

Reading & Comprehension



Activity I: Let's decode

Read the following big words and find smaller word(s) in each of them. You may find more than one small word.

Big word	Small word
Cambridge	Bridge
Danger	_____
Fortune	_____
Examine	_____
Stoppable	_____
Unbelievable	_____

Activity II: Let's distinguish

Read the following sentences and select the correct options given in brackets.

- This is an _____ device for opening bottles. (ingenious/ingenuous)
- It was rather _____ of him to trust a complete stranger in a new place. (ingenious/ingenuous)
- Telugu and Tamil are not totally _____ languages. (discreet/discrete)
- Don't tell anyone about my job. I want to be as _____ about it as possible. (discreet/discrete)
- Whenever I feel _____ in the hostel, I phone up my parent. (alone/lonely)
- Leave me _____! Can't you see I'm working on my science assignment? (alone/lonely)
- We enclose a copy of our latest newsletter, with our _____. (compliments/complements)
- We need to find something to _____ the curtains. (compliment/complement)
- AR Rahman is an _____ Indian music composer. (imminent/ eminent)
- The weather forecast says that rain is _____. (imminent/ eminent)

Activity III: Let's choose



Read the following passage and write the most appropriate word from the choices given below for each blank.

We know that death is inevitable. Biologists say that we carry (1) _____ of decay within us and (2) _____ death is a necessary result (3) _____ our being. Chemical changes are (4) _____ in our bodies from the (5) _____. Natural death for us is (6) _____ that has always come with (7) _____. Death results from the letting (8) _____ of a set of body (9) _____ by the others. We don't (10) _____ at once. Days after an (11) _____ has been declared legally dead, (12) _____ of inner organs have been (13) _____ fully alive. Each organ in our body (14) _____ at its own rate. Many (15) _____ have been engaged in research in this area with the thought of preventing certain types of death.

Choices for the blanks:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) a. traits | b. seeds | c. cells |
| 2) a. accidental | b. untimely | c. natural |
| 3) a. from | b. of | c. about |
| 4) a. activated | b. catalyzed | c. initiated |
| 5) a. starting | b. origin | c. birth |
| 6) a. something | b. anything | c. everything |
| 7) a. time | b. evolution | c. age |
| 8) a. apart | b. down | c. in |
| 9) a. parts | b. tissues | c. cells |
| 10) a. rot | b. decompose | c. die |
| 11) a. human | b. earthly | c. individual |
| 12) a. masses | b. segments | c. fragments |
| 13) a. found | b. contrived | c. conceived |
| 14) a. reproduces | b. dies | c. grows |
| 15) a. scientists | b. zoologists | c. biologists |

Activity IV: Let's scan

You have finished school/intermediate college and are now thinking of studying at The English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad. However, before you make a final decision, you want to find out more about the university.

Given below are some questions about the university. Read the questions and then read the information about EFLU.

Write the letter of the paragraph (A, B, C, or D) where you find the answer to the question and also write the correct answer in the space provided.

(Note: Some paragraphs contain the answer to more than one question)

1. How old is the institution? _____

2. EFL University is at its initial stage as a central university. (True/False) _____

3. Does the university provide financial assistance to poor students?

4. Can I earn some money in the campus while studying?

5. Does the university offer any course to young marketing executives who are poor in English?

6. Does a place on the course guarantee a stipend to study?

7. EFLU was renamed three times before it received its central university status. (True/False)

8. Can I leave with a BA (Hons.) degree if I register for an Integrated Masters Course?

About EFL University



We were set up in 1958 as the Central Institute of English. In April 1972, the Institute broadened its scope to include the major foreign languages and was renamed the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages. In recognition of its high standards of excellences, the University Grants Commission accorded it the status of a deemed university in July 1973. This was CIEFL. [A]

The English and Foreign Languages University is now a central university, which was created by an act of the Indian parliament in December 2006. The Act came into force on August 3, 2007. Hence, CIEFL became EFL University. EFLU will build on the achievements of CIEFL and expand its activities. The university is committed to the principles of inclusive and cosmopolitan growth. Keeping these principles in view, the university has constituted 11 schools with 38 departments in all. [B]

