

LESSON - 2

“THE NUCLEAR TEST”

Pre-reading Activity :

Do you enjoy your grandparents' company? Do your grandparents stay with you or do they stay in a different place? Do you visit them often? Do they help you in your school work?

Discuss these questions with your friends and collect their opinions.

“*Amma*, why are you removing all my things from the cupboard?” Anjali asked in a voice which sounded like she was ready for a fight.

“You already know, Anjali. *Dada* and *dadi* are going to need some place for keeping their things,” her mother replied firmly.

“But, Ma, where will my things go? This has been my room since I was a baby. Why should I give up everything just because *dada* and *dadi* are coming to live with us?” cried Anjali.

“Come on, Anju. You are not giving up everything. You are only going to sleep on the couch in the hall instead of in this room. And your things can be accommodated elsewhere,” replied her mother, trying to be sensitive but feeling rather exasperated with her daughter's endless objections.

This is how it had been ever since Anjali had been told that her grandparents would be living with them from now on. They had recently sold off all their land in the little village where they had lived most of their life. *Dada* was nudging seventy now and was too old to be able to run the farm all by himself. He had promised he would not leave his beloved land till he dies, but he was finding it more and more difficult to live there alone. All his children had migrated to the cities. Two of Anjali's *chachajis* were abroad. Only Papa lived in Pune, while Rita *bu*a was in Delhi. *Dada* had been persuaded by Anjali's father to come and live with them. Papa wanted all of them to be together as a "joint" family. He could then take care of his ageing parents.



Of course, Anjali enjoyed meeting her grandparents during her holidays, but that did not mean she was going to be happy giving up her room for them! Anjali was an only child. Never in her life had she liked sharing anything, and she wasn't ready to change now!

And so it was that when her grandparents came, Anjali was fussy, irritating, and brattish worst. She made a big hue and cry over how she had lost her room. When she wasn't making rude comments, she would not talk much and pretended to be glued to her favourite programme on the TV. She was not very polite and complained, though not directly, for she was afraid of her father's wrath.

It was true having grandparents living with them needed adjusting to a new routine. They were used to a different way of life. They woke up much before anyone else did and that made things awkward. *Dadi* was forever doing some puja or the other, and if there was objection to onions in the food one day, it was eggs the next. They would not go with them to eat out in restaurants. They would not watch movies in theatres. They would not enjoy shopping just for fun. They thought strap dresses were too foreign and short skirts totally avoidable. Pop music was "noise" and ice-creams were "not good for health."

The one thing they did share was an addiction to television, but the programmes they watched put Anjali to sleep. Anjali felt as if she had suddenly been imprisoned. The house, all eight hundred and fifty feet of compact space planning, suddenly looked too small.

As the days passed, Anjali's anger mellowed into a guarded truce. It was impossible to remain angry with someone who was so kind. *Dadi* stopped commenting on her clothes and even bought her a pretty T-shirt when they went sightseeing. T.V became a divided schedule of the most favourite programme on each individual list. *Dada* helped Anjali with her projects and he was a big help with the Math syllabus. He also got Anjali into the habit of reading the newspaper and they would exchange world views when he walked with her to the bus-stop every morning.

Anjali's mother worked in an office and she left along with her father every morning. Breakfast was always cornflakes, and it was usually sandwiches for Anju's lunch box. And when her mother got back in the evening, she was so exhausted herself that cooking was never a great activity.

But now *Dadi* had taken over the kitchen – she actually said she was getting bored of doing nothing! *Dadi* was a fantastic cook. Suddenly, they were being pampered with the most divine parathas and *subzi, mithai and pakoras*, salads and pickles. Anjali's mother could now slow down a little and rest her feet. She even had more time for her daughter. She was also immeasurably reassured that her child was in the most caring hands possible.... till one day when the grandparents announced, "We are thinking of going to Rita's place for a while."

Before anyone could say anything, Anjali burst out, “Oh! Can I have my room back then? *Dada-Dadi*, when are you going?”

The silence that followed was terrible and only *Dadi* had some kind and general words to fill it with. Later, apart from her room, Anjali got the worst scolding she deserved and, in two days time, they were a nuclear family again. But it was a lonely achievement. There was no one to come home to, but the silly TV. There was none to talk to. Her mother was again overworked with no time for anything, or anybody. But most of all, the noise and bustle of one big happy family had faded into silence. The house, all eight hundred and fifty feet of compact space planning, suddenly looked too big.

When the phone rang the following night, just like they had expected it would, it was Anjali who ran and picked it up to say, “*Dada-Dadi*, When are you coming back?”



