers	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand	Around 600 species of exotic flowers
2. The Living Root Bridges	Meghalaya	Made of intertwined roots; built naturally by indigenous people; long-lasting
3. The Lonar Crater Lake	Buldhana district, Maharashtra	Formed by a meteorite impact in basaltic rock; third largest crater in the world



4. Magnetic Hills	Leh district, Ladakh	Vehicles appear to move uphill due to an optical illusion
5. Glowing Waters	Kumbalangi, near Kochi, Kerala	Waters glow at night due to bioluminescent micro-planktons
6. The Sundarbans	West Bengal	World's largest mangrove forest; home to Bengal tiger and other rare species
7. The Invisible Chandipur Beach	Balasore district, Odisha	Sea disappears and reappears due to ebb and high tides

**Let us think and reflect (Pages.142-144)**

**I- Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.**

**1. India is home to some of the most mystifying natural phenomena that surprise and spark our imagination.**

**(i) Replace the underlined phrase with one from the extract. India is the birthplace of several rare species of flora and fauna that thrive in its diverse ecosystems.**

**Answer:** home to

**(ii) What does the phrase 'nature's unusual side' suggest about the phenomena described?**

**Answer:** It suggests that nature can create rare, strange, and unexpected events or sights that are different from everyday natural experiences and can leave us surprised or amazed.

**(iii) Complete the similarity by choosing the correct option,**

**spark: imagination :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_**

A. inspiration; creativity

B. wonder; amazement

- C. effort; reward
- D. knowledge; books

**Answer:** B. wonder : amazement

**(iv) Identify whether the following statement is true or false.**

**Some natural phenomena can surprise people.**

**Answer:** True

**2. Have you seen things disappearing in front of your eyes? Well, such things happen at times, when we keep things at some place, and just forget where we have kept them. But, what if there's a sea that disappears?**

This happens in Odisha. It is a beach in the Balasore district where one can witness the sea disappearing mysteriously—the Chandipur Beach which is known for its unique feature of playing hide-and-seek with its visitors.

**(i) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.**

The writer's most likely purpose to introduce the information about the Chandipur Beach phenomenon with a question is to \_\_\_\_\_ (engage the reader's curiosity and create a sense of suspense/draw the reader to learn more about the unusual phenomenon/set the tone for the surprising nature of the content that follows)

**Answer:** engage the reader's curiosity and create a sense of suspense.

**(ii) Select the option that is correct for both Assertion (A) and Reason (R).**

(A): Chandipur Beach in Odisha is known for its unique feature of the sea disappearing.

(R): The tides retreat drastically, exposing the Chandipur beach.

- A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**Answer:** A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

**(iii) What does the term 'unique' suggest about the beach in Balasore?**

- A. very popular
- B. one of its kind
- C. ancient place
- D. far from city

**Answer:** B. One of its kind

**(iv) What does the writer want to convey with the use of the phrase 'playing hide-and-seek with its visitors?'**

**Answer:** The writer wants to express the surprising and magical quality of the sea disappearing and reappearing at Chandipur Beach, just like a game of hide-and-seek, making it an unusual natural spectacle.





## II. Answer the following questions.

**Question 1. How are the Living Root Bridges a boon for the local people of Meghalaya?**

**Answer:** The Living Root Bridges are a boon because they offer a sustainable, long-lasting solution to cross rivers and streams, especially during monsoons. They are made naturally using tree roots, are strong, and reflect the ingenuity and environmental knowledge of the indigenous people.

**Question 2. Why is the Lonar Crater Lake considered a remarkable and rare site?**

**Answer:** It is the only crater in India formed in basaltic rock by a meteorite impact and ranks as the third-largest crater in the world. Its perfect circular shape, unique saline lake, and blend of celestial and terrestrial features make it a rare geological wonder.

**Question 3. What might be the writer's purpose of highlighting the awe-inspiring natural wonders of India?**

**Answer:** The writer aims to evoke a sense of wonder and appreciation for nature, highlight India's diverse natural heritage, and encourage curiosity, environmental awareness, and exploration of these unique places.

**Question 4. The writer uses descriptive language and introductory questions for some of the natural phenomena. What impact does it have on the readers?**

**Answer:** It grabs the reader's attention, creates curiosity, and makes the content more engaging. It also helps readers visualize the wonders and understand their uniqueness more vividly.

**Question 5. Which of these unusual phenomena did you find the most interesting and why?**

**Answer:** I found the Glowing Waters of Kerala most interesting because the idea of water glowing in the dark due to living organisms is magical and scientifically fascinating. It combines beauty with mystery.

