

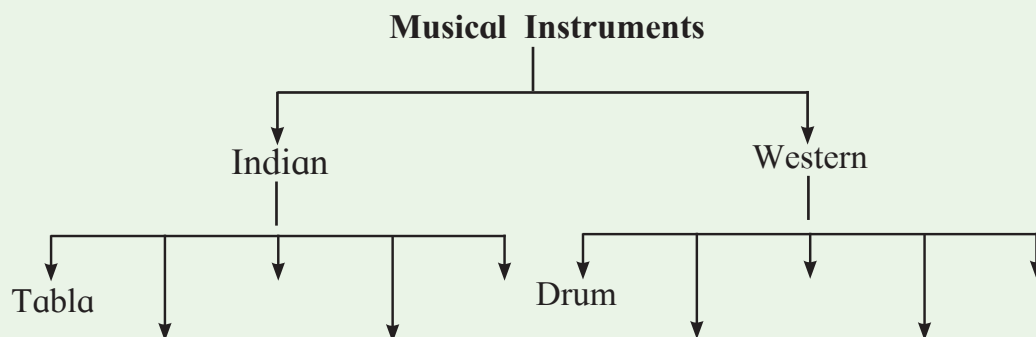
3.2 The Song of Songs

WARMING UP !

CHIT - CHAT

- (1) Do you like to listen to music/songs?
- (2) What types of songs do you sing?
- (3) Who is your favourite singer?
- (4) When do you sing?
- (5) Do you practise singing under the guidance of a *Guru*?
- (6) What is difference between folk music and classical music?

(1) Discuss with your friends and write down the names of 5 to 6 Indian musical instruments and those used in Western music.



(2) A 'Raag' or 'Raga' is a music piece in Indian Classical music which is sung or played in a fixed combination of 5 to 6 basic musical notes.

From any singer/musician or the Internet write down the names of any five Ragas and on what occasion they are best sung.

RAAG	OCCASION
1. Raag Malkauns	late night
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

The Song of Songs

- **exhausted** : tired

- **exquisite** : very fine and pleasing

◆ *Who is the musician?*

◆ *How does Emperor Akbar praise Tansen?*

◆ *How was Akbar different from other rulers of that time?*

- **summoned** : called

- **enraged** : filled with anger

- **austere** : simple

- **persuade** : try to convince

◆ *Who was the musician that Tansen was talking about?*

- **deliberate** : purely made

◆ *Why did Tansen make deliberate mistake?*

Slowly, gently, the **exhausted** musician laid his tanpura on the carpet. The **exquisite** strains of Raag **Darbari** still vibrated within the hall. Emperor Akbar looked up, his eyes lit with admiration. “Wonderful!” he said. “Superb! I listen to you every day, but I can’t seem to have enough!”

Tansen bowed in silent gratitude.

“I think you have the most wonderful voice in the world!” said Akbar.

“But I don’t, Shahenshah!” said Tansen with a smile. “There is someone who sings far better than I do.”

“Really?” cried the disbelieving Akbar. “Then I must have him sing in my court. Can you arrange it?”

Tansen shook his head. “I’m afraid he will not come, Sire.”

“What ! Not even if he hears that the emperor himself has **summoned** him?”

“No, not even then.”

This reply would have **enraged** any other emperor.

But Akbar was different. “Very well, Ustadji,” said Akbar, smiling into Tansen’s half-scared eyes. “If he doesn’t come, I shall go to him, myself. Will you take me to him?”

“Yes, Sire, provided you do not come as the Emperor of Hindustan.”

“I shall go as a humble lover of music.”

Sant Haridas was the man, Tansen had spoken of. He had been Tansen’s music teacher and he lived the **austere** life of a hermit. When Tansen and the emperor reached his hut, he was busy with his daily chores. When they asked him to sing, he smiled but said firmly, “I’m long past the age for singing.” Even his favourite pupil could not **persuade** him to change his mind.

But Tansen knew how to get round him. He offered to sing before his *guru*. And he made a **deliberate**

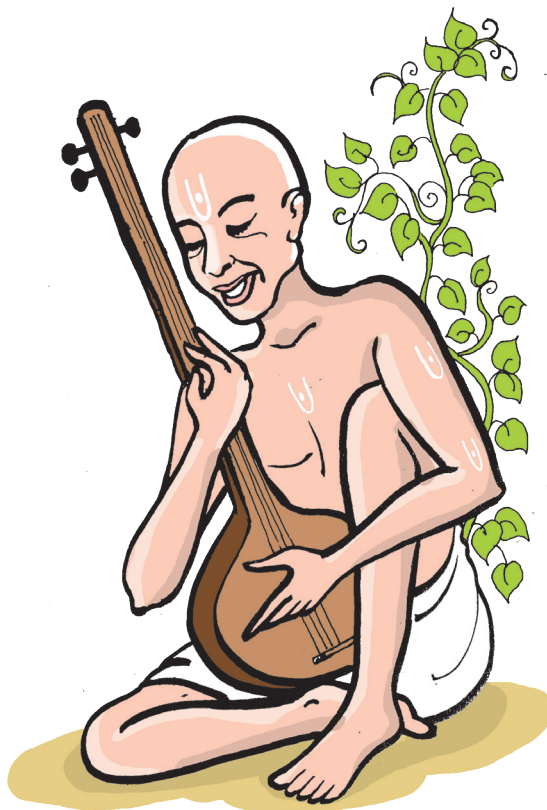
mistake. “That’s not the right note, Tansen,” cried his teacher, amazed. “What has happened to you?”

