

National Institute of Open Schooling
Secondary Course : English
Lesson 27 : The Parrot Who Wouldn't Talk
Worksheet – 27

1. Read the line and answer the following questions:

'You're no beauty! Can't talk, can't sing, can't dance! '

- Who is saying these words and to whom?
- Which word is being repeated here? Why?
- What Aunt Ruby used to say to the parrot?

2. Read the lines and answer the following questions:

In those distant days, almost everyone – Indian or European – kept a pet parrot or parakeet, or 'lovebird' as some of the smaller ones were called. Sometimes these birds became great talkers, or rather mimics, and would learn to recite entire mantras (religious chants) or admonitions to the children of the house, such as 'Padho, beta, padho! '

- What is the difference between a parrot and a parakeet?
- Suggest any 2 qualities of the birds mentioned in the paragraph.
- Why were these birds domesticated in houses?

3. Read the lines and answer the following questions:

He'd been bought by Aunt Ruby from a bird-catcher who'd visited all the houses on our road, selling caged birds ranging from colourful budgerigars to chirpy little munnias and even common sparrows that had been dabbed with paint and passed off as some exotic species. Neither Granny nor Grandfather were keen on keeping caged birds as pets, but Aunt Ruby threatened to throw a tantrum if she did not get her way—and Aunt Ruby's tantrums were dreadful to behold!

- Who is aunt Ruby?
- What was aunt Ruby fond of?
- Why was aunty Ruby throwing tantrums?

4. Read the lines and answer the following questions:

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'Well, neither did your bird, 'said Grandfather. 'So we'll get you a gramophone. You can listen to Clara Cluck all day. They say she sings like a nightingale.'

- Why is grandfather insisting on buying a gramophone?
- Why does he seem disappointed?
- Whom is he talking to?

5. Read the lines and answer the following questions:

But that wasn't the end of the affair. The parrot became a frequent visitor to the garden and veranda, and whenever it saw Aunt Ruby it would call out, 'You're no beauty, you're no beauty! Can't talk, can't sing, can't dance!' The parrot had learnt to talk after all!

- Why was the parrot repeating Aunt Ruby's lines?
- "The parrot had learnt to talk after all!". Try to explain this line in 20-30 words.
- What have you learnt from the passage?

6. Why do you think neither Granny nor Grandfather were keen on keeping caged birds as pets?

7. Aunt Ruby had become hostile towards her pet and someone had to feed it. Do you agree? Give your opinion in 30-40 words.

8. Why do you think neither Granny nor Grandfather were keen on keeping caged birds as pets?

9. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences by using appropriate modals.

1. _____ you please tell me the direction to the library?
2. I _____ come to your house from the office today.
3. _____ I help you?
4. We _____ keep the lights and fans switched off when they are not in use.
5. We _____ improve the existing education system.
6. You _____ wear proper uniform when you come to school.
7. God is great and we _____ be grateful to him.

10. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Perfect Continuous or the Past Perfect Continuous.

1. John has never had an accident and he (drive) for five years.

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2. Susan had no idea it was so late because she (not / seen) the time.
3. “ (you / take) your medicine regularly, Mrs Singh?” “Yes, doctor.”
4. They eventually found the car after they (look) for it all night.
5. How long your mother (work) in the school when she retired?