Glossary :

couch	:
exasperated	:
nudging	:
migrate	:
abroad	:
persuaded	:
fussy	:
brattish	:
wrath	:
awkward	:
imprisoned	:
addiction	:
mellowed	:
truce	:
hint of apology	:
hue and cry	:
immeasurably assured	:



Comprehension :

I. Choose the most appropriate answer.

1. Anjali's father persuaded Dada to come to Pune because
 - a) Dada was too old to run the farm
 - b) Anjali's chachajis were abroad

- c) Dada's children had migrated to cities
- d) he wanted to take care of his aged parents

2. Anjali enjoyed meeting her grandparents

- a) everyday
- b) during holidays
- c) during weekends
- d) during her visits to their village

II. Say whether the following statements are true or false.

- 1. Anjali always disliked sharing her things with others. ()
- 2. Anjali's mother was a fantastic cook. ()
- 3. Dada and Dadi enjoyed shopping for fun. ()
- 4. Anjali was extremely happy when her grandparents decided to go to Rita's place. ()

III. Pick out the word that best describes

- a) Anjali
- b) Dada
- c) Dadi
- d) Anjali's father
- e) Anjali's mother.

pious

()

possessive

()

caring

()

strict

()

busy

()

IV. In the table given below, list out the various ways in which Anjali's grandparents rendered help.

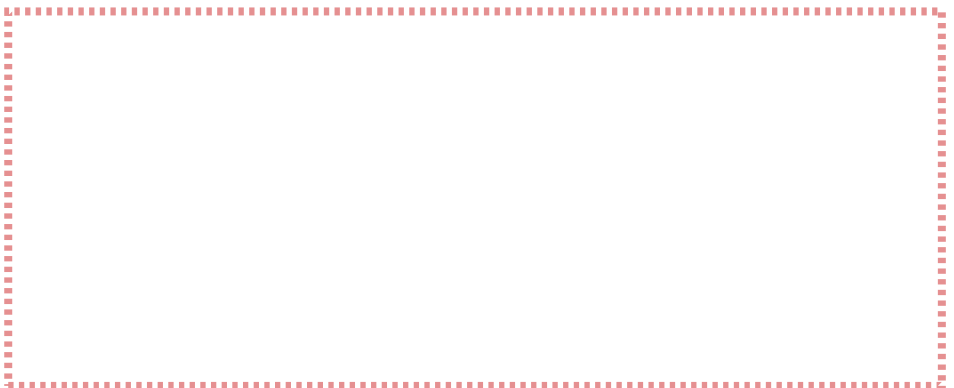
	Grandfather	Grandmother
1		
2		
3		
4		

V. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each.

1. Why did Anjali's mother remove all her things from the cupboard?



2. How old was Anjali's grandfather? Why was it difficult for him to live in the village?



Writing.

VI. Answer the following in a paragraph (six – eight sentences) each.

1. The family became “a nuclear family” again. What brought about this change?



2. Anjali was too eager to have her grandparents back. What does this tell you about Anjali?



3. Is the title of the story suitable to the context? Give your opinion.



Language Exercise :

Vocabulary :

1. Give one-word substitutes for the following.

1. One who resides temporarily outside the country
2. One who is only concerned with oneself
3. A state of perfect balance
4. One who is a hundred years old
5. A person in his sixties.