Last year, we launched the Integrated 5-year Master Programmes in (i) English (ii) Foreign Languages

and (iii) Mass Communication and Journalism, with the option to exit after 3-years with a B.A. Honours degree. We run high quality B.Ed. in English (self-financed course), M.A., Post graduate Certificate and Diploma in the Teaching of English, M.Phil and PhD programmes in addition to the numerous short-term, need-based courses for teachers, teacher educators, and other professionals. [C]

The university has introduced a welfare fee structure. Apart from this, the university from its self-generated funds, has created students' welfare funds, out of which the university gives stipend to needy students to the extent of Rs. 1000/- per month, apart from book allowances of Rs. 1000/- annually. Apart from this, in a modest way, the university has also launched 'Earn while you Learn' schemes and a number of scholars have been engaged in teaching and in other activities under this dispensation. [D]

(Adapted from Alderson, 2000)

Activity V: Let's figure out

Read the following text. Then, look at the three figures that represent the text and decide on the figure that best represents the text. Also, think about the reason behind your selection.

Interviews may be carried out in a one-to-one situation; or a group of interviewers may interview a single candidate or a single interviewer may interview a group of candidates. Each type of interview has its advantages and disadvantages.

Figure 1



Figure 2

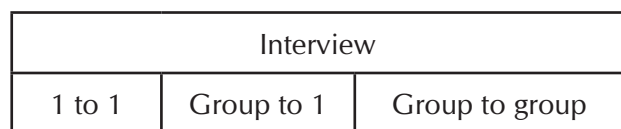
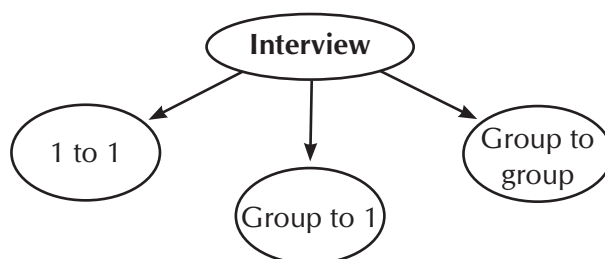


Figure 3



Activity VI: Let's read and perform

Read the following passage and complete the tasks.

The lesson of kindness

(Based on the award winning Assamese film 'Pokhi' by Jahnu Barua)

Once upon a time, there lived a little girl called Pokhi, in a village. She lost her parents during her infancy and was therefore brought up by her maternal uncle and aunt. They were unable to bear Pokhi's school expenses. Finally, Pokhi left school and started helping her aunt with household chores.

This made Pokhi very sad, because she loved school and her friends. She often spent time near the river which flowed by the village. Sometimes she caught fish in the river and took a nap on the river bank. One day, she saw an injured bird lying near the river. She took it home and nursed it till it could fly back to the hills.

In the same village, there lived a moneylender called Dayanand. He used to lend money to the villagers at high interest rates. He very often took away land and jewellery that belonged to the villagers as repayment of the loan. Dayanand's wife, Tara was loved by all. She was educated and was also a former school teacher. The villagers lovingly called her grandmother. Tara constantly tried to reform her husband, but in vain.

One day, Pokhi's uncle and aunt migrated to the neighbouring town in search of work. They left Pokhi and their little house in Tara's care. Tara promised Pokhi's uncle that she would send Pokhi to school once again. Tara kept her promise and Pokhi was very glad to go back to school. Soon Pokhi and Tara decided that they have to try all means to reform Dayanand.

At around the same time, the villagers complained about Dayanand and his usurious loans to the village council. One night, when Dayanand tried to capture the land of one of the villagers, the entire village rose in rebellion. They immediately called a village council meeting.

