

## 1.4 Revathi's Musical Plants

### WARMING UP

#### 1. Discuss in groups and share your answers with the class.

- Can you name the famous musician in Emperor Akbar's court, who could perform miracles, when he sang different Ragas?
- What miracles could he perform with his music?
- What impact does music have on human beings?
- Do you think music can have an impact on animals, birds and even plants?

#### 2. Affirmative and Negative sentences

Read the sentences below and spot the difference in their framing :

1. (a) I could not complete the work.  
(b) I failed to complete the work.
2. (a) There is no sense in what you say .  
(b) There is hardly any sense in what you say.
3. (a) He said he wouldn't go.  
(b) He refused to go.

You will observe that sentences marked (a) and (b) convey the same meaning. But in all sentences marked (a) there are negative words (no, not, wouldn't) whereas the ones marked (b) do not have them.

Negative words are those that convey a negative meaning.

For example : never, no, neither, nor, not, cannot, don't, isn't, nothing etc.

If a sentence contains Negative words, it is called a **NEGATIVE SENTENCE**.

If a sentence does not contain any Negative word, it is called an **Affirmative sentence**.

Say whether the following sentences are **Affirmative or Negative** ones.

- (1) We must avoid hurting others.
- (2) She didn't offer me any help.
- (3) Never give up hopes.
- (4) You must keep away from bad company.
- (5) There is nothing in the bag.
- (6) Entry is prohibited, without permission.

**Note :** While interchanging Negative and Affirmative sentence, the meaning and tense must not change.

You **must** use Negative words in the sentence, while converting from Affirmative to Negative.

You may use words like hardly / fail to / refuse / reject / avoid / prohibit / without / ban etc., while changing Negative sentences to Affirmative.

## Revathi's Musical Plants

Revathi was a student of music. She was happy playing on her violin whenever she was free. There was a small open courtyard in front of her house, with a small cement bench. She would sit on the bench and practise on her violin. There were a few potted plants in the courtyard. While playing on the violin one day, she noted a pot of **balsam** plants near the wall. The plants were not looking normal. They had pale green leaves and their growth was **stunted**. She remembered she had learnt in the lower classes that plants need light for normal growth. She shifted the pot to the centre of the courtyard where there was ample sunlight.

While shifting the pot, an idea struck Revathi. Why not participate in the 'Best plant' contest which was to be held in her colony a few weeks later! Then and there she decided to participate. Thus making up her mind, she watered the plants and sat down on the bench and started playing her violin. She was very fond of the raga 'Mohanam'. She played the raga for some time and then went in for her studies.

Everyday, Revathi would sit on the bench and watch her potted plants. They were growing well and looking healthier than the other plants in the far end of the courtyard. One day as she was playing, she noticed a movement in her potted plants. They were slowly moving their stems, bending slightly towards her. She wondered why they were moving as there was no breeze. It **struck her as odd**.

The next evening too she played on her violin as usual and watched the potted plants with care. After some time, like the previous day, there was a definite movement in her plants. They all bent towards her. This astonished and surprised her. That day also, there was no breeze.

Revathi sat on the bench and played a different tune, one with a quick rhythm. She suddenly saw all plants turn away from her as though they did not like what she was

◆ **balsam** : a plant, usually with pink or white flowers, grown in gardens

◆ **stunted** : slowed down or stopped

◆ *Why did Revathi change the pot's location?*

◆ *Name the favourite raga of Revathi.*

◆ **struck her as odd** : seemed very strange

◆ *What strange thing did Revathi notice about the potted plant?*

◆ *How did Revathi confirm her new discovery?*

● **surmise** : guess

● **mauve** : of a pale purple colour

● **knew no bounds** : had no limits

◆ *What shock did Revathi receive on the prize distribution day?*

playing. Then she started playing her favourite tune again and the plants slowly straightened themselves and bent towards her. Her **surmise** became a certainty. Her plants loved to hear her favourite tune.

