

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM 10

Activity 10.1

Act out

Supun is talking about the English Day of Gemunu Vidyalaya with Rahal.

Rahal: Did you go to the English Day of Gemunu Vidyalaya?

Supun: Yes, we did. It had already started when we got there.

Rahal: How was it? Had they invited many other schools?



Supun: Yes. They had invited five schools besides us.

Rahal: Were there many items?

Supun: Yes, there were. The items were really good too, especially the drama. They had practised well.

Rahal: What kind of a story was it?

- Supun:** It was a humorous story. It had a lot of funny scenes. Later I got to know that a grade 8 student had written the script.
- Rahal:** Wow! Shall we also do a drama for our English Day?
- Supun:** Good idea. Let's discuss it with our English teacher.

Activity 10.2

Read the conversation and select the correct answers.

- i. This conversation takes place between
 - a. two teachers
 - b. a teacher and a student
 - c. two students
- ii. Supun said that when they got to Gemunu Vidyalaya
 - a. the English Day had already started.
 - b. the drama had finished.
 - c. students from other schools hadn't arrived.
- iii. Gemunu Vidyalaya had invited for their English Day.
 - a. only one school
 - b. three schools
 - c. six schools
- iv. The drama had many
 - a. sad scenes.
 - b. humorous scenes.
 - c. serious dialogues.
- v. Supun said that had written the story.
 - a. a grade 8 student
 - b. a teacher
 - c. a group of grade 8 students



LEARNING POINT

The Past Perfect Tense

Had they invited any other schools?

Yes. They had invited five other schools.

The drama was good. They had practised well.

We use past perfect tense to talk about a past action that happened before another past action.

e.g. :-

He had worked.

Had he worked?

He had not worked.

Activity 10.3

Fill in the blanks with the past perfect form of the verb.

- Did you watch the film yesterday? No, I didn't. I (watch) it before.
- She was happy because she (win) a prize.
- Mr. Perera had to go back to the office. He (leave) his spectacles behind.
- I enjoyed the play. I (not see) a stage play before.
- the football match already (start) when you got to the stadium?

Reading

The following report appeared in the school magazine of Gemunu Vidyalaya.

The English Day of Gemunu Vidyalaya was held on 21st of October in the school main hall. They had invited the Zonal Director of Education as the Chief Guest. After the tradition of lighting the oil lamp, the programme started with the English Day theme song. It was sung by a group of grade 8 students. The programme consisted of recitals, duets, songs, dances and a play. One of the invited schools presented a group song. In his speech, the principal said that the members of the English Association had worked hard to make the event a success. He also said that he was very proud of his students' talents. Everyone present agreed that it was a well-organized programme.

Activity 10.4

Read the text and find the following information.

- event described:
- organized by:
- place where it was held:
- date:
- chief guest:
- items presented:

Activity 10.5

Read the following story and answer the questions given.

One day Nasrudin was taking a traveller across a lake in his boat. While they were talking on various subjects Nasrudin happened to make a minor grammatical mistake.

The traveller, who had always considered himself to be a very educated man, laughed and said, "You've just made a silly mistake. I suppose you've never studied any grammar."

“You’re right,” Nasrudin admitted. “I haven’t studied grammar.”
 In reply the traveller said, ‘Well then you have wasted half of your life!’”



A few minutes later, Nasrudin turned to the traveller and asked, “Have you ever learned how to swim?”

“No,” the traveller answered.

“Well then,” Nasrudeen replied, “you’ve wasted your whole life. There’s a hole in the boat and we are sinking!”

- 1) How was Nasrudin taking the traveller across the lake?
- 2) Why did the traveller laugh?
- 3) What did Nasrudin admit?
- 4) What hadn’t the traveller learned?
- 5) Why did Nasrudin say that the traveller had wasted all his life?

LEARNING POINT

Look at the following sentences taken from the story.

- 1) In reply, the traveller said, “Well then, you have wasted half of your life.”
- 2) Nasrudin turned to the traveller and asked, “Have you learned to swim?”

We use inverted commas (quotation marks) when we are quoting the exact words of a speaker or writer.

Activity 10.6

Speaking / Writing

Get into groups of five and relate some interesting stories. Now write out one of the stories. Use inverted commas when you write conversations of your story.