

Harmonious Living 9

May all living beings always live happily,
free from animosity.
May all share in the blessings
springing from the good I have done.

Act Out

Nethmina is at home, watching a video. Kusal visits him.

Kusal : May I come in?

Nethmina : Hello, Kusal! Come in, please.

Kusal : Did I disturb you? What are you watching?

Nethmina : It's a sermon recorded by my cousin in California. He sent me this video as it was preached by our Chief Incumbent, Venerable Thalpathwewe Dhammajothi .

Kusal : Really? That means, Venerable Sir had been invited to America.

Nethmina : Yes. Last month he went to England too. You see, Buddhist philosophy has been accepted as the relief by many, even in the west.

Kusal : Yes, you are right. Most of them are interested in Buddhist philosophy now.

Nethmina : By the way, I have heard that American English is different from British English.

Kusal : Hm... There are differences but let's discuss them later.
Let's watch the video now.

- The following is the first part of the sermon by Venerable Thalpathwewe Dhammajothi at California.

Namo thassa ...

Susukhang vatha jeewāma - Verinesu averino

Verinesu manussesu - viharāma averino

Happily indeed we live angerless among the angry; among the angry men do we abide without anger (Dhammapada - Chapter 15 Sukha Vaggo - **Happiness** -1st verse)

Once there was a dispute between the farmers of the Shakya and Koliya clans over sharing the water in the Rohini River. Gradually this was developed into a battle between the two states. The Buddha, having understood that there would be a great problem, inquired the reason for the dispute. None could answer the question raised by the Buddha. Even the rulers failed. Then the Buddha asked, "Which is more valuable, human life or water?" Both parties agreed that human life is more valuable than water. The Buddha then took this *gatha* as the theme to preach a sermon on the value of harmonious living.

Activity 02 - Reading

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the name of the river mentioned?
2. What was the cause of the dispute?
3. Who were the two parties involved in the battle?
4. Did the chiefs who declared the war know the root cause of the dispute?
5. According to the text which is more valuable ; life of a human being or water?

6. Write what the listeners can learn from this part of the sermon.

Activity 03 - Speaking

The following is another verse from Dhammapada. Write a short sermon taking this verse as the theme. Edit your draft in groups and deliver it to the class.

Natthi rāgasamō aggi - natthi dōsasamō kali

Natthi khandhādisa dukkhā - natthi santhi parang sukhang

There is no fire like lust; there is no stain like anger; there is nothing so painful as the aggregates; and there is no happiness greater than the perfect calm.

(Dhammapada - Chapter 15 Sukha Vaggo - **Happiness**- 6th verse)

Pre-reading : Refer to a dictionary and find the word class of the following words.

harmony harmonize harmonious harmoniously

Nethmina and Kusal were talking about different varieties of English; American and British. Refer to the following section of the dictionary page and do the task given below.

har • mon • ica BrE / hɑ:'mɒnɪkə / NAmE / hɑ:r'mɑ:nɪkə / **noun**
(BrE also ' **mouth organ**)

a small musical instrument that you hold near your mouth and play by blowing or sucking air through it

har • mo • ni • ous **adjective** BrE / hɑ:'məʊniəs / NAmE / hɑ:r'mouniəs /

- 1 (of relationships, etc.) friendly, peaceful and without any disagreement :
 - a harmonious alliance between management and workers
- 2 arranged together in a pleasing way so that each part goes well with the others :

SYN **pleasing**

- a harmonious combination of colours

- 3 (of sounds) very pleasant when played or sung together

har • mo • ni • ous • ly / BrE hɑ:'məʊniəsli ; NAmE hɑ:r'mouniəsli / **adverb**

- They worked very harmoniously together.

har • mo • nium BrE / hɑ:'məʊniəm / NAmE / hɑ:r'mouniəm / **noun**

a musical instrument like a small organ. Air is forced through metal pipes to produce the sound and the different notes are played on the keyboard.

har • mon • ize (BrE also - **ise**)

BrE / 'hɑ:mənaɪz / NAmE / 'hɑ:rmənaɪz / **verb**

- 1 [**intransitive**] ~ (with sth) if two or more things **harmonize** with each other or one thing **harmonizes** with the other, the things go well together and produce an attractive result:
 - The new building does not harmonize with its surroundings.
- 2 [**transitive**] ~ **sth** to make systems or rules similar in different countries or organizations:
 - the need to harmonize tax levels across the European Union
- 3 [**intransitive**] ~ (with sb/sth) to play or sing music that combines with the main tune to make a pleasing sound:
 - Sally sang the melody while I harmonized.
 - The singers harmonize well.
 - to harmonize with the lead singer

har • mon • iza • tion, -isa • tion / BrE ,hɑ:mənaɪ'zeɪʃn ; NAmE ,hɑ:rmənə'zeɪʃn / **noun** [**uncountable** , **countable**]

har • mony BrE / 'hɑ:məni / NAmE / 'hɑ:rməni / noun (plural **har • monies**)

- 1 [**uncountable**] a state of peaceful existence and agreement:
 - the need to **be in harmony with** our environment.
 - to live together in perfect harmony.
 - **social/racial harmony**
- 2 [**uncountable , countable**] (**music**) the way in which different notes that are played or sung together combine to make a pleasing sound:
 - to sing in harmony
 - to study four-part harmony.
 - passionate lyrics and stunning vocal harmonies
- 3 [**countable , uncountable**] a pleasing combination of related things:
 - the harmony of colour in nature
 - The designer's aim is to produce a harmony of shape and texture.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 8th edition, Oxford University Press, 2010

Activity 04 - Vocabulary

[A]

1. Give a synonym for 'harmonious'.
2. What is the adverb of 'harmonious' ?
3. What are the two music instruments given in the dictionary page?
Name the two.

a)



b)



4. How many meanings are given for the word 'harmonize'?
5. What is the plural form of 'harmony'?

[B] Refer to the word class of each word and fill in the blanks using the correct form.

