

6. A Stitch in Time



Competencies
C-1.3, C-2.1, C-3.4, C-4.1

Pre-reading



Communication



Who's a kabadiwala? What do you know about this profession?



In India, we have a strong tradition of recycling, whether it is organic waste like food or inorganic waste like clothes. While their numbers have reduced greatly, we still find kabadiwalas and street peddlers who go door to door to collect waste that can be recycled. The kabadiwalas collect old newspapers and recyclable household metal and plastic waste, and the street peddlers take in old clothes in return for new steel utensils.



- A. Imagine you have to interview a kabadiwala who has come to your house. What would you ask them?

Let's Read



Khm... 'Oh no,' wails Shyam. The seams of his favourite shirt have come apart. 'I can't wear this shirt anymore, Thatha!'

'Of course you can, silly,' his grandfather says. 'We can repair it!' Thatha takes a needle and a spool of blue thread. He shows Shyam how to stitch the seams together.

Shyam's friend Shrisha has come home.

'Let's go cycling,' she says.

'In a minute,' says Shyam.

'Let me iron my shirt first.'

He switches on the iron box. But the light doesn't glow, and the iron remains cold.

'Uff! I'll just wear the crumpled shirt,' grumbles Shyam.

'I was at the Repair Mela last week,' says Shrisha.

'George Uncle, who teaches chemistry in my brother's college, was repairing an iron box. I watched what he was doing very closely. Let's try to set it right! Do you have a screwdriver?''

Shyam hunts in the cupboard and gets a screwdriver.

Shrisha unscrews the back of the iron.



While Reading



Reference

1. Who helped Shyam to repair his shirt?

Inference

2. Why does Shyam want to iron his shirt?

seams

the place where two pieces of cloth are sewn together

iron

(here) to make clothes smooth by removing wrinkles using heat

screwdriver

a tool used to turn and fix screws



'See this wire? When you switch on the power, electric current passes through it and heats up the iron plate. This process is called conduction,' says Shrisha.

'And this small thing is the thermostat. It makes sure that the iron doesn't get too hot. If the heat goes way up, it just cuts off the power. The red light goes out. When the iron cools down, the current flows again and the light comes on.'

'Other heating devices must work the same way, right? Geysers, kettles, ovens?'

But Shrisha is not listening. She's peering into the iron.

'What's wrong?' asks Shyam.

'I don't think I can repair it.'

'Oh no! Appa and Amma will scold us when they see what we have done to the iron box!'

'We'll take it to the Repair Mela! They'll help us.'

Before Shyam's parents can ask them about the iron box, he and Shrisha take it and sneak out on their cycles to the Repair Mela.

'Aunty, can you help us repair this iron box?' Shrisha asks Anupama Aunty.

'What's wrong with it?'

'It won't switch on!' says Shrisha.

Anupama Aunty takes out a little box with wires and knobs.

While Reading

Reference

3. From the story, can you define 'conduction'?



geyser a machine used to heat water for bathing

'This is a multimeter,' she says. 'It checks if all parts of the iron are allowing electric current to flow. Let's start with the plug.'

Next, she tests all the other parts, until she comes to a small wire.

'See this wire next to the plug? It's broken, even though it doesn't look damaged—there's your problem!'

She cuts out the old wire and plug, and fixes a new wire and plug to the iron box.

'Let's test it.'

She switches it on, and the light glows.

After helping out at the Mela and observing repairs for a while, Shyam and Shrisha decide to head home.

'Oh no, the rear tyre has a puncture. Let's take it to Manigandan Anna!' says Shrisha.

'Puncture? No problem,' says Manigandan Anna, who has a small cycle repair shop in the neighbourhood. He has been invited to the Repair Mela.

He turns the cycle upside down. He takes a pair of tyre levers and pries the tyre away from the metal rim. Soon the inner tube is out.

'Can you see a hole anywhere?' Anna asks the children. They can't. 'Then how do you tell where the puncture is?' he asks.

The children look at him cluelessly.

He immerses the tube, part by part, in a tub half-filled with water. At one point, they see small bubbles rising.



While Reading



Reference

4. Explain the words 'thermostat' and 'multimeter'.



Reference

5. What is the problem with the iron?
6. Manigandan Anna usually works at _____.

lever	a tool used to lift and move things
pries	uses a tool to move away or open
rim	edge of the wheel
cluelessly	without any idea
immerse	dip in liquid so that it is completely covered

'See? That's where the hole is!'

He cuts a small piece of rubber from an old tube. After rubbing the **surface** of the tube around the hole with **sandpaper**, he applies a rubber **adhesive** to the tube and the piece of rubber.

'Come, seal this,' he says.

Shyam puts the piece of rubber on the hole and presses it down.

'If not for **professionals** who fix cycles, umbrellas, footwear and other things, we would have mountains of waste all over!' says Shyam.