She kept the knowledge a secret. She did not tell anyone, not even her mother. There were only a few days left for the prize distribution. To her great surprise, Revathi found her potted plants not only taller and healthier than other balsam plants, but that they had started flowering a few days earlier than the other plants. The flowers were big and brightly coloured and one of the plants had an unusual kind of flower. The flowers were **mauve** with white stripes. That evening she knew, she would definitely get the prize for the best plants. She went to bed, dreaming of her plants and the new type of flowers. The next day was the all - important day. She got up in the morning and went straight to the courtyard to see her plants. Revathi blinked for a few minutes, for there was neither the pot nor the plants. She looked to see if someone had moved the pot. She searched all over. She asked her mother. Her mother said she knew nothing either about the pot or the plants. Some of the neighbours had been to their house the previous afternoon and had remarked at the beautiful flowers and the healthy – looking plants in the pot. But later, she had been busy inside the house and had been not to the courtyard.

Revathi's grief **knew no bounds**. She went around asking every one of her neighbours but no one had been anywhere near the pot of plants. She could not lodge a complaint for a pot of plants. She felt as though everything was lost. She did not mind, not getting the prize but she really missed her plants. She had grown very fond of them. They were her friends, who enjoyed her music.

That evening, all her friends were going to the prize distribution ceremony. She did not want to attend. But her friends forced her to. After reaching the place, she went to the benches where the potted plants were displayed. Revathi was shocked. There was her pot of plants on a bench, with the name of a **distant** neighbour of hers as the competitor written on a small piece of cardboard and placed in the

soil. She knew it was her pot of plants. She went to the organisers of the show and told them about it.

The organisers were not convinced. They said, “How can you prove that the plants are yours? The lady who submitted them is a regular participant. How can we doubt her?”

Revathi wondered how to convince them. She sat there for a few minutes looking at the plants. The sight of the plants bending towards her while she played her violin flashed across her mind. She told the organisers that she could prove the plants were hers. She ran home. When she returned a few minutes later with her violin in, they started laughing.

But their **ridicule** did not **deter** her from her **mission**. She told them, “I know my plants and I share a secret with them. My plants are music - lovers like me and you could see how they respond when I play to them.”

They all laughed louder saying that they had never heard of plants enjoying music. They asked her, “Do plants have ears like us to enjoy your music?” No one believed her.

She felt very **dejected** but was determined to win her plants back. She sat near her plants with her violin and slowly started playing her favourite raga. Engrossed in her music, Revathi even forgot her plants for a time, but the others could not.

With wonder in their eyes, they watched the plants. Straight at first, they bent slightly. As she played on and on, their stems bent towards Revathi as though they wanted to touch her, in their happiness. The organisers were **stunned**. They had watched a new



◆ *How did Revathi plan to convince the organisers that the plants were hers?*

◆ *Why did the organisers refuse to believe that Revathi's plants were music lovers?*

- **ridicule** : unkind laughter
- **deter** : discourage
- **mission** : an important task undertaken

- **dejected** : sad, disappointed

- **stunned** : astonished and amazed

● **phenomenon** : something that is very unusual

● **applauded** : showed praise by clapping

● **pulled up** : told someone they had done something wrong

◆ *Why had no one suspected that the neighbour had stolen the plants?*

◆ *What is the happy end?*

**phenomenon** of plants responding to music and Revathi had become a great discoverer.

They all **applauded** her and said they were convinced that the plants were hers.

They **pulled** her neighbour **up** for cheating them and she accepted, after a long argument, that she had stolen Revathi's plants. She said while walking past Revathi's house she had spotted the plants and had removed the pot in the night to her house and submitted it later for the contest. As she was a regular participant, no one doubted her.

The authorities decided that Revathi's plants deserved the first prize as they were the best - looking and healthy. Revathi carried home the prize proudly with her pot of plants.



## ENGLISH WORKSHOP

### 1. Read the story and complete the following.

- (a) At first, Revathi's plants did not look normal and healthy because,  
.....
- (b) When Revathi played her favourite raga, the plants began to move because,  
.....
- (c) Revathi's grief knew no bounds because,  
.....
- (d) Revathi was confident of proving her ownership of her pot of plants because,  
.....
- (e) Revathi won the prize for the 'Best plant' because,  
.....