1. All the members of the happy group worked very together. (harmonious / harmoniously)
2. The agreement made everyone happy. (harmony / harmonious)
3. We must work hard to establish social (harmonise / harmony)
4. Their ideas well with the theme of the project. (harmonise / harmony)
5. The of our life style with the nature reduces a lot of problems. (harmony / harmoniously)

[C]

1. What do the following abbreviations stand for?
 - * BrE -
 - * NAmE -
2. Is there a difference in pronouncing the word 'harmonious' in British English and American English?
3. Do the Americans use the word mouth organ? What do they call it?
4. Which variety of English spells the word as 'harmonise'?
5. List out the differences between British English and American English found in the above section of the dictionary.

[D] Work in groups.

Refer to dictionaries, encyclopaedia etc. and list out the other differences you find in different varieties of English? Give examples.

Activity 05

The above dictionary page gives the different spelling conventions of the word 'harmonise'.

British English - harmonise / harmonize

American English - harmonize

Note : British convention is accepted and commonly used in Sri Lanka.

The following words are printed in the usual American English way. Write how they would usually be written in British English.

1. catalog
2. center
3. color
4. favorite
5. traveling
6. humor
7. honorable
8. theater

Activity 06

Apart from the pronunciation and spelling difference, there are differences in some terms/ words used in these two varieties of English.

e.g. : pavement - sidewalk



Replace the underlined words which are found in British English with the matching American English ones given in the box. Read the sentences aloud.



elevator / line / airplane / first floor / cell phone /
subway / resume / closet /

1. If you're interested in applying for the post of lecturer, please email your CV to the Buddhist centre.
2. You can take the lift or walk up the stairs to reach the rooftop.
3. Please collect your keys at the reception desk on the groundfloor.
4. It's easier to travel to Delhi from Chennai in an aeroplane.
5. Overuse of mobile phone results in health hazards in.
6. Please keep your clothes in this wardrobe.
7. How long have you been in the queue?
8. Underground trains are a common sight in developed countries.

Activity 07 - Reading

Given below is a part of an essay written by a student of your age. Read and answer the questions.

All people on this earth share the same resources. **Hence**, people have to learn to live in harmony with nature and other living beings. It is the duty of the man to protect the environment and other living beings that inhabit the earth; **therefore** he could expect nature to behave in a favourable manner. It is advisable to stop affecting nature through pollution and deforestation, **otherwise** man will be forced to repent for generations. **Sadly**, some people go against the nature and as a result droughts, landslides, floods etc. occur. **Also** it is predicted that if people continue to go against the nature, its fury is to be expected. **Honestly**, people should be farsighted and understand the value of protecting the nature **while** taking a vow to plant at least one

tree each year. This will be a great contribution to the Mother Nature.

1. What is the duty of the man according to the text?
2. How do people affect nature?
3. What do people experience as a result of going against nature?
4. How can man contribute to the Mother Nature?

Learning Point

Look at the following sentence.

- It is advisable to stop affecting nature through pollution and deforestation otherwise man will be forced to repent for generations.

Here the word **otherwise** connects the idea.

- It is the duty of the man to protect the environment and other living beings that inhabit the earth; therefore he could expect nature to behave in a favourable manner.

Here the word **therefore** also connects the ideas. Now look at the following examples.

1. Rajitha studies well; **therefore**, he gets good marks every term.
2. Sashrika needs to put more effort into his work, **otherwise** he will not get good marks.
3. Kumari went into the store; **however**, she didn't find anything she wanted to buy.

The words 'therefore', 'otherwise' and 'however' are called adverbs which connect ideas.

Now look at the following sentences.

1. **Sadly**, some people go against the nature and as a result droughts, landslides, floods etc. occur.
2. **Honestly**, people should be farsighted and understand the value of protecting the nature while taking a vow to plant at least a tree each year.

Here the words **sadly** and **honestly** act as adverbs which convey attitudes/ideas. The following list gives some more examples.

honestly	certainly	really	hopefully
unfortunately	luckily	frankly	sadly

Activity 08 - Grammar

Use the words given in the box to complete the blanks.

therefore, hopefully, honestly, otherwise, however
--

1. We wanted to spend the whole day playing ;, the rain made us to be at home.
2. I'm tired and I can't do this work.
3. Nadun couldn't make me out; he would've stopped to talk to me.
4. Samitha is a good boy; he is always praised by others.
5. My friend is absent today. he will come tomorrow.

Activity 09

Join each pair of sentences using a suitable adverb from the box.

otherwise	therefore	naturally	luckily
-----------	-----------	-----------	---------

1. He was lazy to study.
He got low marks.
2. It started raining.
Nath had an umbrella.
3. We practised well.
I think we will win.
4. You had better study hard.
You will fail the exam.