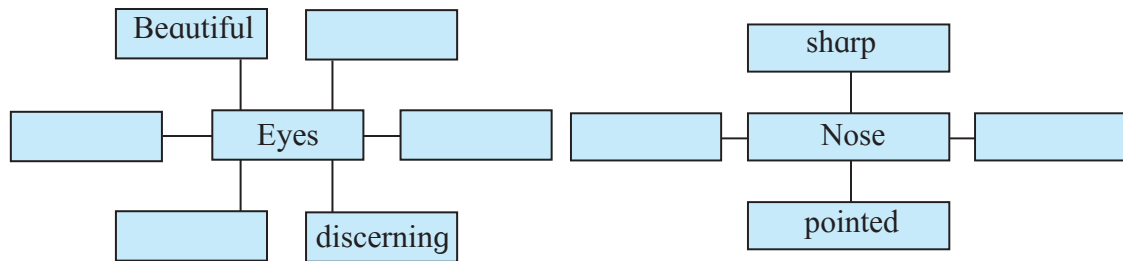


## 2.5 Nose versus Eyes

### ICE BREAKERS

- Complete the web with the help of adjectives used to describe eyes and nose in all respects. Two are done for you.



- (i) Given below are some words from legal terminology used in court affairs. Discuss and complete the table accordingly.

| Sr. No | Legal Terminology | Description                                                                        |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | Affidavit         | A written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation for use as evidence in court. |
| 2.     | Argument          |                                                                                    |
| 3.     | Consent           |                                                                                    |
| 4.     | Counsel           |                                                                                    |
| 5.     | Judgement         |                                                                                    |
| 6.     | Trial             |                                                                                    |
| 7.     | Verdict           |                                                                                    |
| 8.     | Contempt of Court |                                                                                    |
| 9.     | Notice            |                                                                                    |
| 10     | Stay order        |                                                                                    |

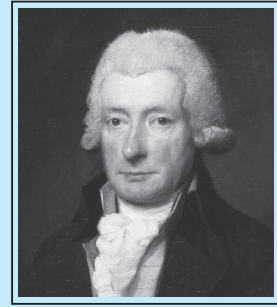
- (ii) Name the five sensory organs and provide phrases/idioms/proverbs related to them. (One is given for you.)

- (a) to turn a deaf ear .....
- (b) .....
- (c) .....
- (d) .....
- (e) .....

*William Cowper* was one of the most popular 18<sup>th</sup> century English poets and composers of hymns. His poems deal with Nature and everyday life. He is aptly described by Samuel T. Coleridge as the 'Best Modern Poet' of his times.

Though he studied jurisprudence, he later admitted that he was 'not much inclined' to the legal profession. He wrote, "Happy is the one who knows just as much of the law to make himself as a little merry now and then with the solemnity of the juridical proceedings".

'Nose versus Eyes' is a satire on the judiciary system. It also mocks at the stone blind justice in a humorous manner emphasising upon the lack of empathy and common sense.



**dispute-** disagreement, clash

**spectacles-** glasses used for clear vision

**wig-** a special covering for the head made of artificial hair worn by the judges.

**Baron-** a powerful person

**discerning-** showing good judgement

*Give reason for the dispute between nose and the eyes.*

**amounts to -** becomes

**straddle-** extend across both sides

**ridge-** an edge

**saddle-** a seat for the rider of a horse or camel

**visage or countenance-** face

## Nose versus Eyes

Between Nose and Eyes a strange contest arose, -  
The spectacles set them unhappily wrong;  
The point in **dispute** was, as all the world knows,  
To which the said **spectacles** ought to belong.

So Tongue was the lawyer, and argued the cause  
With great deal of skill, and a **wig** full of learning;  
While Chief **Baron** Ear sat to balance the laws,  
So famed for his talent in nicely **discerning**.

'In behalf of the Nose it will quickly appear,  
And your lordship,' he said, 'will undoubtedly find,  
That the Nose has had spectacles always in wear,  
Which **amounts to** possession time out of mind.'

