

A BIRTHDAY LETTER

LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Life Skills
		Listening/speaking	Reading	Writing		
8	A Birthday Letter	Dialogues for communication	Prose (letter – a powerful meaning of communication)	Informal letter	‘Wh’ questions, Imperative sentences	Decision making, coping with stress

SUMMARY

The present lesson is a letter written by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru from Naini Jail to his daughter, Indira Gandhi, on the latter's thirteenth birthday. Through his letter Pandit Nehru tells Indira that one can get to the right answer only after discussion. We must not believe that since we have learned everything we have become wise. Pandit Nehru goes on to tell her how Bapu ji motivated the common man to become a part of the struggle for freedom. He cited the example of how common men and women who generally cannot think beyond their household, rise above petty considerations to become heroes when they fight for a cause. Pandit Nehru also tells Indira about the importance of understanding and doing what is right. He says that fighting for freedom was the right thing to do. She should not fear of being part of the movement.

Pandit Nehru finally blesses Indira by saying that she may grow up into a brave soldier in the service of the nation.

PRINCIPAL POINTS

- Being in prison, Pandit Nehru cannot send his daughter any material gift. So he decides to write a letter.
- Discussion is an important part of communication .It helps people to take the correct decision.
- Learning makes one worthy and wise.
- Ordinary men and women think about their household worries but fight bravely when the need arises.

- Great leaders inspire people to perform great deeds.
- One must be frank and open in whatever one does.

LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

While reading literature, readers often come across uncommon use of words or expressions where the intended meaning is different from the

literal meaning of those expression/words.

In the lesson, there are some uncommon expressions such as:

One sided affair: It means that a letter is one sided.

Work in the sun and in the light: Be fearless and open in conduct.

Great drama: Men, women and children coming out to take part in the fight for freedom.

Imperative sentences are used to give directions for completion of a certain process.

‘Wh’ QUESTIONS

Questions beginning with ‘Wh’ words are called ‘Wh’ questions

There are nine ‘Wh’ question words

When	What	Where
Why	Whom	Whose
Which	How	Who

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Informal Letter: refer to lesson 7 for tips

GRAMMAR

IMPERATIVE SENTENCES

(You have already studied Imperative Sentences in this lesson. Refer to the text book for details of rules.)

In Imperative Sentences, the verb comes before the subject.

- e.g. 1. **Come** here.
2. **Please** don't make a noise.
3. **Shut** the door.

If the sentences begin with **Don't** or **Never**, they are called Negative Imperative Sentences.

- e.g. 1. Don't **stand** in front of the office.
2. Never **tell** a lie.

TEST TYPES

1. MCQ/Objective type question (understanding)

Complete the following statement by choosing the best option from the ones given below:

Pandit Nehru's letter to his daughter is full of:

- A. love
B. nostalgia
C. advice
D. old memories

2. VSA (recall)

During the struggle for freedom, the British imprisoned Pandit Nehru in the

3. SA (understanding)

How do ordinary men and women become heroes?

4. LA (extrapolatory)

'Make friends with the sun and work in the light.' Write a short paragraph highlighting the significance of this statement.