The tyre is fixed, the iron is fixed and Shrisha and Shyam ride back home. It is a day well spent!



While Reading

Factual

7. What is the 'inner tube' that he takes out?

surface	the outside or top part
sandpaper	a paper with sand stuck to it, used for polishing or making things smooth
adhesive	sticky material like glue
professional	a qualified person who regularly does a specific job

—Himadri Das, Veena Prasad

Have you used any of the tools shown below? Do you know what they are used for? May be you could learn how to use them. It is a very useful skill to have.

bobbin



pliers



tester



hammer



A. Answer these questions.

1. What does the title 'A Stitch in Time' mean?
2. How did Manigandan Anna find the puncture? *(factual)*
3. What would lead to 'mountains of waste all over'? Do you agree? *(reference)*
4. Based on the story, what do you think will happen the next time Shyam or Shrisha need to get something repaired? *(reference/personal opinion)*
(extrapolation)

Language in Use



Leadership Skills



Global Awareness

Let's Listen!



A. Listen to this short text talking about a real-life place on which this story is based. Take notes. Then, answer these questions.

1. This story is inspired by a Repair Café in which city?
2. Name three types of professionals who visit the repair workshops.
3. When are repair professionals in high demand?
4. In 2017, how many objects did Repair Cafés around the world save from being thrown away as waste?

Let's Talk!

B. Wouldn't you like to open a Repair Café or Repair Mela?

Work in groups. Discuss how you can organise a Repair Café or Repair Mela in your school. Make a plan and then present it to the rest of the class.

Let's Write!

(informal letter)

C. Imagine you are Shyam. You want to send a letter/email to your friend Joy, telling him about the wonderful experience you and Shrisha had at the Repair Mela.

Write this letter/email in about 100–150 words.

Sound Right

(consonant sounds: 'p' and 'b')

A Look at the words below, and listen to the recorded audio of how they are pronounced. After that, practise reading all the words.

1. prize

3. drop

5. trip

7. boot

9. table

2. pink

4. repeat

6. beat

8. crab

10. pebble

B In the words given above, notice that the highlighted letters make two kinds of sounds. What are these sounds, and what is the difference between them?

Words Words Words

A Look at the groups of words given in column A. Match each of them with the meaning given in column B. (phrasal verbs)

Column A

1. break down 1 - c

2. blow up 2 - h

3. cheer up 3 - f

4. eat out 4 - d

5. get along 5 - b

6. get up 6 - g

7. hold on 7 - a

8. run into 8 - e

Column B

a. to wait for some time

b. to like/to be friendly with each other

c. to stop working

d. to eat at a restaurant

e. to meet someone by surprise, without planning

f. to make someone happy or to become happy

g. to stand from a sitting or sleeping position

h. to explode like a firecracker

The group of words in column A are called **phrasal verbs**. A **phrasal verb** is a combination of a verb and an adverb or a preposition. The meaning of **phrasal verb** is different from its component words.

Words Within Words

A **phrasal verb** is made up of two parts. Read about them below. (phrasal verbs)
The first part is the main verb.

For example: break, blow, cheer, eat, get, had, run

The second part is either a preposition or an adverb. Sometimes, the second part can have two words—usually two prepositions or adverbs, or a combination of a preposition and an adverb.

For example: down, up, out, along, on, into, up to

A. Fill in the blanks using the correct phrasal verbs from the box.

pick up

look after

get rid of

stare at

look forward to

get out

1. I love this TV series! My friends and I look forward to each new episode.
2. You need to get rid of your bad habits.
3. It's not polite to stare at someone.
4. Can you pick up your pen from the floor?
5. Her mother asked her to look after her sister.
6. The thieves decided to get out of there before the police came.

Critical Thinking and Self-Awareness



Life Skills
and Values



Vocational
Skills



Leadership
Skills

A. Remember what Annapoorna Aunty did to fix the iron box? Read the steps below and put them in the correct order.

- 4 She fixed the broken wire and tested the iron again.
- 1 She spoke to Shrisha to find out what was wrong.
- 2 She tried to check whether all parts of the box were receiving power.
- 3 She found a broken wire and realized it was the problem.



Whenever you try to solve a problem, don't jump directly to conclusions about what is wrong nor just get in panic. Follow a logical system, the way Annapoorna Aunty did.

1. Try to understand the situation and find out what exactly the problem is.
2. Find more information in a systematic manner.
3. Once you locate the cause, decide what can be done.
4. Take steps to solve the problem.
5. Check if your solution works. If not, redo the steps.

Sustainable Development Corner



Environmental
Library



Democratic
Spirit



Don't throw it. Fix it.

There is an urgent need to decrease the amount of non-biodegradable waste that humans generate. Repair encourages a more efficient use of resources than the take, make and waste culture that is replacing our traditional way of make, preserve and reuse.