Then holding the spectacles up to the court,  
'Your lordship observes they are made with a **straddle**  
As wide as the **ridge** of the Nose is; in short,  
Designed to sit close to it, just like a **saddle**.'

'Again would your lordship a moment suppose,  
( 'Tis a case that has happened, and may be again. )  
That the **visage** or **countenance** had not a Nose,  
Pray who would, or who could, wear spectacles then?

‘On the whole it appears, and my argument shows,  
With a reasoning the court will never **condemn**,  
That the spectacles plainly were made for the Nose,  
And the Nose was as plainly intended for them.’

Then shifting his side, as a lawyer knows how,  
He pleaded again in behalf of the Eyes:  
But what were his arguments few people know,  
For the court did not think they were equally wise,

So his lordship **decreed** with a grave **solemn** tone,  
Decisive and clear, without one if or but-  
That, whenever the Nose put his spectacles on,  
By daylight or candlelight—Eyes should be shut!

*-William Cowper*

**condemn-** express disapproval of

*The poem gives close resemblance to human life. The images used in the poem describe human tendencies. Find more such examples/ tendencies.*

**decreed-** gave the verdict  
**solemn-** formal and dignified

## BRAINSTORMING

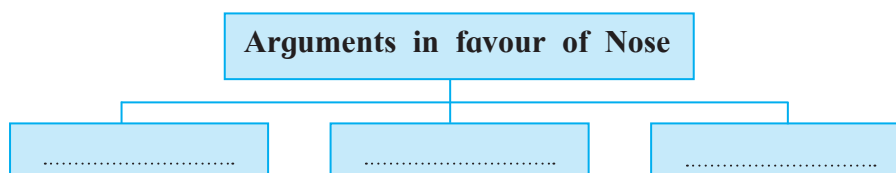
**(A1) (i) State whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.**

- (a) The Nose can use spectacles.
- (b) Eyes have to be shut when the Nose wears / puts on the spectacles.
- (c) The Ear was appointed as a judge.
- (d) Eyes cannot use spectacles.

**(ii) Discuss with your partner and match the following expressions given in column ‘A’ with their interpretations in column ‘B’.**

| Sr.No. | A                                                                                             | B                                                                                      |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | While Chief Baron Ear sat to balance the laws,                                                | (a) Eyes are refrained from using spectacles.                                          |
| 2.     | They are made with the straddle as wide as the ridge of the Nose is.                          | (b) The responsibility of giving verdict rested on the shoulders of the hearing organ. |
| 3.     | That whenever the Nose put his Spectacles on, by daylight or candlelight Eyes should be shut! | (c) Spectacles are meant for none other than the nose.                                 |
| 4.     | So his lordship decreed with a grave solemn tone, decisive and clear, without one if or but.  | (d) The judge delivered a firm verdict without any doubt.                              |

- (A2) (i) The tongue justifies the possession of the spectacles on behalf of the nose. Pick up the expressions from the poem that argue in favour of the Nose and complete the following web diagram.



- (ii) Comment on the following characters depicted in the poem, in a sentence or a phrase.

**On the Nose**

**On the Eyes**

.....

.....

- (iii) “Lend thy ears to all but few thy tongue”.... is a famous quote by William Shakespeare. Justify.

- (A3) Pick out examples of Inversion from the poem.

- (A4) (i) Justify the verdict delivered in the poem.

I can support my answer with the help of the following suitable arguments:

- (a) .....
- (b) .....
- (c) .....

- (ii) Compose two lines of your own on any sensory organ.

- (iii) Imagine that you are a lawyer defending the case of the eyes in court. Present your counter-statement in support of your client.

- (A5) (i) Write the appreciation of the poem.

- (ii) Write the summary of the poem.

(Both appreciation and the summary can be written with the help of the points given in previous poems.)

- (A6) Project

Read different stories about intelligent ministers of kings, whose judgements helped to bring about law and order in society. For example, Birbal, Tenalirama etc. Write 5 such stories in your notebook.

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