

# 14

## The Mares

---

### 14.1 Objectives

---

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Read and enjoy a short story.
- Frame yes/no questions
- Use phrasal verbs
- Use suffixes
- Express likes and dislikes in speech
- Write a short paragraph

---

### 14.2 Let's read

---

*Have you ever tried solving puzzles? Here is a story with an interesting puzzle. There are two mares (female horses), a mother and daughter, but you can't say which is which because they look exactly alike. So, how will you tell? Well, read on.*

#### Section I

- 1- Once, a merchant dealing in horses came to Poona, bringing with him two Arab mares. They were handsome animals, glossy white, stately and swift of foot. Moreover,

Mares: female horses  
Glossy : shiny  
Stately : princely, like a prince  
Swift of foot: fast, quick

As alike as two peas in a pod:  
looked like twins, exactly the  
same

they were as alike as two peas in a pod. One rarely saw such fine mares in that part of the country, and many people wanted to buy them.

Peshwa: ruler of  
Maharashtra

2- “Ask your price,” the merchant was told by many buyers. No price was too high, such were the mares. But they were not for sale. They were to be presented to the ruler Baji Rao Peshwa. But on one condition!

Filly: young female horse  
Trace: hint

3- The two mares were, in reality, mother and filly. But there was not a sign, not a trace, to point out which was which.

4- “I ask a simple question”, said the merchant. “Which of the two mares is the mother? Which the daughter?”

Gait: way of walking  
Marked: was present in

5- It was almost impossible to find out. The same height, the same gait, the same swiftness marked the two.

Poona Durbar: Poona  
Durbar was famous for its  
wisdom

6- “I have heard a lot about the Poona Durbar,” smiled the man. “I have now come to find out for myself. If you can tell the difference between my mares I will hand them over to you. I will become your admirer for life.”

---

### 14.1 Read, Think and Answer I

---

1. What did the merchant deal in?

---

---

2. How did the mares look?

---

---

3. Why were the buyers willing to pay any price for them?

---

---

4. Why did the merchant not want to sell them?

---

---

## English

5. What was the condition that the merchant laid down to present the mares to the Peshwa?
- 
- 

### 14.3 Section II

*The merchant wants to present the mares to the Peshwa, but on a condition. Let us see whether the condition is met.*

- 1- All eyes turned to Nana, the Peshwa's adopted son. Here was a difficult problem, and even Nana was puzzled. But the Poona Durbar's reputation was at stake. For indeed the merchant had said that if the problem remained unsolved, he would tell everyone about it.
- 2- Nana asked for a few days to think over the problem. The challenge was accepted!
- 3- Those were the days of the Monsoon. The rivers had over-flowed their banks. One wet afternoon, Nana called for the mares, and procession set out towards the Mutha river. The level of the river had risen, and the usually slow moving water now flowed furiously, with great force.
- 4- "Drive the mares into the water," cried Nana. "Let them reach the other bank.."
- 5- The poor creatures were forced into the angry river. They moved towards the other bank. They bobbed up and down, swimming shoulder to shoulder in the stormy water. When they reached the middle of the river the water was flowing dangerously fast. For a moment the mares wavered. Those on the banks watched tensely. Then suddenly, one mare plunged forward and took the lead. The other followed close behind.
- 6- "There," cried Nana. "The one in front is the mother. Being the elder and the more experienced, she leads the way. She faces danger herself like all good mothers. Look! They have reached the other bank safely."
- 7- Everyone looked at the merchant. "Well?" asked the Peshwa, "is Nana right?"
- 8- "Your Highness," said the merchant, "the noble animals are now yours".

---

## 14.2 Read, Think and Answer II

---

1. Who was Nana?

---

---

2. Why did he accept the challenge?

---

---

3. Where were the mares taken?

---

---

4. What were the mares made to do?

---

---

5. How did the Nana find out which mare was the mother and which the daughter?

---

---

---

## 14.4 Let's Learn Grammar

---

### *Yes/ No Questions*

There are some questions which can only be answered with a 'yes' or a 'no' (in the affirmative or negative).

e.g. Q. Do you drink milk daily?