Tansen did not seem to understand his teacher and he made the same mistake again. **Exasperated**, Sant Haridas took the tanpura from Tansen’s hands and sang the right note. Then he went on to the next and the next!

The music spread across the forest, like the first glimmer of dawn or the fragrance of jasmine. Both Akbar and Tansen listened to him as if they were **hypnotised** and the emperor realized that Tansen had spoken the truth. He had not known that music could be like this! He had certainly never heard anything like it before.

As they walked back, the emperor suddenly broke the silence to ask Tansen, “Why can’t you sing like him, Ustadji?”

Tansen smiled. “Shahenshah, I sing at your command, the command of the Emperor of Hindustan. But Guruji sings for one who is Master of even kings! GOD! His music springs from the depths of his soul, free and unasked for. How can I expect my music to be so beautiful and **divine**?”



● **exasperated** :
irritated, angry

◆ *What is the music that spread across the forest compared to?*

● **hypnotised** :
captured full attention

◆ *What reason did Tansen give for his Guruji’s outstanding music?*

● **divine** : of or like God

1. Frame your own sentences by using words/phrases.

(i) Wonderful (ii) Superb (iii) Very well (iv) So beautiful and divine

2. From the story make a list of words related with 'music'.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (1) | (5) |
| (2) | (6) |
| (3) | (7) |
| (4) | (8) |

3. Who said to whom and when/why?

Who said to whom?	Who	Whom	When/Why
(1) Then I must have him sing in my court.			
(2) I shall go as a humble lover of music.			
(3) What has happened to you?			
(4) How can I expect my music to be so beautiful and divine?			

4. Match the sentences with their types.

(A) Sentences	(B) Types
(1) What has happened to you ?	(a) Exclamatory
(2) I am long past the age for singing.	(b) Interrogative
(3) Wonderful !	(c) Statement / Assertive
(4) No, not even then!	(d) Imperative
(5) Take me to him.	(e) Negative

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

5. Make as many words as you can from the word : EXASPERATED

6. Write T for True, NT for Not True and CNS for Can Not Say :

- (i) Emperor Akbar greatly admired Tansen's music, but now he was bored with it.
- (ii) Akbar was arrogant and expected all his subjects to obey his commands.
- (iii) Guruji recognised the king.
- (iv) In spite of being a great singer, Tansen continued to make deliberate mistakes.
- (v) Any effort dedicated to God turns to be the best.

7. Discuss and write briefly.

- (i) What would happen if the Emperor Akbar would summon Sant Haridas :
- (ii) What if you find a blind person singing songs melodiously for begging :

8. Study the underlined groups of words.

- (i) (a) He wore a shirt made of cotton.
(b) He wore a shirt which was made of cotton.
- (ii) (a) Are you sure, of your innocence?
(b) Are you sure, that you are innocent?
- (iii) (a) This is the exact reason for his failure.
(b) This is exactly, why he has failed.
- (iv) (a) After finishing his work, he went home.
(b) He finished his work and he went home.

You will notice that all underlined groups of words in sentences marked (a) merely refer to a concept or expression. They do not contain a subject or a Main or Principal Verb such as a group of words or unit of a sentence is called a **PHRASE**.

Each of the underlined group of words in sentences marked (b) convey a thought / concept and have a Subject and a Principal or Main Verb.

This unit / part of a sentence is called a CLAUSE.

- **Say whether the underlined are Phrases or Clauses.**

- (i) The musician laid his tanpura on the carpet.
- (ii) There is someone, who sings far better.
- (iii) He had been Tansen's music teacher and he lived the life of a hermit.
- (iv) The music spread like the first glimmer of dawn.
- (v) His music springs from the depth of his soul.
- (vi) As they walked back, the emperor suddenly broke the silence.

**9. Divide the class into 2 groups. (Teacher divides the story in to 2 parts.)
Each group should be allotted one part to be converted to a play/skit format.
Combine the two parts, such that the entire story is converted to a play.
Also give a suitable title. Present the play in your class.**

10. Search on Internet the information about Tansen and any two great artists / musicians with the help of the following points.

- Name
- Place of Birth
- Music / Art
- Awards and Honours

11. Activity:

Collect any five stories of Akbar and Birbal. Write / present any one of them in the class.