Hearing this, Dayanand's wife lost control and slipped and hit her head against the water pump at home. She was taken to the city hospital in a serious condition. The following day she died leaving Pokhi heart-broken. Dayanand blamed Pokhi for all his problems. He thought that she brought him ill luck and asked her to leave his house. Pokhi was shocked at the old man's behaviour. She left Dayanand's place and went to her own house.

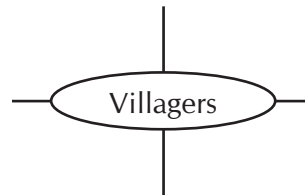
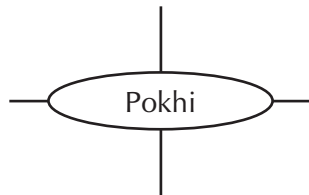
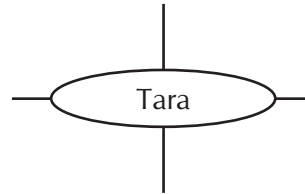
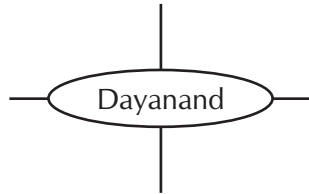
The next day, Dayanand's trial began at the village council. The villagers told the council how cruelly Dayanand used to take over people's assets like land and jewellery. They demanded that he should return all the land and jewellery to the villagers. He was also asked to apologize to the people of the village. Some of them asked Dayanand to leave the village forever.

At that moment, Pokhi entered the village council meeting. She requested the villagers not to be so heartless and harsh to her already grieving grandfather. She also reminded them how he had helped them in their hour of need.

The villagers, as well as Dayanand, realized the wisdom in the little girl's words. Dayanand also understood that the little girl he had considered unlucky was the only true friend he had in the village. He repented for his previous misdeeds. He returned the land and jewellery to the relieved villagers. At last, the education of Dayanand was complete and Pokhi was successful in reforming the old man. Dayanand took Pokhi home and thanked her for teaching him the important lesson of love and kindness towards all.

Task 1: Read the words given inside the box. Identify words which represent each character and write them on the web. And also, tell your teacher why you attached a particular word to a particular character.

poor lonely greedy kind-hearted happy disappointed
responsible angry superstitious sad caring



Task 2: Enact the trial of Dayanand in the village council meeting with the help of the teacher.

First: Each child can choose to play one character – Dayanand, Pokhi, the village council chief, the other villagers, etc.

Second: write short dialogues for each role.

Then, perform the play in front of the other students of the school.

Activity VII: Let's unscramble

Re-arrange the following set of sentences to develop a story about two cats and a monkey. Indicate your arrangement by writing 1, 2, or 3 beside the sentences. The beginning of the story is already given within brackets.

(One day two cats found a piece of bread. They started fighting because they both wanted to eat the piece of bread.)

- He placed one piece in either side of the scales. Since one side was heavier, the monkey tore a small piece from the heavier side and ate it.
- Soon, a monkey came by. He asked the cats why they were fighting and offered to help them in dividing the bread.
- Finally, the monkey ate both the pieces of bread. The cats realized that they have been cheated by the monkey and went home sadly.
- He asked them to bring a pair of scales. When the cat brought it, the monkey tore the bread into two pieces.
- This time the other side became heavier. So, he tore another small piece and ate it.

Activity VIII: Let's define

Read the following short passages and write definitions for the questions given.

1. Flamenco, a form of music and dance in Spain, has gradually become a part of the Hindi film industry.

q) What is Flamenco?

2. Jeng bihu, a dance performed only by women, is popular in Upper Assam.

q) What is Jeng bihu?

3. Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, could speak many languages fluently, e.g. Hindi, English and many other foreign languages. Therefore, he was called a polyglot.

q) Now, can you define a polyglot?

q) Give an example of a polyglot.

q) Do you think it is necessary to know many languages in the modern world?

q) Talk to your friend or teacher and find the following:

- A person who knows only one language is called a _____.
- A person who knows two languages is called a _____.
- A polyglot is also known as a _____.

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