### 2. Answer in your own words.

- (a) What did Revathi discover about her balsam plants?
- (b) Why did she decide to keep her new knowledge 'a secret'?
- (c) How did the plants respond when Revathi played her favourite tune?
- (d) How did the plants react to the fast rhythmic music?
- (e) How did Revathi prove to the organisers of the competition, that the plants truly belonged to her?
- (f) What helped Revathi to claim her plants – her belief in magic or the belief in her convictions? Explain your choice.

**3. (A) A word chain consists of words of a certain category that begin with the letter that the previous word has ended with.**

Complete the word chain adding four nouns from the text.

Music - courtyard - d ..... , ..... , ..... , ..... .

**(B) Add the appropriate Prefix to make the following words opposite in meaning.**

- |            |            |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| • continue | • possible | • certain   |
| • definite | • believe  | • important |
| • place    | • known    | • regular   |

**(C) Use the following expressions to make sentences of your own.**

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • make up one's mind | • flash across one's mind |
| • struck as odd      | • to surmise              |
| • knew no bounds     | • not to deter            |

**4. Imagine there is a 'Best Plant' Competition in the locality / colony where you live. Frame a Notice about the same, in the form of an attractive poster. Cover the following points.**

- |                              |                                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| (1) Name of the organisation | (2) Name of the Contest                 |
| (3) Day, Date, Venue         | (4) Who can participate                 |
| (5) Prizes                   | (6) Contact details for further enquiry |

**5. Types of sentences**

Study the following sentences.

Set (A) • Revathi was a student of music.

- The flowers were big and brightly coloured; indeed.
- They were requested to believe her.

All the above sentences are statements or assertions, and called **Assertive** or **Declarative sentences**.

Set (B) • Wasn't Revathi a student of music?

- How can we doubt her?
- Do plants have ears?

The above sentences in Set (B) are Questions. They are called **Interrogative sentences**.

Set (C) • Please believe me.

- Let us watch the fun.
- Sit straight.
- Excuse me.

In Set (C) the sentences are either requests, appeals, commands, suggestions etc. Such sentences are called **Imperative Sentences**.

Set (D) • How big and bright the flowers were !

- What a surprise !
- Ah, what beautiful music that is !

Set (D) has sentences that express strong feelings. They are called **Exclamatory Sentences**.

State the kinds of the following sentences.

- (1) How happily she played the violin!
- (2) They all bent towards her.
- (3) Don't play that quick tune.
- (4) She kept the knowledge a secret.
- (5) How can plants enjoy music?
- (6) How proudly did Revathi carry home her prize!
- (7) What could have taken my plants?
- (8) The organisers were not convinced.

**6. Make the following Negative using the negative words given.**

- (1) There were a few potted plants in the courtyard. (not many)
- (2) They looked healthier than the other plants. (not as healthy as)
- (3) She refused to share her secret. (would not)
- (4) She went around asking everyone about her plants. (No one / did not)

**7. Make the following Affirmative using the words given.**

- (1) There was no breeze. (hardly)
- (2) Their ridicule did not deter her. (failed to)
- (3) Her mother knew nothing about it. (denied)
- (4) She did not give up. (refuse to)

**8. Imagine that Revathi's father is abroad on business and she wishes to convey the news of her prize - winning plants. Draft an email for the above subject.**

(Use an email format.)





## WORD PLAY

### ANAGRAMS

An anagram is a play on words created by rearranging the letters of the original words to make a new word or phrase. Anagrams can be fun and witty. We can often find examples of anagrams in everyday life.

For example : state - taste, dusty - study, save - vase, thing - night, etc.

**Group Activity :** Divide the class in four groups. The first group finds out anagrams of 3 letters, the second group finds out anagrams of 4 letters, the third and fourth groups find out anagrams of 4 and 5 letters respectively, in the given time. The group which collects maximum anagrams in the given time, will be the winner.

**Individual Activity :** Make anagrams of the following words. Remember that an anagram contains exactly the same letters, no more no less, only in a different order.