## Let us learn (Pages 144-148)

**I. Fill in the blanks with the correct expressions from the text given in the box below.**

came into existence      to no end      in full glory  
in disbelief      to name a few      age-old problem

1. I have read many stories \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you know when this little town \_\_\_\_\_?
3. His hard work has helped him \_\_\_\_\_
4. There are no simple solutions to the \_\_\_\_\_ of traffic jams.
5. He opened the ancient wooden box and stared at the treasure \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The garden is \_\_\_\_\_ in spring with lots of beautiful flowers in bloom.





**Answer:** 1. to name a few.

2. came into existence

3. to no end.

4. age-old problem

5. in disbelief.

6. in full glory

**II. Select the correct synonyms from the box given below that match the list of words in 1-**

**5. You may refer to a thesaurus.**

colossal      exotic      serene  
enigmatic      spectacular

1. mysterious, puzzling, baffling

2. mighty, gigantic, huge

3. breath-taking, stunning, awe-inspiring

4. peaceful, calm, tranquil

5. unusual, peculiar, foreign

**Answer:** 1. enigmatic

2. colossal

3. spectacular

4. serene

5. exotic

**III. The expressions 'hide-and-seek' and 'flra and fauna' are used in the text. These are called binomials—a pair of filed words joined by 'and' or 'or'. The binomials are mostly synonyms, antonyms, rhyming words, same sound words (alliterations), etc.**

**Match the binomials in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2. You may refer to a dictionary.**

Column 1	Column 2

1. odds and ends	(i) put different things together to get a range of possibilities
2. on and off	(ii) complete part of or belong to
3. mix and match	(iii) choose only the best (things, people, etc.)
4. all or nothing	(iv) at some time in the future
5. part and parcel	(v) sometimes, occasionally
6. pick and choose	(vi) increase or develop very quickly
7. sooner or later	(vii) small, unimportant things
8. leaps and bounds	(viii) something to be done completely or not at all

**Answer:**

Column 1	Column 2
1. odds and ends	(vii) small, unimportant things
2. on and off	(v) sometimes, occasionally

3. mix and match	(i) put different things together to get a range of possibilities
4. all or nothing	(viii) something to be done completely or not at all
5. part and parcel	(ii) complete part of or belong to
6. pick and choose	(iii) choose only the best (things, people, etc.)
7. sooner or later	(iv) at some time in the future
8. leaps and bounds	(vi) increase or develop very quickly

**Use the binomials given in Column 1 in sentences of your own.**

- Odds and ends:** After cleaning the attic, we found a box full of odds and ends like old buttons, broken toys, and faded photographs.
- On and off:** It rained on and off throughout the day, so we decided to postpone the picnic.
- Mix and match:** You can mix and match different colors and patterns to create a unique outfit.
- All or nothing:** For Riya, winning the competition was an all or nothing situation—she wouldn't settle for second place.
- Part and parcel:** Stress is part and parcel of preparing for board exams, but it can be managed with good planning.
- Pick and choose:** You can't pick and choose which rules to follow—you must follow them all.
- Sooner or later:** Sooner or later, the truth will come out, no matter how hard you try to hide it.
- Leaps and bounds:** Her spoken English has improved by leaps and bounds since she joined the new language course.



#### IV. Study the highlighted words in the following sentences from the text.

- The living root bridges are one of Meghalaya's most beautiful...
- ...creating a striking visual contrast against the surrounding rugged terrain.

In the given sentences, the highlighted words 'living', 'striking', and 'rugged' are examples of verbs used as adjectives. Such verbs are called participles.

Participles are verb forms that can function as adjectives, and they come in two types: present participles ('living' and 'striking') usually ending in -ing, and past participles ('rugged') usually ending in -ed, -d, -t, -en, or -n. (though irregular verbs may vary) Present participles are used to describe ongoing or continuous actions.

#### For example,

People have seen these lights moving quickly in random directions but often hanging out in one spot for a while before fading. Past participles usually describe actions that have already been completed.

#### For example,

When the vehicles are parked at the indicated spot, they begin moving forward at a speed of almost 20km/h.

**Fill in the blanks using present participle or past participle form of the verbs in the box given below.**

stand      amaze      carve      scatter      glow

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ marble monument looks even more spectacular in the moonlight.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ view of the Himalayas from Darjeeling attracts visitors from all over the world.
3. The Sun Temple in Konark features intricately \_\_\_\_\_ stone wheels and walls.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ at a height of 182 m, the Statue of Unity is dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ islands of the Andaman and Nicobar offer some of the cleanest beaches in India.