Ans. Yes, I drink milk daily. (Affirmative)

No, I don't drink milk daily. (Negative)

Given below are some yes/no answers. Frame questions on them.

## English

1. No, I am not a student of class XII.
2. Yes, I have been abroad.
3. No, the Ramayana was not written by an English man.
4. Yes, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain.
5. Yes, Indians should plan their families.
6. No, every Indian need not learn English.
7. No, alcohol/ drinking is not good for health.
8. Yes, India can be called a country of festivals.
9. No, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was not India's second Prime Minister.

---

## 14.5 Let's Learn Grammar II

---

### *Phrasal verbs*

You have already read about a special group of verbs which consist of two or three words. The meaning of the original verb is changed or expanded by adding another word or words to it.

Eg. Look after – She looked after her ailing mother.

Fall over – Martin stood on his head and fell over.

Look forward to – I look forward to reading this book.

Set in – winter has set in.

Some phrasal verbs used in your lesson are –

*Hand over, ask for, think over, call for*

Use the following phrasal verbs in the sentences given below-

Boil over, bounce back, bow out, step down, watch out, touch down, give in, back out

1. The plane is about to \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The team \_\_\_\_\_ after the initial defeat.

3. The Prime Minister \_\_\_\_\_ from his office.
4. The wrestler \_\_\_\_\_ of the competition following injury.
5. Milk \_\_\_\_\_ if heated for too long.
6. You must \_\_\_\_\_ for pick-pockets in a bus.
7. A tough person does not \_\_\_\_\_ easily.
8. You should not \_\_\_\_\_ of your promise.

---

## 14.6 Increase Your Word Power I

---

### *Suffixes*

A suffix is a group of letters added to the end of a word to form a new word. Sometimes adding a suffix changes the word form e.g. Care + less where care is a noun and careless is an adjective.

- (A) A noun can be derived from an adjective by adding the suffix 'ness' to it.

Example : swiftness

The noun swift – ness in your lesson is derived by adding the suffix 'ness' to the adjective swift.

### **Exercise**

Which nouns can be derived from the following adjectives:

Close, rich, sharp, hard, slow, fair.

Can you use these nouns in the following sentences:

1. Nothing can match the \_\_\_\_\_ of a diamond.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of his mind surprised the teacher.
3. Everybody knows about his \_\_\_\_\_ to the chief minister.
4. Nobody doubted the referee's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Snail is known for its \_\_\_\_\_.

## English

6. Doctors recommend milk for its \_\_\_\_\_ as food.

(B) Similarly an adverb (a word that tells us how somebody does something or how something happens) can be derived from an adjective by adding the suffix 'ly' to it.

Some adverbs used in this lesson are

Furiously = furious + ly

Tensely = tense + ly

Safely = safe + ly

### Exercise

Make adverbs from the following and use them in the sentences given below:

Strange, quick, happy, proper, serious

1. He looked \_\_\_\_\_ me.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ left the shop.
3. The mechanic did not repair the car \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The child played \_\_\_\_\_ with the toy.
5. We must prepare \_\_\_\_\_ for the exam.

(C) An adjective can be derived from a noun by adding the suffix 'y' to it

Some examples from the lesson The Mares are

Stormy = storm + y

Glossy = gloss + y

### Exercise

Make adjectives from the following nouns and use them in the sentences given below.

Anger, rain, grass, snow, wind, dirt

1. This plot of land is \_\_\_\_\_

Or

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ plot of land.

2. The day was both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. These \_\_\_\_\_ mountains attract a large number of tourists.
4. He was cleaning his \_\_\_\_\_ shoes.
5. He had an \_\_\_\_\_ look in his eyes.