• ten • dairy • glean • former • auctioned • listen • allergy • funeral • teacher • dormitory

### MOTHER TONGUE OR OTHER TONGUE?

There are some words in English which sound like words in your mother tongue. But, if you consider the meaning and use, you realize that they are different words altogether. For example :

| Words         | Meaning in English   | Meaning in Marathi | Meaning in Hindi |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Rose          | a flower             | daily              | everyday         |
| Sun / Son     | a star / a male heir | festival           | year             |
| Piece / peace | a bit / calm         | a feather          | grind            |
| calm          | peaceful             | work               | work             |

**Activity :** Now complete the following table.

| Words | Meaning in English                               | Meaning in Marathi |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Boat  | .....                                            | <u>a finger</u>    |
| ..... | .....                                            | daughter-in-law    |
| Rope  | a strong cord                                    | .....              |
| Lake  | a body of fresh water surrounded by land         | .....              |
| name  | a word/words by which a person or thing is known |                    |
| more  | greater in amount or degree                      | .....              |
| case  | container                                        | .....              |

Find more such English words which would be meaningful in your mother tongue, too.



## Riddles

**Group Activity :** The teacher divides the class into four groups. The teacher asks the groups to read the riddles and choose the correct answer for each one. The group that finishes correctly first is the winner.

- What comes down but never goes up ? .....
- What has hands but cannot clap? .....
- Everyone has it and no one can lose it. What is it? .....
- What has an eye but cannot see? .....
- I have teeth but I cannot bite. Who am I? .....
- What starts with P and ends with E and has more than 1000 letters? .....
- Where does Friday come before Thursday? .....
- We see it once in a year, twice in a week and never in a day. What is it?  
.....

• What can travel around the world while it remains in a corner? .....

(a date / a comb / the letter 'E' clock / your name / a bottle / a stamp / in a dictionary / rain / a shadow / post office / needle)

Collect / make up your own riddles in a group and present before in the class.

## 2. Word Building

**(a) Reduplication :** The root / stem of a word is repeated exactly or with a slight change.

For example, tweet-tweet, pitter-patter, chit-chat, bang-bang, riff-raff.

**(b) Blending :** Parts of two or more words combine to form a new one.

For example: • breakfast + lunch = brunch

• smoke + fog = smog

• motor + hotel = motel

**(c) Clipping :** Reducing a word to one of its syllables or a part of it.

For example: • Mathematics - Maths

• Advertisement - Ad

• Laboratory - Lab

**(d) Acronym :** Words formed from the first letter of each of the words involved.

For example: • radar, scuba, Unicef, Nasa

• BBC, CID, USA, ATM, VIP

• DOB, KYC, PM, GN, TY etc.

In your notebook, write five examples of each of the above types of word-building devices. (You may take the help of a Dictionary / Internet.)

### (A) Grow a Sentence :

- Frame a meaningful sentence in English. It should be short and simple.  
For example : ‘Yesterday , I bought a story book’.
- Write it down on a card.
- Next day try to expand the same sentence.  
For example : Yesterday, I bought a story book written by Leo Tolstoy.
- On the third day, expand the previous sentence even more.  
For example : Yesterday, I bought a story book written by Leo Tolstoy, who is a famous Russian writer.
- Keep this up, till you can.
- Make sure there is connectivity and proper meaning to your final output.
- Confirm if your final sentence is appropriate, from your teacher.

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### (B) A Proverb a day

- Choose a Proverb every day.
- Try to understand its meaning and implied meaning if any.
- Write the proverb in a separate book and explain its meaning (in a different font).  
For example : A stitch in time saves nine.  
*(Bad habits or weaknesses should be controlled / corrected in time before they become a habit.)*
- Now write a new proverb each day till you have a good collection of at least 25 to 30 proverbs along with their meaning in simple words.
- You may share and discuss with your teacher / parents / classmates.

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### (C) Expressions!

Using a similar pattern, as for proverbs think of a situation and what expression comes out spontaneously in spoken English.

For example : Situation - shock

Expression - Oh no !

Situation - Joy

Expression - Wow! How lovely !