**Answer:** 1. Glowing

2. amazing
3. carved.
4. Standing
5. scattered

## V. Study the highlighted word in the following sentence from the text.

Crossing the many waterways without bridges was difficult for people in the past, during monsoons.

In the given sentence, the highlighted word 'crossing', is one example of a verb used as a noun. Such a verb is called gerund. Gerunds are verb forms that can function as nouns and they end in -ing. They can serve as the subject, complement, or object in a sentence, as well as the object of a preposition.

**For example,**

- Subject of a sentence:  
Swimming is my favourite hobby.
- Subject complement:  
Her passion is painting.
- Object of a verb:  
I enjoy reading books in my free time.
- Object of a preposition:  
She is interested in learning new languages.
- After certain verbs:  
Shekar avoided talking about his weekend plans.

Underline the gerunds and participles in the following sentences. Write 'G' for gerunds and 'P' for participles in the space provided. One example has been done for you.

1. Dancing is a great way to express emotions. G
2. Travelling can broaden your perspective.
3. The falling leaves signalled the arrival of autumn.
4. She enjoys cooking new recipes for her family.
5. Reading helps improve your vocabulary.
6. He watched the shimmering stars in the night sky.
7. Forgetting the keys inside, Kanchan locked the door.

- Answer:**
1. Dancing is a great way to express emotions. → G
  2. Travelling can broaden your perspective. → G
  3. The falling leaves signalled the arrival of autumn. → P
  4. She enjoys cooking new recipes for her family. → G
  5. Reading helps improve your vocabulary. → G
  6. He watched the shimmering stars in the night sky. → P
  7. Forgetting the keys inside, Kanchan locked the door. → P

## VI. Combine the following pairs of sentences using participles or gerunds.

You may use the clues given in brackets. One example has been done for you.

1. Nitesh entered the room. He saw his friend sitting in the corner, (participle)

Entering the room, Nitesh saw his friend sitting in the corner.

2. Smitha walked carelessly. She slipped on the doormat, (participle)

3. Sleep for eight hours. It is good for health, (gerund)

4. Ranjith felt happy about the result. He called his parents, (participle)

5. Father encouraged Meena. Meena joined the course, (gerund)

**Answer:** 1. Entering the room, Nitesh saw his friend sitting in the corner.

2. Walking carelessly, Smitha slipped on the doormat, (participle)

3. Sleeping for eight hours is good for health, (gerund)

4. Feeling happy about the result, Ranjith called his parents, (participle)

5. Father encouraged Meena in joining the course, (gerund)

### Let us listen (Pages 148-149)

I. You will listen to a brother and sister discuss a natural phenomenon. As you listen, mark the four true statements from 1-6 given below. (Refer to the NCERT Textbook Page 153 for transcript).



1. The brother was taken aback to see the posted pictures.

2. The brother admitted to not knowing about his sister's favourite picture.

3. The sister stated that the rainbow mountain was like any other mountain.

4. The brother was aware of the reason for the formation of colours on the mountain.

5. The brother was surprised to learn about the mountain being covered with snow till recently.

6. The sister understood nature's role in the beauty of the mountain.

**Answer:** True statements: 2, 4, 5, 6

### Let us speak (Page 149)

I. Work in groups of four. Make a presentation on a place of interest in and around your region that people like to visit. You may use the following guidelines to make your presentation.





### Guidelines:

1. Slides 1-2: Choose any popular place of interest in your region.
2. Slides 3-4: Mention where it is located and how to reach there.
3. Slides 5-6: Describe the attractions of the place, why it is popular and explain its historical importance, if any.
4. Slides 7-8: List out weather conditions, local food, customs, and language.
5. Slides 9-10: Suggest the best time of the year to visit and why you recommend this place.

**Answer:** Sample Presentation: “The Rock Garden of Chandigarh”

Slides 1-2: Place of Interest

Title: The Rock Garden – A Symbol of Creativity and Sustainability

Place: Rock Garden, Chandigarh

### Introduction:

The Rock Garden is a famous sculpture garden in Chandigarh. It’s known for being completely built using industrial and domestic waste.