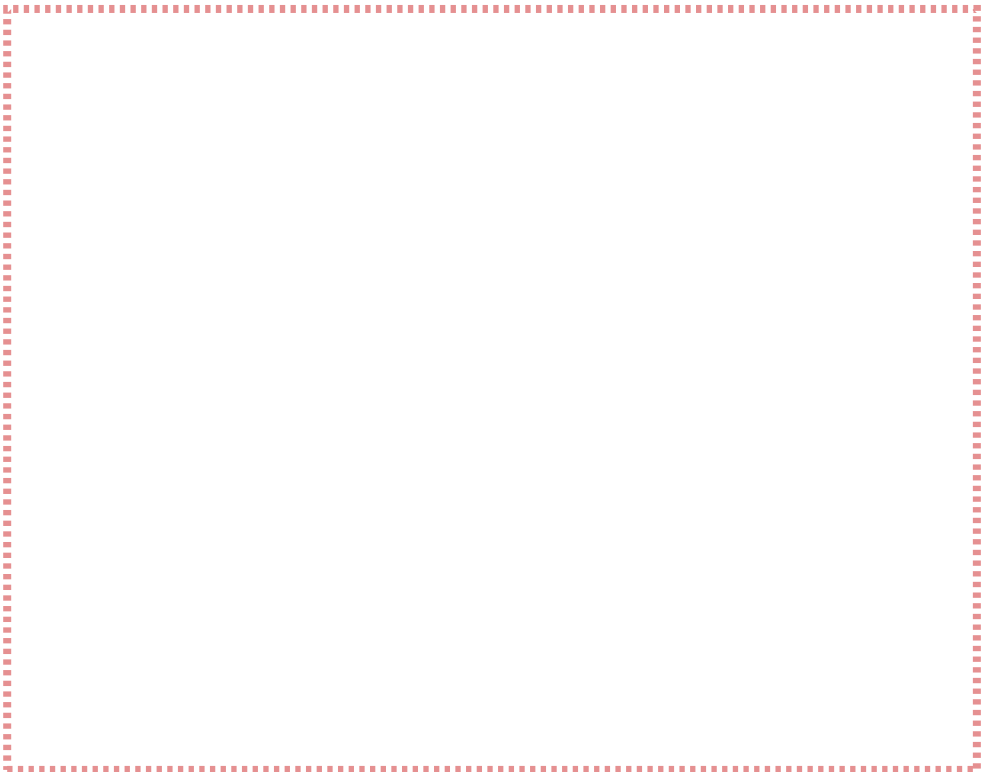
equilibrium

egocentric

expatriate

centenarian

sexagenarian



Grammar :

Nouns are naming words which are used to express names of animals or objects or places.

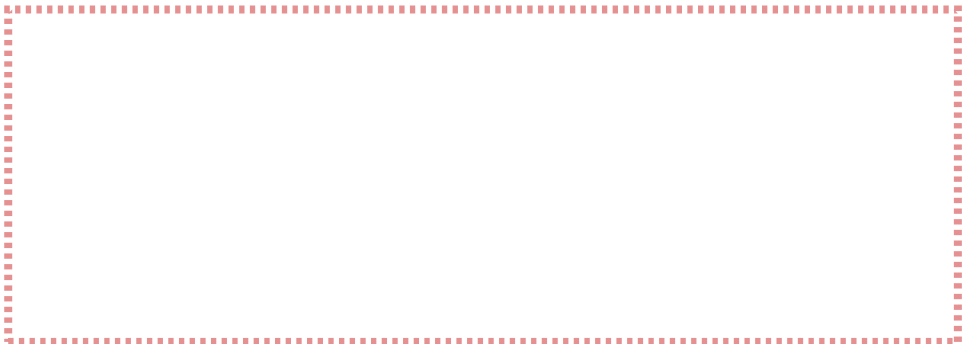
Nouns can either be singular or plural. Plurals are used to express more than one. Certain nouns do not have plurals for which the singular and plural are the same.

The plurals are usually formed by adding “s”, “es”, “ves” or “ies” to the singular.

e.g : boy – boys
bench – benches
leaf – leaves
story – stories

I. Now form the plurals of the following words.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| (i) house | (ii) student | (iii) toy |
| (iv) flower | (v) knife | (vi) cloth |
| (vii) berry | (viii) eye | (ix) table |
| (x) piece | (xi) company | (xii) lorry |



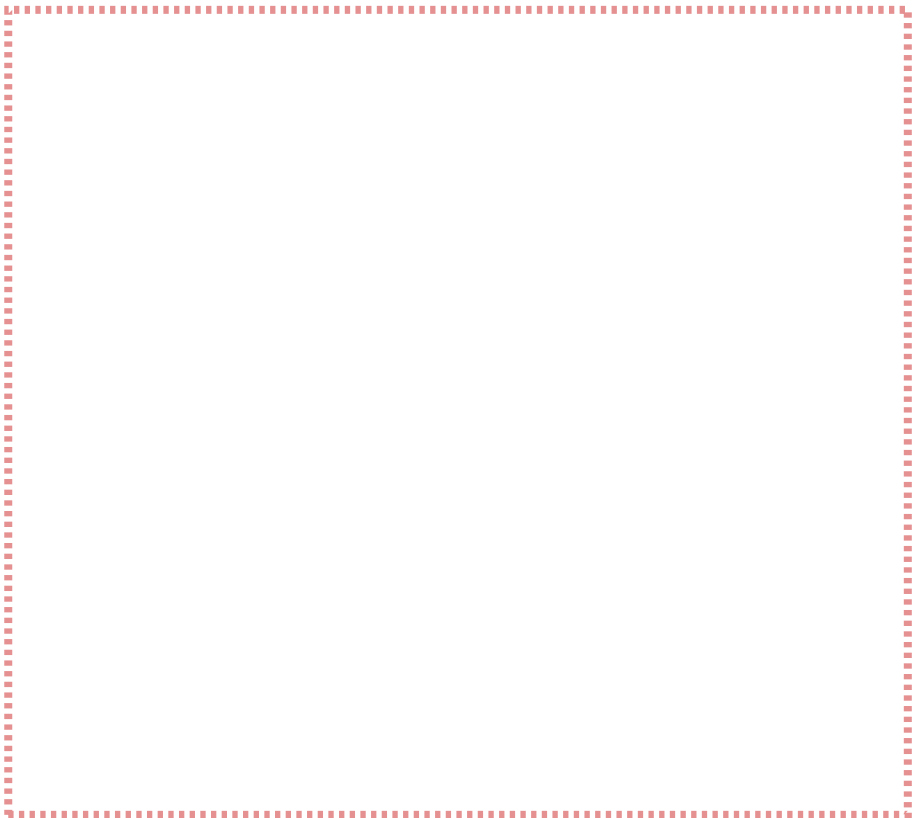
II. Identify the errors in the following words and write them correctly.