---

## 14.7 Increase Your Word Power II

---

### *Comparisons*

The comparative degree of an adjective is formed by adding 'er' to it or using 'more' before it.

Example :	adjective	comparative degree
	Great	greater
	Fast	faster
	Beautiful	more beautiful

Use the comparative forms of the adjective in the brackets in the sentences given below:

1. India is \_\_\_\_\_ than Nepal. (big)
2. Diamond is \_\_\_\_\_ than steel. (hard)
3. A car is \_\_\_\_\_ than a motorcycle. (expensive)
4. The Qutab Minar is \_\_\_\_\_ than the Taj Mahal. (old)
5. Ashok is \_\_\_\_\_ than Dinesh. (generous)

---

## 14.8 Let's Talk

---

### *Expressing likes and dislikes*

Practice this dialogue with your friend.

Rakesh: Nitin, do you watch television everyday?

Nitin: Oh, yes, every single day.

Rakesh: Really? For how many hours every day?

Nitin: Not for too long, but not less than two hours.

Rakesh: Which programmes do you like most?

Nitin: Well, I like watching sports programmes. I also like programmes based on wildlife. I find these programmes highly entertaining and informative.

Rakesh: Which wild life programme did you watch recently?

Nitin: I saw the one on reptiles in the Amazon forests.

Rakesh: And you liked it?

Nitin: Yes, very much.

Rakesh: I also saw this programme but I didn't like it. Reptiles give me a creepy feeling.

---

## 14.9 Let's Write

---

You must have read or heard stories of Birbal, or Tenali Raman. In these stories there is a problem or a difficult situation for which a solution is to be found. Here are some hints for you to write out a similar story. Remember the problem should be solved by the end of the story.

### *Problem*

Two women – to king in Court – one child – each says – “I'm the mother” – King asks Minister “Who is the real mother?”

### *Solution*

“Cut up the child” – “No, No” – says one woman, give it to her”. Who is the real mother? Clue – the woman who says “give it to her” is real mother.

Your paragraph should be of about 100 words.


---

## 14.10 Check Your Answers

---

### Read, Think and Answer I

1. Horses
2. Alike
3. Because the mares were very fine. They were handsome, glossy white, stately and swift of foot.
4. Because he wanted to present them to the ruler, Baji Rao Peshwa.
5. On the condition of finding out which mare was the mother and which the daughter.

### Read, Think and Answer II

1. The Peshwa's adopted son.
2. Because the Poona Durbar's reputation was at stake.
3. To the Mutha river.
4. The mares were driven into the water of the angry river.
5. The mare that plunged forward and took the lead was the mother.  
(the mother faces danger first)

## English

### Let's Learn Grammar

1. Are you a student of class XII?
2. Have you studied abroad?
3. Was the Ramayana written by an Englishman?
4. Is Mount Everest the world's highest mountain?
5. Should Indians plan their families?
6. Must every Indian learn English?
7. Is alcohol/drinking good for health?
8. Can India be called a country of festivals?
9. Was Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru India's second Prime Minister?

### Let's Learn Grammar II

- |               |                 |                 |              |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. touch down | 2. Bounced back | 3. Stepped down | 4. Bowed out |
| 5. boils over | 6. Watch out    | 7. Give in      | 8. Back out  |

### Increase Your word Power

(a) closeness, richness, sharpness, hardness, slowness, fairness

1. Hardness, 2. Sharpness, 3. Closeness, 4. Fairness, 5. Slowness 6. Richness

(b) angry, rainy, grassy, snowy, windy, dirty

1. Grassy, 2. Windy, rainy, 3. Snowy, 4. Dirty, 5. Angry

(c) strangely, quickly, happily, properly, seriously

1. Strangely, 2. Quickly, 3. Properly, 4. Happily, 5. Seriously

### Increase Your Word Power IV

1. Bigger, 2. Harder, 3. More expensive, 4. Older, 5. More generous