### Slides 3-4: Location and How to Reach

- Location: Sector 1, Chandigarh, near Sukhna Lake.
- How to Reach:
- By road: Well-connected through local buses, taxis, and autos.
- Nearest railway station: Chandigarh Railway Station (5-6 km away).
- Nearest airport: Chandigarh International Airport.

### Slides 5-6: Attractions and Importance

- Built single-handedly by Nek Chand, a government employee.
- Sculptures made from recycled materials like broken bangles, tiles, glass, wires, and ceramics.
- Divided into different sections – waterfall area, amphitheatre, and open-air galleries.
- Showcases environmental consciousness and artistic brilliance.





## Slides 7-8: Weather, Food, Customs, Language

- Weather: Best from October to March (pleasant winter).
- Local Food: Punjabi cuisine – chole bhature, butter chicken, lassi.
- Customs: Friendly people, traditional attire during festivals.
- Language: Punjabi, Hindi, English commonly spoken. .

## Slides 9-10: Best Time to Visit & Recommendation

- Best Time: October to March for a comfortable climate.
- Why Visit:
- It's a perfect blend of art and sustainability.
- Inspires creativity and environmental responsibility.
- A peaceful retreat for families, students, and artists.

### Let us write (Page 149)

**I. You just read vivid descriptions of the natural wonders of our country. Write a descriptive essay for your school magazine describing anything from nature that attracted your attention. It may be an object, a place, or an event experienced by you. Remember to give a title to your essay.**

**Use proper format and content organisation—begin with a title, include introduction (one paragraph), body (two to three paragraphs), and conclusion (one paragraph).**

**Answer:**

#### Sample Descriptive Essay

Title: The Magical Glow of a Rainy Evening

Introduction: Last year, during the monsoon, I witnessed something so enchanting that it left a lasting mark on my memory. I had visited a quiet fishing village near Kochi, Kerala, known as Kumbalangi.

As the evening fell and the rain settled, I saw the backwaters glowing mysteriously under the night sky.

Body: The waters shimmered in soft blue light as though tiny stars were floating within. I later came to know that this magical phenomenon was due to bioluminescence, caused by micro-organisms called planktons. As the boats moved or the water was disturbed, the glowing intensified, creating waves of light that danced in the dark.

The whole experience felt surreal. The surrounding palm trees stood tall in the dimness, and the peaceful sounds of nature made the moment even more captivating. I had read about such natural wonders in books, but witnessing it with my own eyes was extraordinary. It was like nature's way of showing off her silent magic.



Conclusion: This experience taught me that nature holds secrets beyond our imagination. The glowing waters of Kumbalangi are not just a scientific phenomenon; they are a reminder of how breathtaking and mysterious our planet can be. I hope more people explore such places, not just for sightseeing, but to appreciate the wonders that the Earth quietly offers.

**Let us explore (Page 150)**

## **I. Man-made Wonders**

1. Kallanai Dam (The Grand Anaicut) in Tamil Nadu is one of the world's oldest dams and is still in use. The Kallanai Dam presents a significant achievement in ancient Indian hydraulic engineering. It was built by the Chola King Karikala around 150 CE.
2. Another spectacular legacy of ancient wisdom that we have is the world's first residential university at Nalanda in Bihar. Nalanda was established much before any European university, providing higher education to thousands of students. It was declared as a UNESCO heritage site in 1980.



3. Hampi, a town in Karnataka, is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Vittala Temple in Hampi was built in the 15th century. This temple has 56 special pillars known as the SaReGaMa pillars. When these pillars are tapped, they produce musical notes that can be heard clearly.
4. Some of the man-made wonders of modern India include the Bandra–Worli Sea Link in Mumbai; Statue of Unity in Gujarat; Bhupen Hazarika Setu (The Dholā-Sadiya Bridge) in Assam; and many more.

**Answer:** Do it yourself

II. Some micro-planktons in the sea are bioluminescent. Have you seen any other life form that has this quality? Identify the insect given below and find out what it is called in your language. Look out for it when you visit a field or a place with a wetland.



**Answer:**

- Insect Shown: Firefly
- Bioluminescence: Fireflies produce light from their abdomen due to a chemical reaction, similar to the micro-planktons.
- Common Names in Indian Languages:
  - Hindi: Jugnu
  - Malayalam: Minnaminungu (മിന്നമിനുങ്ങ്)
  - Tamil: Minnal Poochi (மினல் பூச்சி)
  - Bengali: Jonaki Poka (জোনাকী পকা)
  - Telugu: Deepa Purugu (దీపా పురుగు)
  - Marathi: Jugas (जुगास)