- (i) Buss (ii) machineses (iii) bullockes
(iv) vehical (v) photoes (vi) halves
(vii) tomatos (viii) potatos (ix) calves

There are some irregular plurals.

e.g: man – men
 child – children
 ox – oxen

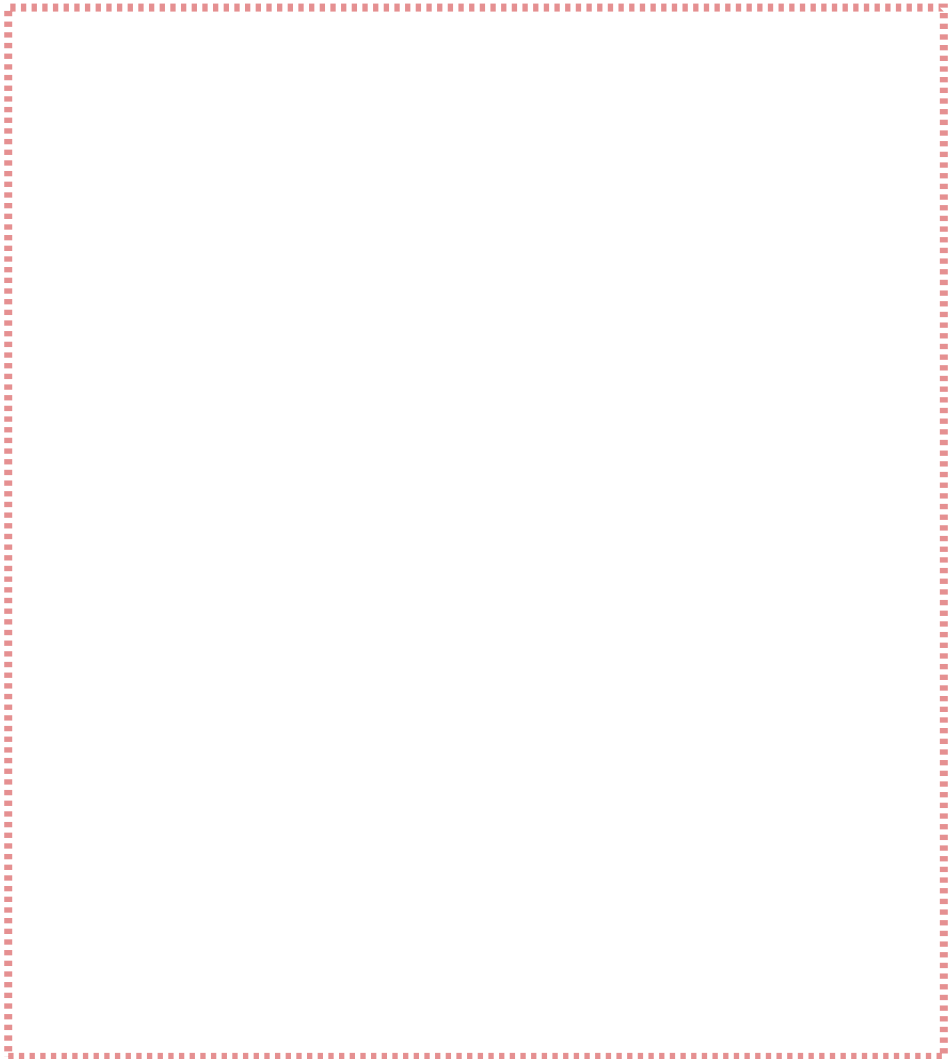
Using a dictionary find a few more irregular plurals.



III. Write a paragraph on “A day in your school”.

You can use the following as hints.

The time you left for school - The number of classes you had - Time when your classes began - The different activities - The games that you played in school - The time you returned home - Other activities in school.

A large rectangular box with a red dotted border, intended for writing a paragraph. The box is empty and occupies most of the lower half of the page.