Raw materials used in products often need a lot of energy to be mined and processed to make them usable by manufacturers. The process of repair helps conserve these resources and extends the life of the product. Only when something cannot be repaired should you think of recycling it.

A. What should you do first, repair or recycle? Give reasons for your answer.

- Repairing should always be tried first, before recycling.
- Repairing is more environment friendly.

Order of Adjectives



Do we say 'the wonderful big Repair Mela',
or 'the big wonderful Repair Mela'?

When many adjectives are used for the same noun, the order of adjectives can be arranged in the given sequence.

S. No.	Adjective	Examples
1.	opinion	wonderful, calm
2.	size	big, large
3.	age	old, new
4.	shape	round, square
5.	colour	black, yellow
6.	origin	Indian, Goan
7.	material	wooden, gold
8.	purpose	cricket bat, tennis ball

Let us read the examples below.

Look at the **beautiful Indian** painting.

My mother gifted me a **black badminton** racket.

When I grow up, I will buy a **huge new red** car.

I like that **shiny round steel** table.

A. Rewrite the sentences using the correct order of adjectives.

1. She bought a ³cotton ²new ¹comfortable dress at the market.

2. You can't break this ^{strong steel}steel door.

3. Look at that ^{big round stone}round big stone statue over there.

4. The drongo is a ^{beautiful black Asian}black Asian beautiful bird.

5. Isn't this a ^{useful blue sketch}blue sketch useful pen?

6. I have a ^{lovely little old green marble}green little old lovely marble in my pocket.

Articles

The articles **a** and **an** are used when you are talking about a singular noun in a very general way (there is no special information given about it).

We use **a** when the noun begins with a non-vowel sound.

Bring me **a** chair. (any chair, consonant sound)

Disha's sister went to study in **a** university. (any university, consonant sound)

We use **an** when the noun begins with a vowel sound.

I want to eat **an** apple. (any apple, vowel sound)

We talked to **an** honest person yesterday. (any honest person, vowel sound)

The article **the** is used when you are talking about a noun (singular or plural) in a specific way. It is also used when we refer to a noun or nouns mentioned earlier.

Bring me **the** black chair.

I really liked **the** chocolates you gave me.

I bought **a** packet of chips yesterday. I gave **the** packet to Diya.

B. Fill in the blanks using the correct articles:

1. I want the best gift for my birthday.
2. This is a very difficult problem.
3. They think Ashok is an honest man.
4. Have you seen the pen that she brought yesterday?
5. What an exciting idea!
6. I found an umbrella in the park. The umbrella belongs to Sneha.
7. Let's have a glass of apple juice.
8. I saw the film you told me about.



★ NOTEBOOK: Ch-6 A stitch in time

★ Dictation words:-

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1) seams | 14) immerses |
| 2) crumpled | 15) adhesive |
| 3) grumbles | 16) professionals |
| 4) screwdriver | 17) sandpaper |
| 5) unscrews | 18) puncture |
| 6) conduction | 19) multimeter |
| 7) geysers | 20) plug |
| 8) sneak | 21) switches |
| 9) knobs | 22) current |
| 10) levers | |
| 11) priors | |
| 12) rim | |
| 13) cluelessly | |

★ Word meanings:

- 1) seams - the place where two pieces of cloth are sewn together to make clothes
- 2) iron - to make clothes smooth by removing wrinkles using heat
- 3) screwdriver - a tool used to turn and fix screws
- 4) geyser - a machine used to heat water for bathing
- 5) lever - a tool used to lift and move things
- 6) pries - uses a tool to move away or open
- 7) rim - edge of the wheel
- 8) cluelessly - without any idea
- 9) immerse - dip in liquid so that it is covered completely.
- 10) surface - the outside or top part
- 11) sandpaper - a paper with sand stuck to it. used for polishing or making things smooth

DATE _____

12) adhesive - sticky material like glue

13) professional - a qualified person who regularly does a specific job

★ Make sentence:

1) sandpaper - I used sandpaper to remove the wallpaint.

2) iron - We must iron our clothes daily.

3) geyser - Don't forget to switch off the geyser.

★ Answer these questions:-

Q1) What does the title 'A Stitch in Time' mean?

A1) This title comes from the proverb 'A stitch in time saves nine', which means that if you deal with a problem immediately, it will save a lot of effort and trouble later.

Q2) How did Manigandan Anna find the puncture?

A2) Manigandan Anna first looked at the tube but could not see any hole in it. So he immersed the tube in a tub filled with water. He noticed small bubbles rising at one point and understood that his tube was punctured.

- Q3) What would lead to 'mountains of waste all over'? Do you agree?
- A3) Yes, I agree that just throwing away things instead of repairing and reusing, can lead to mountains of waste all over.
- Q4) Based on the story, what do you think will happen the next time Shyam or Shruisha need to get something repaired?
- A4) When something needs to be repaired, Shyam and Shruisha will go immediately to the Repair Mela.